The reports of the resident physicians of the County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell, to the Epiphany Sessions, 1839 / [Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum].

#### Contributors

Middlesex Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell. Ellis, William C. Millengen, J. V.

#### **Publication/Creation**

London : M'Gowan and Co., 1842.

#### **Persistent URL**

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/g842erpd

#### License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



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

# THE REPORTS

OF THE

## RESIDENT PHYSICIANS

OF THE

## County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell,

TO THE

EPIPHANY SESSIONS, 1839.

#### LONDON :

PRINTED BY M'GOWAN AND CO., GREAT WINDMILL STREET.

1842.

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2018 with funding from Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30300599

## THE FIRST REPORT OF WILLIAM ELLIS, M. D.

### Presented at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions, 1832.

IN drawing up a Report of this Institution at the end of the present year, when it has not been open for the reception of Patients quite eight months, little more will be expected than a statement of its finances, and a mere detail of the number of admissions, discharges and deaths that have taken place within that period.

It may, however, be satisfactory to those who have not visited this Establishment, or witnessed its progress, to learn that there is every prospect of its fulfilling to the utmost the expectations of the Magistrates.

A considerable amelioration took place in the general condition of the Insane Poor in this County, in consequence of the appointment of Commissioners by Act of Parliament, in the year 1828, to visit them in their different places of confinement: but, even with the greatest solicitude for their comfort, the want of sufficient air, exercise, and employment, which can only be obtained in a large building with ample grounds, presents a most formidable obstacle to their cure. How far this has been removed, a comparison of the places which they had been previously doomed to occupy with the abode provided for them by the County will be the most convincing means of shewing. The magnitude of this Establishment admits of every variety of interesting occupation within its walls; and the constant employment in the open air, in the cultivation of the land and gardens attached to it, is a continual source both of health and amusement. The great principle of employment has been constantly kept in view and acted upon from the commencement. Already are the Male and Female Patients daily engaged in their respective avocations, not only to their own advantage but to the saving of great expense to the County.

The Asylum is capable of containing 500 Patients. There are in it, at present, only 254; but it is expected, that, in the course of a few days, upwards of 100 more will be received. The cause of so few having been admitted to the present time has been from many Parishes having withheld their Patients, and the Magistrates being unwilling to receive all the insane from such as were anxious for their admission, to the exclusion of others whom they thought this Institution more calculated to benefit. For it is a melancholy fact, that there are in the County a great number of Patients whose total imbecility renders them incapable of profiting by the advantages which this Institution can afford, and to whom Humanity can extend no further boon than the careful supply of their daily necessities, until the mere torpid life which they now possess altogether ceases.

The Patients admitted into County Lunatic Asylums, at their first opening, are almost exclusively old cases, who have been for years in previous confinement: little hope, therefore, can exist that out of such a class many can ever be restored to sanity. It will be seen, however, from the annexed table, that twelve Males and eight Females have been discharged cured, of whom only two have relapsed. The utmost that can be done, however, for the great majority of them is to lessen their sorrows by kindness, and afford them all the comfort and happiness which, in their secluded and melancholy situation, they are capable of enjoying. The situation appears extremely healthy; scarcely any cases of sickness or death having taken place, but such as might have been expected from the age, previous disease, or debility of the Patient.

On examining the accounts it will be seen that 1,245*l*. 4*s*. have been laid out for the Establishment more than the money received and due from the different Parishes for the Patients to the 31st of December. This has arisen from the expenses incurred by the Household before the Asylum was opened for Patients, from the small number hitherto admitted, and from the purchasing of cows, manure for the land, and other things, which will not occur to the same amount again ; and also from the laying in of our stock of coals, malt, hops, &c. But it will be satisfactory to learn, that the sum of nine shillings a week ordered by the Visiting Magistrates to be paid by the Parishes for each of their Patients, though considerably less than they cost at the Licensed Houses, will, when the Asylum is full, be amply sufficient to cover every expense for their maintenance, clothing, and medical attendance.

## W. C. ELLIS, M. D.

Hanwell, 31st December, 1831.

PATIENTS-1831.

|  | Males. | Females.   | Total. |
|--|--------|------------|--------|
| Admitted the 15th of May, 1831                 | 136    | 159        | 295    |
| Males. Females. Total.<br>Discharged . 12 8 20 | 1000   | s in marie |        |
| Dead <u>13</u> <u>8</u> <u>21</u>              | 25     | 16         | 41     |
| Remaining in the Asylum on 31st Dec., 1831     | 111    | 143        | 254    |

It is intended in the next Report, when the circumstances of the Patients are better known, to give a more detailed account of them; but hitherto no information has been obtained on which any dependance could be placed, with the exception of a very few cases.

