

# **General report of the Lunatic Department of the Charity Workhouse of the City of Edinburgh, for the years 1833-34-35.**

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GENERAL REPORT  
OF THE  
LUNATIC DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
Charity Workhouse of the City of Edinburgh,  
FOR THE YEARS 1833-34-35.

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THE present Report embraces a period of three years, during which time the system of management detailed in former Reports has been followed, and with very satisfactory results. A short account of that system, and of the improvements which have been effected from time to time in the Asylum, may not be out of place on the present occasion. The leading feature in the management is humanity, and a ready attention to whatever is likely to promote the recovery or alleviate the distress of the patients. A system of mild yet firm discipline is maintained, which, with the great regularity observed in the various domestic arrangements, exerts a soothing and salutary influence over the minds of the patients; in confirmation of which I may mention, that it is not uncommon to have out of 68 patients (the average in the establishment) not one under restraint. And in proof of the humane and kind treatment exercised towards the patients, instances are occurring from time to time of their returning to the Asylum to express their gratitude for the attention they had experienced. Amongst the chief improvements effected by the philanthropic exertions of the visiting Committee, I would mention the heating of the apartments by means of stoves, their proper ventilation, and the care taken to insure cleanliness; the erection of different kinds of baths, and the extension of the airing ground; the diet has been made more generous, and power given to the Surgeon to vary it as he may think necessary; the appointing of a sufficient number of efficient male and female attendants at proper salaries is to be viewed as a great improvement, compared with what was formerly the custom, viz. to take them from the infirm inmates of the Charity Workhouse. By this change the patients are not only much better attended to, but the necessity of having recourse to restraint is greatly diminished. During the prevalence of cholera in 1832, a night-keeper was appointed to the male department to visit the different rooms and give notice when any one was seized. The advantage attending this appointment was so great, that it has been considered right to continue it, and the more so, as on different occasions patients have been taken ill during the night without any one being near to afford

assistance. The patients are furnished with properly selected books, and they are encouraged to amuse themselves at different games. The women are employed in sewing and knitting, and assist in the work of the house. The want of employment for the male patients is much felt. But not the least improvement is the introduction of public worship into the Asylum; this measure, which was adopted at the suggestion of Dr. Brunton and Mr. Johnston in October 1827, has proved a source of great comfort and consolation to the patients selected to attend. And as my further experience goes to strengthen the favourable opinion expressed on this subject in former Reports, I would take the liberty of repeating it, by saying, that through the introduction of public worship a due respect for religion is not only kept up, but a power is brought into action, which seems capable of calming in a wonderful degree the disturbed and troubled feelings of the irascible maniac,—of breaking in upon the fixed despondency of the despairing melancholic, and of interrupting for a period the mazy reveries of the confirmed lunatic; and that therefore attendance upon public worship is to be viewed as a powerful means in the cure of insanity, and one from which much benefit is to be expected. That religion should exert such a salutary influence over the minds of the insane may appear paradoxical, since it is generally allowed that religion, if not a very frequent direct exciting cause of insanity, is at all events a subject, in connection with which there is greater general hallucination than any other. But it appears that it is with insanity as in other diseases, that what is at one time an exciting cause, is at another a means of cure; the attendance, therefore, upon this sacred duty has been extended to those labouring under erroneous religious impressions, and with advantage, as it has been found a way of addressing to them sound and comforting views on this subject without directly calling in question their own peculiar opinions. I am happy to have another opportunity of bearing testimony to the very judicious manner in which the Rev. Mr. Maclean performs his delicate and important duties.

