

Report of the General Committee appointed to carry into effect the proposal for a lunatic asylum at Glasgow, with a minute of the first general meeting 1814

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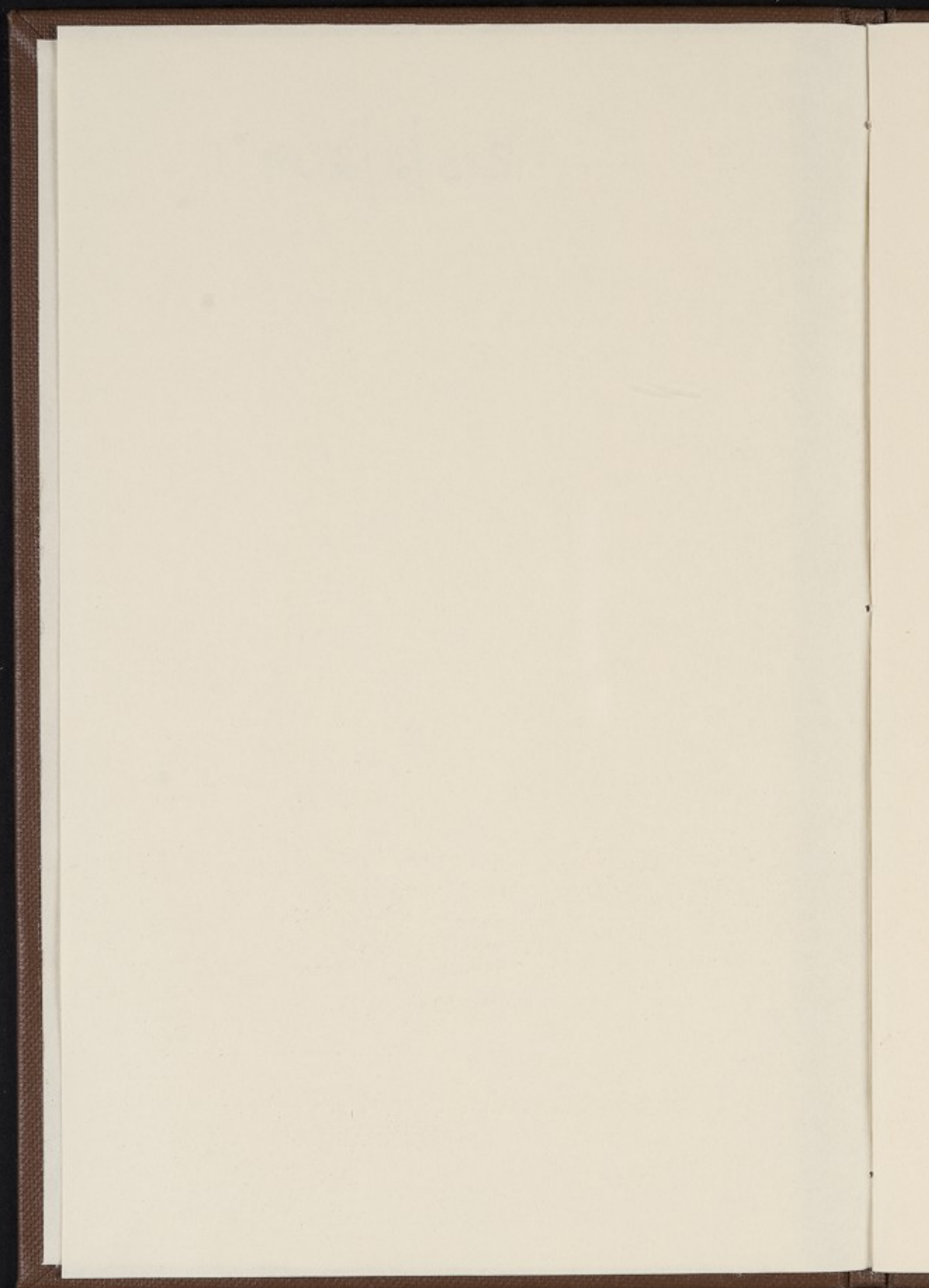


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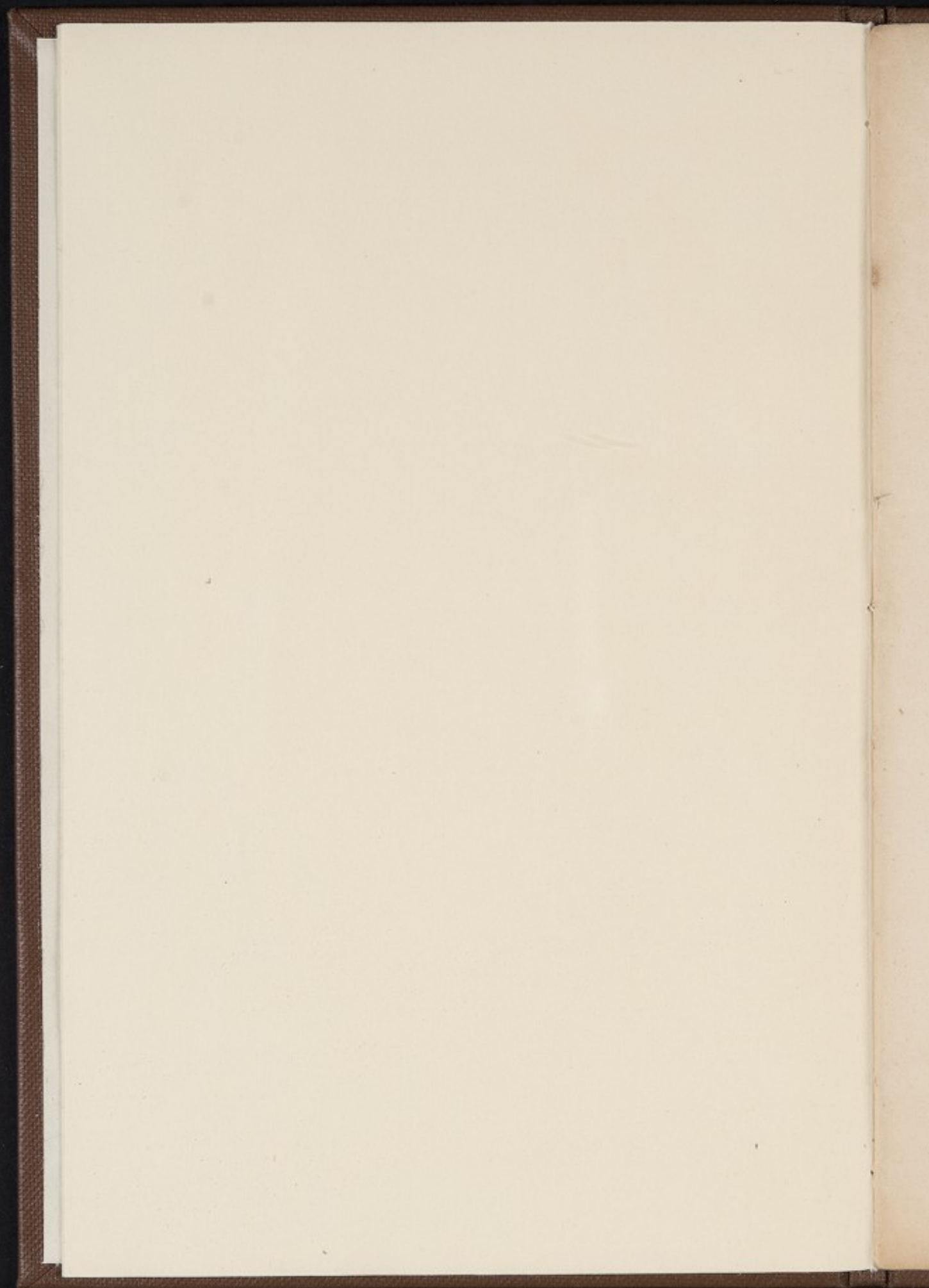
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REPORT
OF
THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
APPOINTED TO CARRY INTO EFFECT
THE PROPOSAL
FOR
A LUNATIC ASYLUM
At Glasgow,
WITH
A MINUTE
OF THE
FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED
SUBSCRIBERS.

