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Hilary Marland

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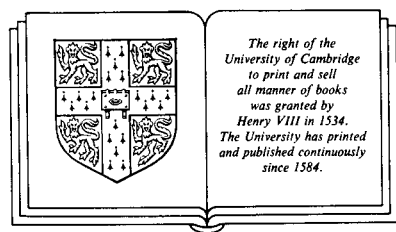
Medicine and society in Wakefield and Huddersfield

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Hilary Marland

*Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine
University of Oxford*

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Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam*



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To my parents and Sebastian

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List of abbreviations

HPL	Huddersfield Public Library (Kirklees District Archives and Local Studies Department)
HRI	Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (Postgraduate Library)
WDA	Wakefield District Archives (JGC Private Collection of Mr John Goodchild, District Archivist)
WYCRO	West Yorkshire County Record Office
C	Census Enumerators' Books
PMD	<i>Provincial Medical Directories</i>
AR HD	Annual Report, Huddersfield Dispensary
AR HI	Annual Report, Huddersfield Infirmary
AR WD	Annual Report, Wakefield Dispensary
AR WI	Annual Report, Wakefield Infirmary
Ms	Manuscript source (all sources are printed unless otherwise stated)
	<i>Parliamentary Papers</i>
PP	Parliamentary paper or return
SCME 1834	Report from the Select Committee on Medical Education, PP, 1834, XIII (602).
SCMPR 1844	Report from the Select Committee on Medical Poor Relief. Third Report, PP, 1844, IX (531).
SCMR 1854	Report from the Select Committee on Medical Relief, PP, 1854, XII (348).
QRSM 1880	Abstracts of the quinquennial returns of sickness and mortality experienced by Friendly Societies for periods between 1855 and 1875, PP, 1880, LXVIII (517).

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Newspapers

<i>HHEx</i>	<i>Halifax and Huddersfield Express</i>
<i>HHE</i>	<i>Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner</i>
<i>HC</i>	<i>Huddersfield Chronicle</i>
<i>HE</i>	<i>Huddersfield Examiner</i>
<i>LI</i>	<i>Leeds Intelligencer</i>
<i>LM</i>	<i>Leeds Mercury</i>
<i>WHJ</i>	<i>Wakefield and Halifax Journal</i>
<i>WE</i>	<i>Wakefield Express</i>
<i>WJ</i>	<i>Wakefield Journal and West Riding Herald</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>Wakefield Star</i>
<i>WRH</i>	<i>West Riding Herald and Wakefield Commercial and Agricultural Journal</i>

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Preface

This volume is based largely on a University of Warwick PhD thesis, *Medicine and Society in Wakefield and Huddersfield 1780–1870*, which was submitted in September, 1984. In revising the thesis, some sections have been reduced, others expanded or altered (especially Chapter 4 and the Conclusion). Notes and references have been revised and updated.

The book examines the formation and evolution of medical provisions in the two West Yorkshire communities of Wakefield and Huddersfield, one of its primary aims being to demonstrate the potential value of local studies in increasing our understanding of the development of systems of medical care, and of those who ran and serviced these facilities. The survey covers both ‘institutional’ facilities, namely hospital and dispensary provisions and Poor Law medical services, and ‘self-help’ agencies in the form of friendly society provisions for the sick and ‘fringe’ or ‘peripheral’ medical practices. The structural, professional and social development of medical communities in the two towns is also discussed at some length. A further motivation behind the project was to obtain as wide a picture as possible of the main sources of medical relief available during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the two West Riding towns.

Towards this end, a wide range of qualitative and quantitative sources were utilised, to include Poor Law material (pre- and post-1834), the records of medical charities and friendly societies, census returns, newspapers, trade and medical directories, and parliamentary reports and returns. The use of such a combination of material was found to give a better indication of the range of facilities available and their relative importance. Questions relating to the availability of and access to medical provisions were brought very much to the fore. One of the main conclusions arising from the

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application of this methodology is that the emphasis which has been given to institutional provisions would seem to have been misplaced. The importance of previously neglected options for medical care, the friendly society and 'peripheral' forms of treatment, have been stressed. Leading on from this, it can be suggested that self-help forms of medical relief, as compared with those 'provided' by the wealthy classes for the poor, were of much greater significance than has been assumed.