Yet, notwithstanding the exertions of the visiting Committee of late years to improve the accommodation of the Asylum, and to render it more suitable for the treatment of patients, it is still, I regret to say, very imperfect in many respects, and ill adapted for fulfilling the object of such an institution. Accordingly in 1833, when negotiations were carrying on between the Trustees of the roads and a Committee of the Managers about widening Teviot Row, which could not be done without encroaching upon the Asylum, I embraced the opportunity then afforded me, to state my opinion to the Committee as to the necessity of removing the Asylum a short way into the country. And as I now understand that an arrangement with the road Trustees on the point alluded to is in progress, I would take advantage of the present occasion to bring this important subject again under the consideration of the Managers. The want of a Pauper Lunatic Asylum on an extensive scale, and on the improved and philanthropic principles of the present times, has long been felt; in proof of which I may mention, that during last year not less than forty applications from different parishes for admission were refused from want of room. And it appears to me that the Managers are now placed in such circumstances as to render it their duty to make some effort to obviate this very great defect. In comparing the Asylum under their care with other Asylums, and with the different public institutions in this town, it will be found on

inspection so much inferior, as, I fear, to present a contrast to them. In expressing this opinion, I am far from wishing to attach any blame to the Managers, satisfied as I am that they have made use of all the means in their power for the improvement of the Asylum and the comfort of the patients; but that the natural defects of the building and situation are such as to make it impossible for any body of men, however anxious, to render it fully adequate for the purposes of a Lunatic Asylum, and in keeping with the advanced state of similar establishments.

As the building now stands there is a want of room, consequently of classification of the patients, of exercising ground, of sufficient opportunity for gardening and other occupations. Many of the apartments are damp and confined, and thus apt to engender and spread infectious diseases. This was experienced very much during the period of cholera, as it also is when dysentery or any other contagious disease breaks out. The Asylum is overlooked by neighbours, an evil which there is no possibility of preventing.

These are the reasons on which I found my opinion, for advising the removal of the Asylum to the country. The managers, in giving their support to this measure, will gain lasting credit to themselves, whilst they will confer an inestimable benefit not only on the inhabitants of this city, but on the neighbouring districts; and it must be gratifying to know, that this interesting subject has been taken up by Dr. Poole and laid before the Royal College of Physicians, who feeling the importance of it, have appointed a committee to make inquiry as to the means of carrying this very necessary and highly desirable object into effect.

I would now advert to the medical department, and would beg leave to refer to the annexed tables for information on that point during the three last years.

TABLE I.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining at 31st December 1832,	-	31	36	67
Admitted to 31st December 1835,	-	55	60	115
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		86	96	182

TABLE II.

RESULT.						
Dismissed cured,	-	-	-	20	40	60
Dismissed on trial,	-	-	-	1	2	3
Removed improved,	-	-	-	10	11	22
Died,	-	-	-	24	5	29
Remaining at 31st December 1835,	-	-	-	30	38	68
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				86	96	182

TABLE III.

Remaining at 31st December 1835,	-	30	38	68
Curable,	-	10	14	24
Incurable and idiots,	-	20	24	44
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total,		30	38	68

Table I. shews, that the number of patients treated during that period amounts to 182, and Table II. shews the result, viz. that of that number 60 were discharged cured, or nearly one in three; that three were dismissed on trial, 22 taken out improved, and that 29 died, leaving in the Asylum on the 30th December 1835, 68 patients. Table III. shews the proportion of those remaining in the house supposed curable and incurable, the former amounting to 24, the latter to 44. The number of male patients it will be seen amounts to 86, and that of the females to 96. The proportion of the cures, however, it will be observed, is considerably greater in the females, being at the rate of 40 in 96, or about forty-two per cent, whilst amongst the males it is only as 20 in 86, or twenty-three per cent. This disparity may, I think, be accounted for from the disease in females being often of a milder character, their greater sensibility of constitution rendering them more liable to be acted upon by slighter exciting causes, the effects of which are less permanent and more easily removed, whilst at the same time the disease in them is rarely combined with apoplexy, epilepsy, and palsy. The women have likewise the advantage of occupation, which the men have not.

