

Rules and Regulations for the Montrose Royal Lunatic Asylum (1834)

Publication/Creation

1834

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Samuel Turke

Handwritten text in cursive script, possibly reading "The end of the world".

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

MONTROSE

Royal Lunatic Asylum,

AGREED TO AT A

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MANAGERS,

HELD ON 1ST APRIL 1834.



ARTICLES AND ASSOCIATIONS

MONTROSE

Article of Association

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MANAGERS

11th day of April 1944

That the Board of Directors of the Company do hereby resolve that the Special General Meeting of the Managers be held on the 11th day of April 1944 at the Montrose Hotel, Montrose, New York.

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REGULATIONS, &c.

GENERAL BYE-LAWS.

- 1st, No Patient will be admitted into the Asylum without a written application from his or her friends addressed to the Managers, or to the Secretary, or Treasurer of the Institution, and accompanied by an order from the Sheriff of the county, or from one of his Substitutes; which order will be obtained by the friends of the Patient on presenting to them a certificate of lunacy, signed by one or more respectable medical practitioners.
- 2d, That along with the written application for admission, there must also be furnished a satisfactory obligation for the regular payment of the board of the Patient, for a sufficiency of bed and body clothes, and for the renewal of them as often as may appear necessary to the House Committee; also an obligation to remove the Patient from the Asylum when required, and in the event of death, to defray the necessary charges of the funeral.
- 3d, That all admissions of Patients into the Asylum shall take place either at the General or Ordinary Monthly Meetings of the Managers, or, in cases of urgency, at an Extraordinary Meeting, to be called by the Secretary, where seven Managers shall be a quorum, and shall have power to admit the Patient, subject to the approbation of the next Monthly Meeting, at which the rate of board shall be fixed.
- 3d, That the friends of the Patient shall, within fourteen days from the time of admission, furnish the Medical Attendant of the Institution with written answers to certain queries, which he is instructed by the Managers to put, re-

garding the incipient appearances of the disease, the previous habits of the Patient, &c., which answers shall, if possible, be drawn up under the eye and direction of the medical gentlemen who furnished the certificate of lunacy.

- 5th, That no Idiot, unless mischievous, can be admitted into the Asylum, or, if from want of information, any such admission should take place, orders shall be immediately given by the House Committee for their removal.
- 6th, When any Patient in the Asylum shall appear to the Medical Superintendent to be so much recovered as to render a longer residence in the Asylum unnecessary, or to be in other respects improper, he shall report the same to the House Committee, who shall determine respecting the dismissal of the Patient; but in all cases of dismissal upon trial, the cell of the Patient shall be reserved for six weeks, and if before the expiry of that period his or her friends shall find restraint again necessary, the House Committee may order the Medical Superintendent to readmit the Patient.
- 7th, No relation or friend shall be permitted to visit any of the Lunatic Patients in their cells or separate apartments, without the consent of the Medical Superintendent; but strangers and others, not exceeding three in number, when accompanied by a Manager, or with his written order to the Medical Superintendent, or with the sanction of the Medical Superintendent, shall be admitted to take a general view of the arrangements of the House, betwixt the hours of eleven forenoon and one afternoon, and three and five afternoon.
- 8th, No male person shall have access unattended to the cell of any Female Patient.
- 9th, If any person in the employment of the Institution shall be found intoxicated, either by day or night, he shall be immediately dismissed, and declared incapable of being again received into the service of the Institution.
- 10th, The Keepers and Servants shall at no time attempt to deceive or terrify the Patients, or irritate them by mockery, mimicry, or wanton allusions to any thing in their present appearance or past conduct. They shall

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exercise the greatest vigilance over the Patients, and always have a careful eye over their behaviour, both in their day rooms and in their exercising grounds. They shall never indulge or express vindictive feelings towards any Patient, but forgive all petulance, abusive language, or sarcasms; treating with equal tenderness those who give the most and those who give the least trouble. And whatever peculiarity they may observe in any Patient, they are immediately to mention it to the Head Keeper or Matron, who shall communicate the same to the Medical Superintendent. Every instance of negligence or concealment as regards these appearances on the part of the Keepers will be held as a decisive proof of incapacity or unfaithfulness.

