

Annual report by the managers of the lunatic asylum at Morningside for the year 1836.

Contributors

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Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

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ANNUAL REPORT

BY

THE MANAGERS

OF THE

LUNATIC ASYLUM AT MORNINGSIDESIDE.

FOR THE YEAR 1836.

EDINBURGH :

PRINTED BY ANDREW SHORTREDE.

1837.

ANNUAL REPORT

THE MANAGERS

LECTURE AT MORNINGSIDING

FOR THE YEAR 1908

PRINTED BY ANDREW SHORTER

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ANNUAL REPORT.

REPORT from the Managers of the EDINBURGH LUNATIC ASYLUM for the year 1836, presented to the Annual General Meeting held, in terms of the Charter, on Monday, the 30th day of January, 1837.

The Managers have to report as follows with regard to the experience of the Establishment at Morningside, and the results of their management, for the year ended 31st December, 1836 :

At the close of 1835, the number of patients in the Asylum was	42
namely, 21 males,	
21 females.	
And at the close of last year, the number was	46
namely, 25 males,	
21 females.	
During the year, there were admitted in all	21
namely, 14 males,	
7 females.	
And there were removed	13
Of whom there were cured,	11
namely, 5 males,	
6 females.	
improved,	1
a male.	
not improved,	1
a male.	

And there have died	4
namely 3 males,	
1 female.	
Of these there died from apoplexy and paralysis,	2
both males.	
gradual decay,	1
a male.	
internal organic disease, 1	
a female. —	4

They beg farther to state, that during the past year they have felt themselves called upon to act, even more extensively than before, on the principle of admitting, at lower than the ordinary rates of board, patients from the upper and middle classes of society, who have become reduced in circumstances. To such an extent, indeed, has this semi-charitable feature of the Institution been carried, that of the 46 inmates remaining at 31st December, there were,—

- 26 paying a reduced board, varying from £ 45 to £ 21 ;
and only
- 15 paying the ordinary rate of £ 55, 18s. ; and
- 5 paying above the ordinary rate.

46

And it may also be noticed, that these rates include the physician's fees of £ 2, 2s. for each patient.

The Managers have long been most desirous to render the Institution available for the poorer classes of the community, but hitherto it is only in the way above stated that they have been enabled to carry such a principle into operation ; for it has been both their own conviction and the unanimous opinion of their medical advisers, that until additional buildings were erected, so as to admit of a complete classification of the patients, it would not have been possible, consistently with the interests of the Institution, to admit lunatics from among the lower classes, even had the same board been offered for them as is taken for several of the present inmates ; and the reason is obvious, namely, that patients of the class hitherto admitted into the Asylum, who have all received an education more or less general, and acquired habits more or less refined, could not have been brought to associate in the public day rooms (of which there is only one suit) with patients deficient or altogether wanting

in these respects ; for it is well known how tenacious of their dignity, real or imaginary, and how sensitive in regard to distinctions of rank, such unfortunate beings generally are. If, therefore, the Managers had disregarded this feeling, which they know prevails to some extent among the patients presently in the Asylum, the consequence would probably have been, that most, if not all, of them would have been withdrawn from it, and thus the Establishment would have been deprived of its principal support ; for it must not be forgotten, in considering this question, that the whole surplus funds now possessed by the Managers have been accumulated from the savings on the board of those richer patients.

Now, however, the Managers rejoice to say, there is a prospect of separate accommodation being soon provided for pauper lunatics, by the erection of additional buildings in connection with the present Establishment. A unanimous resolution to this effect was come to at the General Meeting of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Managers extraordinary and ordinary, held on Monday last, and a remit was at same time made to the Ordinary Managers to procure plans and estimates for the proposed erections.