Twenty-nine patients, it will be observed, have died during the period embraced by the report, of these twenty-four were male, ~~twenty~~ <sup>twenty-one</sup> five female; of the former, five died from apoplexy, three from epilepsy, two from palsy, seven from consumption of the lungs, two from dysentery, three from atrophy, one from extensive scrofulous disease, and one from fever; of the latter, one died from atrophy, two from dysentery, one from extensive scrofulous disease, and one from cancer of the stomach. The preponderance of deaths amongst the males is certainly very great, but so far it may be accounted for, that the disease in them seems often to assume a more intense character, and to be much more frequently complicated with apoplexy, epilepsy, and palsy, as will appear from what is stated above. The accommodation for the men is inferior to that of the women, being more confined and not so well ventilated; they likewise have not the advantage of active occupation, and they often become listless and torpid, and the bodily functions seem to languish from the want of sufficient exercise, and some interesting employment. It should be stated also, that several of them were in bad health on their admission, and had been long labouring under the disease, and that seven of them were upwards of sixty years of age.

It would be out of place here to attempt any thing like a detailed account of the different cases, but the brief relation of a few, whilst it will shew in some degree the nature of the treatment pursued in the Asylum, may not be altogether uninteresting.

CASE I. J. W. aged twenty-two, slender make, ruddy complexion, labourer, unmarried, was admitted the 22d of August 1832, in a state of high excitement, swearing much, and very abusive to all around him, reported to be a person of moderate intellect, and to have had repeated attacks of violent mania,—the present paroxysm came on about three weeks ago, his head is small and contracted. From the state of excitement he was in, he was ordered antimonials, purgatives, and cold applications to the head. This treatment required to be persevered in for a considerable time before any abatement of the symptoms took place. The violence of the paroxysm at length began to yield, when the application of the tartar emetic ointment to the back of the neck seemed to have a very marked effect in checking the remaining irrita-

bility and restlessness, the uneasiness it produced arresting his attention. He was dismissed well, 23d February 1833, after two months convalescence.

CASE II. M. F., aged twenty-eight, dark hair, ruddy complexion, slender make, married, was admitted on the 12th of April 1833, in a state of deep melancholy. She considered herself the most unworthy of mortals, said that she should not be allowed to live, and that she did not deserve to be noticed or looked after in the slightest degree,—that she had been a very great sinner, had neglected all her duties, and that there was no pardon for her. She spoke little and took her food with great reluctance from the idea that she did not deserve it, and also that she was unable to pay for it. She had been confined about six months previous to her admission, and a fortnight afterwards she lost one of her children. From that time a change was observed in her manner, and the state of her feelings. She became dull and desponding, but continued to nurse her infant till within two months of her being sent here. From that period the symptoms gradually increased, and she had become so intractable that it was necessary to remove her from home. She was ordered a course of laxative medicine, on account of the deranged state of her stomach and bowels. Blisters were applied to the nape of the neck, which was afterwards rubbed with the tartar emetic ointment. This had evident good effect in checking her melancholy train of thought. She also had the shower-bath daily for a considerable period, which had great influence in inducing her to take her food and exercise. By the use of these remedies she at length became convalescent, when she was employed in assisting in the work of the house. She left the Asylum well on the 16th August 1833.

CASE III. M. W. aged 55, swarthy complexion, short and slender make, was admitted on the 6th of January 1834 in a state of high excitement. She imagined that she was to be taken to execution for having caused an insurrection in the town. She also said that she was a very great sinner, and that there was no hope for her. She was first brought under the influence of the tartrate of antimony and freely purged, so as to remove the existing febrile symptoms. It was then considered advisable, with the view of allaying the great terror and apprehension she was under from the belief that she was about to be led to execution, to try the effect of a full opiate. She was therefore ordered two grains of opium three times a-day. After taking six grains she fell asleep, but on awaking, the terror not being removed, the doses were repeated and persevered in for six days, at the end of which time her mind had become tranquil. She was dismissed well on the first of March following.

Opium in full doses has been found to answer well in many cases of insanity, accompanied with feelings of dread on account of some supposed impending calamity, after fever and irritation have been subdued. By keeping the patient under the influence of it for several days, the train of incoherent and false ideas seems to be broken, and very often the patient is convalescent by the time the effect of the opium has gone off.

