

Annual report.

Contributors

Newcastle upon Tyne Borough Lunatic Asylum.
Royal College of Physicians of London

Publication/Creation

Newcastle-upon-Tyne : printed at the Daily Journal office, Clayton Street West, 1871.

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NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

Borough Lunatic Asylum,

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT,

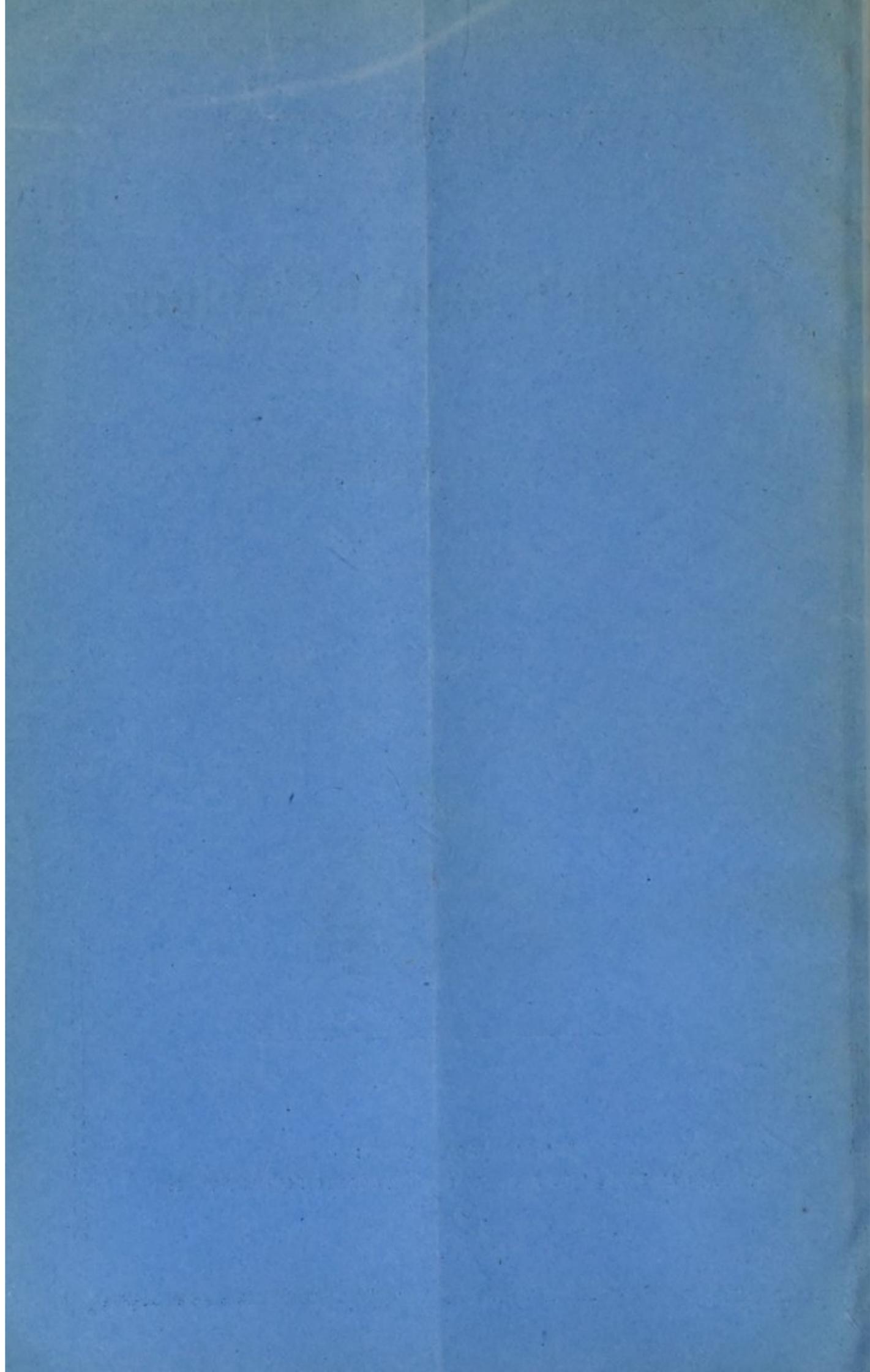
1870.



NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE :

PRINTED AT THE DAILY JOURNAL OFFICE, CLAYTON STREET WEST.

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A LIST
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF VISITORS
AND OFFICE-BEARERS
FOR THE YEAR 1871.

Committee.

1. THOMAS HEDLEY, Esq., CHAIRMAN.
2. RALPH DODDS, Esq.
3. ANTHONY NICHOL, Esq.
4. JOSEPH POLLARD, Esq.
5. JOHN BLACKWELL, Esq.
6. THOMAS WILSON, Esq.
7. JOHN LIDDELL, Esq.

Clerk to Committee.

JOHN ATKINSON, SOLICITOR, 72, PILGRIM STREET, NEWCASTLE.

Medical Superintendent.

R. H. B. WICKHAM, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Assistant Medical Officer.

THOMAS LYLE, M.B.

Chaplain.

REV. W. BOWLAN.

Clerk to the Asylum.

ROBERT SCOTT.

Matron.

MISS LALLAND.



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Newcastle-upon-Tyne Borough Lunatic Asylum.

REPORT 1870.

The Committee, in presenting their sixth Annual Report, deeply regret having to announce the death, after a very short illness, of Dr. Hugh Grainger Stewart, the Medical Superintendent, which took place at the Asylum on the 26th day of November last, from rheumatic fever. His loss will be very much felt by the Visiting Justices. He was a gentleman of great ability and a most valuable public servant. He will be long regretted by every one connected with the Asylum.

The Committee duly advertised for a new Superintendent to supply the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Stewart, and after carefully considering the numerous applications and testimonials sent in, appointed Mr. Richard H. B. Wickham, the Senior Assistant Physician to the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

The number of patients on the books on the 31st December, 1869, was 159 (viz., 82 males and 77 females), 4 of whom were private patients, the remainder being chargeable to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Union.

The admissions during the past year have been 180 (viz., 70 males and 110 females).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
As Private Patients	2	8	10
From Newcastle Union	17	28	45
" St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green ..	13	15	28
" St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.....	—	44	44
" Toxteth Park	3	1	4
" Liverpool	13	14	27
" Dewsbury	3	—	3
" Huddersfield	6	—	6
" Goole	1	—	1
" Holbeck	2	—	2
" Halifax	4	—	4
" Leeds	4	—	4
" Bradford	1	—	1
" Bramley	1	—	1
	70	110	180

The discharges have been 26 (viz., 8 males and 18 females), the deaths 32 (viz., 25 males and 7 females), the total number under care and treatment has been 339 (viz., 152 males and 187 females), and the average number daily resident and under treatment 221 (viz., 93 males and 128 females), while the per centage of deaths on that number has been 9·4, and the per centage of recoveries on the number of admissions has been 9·4.

The number remaining on the books on the 31st day of December, 1870, was 281 (viz., 119 males and 162 females), being an increase of 122 as compared with the previous year. Of this number

7	are chargeable as private patients.
159	„ „ to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Union, and
115	„ „ to other Unions.

The Committee have now ample accommodation to receive patients from other Unions, for whom they charge 16s. a week, and also for a limited number of private patients for whom they charge 20s. a week. The increased number of patients in the Asylum during the past year has enabled them to reduce the charge for the maintenance of the borough patients from 13s. to 12s. a week, and they confidently hope to be able to make a further reduction during this year.

The Committee on their monthly visits of inspection have always found the Asylum clean and orderly. A large number of the patients are regularly and usefully employed in and about the Asylum, and they have every reason to believe that the general health of the patients has been good, and that every care has been taken by the officers and attendants to promote their comfort.

The Commissioners in Lunacy, who visited the Asylum on the 4th day of August last, have recorded their unqualified approval of the construction of the New Asylum, and of the great care with which in every part the comfort and peculiar needs of the patients have been consulted, and they also expressed themselves highly satisfied with the zeal and ability displayed by the late Dr. H. G. Stewart, in its supervision and management.

The Committee have also to report that the conduct of the officers and attendants has been satisfactory.

The Committee hoped to have been able to close the Capital Building Account by the end of 1870, as stated in their last report, but as the Architect has not got some of the Contractors' Accounts settled and certified, they find it necessary to postpone the closing of the Account until the outstanding claims are adjusted and settled.