## THE SECOND REPORT OF WILLIAM ELLIS, M. D.

Presented at the Epiphany Sessions, 1833.

IT was stated in the Report of last year, that a more detailed account of the Patients should in future be given, when better information respecting them could be obtained. It is to be regretted, that, in the generality of the cases since admitted, no account has been afforded of the probable cause of the disease, or of the previous habits of the Patients. With very few exceptions, all that can be learnt is, that they are old cases, and have been a long time in confinement.

An attempt to class them, however, is now begun, which will be more correct hereafter, when it may be hoped that the cases will not be of such long standing, and when their circumstances will consequently be better known to the Parochial Officers.

Of those now in the Asylum, nearly all must be considered incurable from the length of time alone during which they have laboured under the disease; and in fifty-seven of the cases it is combined with Epilepsy. In such a class of Patients, it is perfectly hopeless to expect a cure : death alone can terminate their sufferings.

During the year, 422 have been admitted, 81 discharged, and 99 have died. Six of those sent out as cured, relapsed, and were re-admitted. This must be expected frequently to take place, for it has been proved, by painful experience, that, though an attack of this direful affliction may be completely cured, such a state of susceptibility to disease

still remains, that any great excitement, or interruption to the regular habits of restraint to which they have necessarily been obliged to submit during the progress of cure, may bring on a fresh attack. These casualties more particularly occur to the Patients in Pauper Asylums, as, in addition to the removal of a salutary restraint, they have often to contend with the hardships of poverty; and many, who have, previously to their becoming insane, been enabled to support themselves and families in comfort and respectability, find, on their being discharged, that no other resource remains for them than that which is afforded by the Overseers of the Poor. For this evil, private benevolence appears to be the only remedy. In a similar Institution for the West Riding of Yorkshire, the charity of an Individual afforded necessitous Patients a little assistance on their being cured and again commencing their career. A gentleman of the name of HARRISON, a resident in London, but a native of Wakefield, left by his Will a Thousand Pounds to the Lunatic Asylum. This Legacy the Visiting Magistrates invested in Land contiguous to the building : the cultivation of it forms a source of useful occupation and amusement to the Patients, and the income arising from it a fund, which the Magistrates distribute to supply the immediate wants of the most destitute, when, on their recovery, they are dismissed from the Institution. This seasonable help affords a means of support until employment can be procured, and, by removing the anxiety incident to immediate distress, gives the mind time to recover its tone and adapt itself to the change of circumstance.

There is no doubt whatever, that, in numerous instances, such little assistance from HARRISON'S fund (the name given to the charity) has kept the Patient in a state of sanity, and enabled him to support himself and family, when, without it, he would have again become, and remained for life, a Lunatic Pauper. In no other mode whatever is it probable that benefits to the same extent could be procured by the application of such triffing means: and in no place in the world is a benevolent fund, of a similar description, more wanted than in this Metropolitan County. If the wants of the Insane Poor were as duly appreciated as the distresses of others in the family of misfortune are, there can be no doubt but that some of the many splendid donations, constantly devoted to the alleviation of human suffering, would be bestowed upon that class who are now forgotten from their very afflictions being too painful for their fellow-creatures to behold.

The number of deaths during the year may appear large, but it is nevertheless not greater than might be expected. Many were in dying circumstances at the time of admission, and were lifted out from the vehicle in which they were conveyed, into their beds, and in a few days from their beds, into their graves. Seventeen have expired before they had been in the house more than a month.

On the first of October, that mysterious and awful disease the Cholera broke out in the Institution. Twenty-one Patients were attacked in rapid succession : eleven died and ten recovered. It was confined entirely to the Female side of the house, and to two wards, one refractory, the other convalescent, situated at the remotest parts of the building from each other, and having other wards intervening. The greater part of those attacked were the most healthy Patients in the Establishment; and it proved more fatal in those whose appearance was robust, than in others of a more sickly and debilitated habit. In about three weeks it departed as suddenly as it came upon us.

The system of employing the Patients has been pursued

most perseveringly in every variety of work adapted to their respective qualifications. Great difficulty has been experienced in inducing some of the Patients to work, from the practice that generally appears to prevail in the Parishes whence they come, of paying the Paupers, kept entirely in Workhouses, certain weekly sums of money for assisting in the work of the Establishment. That obstacle, however, is now nearly overcome, and there is no doubt that labour to a very valuable extent will be yearly performed by them. In addition to the quantity of mechanical work which has been executed this year, the levelling of the Kitchen Garden and Orchard, estimated to cost £1,300, is already in such a state of progress, that if the following season be favorable for out-door employment, the whole will be completed before the end of the year 1833, without one shilling cost to the County.