CASE IV. J. P. aged twenty-two, fair hair, ruddy complexion, tall and slender make, a teacher, unmarried, was admitted on the 29th of April 1833. He was much excited, and very incoherent; his language consisted chiefly of quotations from Scripture. The paroxysm came on about four days before his admission, and was attributed to disap-

pointment in his profession. Insanity reported to be in the family. From the violence of the symptoms active treatment was rendered necessary. He was cupped, took antimonials, was freely purged, and had cold applications and blisters to the head. By the use of these remedies the paroxysm was at length subdued; but after a short interval of quiet it again returned, and continued to abate and return six times, when at last complete convalescence took place, and he left the house quite well, on the 3d of May 1834.

CASE V. J. G. aged thirty-nine, dark hair and sallow complexion, tall and slender make, married, was admitted on the 19th of March 1835. She was very obstinate, refused her food, and would not speak; she appeared confused and bewildered, was much emaciated from the want of nourishment; her tongue was loaded, and her pulse feeble. She became insane about three weeks before admission, and was nursing at the time her child, eight months old. From the state of exhaustion she was in, it was necessary to have immediate recourse to wine and stimulants. Her bowels were moved gently, and she had light nourishing food. Symptoms of amendment began to appear under this treatment in the course of three or four days. The confusion and silence began to wear off. She asked for her children, and where she was. She now took her food readily, and likewise her medicine. The improvement went on progressively, and at the end of a month she was sufficiently recovered to be sent home.

CASE VI. J. B. aged twenty-two; fair complexion, stout make, servant, unmarried, was admitted on the 10th December 1834. She was in a state of high delirium, and had been so for five or six days previously. A train of religious feeling ran through all she said. From her extravagant and unconnected language, it appeared that she at times imagined herself the Saviour. She was very feverish, and had been bled and blistered before admission. The paroxysm was one of extreme violence, and lasted two months without any intermission, notwithstanding the continued use of active means, such as blood-letting, tartrate of antimony in large doses, free purging, Douche baths, blistering, &c.; and when it did abate, it was not followed by complete convalescence. She was calm; but her conversation shewed that her mind was full of delusion. An accession of delirium took place from time to time, with short intervals of quiet, till the beginning of April, after which there was no return of it. From this time the convalescence was progressive, and she was dismissed well on the 28th May 1835.

CASE VII. E. N. aged twenty; fair complexion, tall and slender make, unmarried, dress-maker, was admitted on the 4th November 1834. She was in a state of high excitement, talking incessantly, said her sister was a convict, and that she ought to be sent to Botany Bay. She said at times that she was the Saviour, and spoke in general as if she was a high personage. The attack commenced about a fortnight before her admission, and she had been under treatment, having been bled, taken purgatives, and the tartrate of antimony. There was a considerable degree of fever. No immediate exciting cause assigned for the attack. But it was remarked that she had always been very proud, and impatient of controul. The treatment adopted in this case, from the degree of fever which existed on admission, was strictly antiphlogistic. She was cupped on the back of the neck, had cold applications to the head, took antimony, and was freely purged. When the excite-

ment was subdued by these remedies, she was passed into a low state, and was childish in her behaviour. Blisters were then applied to the head. A fresh accession of excitement supervening, she again underwent the same treatment, and with relief. The case, however, appeared rather unpromising, as there was a considerable tendency to excitement, and trifling and childish behaviour. Digitalis was now administered with evident good effect; for at the end of three weeks she was convalescent. She continued steadily to improve, and was discharged well on the 12th of May 1835.