GLASGOW,
PRINTED BY JAMES HEDDERWICK,
26, BELL-STREET.

~~~~~  
1814.

REPORT

OF

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO CARRY INTO EFFECT

THE PROPOSAL

FOR

A NATIONAL ASYLUM

AT GLASGOW

WITH

A MINUTE

OF THE

FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED

SUBSCRIBERS

GLASGOW,

PRINTED BY JAMES HEDDERWICK,

25, BELL-STREET.

1844

*At Glasgow, and within the Tron Church Session-House, the eighteenth day of February Eighteen hundred and fourteen years, at two o'clock, at a General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Glasgow Lunatic Asylum, called by repeated Advertisements in the Glasgow Newspapers, for the purpose of electing eight of their number to be Directors for the ensuing year,*

The LORD PROVOST in the Chair,

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT laid before the Meeting the following REPORT of their past procedure:

“THE COMMITTEE appointed for carrying into effect the design of erecting the GLASGOW LUNATIC ASYLUM, have now the pleasure of reporting the near accomplishment of the important object which has for many years engaged their attention. Ten years have elapsed since they entered on the office to which they were called, and, after encountering many difficulties, they have at length by the generous support of the public, succeeded in the erection of a Building, which they trust will prove an Asylum to the wretched through many succeeding ages, and at the same time an ornament to the city of Glasgow, and a monument of the humanity of its citizens.

In the Hospital of Glasgow, some wards had been long set apart for the reception of the insane. But these wards, while they were limited in their number and size, were quite unsuited either to the cure or the comfort of the patients; and never, from a variety of causes, could be rendered capable of fulfilling, in any tolerable degree, the important objects of a Lunatic Asylum. Accordingly, on the motion of Robert M'Nair, Esq. one of the Managers of the Hospital, a small Committee was first appointed to take the state of the lunatic wards into consideration. This Committee gave a very full report on the subject. They stated the insufficiency of the present wards, the importance of a separate building in a healthy situation, with suitable accommodations, and ground for exercise; and farther, that the benefits of such an establishment should be extended to the western district of Scotland. The Directors of the Hospital received the proposal of their Committee with the warmest approbation; and immediately proceeded to appoint a Committee to correspond with the public bodies of this city upon the subject, and on their approval, to take such steps as should be deemed by them necessary to carry into effect the benevolent design. The general Committee whom they thus appointed to accomplish this interesting object, consisted of Gentlemen taken from the Town Council, from the Merchants' House, from the Trades' House, from the Clergy, and General Session; in addition to the Lord Provost, the two Eldest Baillies, the Dean of Guild, the Convener, and the Preceptor of the Town's Hospital.

This Committee having received the unanimous approbation of the public bodies, proceeded to carry into

effect the important purpose, for which they were appointed. With this view, the first measure which seemed to them necessary to be taken, was to awaken attention to the necessity and importance of the object, and to present such a general outline of their plan, as might at once acquaint the public with the nature of the design they were invited to support, and ensure to it general confidence and stability. Accordingly, after frequent and serious deliberation, the Committee presented the public with an outline of their plan, and by various and repeated publications, endeavoured to create an interest in its success. The success which attended their endeavours was beyond their most sanguine expectations; and very early, not only the public bodies, but the general voice of the inhabitants both of the city and country was unequivocally expressed in its favour.