The true value of local studies to medical history can only be realised if the formation of medical provisions, and the personnel who serviced them, is examined against the backdrop of the communities in which they evolved. An effort has been made to link both the growth of institutional medical care and the progress of self-help forms to the histories of Wakefield and Huddersfield, their social, civic and economic developments during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The leading role of the layman in creating a demand for, and in the setting up and evolution of, medical provisions has also been stressed. It is hoped that an analysis of these factors will lead to a greater understanding of how and why medical facilities developed as they did, and to a clearer insight into the relationship between medicine, history and society.

I have received much assistance from the staff of many record offices and libraries while preparing this volume. Special thanks are due to the staff of the West Riding County Record Office, the Wakefield District Archives and the Kirklees District Archives and Local Studies Department, in particular Mr Michael Bottomley, Mr John Goodchild and Miss Janet Burhouse. I am especially grateful to Mr John Goodchild, Wakefield District Archivist, for making a large number of items from his private collection available to me. I am also grateful for the assistance of the librarians of the Wellcome Institute Library, the Public Record Office, the British Library, the Doncaster Public Library and the Warwick University Library, especially for the large amount of help given by the ladies dealing with Inter-Library Loans. My thanks also go to Dr C. S. Ward, Consultant Anaesthetist of the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and ex-President of the Huddersfield Medical Society, for making the records of the Society available for my use.

My PhD supervisor, Dr J. Obelkevich, of the Centre for the Study of Social History, University of Warwick, read the many drafts of my thesis and made a great number of useful suggestions.