CASE VIII. C. C. aged twenty-four; fair complexion, tall, and stout made, servant, unmarried, was admitted on the 7th August 1835. She was in a state of wild delirium, which came on the day before, when she was in church. She was observed for some time previous to be unsettled and melancholy. She talked incoherently, and was in great agitation. She said she was the Virgin Mary, and that she was ready to die if she could save a soul. She seemed at times in great alarm, as if some awful calamity were coming upon her. Disappointment in love was assigned as the cause. In the treatment of this case, from the high degree of fever and excitement which existed, blood-letting and other depleting measures were immediately had recourse to. By the use of these, the symptoms were at the end of a fortnight much subdued. As the excitement and incoherence abated, the idea that some injury was about to befall her seemed to gain strength. To relieve this she was ordered a full opiate, combined with calomel. She was brought completely under the influence of both these medicines, and by the 1st of September all excitement and apprehension were removed. From this time she continued to improve daily; and she was sent home to her parents in the country, on the 26th of the same month, well.

This case serves to corroborate what I have observed before regarding the use of opium in large doses.

In conclusion, I beg to add, that the greatest praise is due to the Visiting Committee, (the Rev. Dr. Brunton, Robert Johnston, Esq. and Dr. Poole) for the warm interest they continue to take in the welfare of the Asylum. And I have much pleasure in again bearing testimony to the merits of Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, the superintendant and matron, for their humane and judicious management of the patients, and for the clean and orderly state in which the house is uniformly kept. The conduct of the keepers and nurses has been on the whole very satisfactory.

JOHN SMITH, M.D.

*Edinburgh, March 31, 1836.*

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

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Few years have elapsed since the possibility of introducing religious worship into Lunatic Asylums, with any advantage to the inmates, would have been denied even by the humane and intelligent classes of society. The insane, because often beyond the reach of human aid, were thought to be incapable of receiving religious instruction. The animal frame bore a heavy load of suffering, and to it the physician's skill, and keeper's watchfulness were, no doubt, unceasingly directed, but the immortal part was forgotten—its wants were left unprovided for. In so far as the public was concerned, this seeming indifference to the eternal interests of the unhappy maniac, proceeded probably from ignorance of his real state. He was supposed to be always the subject of frenzied madness, or despairing stupor. It was either not known or lost sight of, that some of these individuals frequently have intervals of sanity, continuing for several weeks at a time; that others display insanity only on certain points, and that a third class, although deranged on all occasions, and proper objects for confinement, both on their own account and that of others, are yet kept under such controul by the firm but mild discipline of an Asylum, as to listen with attention to whatever is said to them, and even, not unfrequently, cheerfully to comply with judicious advice. These facts, of course, could only be known by those acquainted with the interior of such institutions, but unfortunately whatever changes and improvements they might have been the means of producing, they failed to suggest the propriety of endeavouring to ascertain what effect the preaching of the word of God might have upon the downcast solitary mourners.

The trial of religious worship on the Sabbath day, was at last, however, made in the Lunatic Asylum, Bristo Port, brought about by a judicious resolution of the Managers of the Charity Workhouse, who, being convinced of the impropriety of a great number of strangers visiting the Lunatic Asylum, devolved upon two of their body, the sole superintendance of that branch of the establishment,—the Rev. Dr. Brunton and Mr. Johnston. These gentlemen, while engaged in discharging their affecting trust, became intimately acquainted with the character and condition of the insane; and were thus convinced of the competency of many to receive religious instruction. The Managers of the Workhouse, in consequence of their recommendation, sanctioned the introduction of Divine service into the Asylum, on the Sabbath, in July 1828. The result, even the first day, was highly satisfactory, and has continued to be so down to the present time, proving, in every respect the propriety

of the arrangement. In general from forty to forty-five of the patients attend Divine service. Their conduct in the Chapel might indeed afford a salutary lesson to many in the possession of all their faculties. To these poor maniacs it is no light, trifling, or matter-of-form business to engage in the service of their God. Disposed to look for indifference instead of affection from their fellow-creatures, and cut off from the business and innocent enjoyments of time, many of them go to the Chapel delighted with the remembrance that there is a friend whom adversity cannot change, a blessed Redeemer who visits the humble apartment into which the parent or child cannot, often dares not enter.

The duties of the Sabbath have (by their own admission,) occupied many a thought during the preceding week. When engaged in these duties, their cares and sorrows are for a time lost sight of, and even the most wretched manifest, by their deportment, the soothing effects of religious feeling. After leaving the Chapel, the duties of the morning form the subject of conversation during the rest of the day; and sermons heard in happier scenes are remembered and compared with that delivered to them by their Chaplain.