The plan of the Glasgow Lunatic Asylum is founded on the principle of promoting both the cure and the comfort of the insane. These objects also it seeks to accomplish both for the wealthy and the poor. It is accordingly divided into two great parts, one for boarders, and another for paupers. These two again are subdivided into two farther divisions, entirely separated, one for males, and another for females. The plan of this Asylum proceeds farther on the principle that the income of it is to equal its expenditure; and that the profits arising from boarders, are to assist in furnishing good accommodation for the poor, at a small expense to the public. As it was hoped, therefore, that no succession of contributions would be requisite, and it was perceived, that, in a few years, no body of subscribers would remain, a superintendence was provided, which should be con-

stant and permanent, and, at the same time, should maintain such a change and variety of persons of different classes, as should always secure attention, knowledge, and impartiality.

In proceeding to accomplish their important object, the Committee determined, among their earliest measures, to request the advice and co-operation of Gentlemen from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in this city, and of the two Medical Professors of this University. The Faculty expressed immediately their high approbation of the proposed Institution, and appointed two of their number to assist the Committee with their advice and co-operation: The Medical Professors declared also their willingness to give them every assistance. With these, the Committee requested the aid of other Gentlemen, whose zeal and knowledge in different departments, rendered their assistance of the highest importance. And it is due to all these different Gentlemen, to some of them in a very distinguished manner, to acknowledge, that to their talents and information, assiduous and persevering attention, this Institution must ever lie under the greatest obligations.

An early and favourite object was the acquisition of such an extent of ground, as would afford air and exercise to the patients, and admit of divisions corresponding in some degree to various classes and characters. A Sub-Committee was accordingly appointed to survey the grounds in the neighbourhood of the city; and on their recommendation, three acres of land were fixed upon, belonging to Mrs. Rae Craufurd, as eligible for the Asylum. The situation is healthy, possesses the advan-

tage of retirement, yet is at so convenient a distance from town, as to permit the Institution to be regularly and easily superintended. The lands of Mrs. Craufurd being entailed, it was necessary to exchange the piece of ground wanted, for ground of equal value. The Committee accordingly purchased above 8 acres of land in the parish of Govan, the property of George Oswald, Esq. of Auchincruive, as equivalent, in the opinion of arbiters, to the land which was wanted from Mrs. Craufurd. This Mr. Oswald, with that liberality for which he is distinguished, consented immediately to grant them, at the very moderate price of 80*l.* per acre.

The plan of the building which the Committee have adopted, was executed by the late Mr. Stark. In order to enable them to form a judgement on this important subject, they corresponded with the Directors of different Lunatic Asylums in various parts of England. The Architect himself, inspected, before executing his plan, some of the most celebrated Asylums in that kingdom. Several members of the Committee also embraced the opportunity which circumstances afforded them, of visiting at their own expense, various Institutions of a similar nature, in different parts of the empire. The plan of Mr. Stark appeared to the Committee of the first excellence. But deeply sensible of the importance of the object, they exhibited it for some time before the public, and invited observations. The general design was also explained by Mr. Stark himself in an excellent Memorial. The Committee farther placed it in the hands of various Gentlemen, skilled in different departments of business, who examined it with the minutest accuracy: and lastly, they transmitted it to various Medical prac-

tioners of distinguished talents, who unanimously expressed their highest approbation of it. This admirable plan possesses in a high degree the following advantages: It admits of a very minute classification of patients, according to their different characters, and the degrees of disease: it secures to every room the freest ventilation: while, under one general management, it separates the different classes of inhabitants from one another as completely as if they lived at the greatest distance: and it enables that system to be executed, which the Asylum was designed to keep especially in view, that of great gentleness, and considerable liberty and comfort, combined with the fullest security.