- 11th, No person shall be allowed to give any of the Patients in the Asylum any article whatever without the approbation of the Medical Superintendent; or to convey out of the Asylum a letter from any Patient which has not been previously inspected by him.
- 12th, The greatest regularity shall be observed with regard to the hours of meals, &c., unless when sickness or other circumstances shall render a deviation from prescribed rules necessary. From the 1st of April to 30th September inclusive, the Patients shall rise at seven o'clock; and from the 1st of October to the 31st March inclusive, they shall rise at eight. They shall breakfast at half-past eight o'clock, dine at half-past one, get supper before retiring to their cells, which shall be every night at eight o'clock from the 1st October to the 1st April, and during the remainder of the year at nine o'clock.
- 13th, Neither the Keepers nor Servants of the Institution shall receive money from Patients, their friends, or any person visiting the Institution, under the pain of being instantly dismissed.
- 14th, None of the Male Keepers or Servants shall go into the washing-house or laundry under any pretence: They shall deliver the clothes of the Patients under their charge to the laundry-maid, at the door of the washing-house.
- 15th, The Keeper, Matron, and Servants, are not to mention the names of the Lunatic Patients to any person unconnected with the Institution.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

- 1st, That at the Annual General Meeting in June a Committee, consisting of five Managers, two of whom shall have been members of the former Committee, shall be elected; which Committee shall be called the "House Committee," of whom three shall be a quorum.
- 2d, That the Committee shall elect a Preses, who shall also be Convener, and shall have a deliberative and casting vote on all questions that may come before the Committee.
- 3d, That this Committee shall be invested with the general charge of the whole internal economy of the Institution, subject always to the revisal and control of the Monthly and General Meetings of the Managers.
- 4th, That it shall be the province and duty of this Committee to advertise for tenders, and enter into contracts for supplying the Institution with provisions, to examine all accounts, and, if found correct, to give an order on the Treasurer for their payment, to whom the signature of the Preses and one or more members of the Committee shall be a sufficient warrant.
- 5th, That the Committee shall meet within the House, at least once every month, to receive the report, if any, of the Medical Superintendent; to audit the accounts of incidental expences incurred by the Keeper and Matron, so that all these may be laid before the next Monthly Meeting; to inquire into the treatment of the Patients, and the conduct of all persons employed in the Institution; to inspect the day-rooms, the cells and airing-grounds of the Asylum, and the Wards of the Infirmary; and to direct the mode of supplying provisions, and to examine their quality.
- 6th, That the four ordinary members of this Committee shall make such arrangements amongst themselves, so that two of them by turns may visit the Institution at least once every week; and, in the course of these visits, should any thing appear to them to require the attention of the Committee, they shall intimate the same to the Preses, who shall call a meeting to inquire into the matter.

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DUTIES OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

- 1st, He shall have the superintendence of all the concerns of the House, subject to the instructions he may receive from the General or Monthly Meetings of the Managers, or from the House Committee.
- 2d, He shall have the whole medical and moral direction of the Patients; and, in regard to their treatment, shall give the necessary instructions to the Head Keeper and Matron, who shall be considered responsible for the due execution of his orders; and shall devote his whole time to the Lunatics, Infirmary, and Dispensary.
- 3d, When any case of danger or difficulty occurs, and in all operations of consequence, he shall call to his aid in consultation one or more of the out-door Medical Attendants; and a Minute shall be entered in his Case Book of every such consultation and the result.
- 4th, He shall take care that a sufficient supply of Medicines shall be provided; and he shall have the whole charge of compounding and issuing the same for all the purposes of the Institution. He shall devote one hour each day at the Dispensary to attend to those Patients having proper recommendations for medical advice and assistance.
- 5th, He shall have full power to supply the Patients with whatever provision and medicine he may judge necessary for their cure, without reference to the Board paid; but, after due trial has been made, he shall reduce them to their regular allowance, unless their general health requires more liberal treatment. And if the friends of the more affluent Patients shall wish to indulge them with any comforts at their own expense, not granted commonly in the Establishment, he shall have full power to allow or refuse these according to the opinion he may form of their probable effects on the Patient; but neither the Matron nor Head Keeper shall have power to grant them without his consent.
- 6th, On the reception of every Lunatic Patient the Medical Superintendent shall endeavour to obtain satisfac-