The Committee expect that the balance in the hands of the Treasurer will be sufficient to defray the Accounts referred to.

The Committee will receive a report from Mr. Wickham, which, with such statistical tables as he may be able to supply, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the maintenance fund, will be printed and circulated amongst the Justices.

THOMAS HEDLEY, CHAIRMAN.

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Committee of Visiting Justices.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Sixth Annual Report of the Asylum, with the Statistical Tables for 1870.

Having been appointed after the close of the year, it will not be expected that I shall be able to give you any account of the progress of the management, a circumstance which is much to be regretted, as many improvements must have been carried out during this the first entire year in which the New Asylum has been occupied.

The first Table gives the general results of the year.

TABLE I,
Showing the Admissions, Re-Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1870.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1870				82	77	159
				Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted for the first time during the Year				68	108	176
Re-Admitted during the Year				2	2	4
Total under treatment				152	187	339
Discharged—						
Recovered				4	13	17
Relieved				2	4	6
Not improved .. .				2	1	3
Died				25	7	32
Total discharged and died				33	25	58
Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1870				119	162	281
Average number daily resident				93	128	221

It will be seen from this Table that the average number of patients daily resident during the past year was 221 (93 males and 128 females). This shows an increase of 66 (13 males and 53 females) over the number resident in 1869.

The admissions have been very numerous, being considerably more than one-half of the total number under treatment. This

is due to the want of accommodation for pauper lunatics in London, Liverpool, and other parts of England, and does not imply any increase of lunacy within the borough of Newcastle, the number admitted from that district being only 45, leaving a balance of 125 chargeable to other Unions.

The large number of admissions, consisting for the most part of chronic cases of long standing, has had a most perceptible effect on the per centage of recoveries, which is always calculated on the admissions. This year it does not amount to more than about 9·4 per cent. It is satisfactory, however, to notice that the actual number of recoveries is not below that of former years.

There have been 32 deaths during the year, being about 9·4 per cent. of the total number under treatment.

Tables II., III., and IV. give in various forms the history of the cases admitted into the Asylum since its opening.

TABLE II.,

Showing the Admissions, Re-Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, 31st December, 1870.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Persons Admitted during the period of 5½ years ...	218	247	465
Re-Admitted	6	15	21
Total number of cases admitted	224	262	486
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged or Recovered :			
Recovered	33	59	92
Relieved	5	13	18
Not improved	6	1	7
Died	61	27	88
Total discharged and died during the 5½ years	105	100	205
Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1870.....	119	162	281
Average number daily resident during the 5½ years	72	76	148

This Table gives an abstract of the general results of the 5½ years during which the Borough Asylum has been in existence. The two following ones give the details of which Table II. is a summary.

It appears from Table IV. that of 114 patients admitted in 1865, 73 or 5-7ths of the whole still remain in the house, showing the incurability of their insanity on admission. Of the whole 114, also, not a single case was discharged recovered, or relieved during the year 1870, and only four have died; whereas of those admitted in 1870, nine have already been discharged recovered, four not recovered, while 14 have died. At the foot of Table IV. there is shown the amount of discharges and deaths per cent. on the total admission. It will be seen from this that 42·18 per cent. of the entire number admitted since June, 1865, have died or been discharged, leaving 57·82 per cent. still under treatment.

The next Table shows the causes of death during the year.

TABLE V.,
Showing the Causes of Death during the Year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
CEREBRAL AND SPINAL DISEASES:—			
Apoplexy and Paralysis.....	...	...	...
Epilepsy or Convulsions .....	...	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane	13	...	13
Maniacal or Melancholic Exhaustion or Decay	1	2	3
Inflammation and other Diseases of the Brain, Softening Tumours, &c. ....	...	...	...
THORACIC DISEASES:—			
Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleura, and Bronchi ..	1	...	1
Pulmonary Consumption	5	4	9
Disease of the Heart, &c. ....	...	1	1
ABDOMINAL DISEASES:—			
Inflammation and Ulceration of the Stomach, In- testines, or Peritoneum.....	1	...	1
Dysentery and Diarrhœa	1	...	1
Pelvic Abscess, Bright's Disease	1	...	1
Embolism	1	...	1
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...
Cancer of the Face .....	...	...	...
Anœmia.....	...	...	...
General Debility and Old Age	1	...	1
Accidents .....	...	...	...
Suicides.....	..	...	...
Total	25	7	32
Ascertained by <i>post mortem</i> examination	1	1	2

General paralysis of the insane again heads the list of deaths in this Asylum, being upwards of 40 per cent. of the whole. The next in importance is phthisis, which amounts to 28 per cent. of the entire causes of death.