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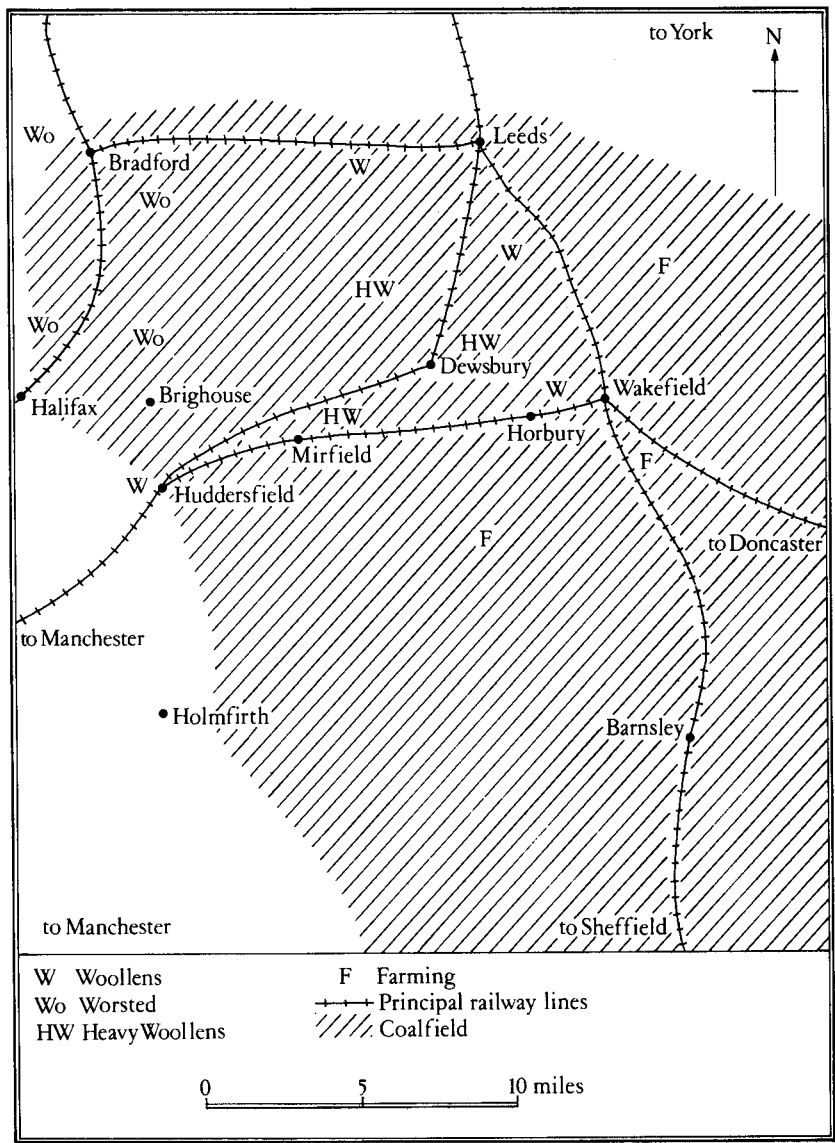
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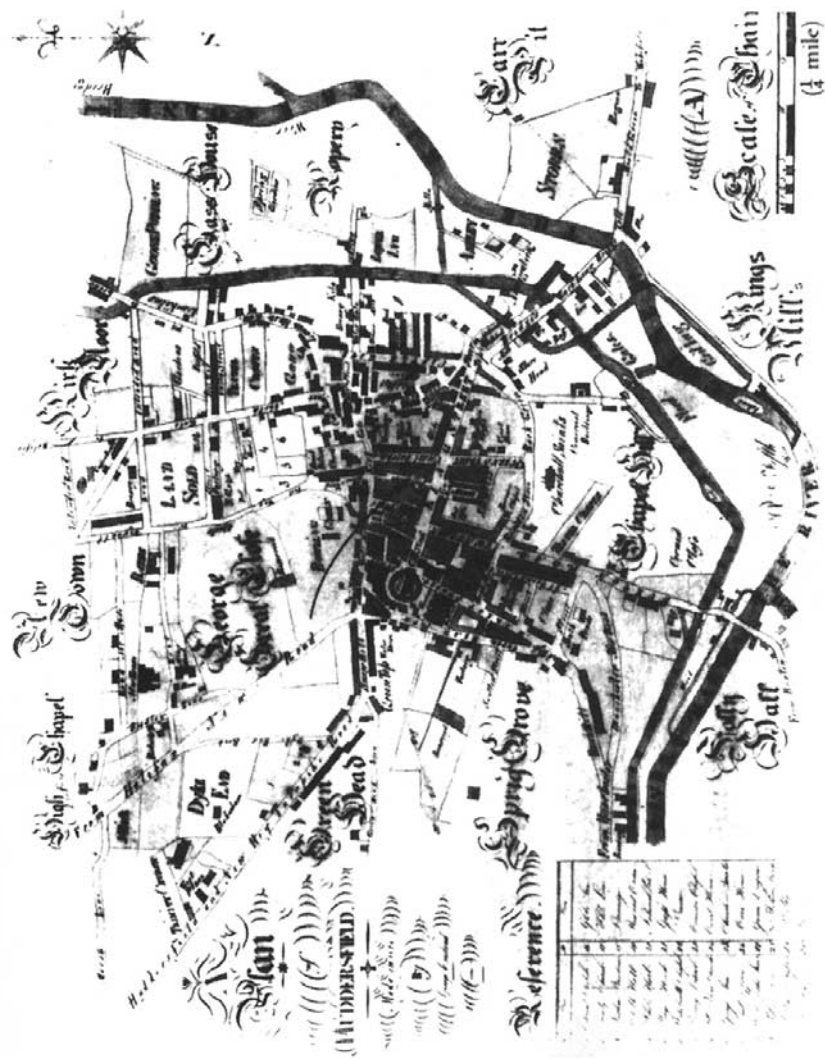
I also had several beneficial discussions with Dr Joan Lane, especially in the early stages of the project. I am particularly grateful to my two thesis examiners, Dr Tony Mason and Ms Margaret Pelling, for reading the thesis so exhaustively, and for making so many valuable suggestions, many of which I have attempted to incorporate into this volume. Thanks are also due to Dr Charles Webster of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at Oxford for encouraging the publication of the book, to the Cambridge University Press, and to the referees, whose comments were of great help in the final preparation of the book. I am obliged to the Economic and Social Research Council for providing funding for the first three years of the project and during the year 1986.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my family for their encouragement, and my husband, Sebastian, for his patience and constant support at all stages of the project.