tory answers to the following queries; and, if these be not furnished, as far as circumstances will permit, within fourteen days thereafter, he shall report the omission to the first Monthly Meeting of Managers.

First, What is the name and age of the Patient? Single or married, of what situation in life, or employment? Quiet, sober, industrious; or dissipated, idle, vicious, quarrelsome?

Second, Is there reason to believe the disease hereditary? or is it joined with epilepsy, palsy, or any other violent and distinct malady?

Third, Is the natural disposition of the Patient cheerful or melancholy? Has any peculiarity been observed in the behaviour previous to the derangement? or anything remarkable in the constitution? What bodily ailments was the Patient most subject to?

Fourth, How long has the Patient laboured under derangement? Did it come on gradually or suddenly? Have any changes worthy of notice occurred in the symptoms? Has the Patient ever recovered, or been convalescent and again relapsed?

Fifth, Can the derangement be attributed to any moral cause, such as religious enthusiasm, terror, love, disappointment, misfortunes, &c.?

Sixth, Can it be traced to any physical cause, such as severe bodily injury (particularly about the head), to fever, exposure to the sun, residence in warm climates, abuse of intoxicating liquids, or the administration of powerful drugs of any kind?

Seventh, If in Females, did it supervene in consequence of obstruction, pregnancy, child-birth, nursing, or any nervous excitement?

Eighth, What particular train of thought is the Patient most addicted to? Have any changes in this respect been remarked in the progress of the disorder? and what are they? Have any spectral illusions, fancied sounds, or false perceptions of external objects accompanied the disease?

Ninth, Is there any particular subject that irritates the mind of the Patient, or produces a train of thinking more than usually incorrect? Have any means been found effectual for banishing such thoughts for a time, or diverting them into a more rational channel?

Tenth, Has the Patient at any time attempted suicide? or to destroy or hurt others? or displayed malice or ill-will against any individual?

Eleventh, Have remedies been tried? What were they? How long were they continued? and with what effect?

N.B. The Queries shall be printed separately, and copies given to those applying for the admission of a Patient.

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- 7th, From the answers obtained to the above queries, and from his own observations, the Medical Superintendent shall draw up an account of each case, to be fully and distinctly entered in a Case Book, in which the subsequent treatment of the Patient shall also be inserted, along with every change of symptoms deserving of notice during the residence of the Patient in the Asylum to its termination, of which a full and satisfactory account shall also be given. These Case Books are to be furnished at the expense of the Institution, and are to be considered as its exclusive property; and no Volume is on any pretence to be taken out or removed; nor shall any one have access to these Books except the Sheriff of the County or his Substitute, the Managers, or such as may obtain, for some specific purpose, a written order from the acting House Committee; and, in all these cases, the Medical Superintendent must be present.
- 8th, The Medical Superintendent must, when required, furnish such reports or certificates of the state of the Patients under his charge, or of any individual Patient, as may be wanted by the Sheriff of the County or his Substitute, by the Managers of the Asylum or their Committee, or by the relations of Patients, or by those individuals on whose applications such Patients were admitted regarding them only.
- 9th, A Monthly Report of the number of Patients in the Asylum and Infirmary, and of the situation of each, shall be drawn up by the Medical Superintendent and presented to each regular Meeting of the House Committee; and such alterations as may occur from time to time in the state of the Patients shall be regularly noted in it for their information.
- 10th, An Annual Report in regard to the Patients and the state of the Asylum, Infirmary, and Dispensary, shall be prepared by the Medical Superintendent, and given to the House Committee, by whom it shall be laid before the General Meeting in June for their approbation; after which it shall be printed and circulated for the information and satisfaction of the public, along with the state of its Funds.
- 11th, The Medical Superintendent is enjoined to employ