The next Table gives the length of residence in this Asylum of those who have recovered or died during the year.

TABLE VI.,

Showing the length of Residence in those Discharged, Recovered, and in those who have Died during the Year 1870.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE.	RECOVERED.			DIED.		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
Under 1 month .....	...	...	...	4	1	5
From 1 to 3 months	1	2	3	2	2	4
„ 3 to 6 „ .....	...	6	6	5	...	5
„ 6 to 9 „ .....	...	4	4	...	...	..
„ 9 to 12 „	1	1	2	3	1	4
„ 1 to 2 years	1	...	1	7	...	7
„ 2 to 3 „	1	...	1	...	...	...
„ 3 to 4 „ .....	...	...	...	1	1	2
„ 4 to 5 „ .....	...	...	...	2	2	4
„ 5 to 6 „ .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
„ 6 to 7 „ .....	..	...	...	...	...	...
Total	4	13	17	25	7	32

The next Table exhibits the duration of the disorder previous to admission and the results of the Asylum treatment.

TABLE VII.,
Showing the duration of the Disorder on Admission in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year 1870.

CLASS.	DURATION OF DISEASE ON ADMISSION, IN FOUR CLASSES.											
	ADMISSIONS.			DISCHARGES.						DEATHS.		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Recovered.			Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.			Male.	Fem.	Total.
				Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.			
FIRST CLASS—First attack, and within three months of admission	32	28	60	4	11	15	2	..	2	14	5	19
SECOND CLASS—First attack, above three months and within twelve months of admission	3	15	18	...	1	1	2	5	7	6	2	8
THIRD CLASS—Not first attack, and within twelve months of admission.....	14	9	23	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
FOURTH CLASS—First attack or not, but of more than 12 months of admission	16	41	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Not known	5	17	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
TOTAL.....	70	110	180	4	13	17	4	5	9	25	7	32

This Table illustrates the oft-repeated remark on the greater curability in recent cases, above 88 per cent. of the recoveries having taken place in those in which insanity was observed for the first time within three months of the admission. At the same

TABLE IX.,
Condition as to Marriage in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1870.

CONDITION IN REFERENCE TO MARRIAGE.	ADMISSIONS.			DISCHARGES.				DEATHS.		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Recovered.		Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.		Male.	Fem.	Total.
				Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.			
Single	29	62	91	...	6	1	3	6	4	10
Married ...	36	31	67	4	7	3	1	17	1	18
Widowed...	5	17	22	...	...	...	1	2	2	4
Total...	70	110	180	4	13	4	5	25	7	32

From this Table it would appear that men are more tolerant of the single and widowed states than women, the males of those classes being in a ratio of 16·7 and 2·7 per cent. respectively of the total number of admissions, while the females are in that of 34·4 and 9·4 respectively. On the other hand the female sex has more relish for married life, the ratio here being, on the entire number admitted, 20 per cent. of males and 17 per cent. of females.

The next Table shows the proximate cause of the insanity in each case admitted.

TABLE X.,
Showing the Causes (probable or assigned) of the Mental Disorder in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1870.

CAUSES.	ADMISSIONS.			DISCHARGES.						DEATHS.				
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Recovered.			Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.			Male.	Fem.	Total.		
				Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.					
MORAL—														
Religious excitement	1	1	2	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental anxiety	2	4	6	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Disappointment	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PHYSICAL—														
Injury to head	1	..	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sexual excess	1	..	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over-study	1	..	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebral disease	8	3	11	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Irregularity of menstrual functions ..	..	5	5	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Climacteric period .....	..	14	14	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pregnancy .....	..	5	5	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anæmia	3	6	9	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ovarian disorder .....	..	7	7	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Intemperance	25	5	30	1	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Old age	3	8	11	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paralysis	8	5	13	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Epilepsy	7	6	13	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Phthisis	3	4	7	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Congenital	4	6	10	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Hereditary .....	..	6	6	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Unknown	2	24	26	3	12	15	4	5	9	10	5	15	..	..
Total	70	110	180	4	13	17	4	5	9	25	7	32	..	..