The Managers may mention, in relation to this subject, that lately a scheme was brought forward for having an extensive pauper Lunatic Asylum erected for the city and county, to be entirely distinct, and under different management, from that at Morningside ; and it was proposed, that a certain portion of the accumulated funds of the latter should be contributed, on certain conditions, towards the erection and endowment of such new Institution. But the Committee, to whom this proposal was remitted for consideration, having reported, that, owing to numerous obstacles and difficulties, which they specified, it would not be practicable for the Managers to accede to it, they have resolved, as already mentioned, to erect additional buildings at Morningside, for carrying the desired object into effect, as far as their funds will admit. But lest there should arise in the public mind a too sanguine expectation as to the magnitude of the benefits which this measure, when accomplished, is likely to confer, the Managers think it right to state, that though the funds at their disposal may suffice for providing a considerable extent of accommodation for pauper lunatics, that is all the length they can go. It is certain that they will not also be adequate for enabling the Managers to admit patients *gratis*, or even at a board much, if any, lower than

is necessary for their maintenance. Neither must it be supposed, that after the requisite accommodation is obtained, it can be all devoted, in the first instance, to the reception of lunatics belonging to this city or county ; for the very basis and leading principle of the Institution is, that it shall be open to patients from every part of Scotland, those only being entitled to a preference whose parishes have contributed to its erection and endowment.

With respect to the pecuniary affairs of the Institution, the Managers have to report, that the total income for the past year has been, £2346 1 5
And the expenditure, 2333 19 6

Leaving a surplus income of only £12 1 11

But of the expenditure, about £420 may be considered as extraordinary, having been incurred chiefly for additions and improvements on the establishment, and for the General Report on the Institution, drawn up by the Treasurer, of which above five hundred copies were printed for circulation. Keeping this extraordinary expenditure out of view, the surplus of income would be increased to about £430, which, however, is still much under that of former years.

The amount of funds accumulated at 31st

December, 1835, was, £10,726 10 10½

And the amount by the account for the year

ending 31st December last, is 10,750 9 1

Being an increase of only £23 18 2½

This result is mainly attributable to a cause already stated, and which must in future operate in the same way to a greater or less extent — namely, the admission and maintenance of so large a proportion of the patients at very reduced rates of board. It was foreseen, indeed, by the Managers, at the time they resolved on making these abatements ; but they felt anxious to do all that lay in their power for rendering the Institution a source of public benefit ; and they have never granted the reductions craved except in most clamant cases, and after a full investigation into the patient's circumstances.

But the Managers have always been desirous to unite economy with charity in their management of the Institution ; and they now feel more than ever the necessity of introducing a graduated scale

of rates of admission for patients, and, as far as practicable and expedient, a corresponding scale of diet. This has never yet been attempted to any considerable extent ; for all the patients, whether paying the ordinary or reduced board, have been regarded as on the same footing ; but it appears to the Managers, that now, when the admissions at low rates have multiplied so greatly, it is not only desirable, but indispensable, to introduce such a system as has been mentioned, and they propose to devote their immediate attention to that object.

In the meantime they have much pleasure in reporting their continued satisfaction with the conduct of the Superintendent and Matron, as well as the other officers of the Institution, in regard to their treatment of the patients ; and it is gratifying to have to refer to the numerous testimonials on this head, of which excerpts have been printed in the Appendix to the Treasurer's Report.

The buildings of the establishment have now been rendered greatly more commodious and comfortable, — perhaps, indeed, as much so as they will admit of ; and it is expected that they will require little in the way of repairs or alterations for a long time to come.

Considerable progress has also been made in the attempt to employ the patients, and to find them sources of recreation and amusement ; but it will readily be conceived that more difficulty must be experienced in carrying out this desirable object to its full extent, among patients like the greater part of those at Morning-side, than among those from the labouring classes, such as are chiefly found in most other national establishments for the insane.

of interest and value to the student and as far as possible
to be made a comprehensive study of the subject. This has never yet been
attempted in any other country. It is the purpose of the present volume
to give the student an opportunity to study the subject in a way
the more complete; but it is not to be a mere repetition of what is
the subject as it is now presented in the text, but to give the student
the opportunity to study the subject in a way that is not only
interesting, but also profitable. It is the purpose of the present volume
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Consequently the present volume has also been made in the attempt to
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