

Leeds Times. Saturday 28th July 1888

THE CASUALTY LIST.

While James Griffiths (22), cloth-dresser, residing at 4, Quarry-street, Woodhouse, was swinging on one of the trapezes at the gymnasium on Woodhouse Moor on Wednesday night he fell to the ground, and sustained injuries to his back and the back of his head. He was conveyed to the Leeds Infirmary by means of the horse ambulance.

Leeds Times. Saturday 18th August 1888

WOODHOUSE MOOR GYMNASIUM.

An addition has been made to the calisthenic appliances supplied to the Woodhouse Moor Gymnasium by the introduction of the new apparatus patented by Mr. Parkes, drill instructor, of Leeds. This is simplicity itself in construction, and has for its object the expansion and improvement of the chest, and the general invigoration of the system. It consists of a couple of upright poles affixed to a stand, and capable, when grasped with the hands, of being moved behind and in front of the body. The movements in this system of "parlour gymnastics," it will be seen, must be very beneficial. Thursday night was the first occasion on which the new appliance was used, when there were present, besides the inventor. Alderman North and Councillor Brown. Another accident occurred that night, a boy being badly kicked in the face by a swinger, partly through his own fault in not being careful where he went. In that way the majority of the accidents on the moor have happened ; People will not use either their eyes or their common sense. It is doubtful whether the placing of fences round the swings, as some might suggest, would effect any real good.

Leeds Times. Saturday 25th August 1888

NOTES BY "THE OWL"

Somebody, evidently no friend of the new institution, seems to be keeping an account of the "accidents" which are said to occur at the public gymnasium on Woodhouse Moor. The number up to date is stated to be between thirty and forty, which, considering the short time that the swings etc. have been open, may at first blush appear a somewhat alarming total. But there is no need for panic, or to hastily close the gymnasium, which affords exhilarating exercise to very large numbers of young people. Although the number of "accidents" is duly paraded as a bugbear, no clue is given to the nature of the casualties, many of which, if not the majority, in the absence of exact information, it is quite safe to assume, have been of the most trivial description. Gymnasiums are no new "fad," and although the one in Leeds has only been opened during the present summer, in many other towns, large and small, such recreation has been provided for years with the very best results. If the rising generation here are rougher or clumsier than elsewhere, then anything which tends to temper and smarten them should be hailed with acclamation, even although the process is a somewhat trying one.