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Cover picture

Group of slumless smokeless cities. E. Howard (1850–1928), from *To-Morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform* (Swan Sonnenschein, 1898).

Ebenezer Howard founded the Garden City Association in 1899, and his ideas led to the creation of the first garden city at Letchworth in 1903. Subsequently, nearly 30 government-financed new towns were built in the UK, and the garden city movement spawned cities and garden suburbs around the world. Striking in this illustration for a group of 'social cities' is the prominence given to large institutions for the insane and for inebriates within the 'green belt' separating urban centres. Since the County Asylums Act 1845 it had been compulsory for 'pauper lunatics' to be housed in such institutions, which expanded inexorably as the century wore on. By the late Victorian period these were being built on open land outside London, so it was perhaps natural for Howard to site similar institutions in the green spaces easily accessible to the dwellers in his projected cities. Inebriates would be similarly housed by this temperance reformer's grand scheme.

But there are ironies here. The increase in pauper lunatics in 19th-century cities (and the failure of local parish care for them) was largely a result of the rapid industrialisation and urbanisation of this period. The philanthropic founders of the early 19th-century asylums would have been horrified by the gargantuan holding pens these institutions had become by the end of the century. Howard's radical ideas on urban planning were intended as a solution to the social ills of the rapid and chaotic growth of cities; yet massive enclosures for those who had become casualties of the Victorian city were an idea not reformed, but retained in this early vision for a planned society.

Picture selection and text by Andrew Morris, with thanks to Professor Sir Peter Hall, University College London.

We are always looking for interesting and visually appealing images for the cover of the *Journal* and would welcome suggestions or pictures which should be sent to Professor Robert Howard, British Journal of Psychiatry, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, UK or robert.howard@iop.kcl.ac.uk