the Patients, both Male and Female, in useful and amusing work as much as possible; and the Head Keeper and Matron are very particularly charged to leave no mild and humane endeavours untried to forward these salutary measures, while the House Committee are empowered to grant from the Funds of the Institution the means necessary for carrying them into effect with facility and safety.

- 12th, The Medical Superintendent shall in no case engage in private Medical Practice, but shall strictly confine his attention and practice to the Patients of the Institution; and he shall farther, if required by the Managers, take under his charge, and instruct in all the points of his department, one or two Apprentices, but without thereby incurring any expenses on himself.

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MEDICAL OUT-DOOR ATTENDANTS.

- 1st, There shall be six Medical Attendants for the six Districts of the Town, as at present, who shall be paid an annual fee of L.10 each.
- 2d, The duties of these six Medical Attendants shall be to attend the out-door Patients of the Infirmary, to prescribe Medicines, &c. which shall be mixed up at the Dispensary; and, when any extraordinary cases occur, they shall keep notes of the same, to be registered in the Hospital Case Book.
- 3d, That the said Medical Attendants shall, at all times when specially required by the Medical Superintendent, afford him their best advice and assistance in regard to the moral or medical treatment of any of the Lunatic or Infirmary Patients under his charge; and shall, at any time when required by the Medical Superintendent, afford him their professional advice and assistance in performing any operation in the Infirmary; and a Minute shall be entered in the Case Book of every such consultation and operation and the result.
- 4th, The respective Medical Attendants shall keep a Register of the number of Patients and the nature of their cases, shewing those under treatment, and those cured, so that the Register may give the statistical results monthly, or as may be determined,—as it must always be of the utmost consequence to shew the increase or diminution of sickness in the poorer class of the population of the Town.

DUTIES OF HEAD KEEPER.

- 1st, The Head Keeper shall have the general care of the Asylum, under the control of the Medical Superintendent, and shall be obliged to account, by inventory, for all the articles of Furniture, Male Patients' Clothing, and other things committed to his charge: He shall have the particular charge of the Male Patients, and shall be provided with the necessary Assistants, who shall act under his direction, and for whose conduct he shall be responsible.
- 2d, He shall on no account be absent from his duty in the Asylum by day or by night, unless when necessarily engaged in any business of the House, or when attending Public Worship, or by special permission, or at such times as may be permitted by the general rules of the House; at which times he shall take care that every thing be left in such order and security as that no mischief or accident may happen during his absence. He shall in no case leave the House during the absence of the Medical Superintendent or of the Matron; and he shall be bound to obey such farther regulations as may be agreed on by the Managers, and delivered to him by the Medical Superintendent, properly authenticated.
- 3d, He shall have the power of engaging the Assistants in his department, with the approbation of the Medical Superintendent; but no male servant, assistant, or keeper, shall be dismissed on any account before the end of the term for which they were engaged, without the approbation of the House Committee, who shall be immediately summoned to meet and decide the matter.
- 4th, He shall see the Male Patients put to bed every evening, and taken from their sleeping apartments in the morning, precisely at such hours as may be fixed by the general regulations of the House; and every night, after the lapse of one hour, and within *two*, of the time the Patients are put to bed, he shall leisurely walk through the whole passages communicating with the sleeping apartments of the Male Patients, and if he discovers anything unusual in the state of the Patients, he shall immediately inform the Medical Superintendent.