Formerly (partly perhaps on account of the surrounding stillness,) the Sabbath appeared to be the most disturbed day of the week; ever since the worship of God commenced, it has been the most peaceful, and evidently the most delightful to the patients.

On different occasions individuals returned, some time after having been discharged, requesting permission again to join in worship with their former partners in affliction; and several who either met the Chaplain by accident, or called upon him, have testified, in the strongest terms, the happiness they enjoyed when surrounding the family altar during their days of darkness.

The foregoing general statements might be sufficient to prove the benefit which the insane derive from religious exercises, but a more minute account may perhaps be desired of a field, but lately opened through Christian benevolence. To gratify such a wish, the following facts may be stated illustrative of the conduct of the insane in the Chapel, and of the effects produced upon them by the worship of God.

On one occasion, in the middle of the sermon, a man subject to epilepsy, sunk to the ground in frightful convulsions. If any fear was entertained lest others might have been excited by the distressing spectacle, it was but for a moment; two of his companions, both in general restless and troublesome, voluntarily went to the assistance of the superintendent, and removed the unhappy man. Whenever the door was closed, the rest prepared again to listen with unshaken composure.

At another time, the boys belonging to the Charity Workhouse, who lead the singing, stopped short in the first line of the Psalm, one of the most hopeless of the patients immediately raised the tune, discharging in the most becoming manner the duties of Precentor; and, it ought to be added, evidently much to the satisfaction of the congregation.

The man in early life had been a Precentor, but his conduct on this occasion was so unlike his general behaviour, that it might have caused astonishment, had not instances of equal composure been witnessed every day. Patients, who, during the week, never remain in one position, or even quiet for five minutes at a time, from morning till evening, join, when their Bibles are placed in their hands, in the services of the Sabbath, with a steadiness and reverence, that, but for their ap-

pearance and conduct on other occasions, might well cause doubts of their actual insanity to be entertained.

Two sisters were regularly present at worship; the one was intelligent, but easily, or rather at all times excited; the other was a poor hopeless idiot, conscious of little more than mere existence. The attention of the former to the latter, during sermon, was truly affecting; she watched every movement of her countenance, seeming to live for her alone. When any remark was made pleasing to her own mind, if a momentary smile met her inquiring look, she had her reward; the hope of better days again visited her; and, anxious that others should participate in her joy, her helpless relative was repeatedly led by the hand, at the close of the service, to the Chaplain's desk, with the observations, "She is much better to-day. Do you not think she is more animated? She understood what you were saying. I hope she will soon be well—as for myself, I am merely stopping here on her account."

Shortly after the introduction of Divine service, Mr. Johnston, who had been repeatedly present at worship on Sabbath, in order to ascertain how far it was possible to secure the attention of the insane to a lengthened address, privately desired a very restless patient to write an account of the next sermon. Upon receiving the paper, the Chaplain was not a little surprised to find that no part of his discourse had escaped the notice of his watchful auditor, whose critique was in every respect most minute.

About two years ago, a patient expressed himself pleased with the view which had been taken of a text, principally on account of the effect which he hoped it would produce upon one whom he described as in a state of despair. The chaplain, it need scarcely be said, lost no time in conversing with the unhappy man in presence of the friendly maniac, who listened with the deepest interest to every remark, and endeavoured, in the most affectionate manner, to remove the load that pressed upon the troubled mind. The object of his care was soothed, and, it is pleasing to add, finally left the Asylum, the child of better hopes.

Another patient who was visited by severe bodily disease, as well as mental derangement, seemed to be happy only when engaged in the service of God. While strength remained, he was never absent from the chapel, and even after having been confined to bed during the week, the arms of his brethren in affliction supported him to the place where prayer was wont to be made. When that was found impracticable, the accents of praise, and words of resignation on the bed of death, proclaimed the presence of hope blooming full of immortality.