*description*

The Building is calculated to contain 120 inhabitants. The number is considerable; but calculating the proportion of insane persons, with the extent of population, and the continued residence of many patients, which from the nature of the disease must frequently take place, the accommodation it is believed will not be found more extensive than what is necessary. The Building though striking is plain. It was the wish of the Committee to avoid, on the one hand, unnecessary expense, and on the other, a mean and sordid appearance. The dome alone, on the head of ornament, can be supposed by any person liable to objection. But it is to be considered, that a dome of this kind was necessary to unite the different parts of so extensive and peculiar a building; that it contributes to render the whole more airy and open; that some little expense should be allowed to the architecture of a building, which is to last for ages; that a good moral effect is produced on the public mind by the combination of pleasure with utility; and lastly, that as the expense of the

Institution was chiefly to be defrayed by the board of wealthy patients, the external appearance should be such as would attract the attention and correspond with the habits and feelings of persons of this description.

The expense of a building so extensive, and accommodated to an object of so peculiar a nature, is necessarily great. A considerable time was also necessary for its erection. Both of these objects engaged the attention of the Committee. They accordingly, with anxiety and for a considerable period, considered whether the plan should be attempted on a smaller scale, and whether a part of it only should be at present executed. At length, they formed the unanimous opinion that the plan could not be reduced without detriment to the unhappy persons for whose relief it was designed, and that to finish a part now, and in a few years to commence a new plan of operation, would be both more expensive to the public, and injurious to the recovery and comfort of the patients who should then be resident in the building. They determined, therefore, to attempt the entire execution of the plan, as best for the public interest, though they hope they will be excused for adding, the least easy to themselves.

On the 2d day of August, 1810, the foundation-stone of the Asylum was laid by the Lord Provost of this city, in the presence of the Magistrates and Council, the Public Bodies, Contributors, Mason-lodges, and a vast concourse of spectators. Since that period, the building has proceeded to its present state, without interruption, under the most liberal encouragement, and gratifying marks of public approbation.

The objects connected with the Institution, having become numerous and extensive, the Committee found it necessary to elect a Secretary, who might, in his professional capacity, devote some portion of his time to its interests. They accordingly elected the late Mr. William Cuthbertson to this office, who, till the time of his death, discharged his various duties with the most persevering attention, zeal, and ability. To the ability and attention of Mr. Weir, the Superintendent, the Institution is also much indebted; and it is due to the different Contractors, to acknowledge, that they have executed their engagements, in a manner satisfactory to the Committee, and honourable to themselves. Nor will the general Committee be thought to arrogate to themselves any merit, while they express the deep sense, which they have of the benefit they and this Institution have derived from the unwearied attention, and judicious directions they have received from those of their number who constituted the Building-Committee.

The acquirement of funds for executing this expensive undertaking, formed also to the Committee a very important object of attention. To accomplish this necessary part of their duty, another Sub-Committee of their number was appointed; and the success of the measures which they adopted, has (at least so far as the city of Glasgow is concerned) surpassed their expectations. The Committee looked for success in this part of their labours, chiefly from the following quarters: from the contributions of the public bodies of this city; from the disinterested contributions of generous and humane individuals; from contributions of parishes, with a view to provide in a cheaper and better manner, for the accommodation and

support of their paupers; and from collections at churches and chapels, through the aid of the clergy within the district for which the Asylum was chiefly designed.