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- 5th, He shall be constantly present during meals, and shall observe the demeanour of the Patients, the conduct of the Servants, and the state of the Provisions as to cooking, cleanliness, equality of distribution, &c. &c.
- 6th, He shall take care that the Diet Table, prescribed by the Medical Superintendent, be punctually attended to, and that all Medicines be duly administered to the Male Patients for whom they are ordered; but it is expressly enjoined that forcing shall in no case be had recourse to, either in regard to food or medicine, except in the presence of the Medical Superintendent.
- 7th, He shall, under the Medical Superintendent, have the charge of all the Male Servants in the Establishment, for whose conduct he shall be responsible, and shall watch over their treatment of the Patients with the strictest vigilance, and instantly check the slightest appearance of negligence, improper indulgence, or severity.
- 8th, He shall, when required by the Medical Superintendent, give his attendance and assistance in the Infirmary and Dispensary; and, in short, shall consider himself as being bound at all times to obey the orders of the Medical Superintendent in every thing connected with the service of the Institution.

DUTIES OF MATRON.

- 1st, The Matron shall have the Female Patients in the Institution under her more immediate care; and shall take charge of the Bedding and Linens, Female Patients' Clothes, and such articles of Furniture as shall be committed to her by inventory, and for these she must account to the Managers or House Committee. She shall oversee the work in the kitchen, and in all other parts of the house and premises.
- 2d, She shall have the charge, under the direction of the House Committee, of the whole Household Stores, and shall keep a regular Book of Expenses, to be laid before the House Committee at their meetings. She shall reside in the House, and be absent as seldom as possible from her business, and shall be careful to consult the interests of the Institution, by the most frugal and judicious management of every thing intrusted to her; and the Head Keeper and Matron shall in no case be absent from the House at the same time.
- 3d, She shall have the sole power of engaging and dismissing the Female Servants employed in the domestic concerns of the Institution; but in engaging and dismissing the Female Keepers, she must act with the approbation of the Medical Superintendent; and if any difference of opinion should occur between them, the House Committee shall decide, as also on the propriety of dismissing Female Servants or Keepers between terms.
- 4th, She shall consider herself as being responsible for the general cleanliness of the House, the management of the kitchen, and the cooking and dressing of the victuals, as well as for every thing relating to the Female Department of the Institution.
- 5th, She shall examine the rooms or cells of the Female Patients twice every day, and shall take care that the Medicines ordered for the Female Patients be properly administered to them; and if she shall perceive anything improper, she shall take the earliest opportunity of reporting it to the Medical Superintendent, and, when necessary, to the acting sub-Committee. She shall see the Female

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Patients put to bed every evening, and taken from their sleeping apartments in the morning, precisely at such hours as may be fixed by the general regulations of the House; and every night, after the lapse of one hour and within two, of the time the Patients are put to bed, she shall leisurely walk through the whole passages communicating with the sleeping apartments of the Female Patients, and when she discovers anything unusual in the state of the Patients, she shall immediately inform the Medical Superintendent.

- 6th, She shall take care that the Diet Table, prescribed by the Medical Superintendent, be punctually attended to, and that all Medicines be duly administered to the Female Patients for whom they are ordered; but it is expressly enjoined that forcing shall in no case be had recourse to, either in regard to food or medicine, except in the presence of the Medical Superintendent;—and she shall implicitly obey all such further regulations as may be prescribed, and also all those herein before appointed for the Head Keeper, in so far as they are applicable to the Female Department.

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6th. She shall take care that the Diet Table, prescribed by the Medical Superintendent, be punctually attended to, and that all Medicines be duly administered to the Female Patients for whom they are ordered; but it is expressly enjoined that forcing shall in no case be had recourse to, either in regard to food or medicine, except in the presence of the Medical Superintendent;—and she shall implicitly obey all such further regulations as may be prescribed, and also all those herein before appointed for the Head Keeper, in so far as they are applicable to the Female Department.