Hitherto not a single accident has occurred in consequence of the Patients being trusted with the tools used in their different occupations.

W. C. ELLIS, M. D.

Hanwell, 31st December, 1832.

## PATIENTS, DEC. 31st, 1832.

|  | Males.     | Females.          | Total.                                    |
|--|------------|-------------------|---|
| In the Asylum on the 1st January, 1832         | 111<br>188 | $\frac{143}{234}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 254 \\ 422 \end{array}$ |
| Males. Females. Total.                         | 299        | 377               | 676                                       |
| Discharged                                     | 82         | 98                | 180                                       |
| Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st Dec., 1832 | 217        | 279               | 496                                       |

### , ADMITTED.

| Cases not ex-<br>ceeding three<br>months duration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding twelve<br>months duration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding 2 years<br>duration and first<br>attack. | Cases of more<br>than 2 years du-<br>ration | Cases of those<br>who have had<br>previousattacks. |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 33  | 26   | 24  | 329   | 10   |

## DISCHARGED.

| before admission, | been insane more<br>than 12 months<br>before admission,<br>and discharged | Cases having<br>been insane 2 | Cases having had<br>previous attacks. | Cases not cured,<br>discharged by de-<br>sire of their<br>friends, and by<br>order of the ma-<br>gistrates. |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 9                 | 19  | 18                            | 19                                    | 16  |

| a see an | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Admitted since the Asylum opened             | 324    | 393      | 717    |
| Dead   | 107    | 114      | 221    |
| o world incoured 15 th enforcemently, no     | 217    | 279      | 496    |

Average number of Patients during the Year, 427.

## THE THIRD REPORT

## OF WILLIAM ELLIS, M. D.

Presented at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions, 1834.

ON referring to the Table containing the Admissions and Discharges of the Patients during the present year, it will be seen that, in proportion to the number admitted, there have been rather more recent cases than before. Of these by far the greater part have already recovered; whilst from among the hundreds of the cases of long standing only seventeen have left the Establishment equally well.

It is a melancholy fact, that, on a most careful personal examination of each of the 558 cases now in the house, there do not appear more than fifty, who, under the most favourable point of view, can be considered curable. This is to be attributed almost entirely to the neglect of proper remedies in the early stages of the disease. To become acquainted with the symptoms first indicating it not only requires much care and attention, but much experience; for a diseased action of the brain or some part of the nervous system may be gradually undermining the health, and still be scarcely suspected by common observers to exist, from the insidious manner in which it steals upon the constitution at first : it manifests itself by some triffing aberration of intellect, and that very generally on one point only; such aberration, if unaccompanied by bodily pain, is not only neglected by the sufferers, but disregarded by those around them. This, however, is precisely the time when medical aid is the most capable of being beneficial; and could the Patients but be placed under proper care then, certainly three-fourths of them would be cured. But, unfortunately, the

golden opportunity is too often neglected. Diseased action is allowed to proceed unchecked until diseased organization has taken place and the Patient has become incurable; and it is only in the consequence of the commission of some violent outrage that he is at last sent to an Asylum. Until something serious has occurred, the friends hope in a few days the mind will recover its tone.

Unfortunately, this unwillingness to consider the Patient sufficiently insane to be sent to an Asylum is not confined to the friends of the Patient. There have been instances of the Magistrates themselves, from the kindest motives, refusing to grant warrants for the admission of a Patient, even after he has been examined by a Medical Gentleman, who has given a certificate of his insanity, because, when brought before them, he has been able to answer certain questions correctly. The consequence is, that from this delay, instead of returning to his friends in a few weeks, which, in all probability, would have been the case if proper medical and moral remedies had at once been applied, he becomes incurable and remains in the Asylum for life, a burden to the Parish. In some instances similar delay has been attended with fatal consequences.

It is sincerely hoped that the knowledge of these circumstances will induce an early application to be made for the admission of the Patients; as, even if the neglect does not prove fatal, it is contrary to every principle of justice and humanity, that a fellow-creature deranged, perhaps only on one point, should, from the want of the early attention of those whose duty it is to watch over him, linger out his existence, separated from all who are dear to him, and condemned, without any crime, to be a prisoner for life. The situation here so generously provided by the County for these unhappy sufferers is certainly all that can be desired. Standing on elevated ground, with a fine gravel soil, it is, probably, one of the most healthy in the kingdom.

