

**Cutting from The Yorkshire Chronicle, relating to the controversy, 30  
December 1813, and list of deaths**

**Publication/Creation**

1813

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/eerkv33q>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

From the statement on the ~~pro~~ other side it appears that there have been deaths from the commencement of the Institution to the present ~~year~~ end of June 1813,— The following table shows the number <sup>in the newspapers</sup> which are reported to have died in each year & also the number of patients in the house

Dec 30. 1813.

To the Editors of the York Chronicle.

A writer in the last *Chronicle*, who has ~~been~~ <sup>unintentionally</sup> assumed the title of "A Friend to Truth," has given the public the following accounts:—1st. "That there has died in the York Lunatic Asylum since its first establishment in 1777—246 persons." 2d. "That the average number of patients for *great part of the time*, has been 195." And 3d. As an inference from the foregoing, "that the number of deaths are greater in proportion at the Retreat, than they have been in the Asylum."

I beg to inform your readers, that these three statements are absolutely false, as will appear evident from the following annual account of the number of patients in the house in each year, and the number of deaths. This document has been extracted chiefly from the printed reports of the state of the Institution published in the York Chronicle.

Dec. 26. 1813.

per C. Atkinson

4

Date	No. of Patients in the House.	Number of Deaths from the opening.	Date	No. of Patients in the House.	Number of Deaths from the opening.
1778	15	1	1786	83	39
1779	23	4	1787	85	161
1780	28	8	1788	96	165
1781	41	11	1789	98	112
1782	32	20	1800	112	120
1783	30	22	1801	127	115
1784	33	22	1802	127	157
1785	43	25	1803	137	165
1786	47	27	1804	144	185
1787	55	50	1805	142	194
1788	68	36	1806	153	210
1789	72	38	1807	163	223
1790	75	45	1808	165	219
1791	70	58	1809	164	247
1792	74	88	1810	171	268
1793	74	65	1811	172	292
1794	80	73	1812	185	510
1795	83	81	1813	199	324

\* These numbers are printed, I presume by mistake, 210 and 222, in the annual accounts of the Asylum.

It is evident, from the preceding table, that the number of patients who had died in the Asylum, at the time of the last printed report, was 322: so much for the *first* statement of the Friend to Truth. In regard to the *second*, it appears that prior to the year 1810, the number of patients in the house at one time has never been 190: and that the average number from the commencement of the Asylum to the present year, has not been 95. The average annual number of deaths will be found to have been as nearly 9 as possible. Let us then examine the *third* statement of the letter writer. The average number of patients in the Retreat since its establishment, (a period of 17 years) has been 46; and in this time the number of deaths has been 26. A very simple arithmetical process will readily shew that the proportion of deaths in the Retreat to those of the Asylum, are about as 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4.5; or, in other words, had only the same mortality prevailed in the Asylum, as has been the case in the Retreat, instead of an average of nine deaths in one year, there would have been only seven in two years. I am aware that a variety of circumstances must be considered before any just inferences can be drawn from these comparative statements, and I should not have made them, had it not been necessary to correct the flagrant inaccuracies of this pretended Friend to Truth.

952  
2563  
36 | 3545 / 98  
    324  
    275  
    288

I remain, with respect, &c.

A SEEKER OF TRUTH.

S. Wake

From	to	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths
Nov 1 1777	June 30 1778	18	4	1804	1610
June 30 1779	1780	35	4	1804	85
1780	1781	35	7	1805	79
1781	1782	38	3	1806	79
1782	1783	50	11	1807	99
1783	1784	37	2	1808	120
1784	1785	40	8	1809	78
1785	1786	57	4	1810	99
1786	1787	52	4	1811	92
1787	1788	59	6	1812	99
1788	1789	75	4	1813	111
1789	1790	61	6	July 1 1813	2560
1790	1791	63	7	to Jan 29 1814	55
1791	1792	55	7		
1792	1793	69	6		
1793	1794	58	6		
1794	1795	83	9		
1795	1796	78	10		
1796	1797	85	6		
1797	1798	95	18		
1798	1799	69	10		
1799	1800	67	7		
1800	1801	64	14		
1801	1802	103	20		
1802	1803	85	16		
1803		88	10		

N.B. The deaths of  
 Whitty, Haldale in 1802  
 and Harrison in 1804  
 and Fowler in 1806  
 are not entered in  
 the Books

It does not appear by  
 the Books whether the  
 folly patients were dis-  
 charged or died in the Asylum  
 Mary Wilson adm. Feb 27  
 1787 - No. 408 -  
 Cath. Sinclair adm. Oct. 16, 1790 - 647  
 D. Ulyson adm. Ap. 20 1796 - 1042  
 D. Thackray adm. July 26 1796 - 1059  
 Mrs. Parke adm. Aug 9 1797 - 1148  
 Died for last 4 3/4 in pro-  
 portion to the admissions  
 89 : 401 or 1 : 4 1/2  
 During last 13 1/2 years from 1800  
 245 - 1281 or 1 : 5 1/4  
 During first 10 years  
 42 : 421 or 1 : 10