In this Table it is not intended to assign certain physiological and pathological conditions as the actual but as the proximate causes of the insanity in those who were admitted or discharged during the year. For the compilation of this Table I am much indebted to the services of Mr. Lyle, the Assistant Medical Officer, who is personally acquainted with all the cases in which a cause has been assigned, and where there was any doubt I placed the case amongst those in which the source of the malady was unknown. It will be observed that, as usual, intemperance forms a most important item in the column of admissions, about 16 per cent. of the whole being due to the effects of this lamentable vice. Next come the changes at the climacteric period, always a fruitful source of insanity. They are in a ratio of nearly 8 per cent. of the entire causes.

In an appendix will be found two tables, the one showing the Unions to which the patients admitted during the year were chargeable, and the other the Unions to which the patients in the Asylum at the close of the year belonged.

The patients were, generally speaking, healthy and industrious during the year, the unfinished state of the grounds affording ample occupation to those willing to work.

The amusements and recreations received their due share of attention, and in addition to the weekly dance and other regular entertainments, there were several concerts and magic lantern exhibitions, for which the Asylum is indebted to the kindness of ladies and gentlemen in the neighbourhood. A large pic-nic to Tynemouth took place in the summer, which was attended by all the patients of both sexes who were able to go.

In consequence of the universally regretted death of Dr. H. G. Stewart, my predecessor, a vacancy occurred in the medical department, and Mr. Thomas Lyle, M.B., was appointed *ad interim* Medical Superintendent, which post he occupied at the close of the year.

R. H. B. WICKHAM, F.R.C.S., EDIN.,
Medical Superintendent.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I,

Showing the Number of Admissions from each Union, &c., 1870.

UNIONS, &c.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Private Patients	2	8	10
Newcastle Union	17	28	45
St. Matthew, Bethnal Green	13	15	28
St. Leonard, Shoreditch .....	...	44	44
Toxteth Park, Township	3	1	4
Liverpool Parish	13	14	27
Dewsbury Union	3	...	3
Huddersfield Union	6	...	6
Goole Union	1	...	1
Holbeck Union	2	...	2
Halifax Union	4	..	4
Leeds Union	4	..	4
Bradford Union	1	...	1
Bramley Union	1	...	1
Total Admitted	70	110	180
Remaining on 31st Dec. last Year.....	82	77	159
	152	187	339

TABLE II,

Showing the Number of Patients as they are chargeable to Unions, &c., on the 31st December, 1870.

UNIONS, &c.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Private Patients	2	5	7
Newcastle Union.....	76	83	159
St. Matthew.....	11	14	25
St. Leonard's .....	...	44	44
Toxteth Park	2	1	3
Liverpool	10	13	23
Dewsbury.....	3	...	3
Huddersfield	5	...	5
Holbeck	1	...	1
Halifax.....	4	...	4
Leeds	3	...	3
Lancaster County .....	...	1	1
Bradford	1	...	1
Bramley	1	...	1
Gateshead.....	...	1	1
Total.....	119	162	281
Removed, Discharged, Died, &c., during the } Year 1870.	33	25	58
	152	187	339

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE BOROUGH LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Average Cost per Week per Patient during the Year 1870.

Headings of Expenditure.	Amount.	Average.
	£ s. d.	s. d.
Provisions.....	3076 14 11	5 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
Clothing	603 8 11	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salaries and Wages	1133 10 5	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Necessaries	578 0 8	0 11 $\frac{7}{8}$
Surgery and Dispensary	32 6 8	0 0 $\frac{3}{8}$
Wine, Spirits, and Ale	153 11 2	0 3 $\frac{1}{8}$
Furniture and Bedding	772 17 11	1 4
Garden and Farm	209 4 5	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rates, Taxes, and Insurance	59 5 6	0 1 $\frac{1}{8}$
Miscellaneous	320 2 0	0 6 $\frac{3}{8}$
Building and Repairs	241 10 10	0 5
	7180 13 5	12 4 $\frac{3}{8}$
Less by Sales, &c.	8 13 3	0 0
Nett Cost and Average	£7172 0 2	12 4 $\frac{3}{8}$

ROBERT SCOTT,

Clerk and Steward.