Applications were accordingly made to the public bodies of this city for their support. Lists were also made of the names of respectable inhabitants; and the friends of the Asylum engaged in the laborious, and in some degree unpleasant task of waiting in person on the inhabitants for their aid. Their applications were met with a corresponding liberality on the part of the public bodies and their fellow-citizens. Subscription papers and publications explanatory of the Institution were also sent to the Noblemen and Gentlemen of different counties, and though few comparatively have yet granted their aid, yet many have given very liberal donations. The Synod of Glasgow and Ayr have appointed collections within their bounds; and by many parishes these collections have been made to a considerable amount. Application was made also to the ministers of Dissenting Congregations, for collections among their people. Collections have been received from the Episcopal Chapel, and the congregations of Mr. Kidston and of Mr. Wardlaw. The Committee have reason to expect that other collections of the same liberal nature will soon take place. To encourage parochial contributions, the paupers of parishes which contribute 50*l.* in the proportion of 1500 of population, it was agreed should be received at the same low board with the paupers of Glasgow, thus rendering it the interest of every parish to contribute the requisite proportion. A number have seen it to be their interest to embrace the proposal which has thus been made them. Many wealthy individuals and populous parishes have yet however con-

tributed nothing; but from several of them, assurances have been received that exertions shall be made to raise at least their parochial proportions. In the mean time, not less than 15,000*l.* have been already contributed, of which above 10,000*l.* have been contributed by the city of Glasgow. Some debt remains to be paid off, and some farther aid is requisite to carry into full effect the objects of the Institution. But it is a debt due to the Committee themselves, who gave their personal security to the amount of 2000*l.* that the work might proceed without interruption.

The Building is now finished, that great object for carrying which into effect, this Committee was appointed. And the sum which remains to be supplied, joined with the aid which may yet from various quarters be expected, is not of a nature to delay proceeding to fulfil, though in a more limited degree, the benevolent design for which the Asylum is erected. If parishes do not come speedily forward with their contributions, a smaller number of paupers at the lowest rate of board, can be received; and such arrangements must necessarily be made, as may clear the Institution gradually of its remaining difficulties. But the benevolent designs of the contributors, and the benefit which it is hoped the Asylum will afford to the distressed, should no longer be postponed; though the extent of good should be less, till the other parishes and congregations have fulfilled the expectations which have been formed of them.

The following is a view of the present state of the funds, and also of the probable expenditure which may yet be necessary.

|                                                                                                              | £      | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| Total amount of Subscriptions.....                                                                           | 15,016 | 18 | 11 |
| Drawn from Royal Bank, per Cash Account, for which }<br>personal security is granted by the Committee..... } | 525    | 0  | 0  |
|                                                                                                              | 15,541 | 18 | 11 |
| <i>Vested as follows, viz.</i>                                                                               |        |    |    |
| Cash in hand.....                                                                                            | 12     | 14 | 5  |
| Amount of Subscriptions unpaid.....                                                                          | 267    | 5  | 0  |
| Paid for the Ground.....                                                                                     | 754    | 9  | 0  |
| Making a Road.....                                                                                           | 243    | 1  | 6  |
| William Walker, digging foundations.....                                                                     | 321    | 17 | 4  |
| Thomas Smith, Mason, per 1st Contract £6549 : 0 : 0                                                          |        |    |    |
| Do. Extra estimated work 515 : 1 : 0                                                                         |        |    |    |
| Do. to account of Walls... 1299 : 13 : 0                                                                     |        |    |    |
|                                                                                                              | 8563   | 14 | 0  |
| Alexander Hay, Wright..... 310 : 0 : 0                                                                       |        |    |    |
| Do. Extra estimated work 152 : 6 : 0                                                                         |        |    |    |
|                                                                                                              | 462    | 6  | 0  |
| Galloway & Jeffray, Wrights..... 593 : 0 : 0                                                                 |        |    |    |
| Do. Extra estimated work 135 : 10 : 6                                                                        |        |    |    |
|                                                                                                              | 728    | 10 | 6  |
| George Douglas, Plumber..... 569 : 12 : 8                                                                    |        |    |    |
| Do. Extra estimated work 187 : 18 : 1                                                                        |        |    |    |
|                                                                                                              | 757    | 10 | 9  |
| William Lang & Sons, Smith-work..... 71 4 0                                                                  |        |    |    |
| Liddell & Co. for Thunder-Rod..... 13 9 10                                                                   |        |    |    |
| James Donaldson, Slater..... 238 13 2                                                                        |        |    |    |
| Andrew M'Farlane, for Wright-work..... 2600 0 0                                                              |        |    |    |
| William Stark, Architect..... 210 0 0                                                                        |        |    |    |
| John Weir, Superintendent..... 225 0 0                                                                       |        |    |    |
| Malcolm Paterson, for Brick-work..... 69 19 0                                                                |        |    |    |
| James Cook, for Cockles, &c. 80 0 0                                                                          |        |    |    |
| Charges paid, deducting Interest received..... 122 6 5                                                       |        |    |    |
|                                                                                                              | 15,541 | 18 | 11 |

The probable Estimate of Work still to execute is.....£1,375 0 0  
To this has also to be added the expense of Furniture.

