

On the abolition of chains for the insane; by Ph. Pinel.
Membre de l'Institut, etc. (extracted from his notebook and sent for publication
by his son, M. Pinel.) *Archives General de Medicine; May 1823*

'I recall, with some amusement, the reaction of the Chief Of Police when he heard that chains at Bicentre had been struck off. He came to see me and expressed strong opposition; he warned me that I was putting myself at risk, that I was a valued public servant etc etc. In response I took him to see the scene and said that henceforth strait-jackets not chains of iron would be the order of the day.

There are two kinds of strait-jacket, one for restraint and one for punishment. The first is to prevent the patient from injuring himself, it is loose and he walks about wearing it. The other is so constructed that the sleeves are tied behind the body, which leads to restriction of arm movement and a constriction of the chest, so that after 15 minutes the patient begs pardon; it is only to be used for short periods.'

For full text <http://pb.rcpsych.org/cgi/reprint/19/7/434.pdf>

Pictures taken at the Museum Dr. Guislain
<http://www.museumdrguislain.be/en/index.html>



The Museum Dr. Guislain is in Ghent (Jozef Guislainstraat 43) is housed in the old buildings of the Psychiatric Hospital. Built in the Nineteenth Century by Joseph Guislain it was then run by the Brothers of Charity. There is an extraordinary collection of pieces relating the history of the care and treatment of the insane from antiquity until today.