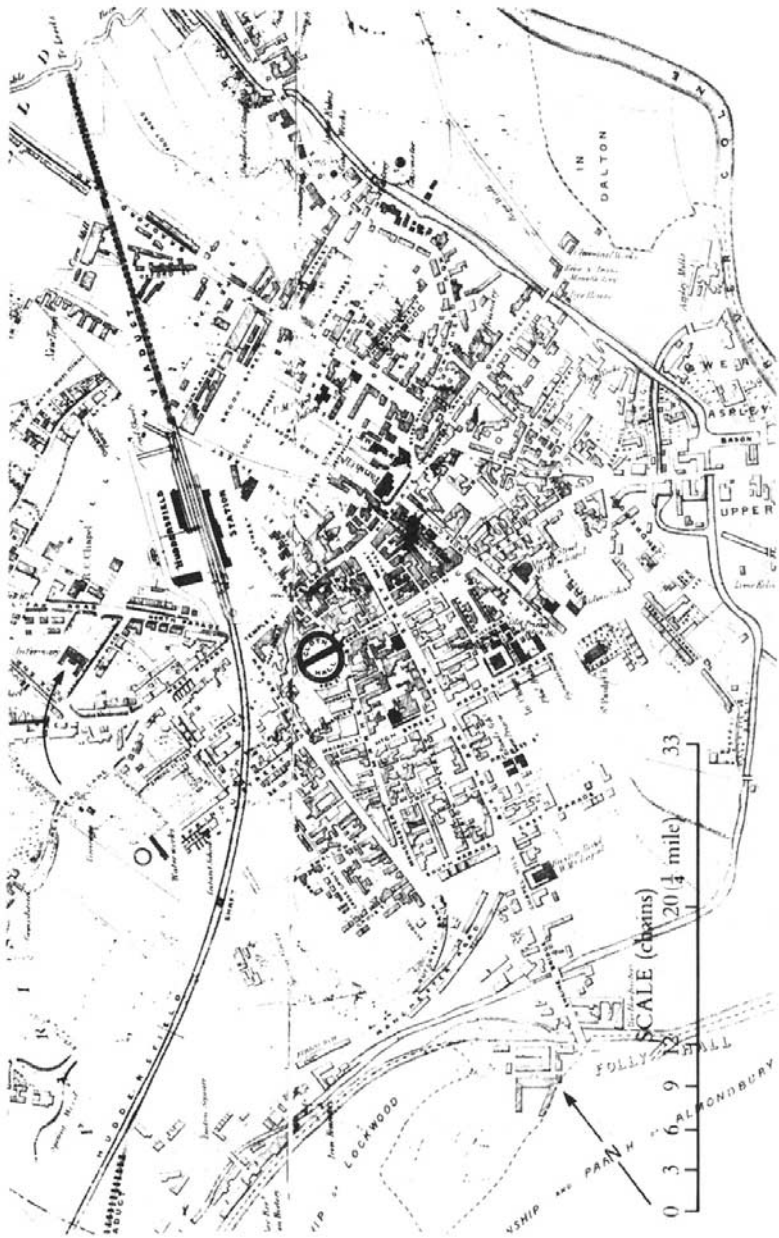
xx *Maps*



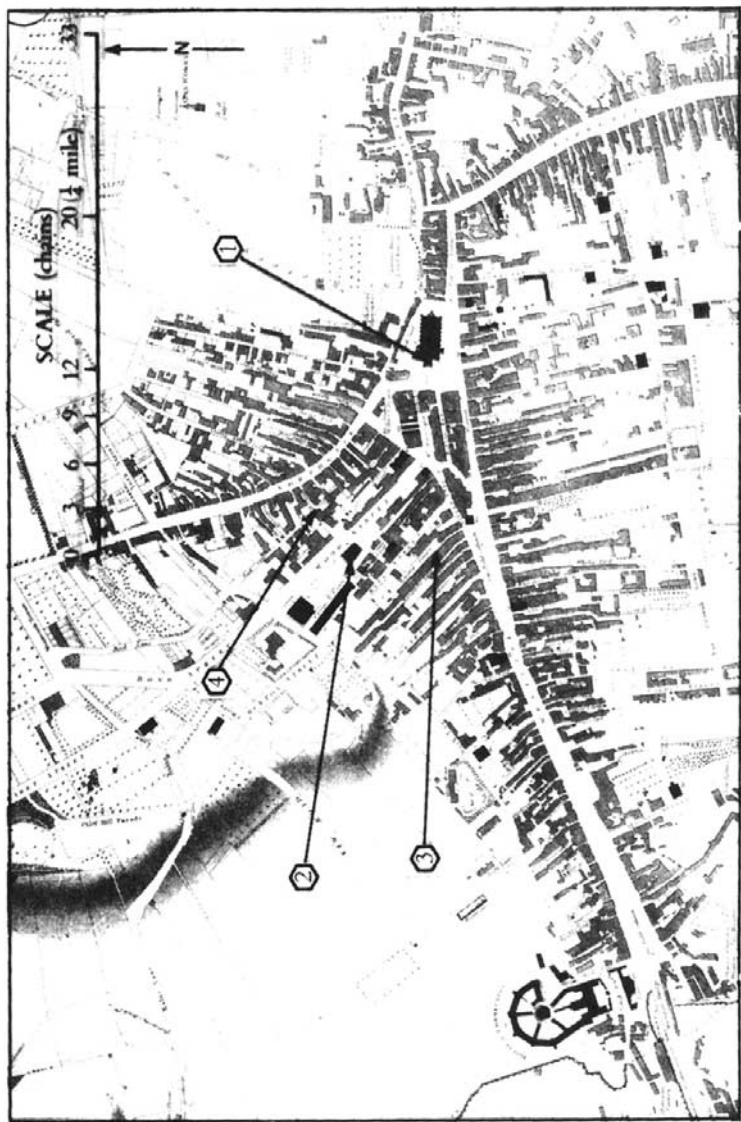
Map 1. The industrial West Riding, circa 1880.



Map 2(a). A plan of Huddersfield made in 1826, by George Crosland. The arrow indicates the site of Huddersfield Dispensary, 1814-1831. (Reproduced courtesy of West Yorkshire Archive Service.)



Map 2(b). Hardy's plan of the town of Huddersfield, 1850. The arrow indicates the site of Huddersfield Infirmary from 1831. (Reproduced courtesy of Kirklees Libraries, Museums and Arts.)



Map 3. Plan of the town of Wakefield. Surveyed, by J. Walker, 1823. (Reproduced courtesy of Wakefield Metropolitan District Libraries.)

As the basic structure of Wakefield changed very little during the nineteenth century, this map can be taken as being fairly representative of the period 1787–1879.
Sites of the Wakefield Dispensary and Infirmary:

- 1. 1787–1821 Northgate (west end of Wakefield Parish Church).
- 2. 1821–1831 Music Saloon, Wood Street.
- 3. 1831–1854 Barstow Square.
- 4. 1854–1879 Dispensary Yard, Northgate (including in-patient wards after 1854).