The Committee have only to add, in conclusion of this Report, that believing the time to be now arrived when this Institution, according to the general plan of management, should commence its operations, and when the Medical Gentlemen, the Superintendent, and Matron, and servants of the house, should be appointed; and being unwilling to have even the appearance of desiring a patronage in the appointment of persons, which by

possibility might seem to belong more properly to others; they have thought it their duty to call on the Public Bodies, and the qualified Subscribers, to elect Directors, according to the general Regulations, and to resign to them the future management of the Asylum. They accompany their Report with the two following recommendations, which they now beg leave respectfully to submit to this meeting: 1st, "That the Directors be authorised to appoint, if they shall judge it expedient, a Physician and Surgeon to the Asylum, either during pleasure, or for a definite period, with competent remuneration. 2d, That the Directors be further authorised, to take steps for fixing a Superintendent and Matron in the Asylum, and for this purpose, on this and all future occasions, they be appointed to advertise in the public newspapers, at least a month before the election, for fit persons to supply each or any of these offices, as the vacancy in them may require."

This Report having been read over, and highly approved of, a motion was made by James Black, Esquire, which was seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that the "thanks of this meeting be given to the Committee for their unremitted, judicious, and zealous exertions in the whole business of the Institution, and for the faithful discharge of every duty which, both as a body and as individuals, their important situations imposed upon them."

It was further resolved, that the Report should be printed for the information of the Subscribers and the Public; and that the cordial thanks of the Meeting should also be given to Dr. Macgill, individually, for

the great trouble he had taken in preparing the said Report, and for his persevering attention to the general interests of the Asylum.

The two recommendations of the Committee having then been considered, were agreed to unanimously by the Meeting; it was therefore resolved,

I. That the Directors be authorised to appoint, if they shall judge it expedient, a Physician and Surgeon to the Asylum, either during pleasure, or for a definite period, with competent remuneration.

II. That the Directors be further authorised to take steps for fixing a Superintendent and Matron in the Asylum, and that for this purpose, on this, and all future occasions, they be appointed to advertise, at least a month before the election, in the public Newspapers, for fit persons to supply each or any of these offices, as the vacancy in them may require.

The Secretary stated, that Mr. John More and Mr. James Cleland had been chosen Directors by the Town Council; Convener Ferguson and Baillie Rodger, by the Trades' House; Dr. John Balmano and Dr. Robert Watt, by the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons; the Rev. Dr. Macgill and Mr. Archibald Newbigging, by the General Session. No election has yet been made by the Merchants' House, in consequence of some circumstances having prevented a meeting of the House for that purpose\*.

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\* The Dean of Guild and Mr. Daniel Mackenzie have since been elected by the Merchants' House.

The Meeting then proceeded to choose from the general body of Subscribers, eight Directors for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were unanimously elected; *viz.*

Baillie PARKER,  
 Dr. CLEGHORN,  
 Rev. Dr. BALFOUR,  
 — Dr. RANKEN,  
 Mr. JOHN M'ILWHAM,  
 — JOHN SWANSTON,  
 — GEORGE RUTHERFORD, and  
 — ROBERT THOMSON, Jun.

In witness whereof, these Minutes are subscribed by the Lord Provost, as Preses of the Meeting.

(Signed) K. FINLAY.

*The Names of the late General Committee.*

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The Lord Provost of Glasgow.