On another occasion after divine service, the chaplain was requested to visit an aged woman, one of his hearers, who had been an inmate of the Asylum for the lengthened term of twenty years. Her case had been a bad one. On the bed of death, however, she was restored to the full possession of reason. After joyfully welcoming her visitor, she expressed in the most grateful terms her happiness on account of the change that had taken place in the house. "Formerly," said she, "the Sabbath was the same as any other day, the joyful message of salvation never reached us; now we have the word preached every Sabbath, and even on the bed of sickness I can hear the glad tidings of peace." (Her apartment was separated from the chapel merely by a thin wooden partition.) This interesting individual lived for nearly three weeks after the interview just described. To the close of life she manifested the patience and holy confidence of the dying Christian. Only once her

mind appeared to be a little disturbed, whether in consequence of a well-known prejudice, or on account of the peculiar character of the house, the writer of this article does not know, as, without asking any questions, he endeavoured to banish the painful feeling. The circumstance alluded to was this: Her situation seemed to cause her some uneasiness, for she expressed regret that the soul was leaving the body *in a state of confinement*. In a moment, however, she recovered her composure, and exclaimed, "how can I complain who have been a great sinner, when I think of the sufferings of my sinless Redeemer."

The last case which will be mentioned is that of a converted Jew.

The expression of this man's countenance indicated perpetual grief. His was indeed a broken, and, to all appearance, a contrite spirit. During divine service, his weeping eyes were constantly fixed upon the preacher, not a word seemed to escape him. When the words were those of comfort, or declaratory of God's goodness, and of the Saviour's love to fallen man, a smile of delight proved the grateful feelings of his heart. When any allusion was made, either in the address or prayer, to those from whom he had separated himself, the tear, the uplifted countenance and folded hands, testified how much he loved his brethren, his kinsmen, according to the flesh, and how strong his desire was that Israel might be saved. To the last, the same affecting tenderness was displayed, until death relieved the broken-hearted sufferer.

Had nothing more been effected by divine service in the Asylum, than merely securing, by this means, to the insane, during a peaceful hour, forgetfulness of their sorrows, and, by breaking in upon the monotonous round of a solitary life, awakening early recollections, thus proving to them that they are still united *with*, and remembered *by* their fellow-men, the benefit conferred upon them would have been great, but the foregoing statements will prove that more has been accomplished. The living are soothed and comforted, the dying have been strengthened by the service of God, and the oft expressed desire of many has been gratified. For, repeatedly before the service of God was established in the Asylum, the patients, upon hearing the tolling of the bells for public worship, remarked to Mrs. Mackay the matron, how much they felt the want of religious instruction, and with what delight they would have joined the multitude that kept the solemn holy day. They now receive the wished for religious instruction, and meet in their solitary mansion to worship him who is not confined to temples made with men's hands. And highly do they seem to value the blessed privileges. May the happy effects produced upon them by Divine truth, be the means of directing public attention to the spiritual necessities of the insane in general, and dispose those to whose care they are intrusted to introduce the service of the only Physician of the grieved in spirit into every similar institution.

It remains only to be added, that the superintendent, Mr. Mackay, satisfied by experience of the blessed consequences of religious instruction to his afflicted charge, has done every thing in his power by his presence and influence, to carry into effect the truly benevolent intention of those who introduced it into the Asylum, and also, by his knowledge of the insane, to assist the chaplain in the discharge of his all-important duties.

LACHLAN MACLEAN, *Chaplain.*

12 March 1836.

*Edinburgh, 23 March 1836.*

The Committee of the Charity Workhouse, to whom the superintendance of the Insane Poor is intrusted, lately requested their Chaplain to prepare a Report on the results which have arisen from the introduction of public worship into the Asylum. They have been so much gratified by the Report, that they feel it their duty to lay it before the Managers, with an earnest recommendation, that some means may be taken for making its contents *generally* known.

ALEX. BRUNTON.  
RO. JOHNSTON.  
RICHD. POOLE.