The Oldest Merchant Baillie.

The Oldest Trades Baillie.

The Dean of Guild.

The Convener of the Trades' House.

The Preceptor of the Town's Hospital.

The Rev. Dr. Balfour.

——— Dr. Ranken.

——— Dr. Macgill.

Dr. Cleghorn.

Dr. Freer.

Dr. Jaffray.

Mr. William Couper, Surgeon.

Professor Jardine.

Messrs. John Mair.

——— Robert M'Nair*.

——— John Craig*.

——— John M'Ilwham.

——— John Swanston.

——— James Cleland.

——— Andrew M'Farlane.

——— Robert Thomson, Jun.

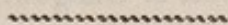
——— Archibald Wallace.

——— George Rutherford.

——— William Rodger.

* These two Gentlemen having left the City, the Committee, to mark the deep sense which they entertained of the great services rendered by them to this Institution, resolved to request their continuance in the Committee as Honorary Members.

*The following is a General Outline of the Plan
upon which the Asylum is to be conducted.*



THE Asylum shall be governed by Directors, constituted in the following manner:

The Lord Provost of Glasgow, shall be President, *ex officio*; two Directors shall be chosen from the Town Council; two from the Merchants' House; two from the Trades' House; two from the Physicians and Surgeons; two from the General Session, consisting of one Minister and one Elder; eight from the General Subscribers; the chief Magistrate of Paisley; the Professors of Anatomy and Medicine in the University of Glasgow, members *ex officio*.

These shall meet once every quarter, on the first Tuesday of the month. From these shall be chosen for the year, a Sub-Committee to meet once every week for attending to the particular interests of the house, admission of patients, and all such business as in the ordinary course of management may arise. This Committee shall consist of four Directors, the Medical Gentlemen who attend the Asylum, and the Treasurer.

A statement of the affairs and management of the Asylum, shall be laid before a general meeting of Subscribers, once every year, when eight shall be chosen as Directors. No Subscriber below five guineas can be a member of the Meeting.

In regard to the persons admitted, they shall consist of two classes, of those who shall pay board, and of those who are Paupers. The rate of board shall be fixed from time to time by the General Committee, and shall be suited to the conveniences which the friends of the patients require.

Paupers belonging to the city of Glasgow, shall be admitted into the Lunatic Asylum in the same manner, and on the same footing, as the insane Poor are now admitted into the Hospital of the City; that is, they shall be recommended to the Committee of the Town's Hospital, by a Minister and Elder, or by a Corporation; the Committee shall judge, as at present, of their poverty, and grant an order for admission into the Asylum, as they now do to the cells of the Hospital. The expense of their maintenance shall be defrayed in the same manner as at present, and the rate shall be fixed each year by a Committee chosen jointly from the Hospital and Asylum, consisting of two from each, with one Magistrate.

The Paupers of those Parishes who shall subscribe 50*l.* and are of moderate population, shall be admitted at the same rate with the Paupers of Glasgow; they shall be recommended by the Sessions for admission, from whom obligation for their board shall be required. A contribution of 50*l.* will be expected from every Parish not exceeding Fifteen Hundred in number; and from Parishes of a greater Population, a contribution, will be expected, equal, and in proportion to 50*l.* for every Fifteen Hundred of their Population. The Board shall be paid quarterly.

Paupers from Parishes who have not subscribed as above, shall be admitted, but at an advanced board, the rate of which shall be fixed by the General Committee.

No person shall be admitted without a certificate from a regular practising Surgeon.

The House shall be divided into two great separate parts, one for Males, another for Females. Each of these shall be subdivided into two parts, one for Boarders, another for Paupers. The ground appropriated for the benefit of the Patients, shall be divided into similar parts, none of which shall have access or communication with the other.

To these have now to be added, the two Resolutions mentioned in the preceding Minute.