During this year the deaths have been fewer, in proportion to the number admitted, than those reported in other Asylums where Pauper Patients of every class, and under every variety of disease, are received and remain until they are either cured or die. In the spring, when influenza was so fatal in London and other places, though between forty and fifty of the inmates here were attacked, not a single person was carried off by it.

The seventy-six deaths which have occurred in the year have been, with the exception of those who have died from advanced age, principally caused by disease of the brain, of the lungs, and the complaints brought on by those deadly potions of ardent spirits in which the lower classes seem more than ever to indulge. In a very great number of the recent cases, both amongst the men and women, the insanity is caused entirely by spirit drinking. This may in some measure be attributed to the young not being taught to consider the practice disgraceful, and to their being tempted, by the gorgeous unconcealed splendour of the present gin mansions, to begin a habit which they never would have commenced had they been obliged to steal, fearful of being observed, into the obscurity of the former dram-shop. The rapid destruction of the nervous system by this ensnaring vice is here seen in the most painful features. The haggard look and palsied limb give warning of the fatuity and epilepsy which are very shortly to terminate their existence. In those cases which are sent to the Asylum before these fatal effects have proceeded too far, the restraint from the

practice, the regularity of the hours and diet, combined with amusing labour in the open air, produce the most beneficial effects, and in a few months the body and mind are restored to their natural tone. In too many instances, however, on leaving the Asylum, the same vice is again indulged in, and the same melancholy consequences are the result, until by constant repetition such fatal disease is formed in the brain that death is the only relief from incurable hopeless idiocy.

The mode of employing the Patients, both in and out of doors, formerly adopted is still continued, even to a greater extent than before, and hitherto without a single accident.

W. C. ELLIS, M. D.

Hanwell, 31st December, 1833.

## PATIENTS.-31st Dec., 1833.

| In the Asylum 1st of January, 1833              | 217 | Females.<br>279<br>113 | Total.<br>496<br>203 |
|---|-----|------------------------|----------------------|
| Males. Females. Total.                          | 307 | 392                    | 699                  |
| Dead  | 70  | 71                     | 141                  |
| Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st Dec., 1833. | 237 | 321                    | 558                  |

### ADMITTED.

| Cases not ex-<br>ceeding three<br>monthsduration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding twelve<br>months duration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding 2 years<br>duration and first<br>attack. | Cases of more<br>than 2 years du-<br>ration. | Cases of those<br>who have had<br>previous attacks. |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 2  | 29   | 9   | 23   | 14  |

## DISCHARGED.

| Cases not ha-<br>ving been insane<br>more than 3 months<br>before admission,<br>and discharged<br>within 6 months. | morethan12mon-<br>ths before admis-<br>sionanddischarg- | ing been insane<br>2 years and up- | Cases having had<br>previous attacks. | Cases not cured,<br>discharged by de-<br>sire of their<br>friends, and by<br>order of the ma-<br>gistrates. |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 23   | 15  | 17                                 | 4                                     | 5   |

|                                     |                     |                      | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Admitted since the Asylum of        | pened               |                      | 414    | 506      | 920    |
| Males.<br>Discharged 72<br>Dead 105 | Females.<br>93<br>2 | Total.<br>165<br>197 | 177    | 185      | 362    |
|                                     |                     |                      | 237    | 321      | 558    |

(Average Number of Patients during the Year-537.)

## THE FOURTH REPORT

## OF SIR WILLIAM ELLIS, M. D.

Presented at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions, 1835.

FROM the great length of time during which nearly all the Patients in the Asylum at the close of the last year had been insane previous to their admission, it was stated in the Report, that, on a careful examination of each individual case, not more than fifty, under the most favourable point of view, could be considered curable. This opinion has been too sadly veri-Of the Patients then in the House only twenty-five have fied. been discharged cured; though it will be seen by reference to the annexed Table, that eighteen out of twenty of those received within three months from the commencement of the attack have recovered, and returned to their friends. Unfortunately, the evil resulting from the Patients not being placed in the Asylum immediately on their insanity being discovered is not likely to diminish; for, as the House is now quite full, no fresh Patients can be received, except on vacancies occurring from the cures or deaths of some of the present inmates; and the applications for admission are so numerous, that, with the utmost success that can be hoped for in cures, many months must now elapse after an application has been made before the Patient can be received. The insanity must, therefore, be expected to become confirmed before the advantages of this Institution are tried; and, after the diseased action of the brain has continued for some months, the erroneous notions become so fixed in the mind, that the utmost that can generally be effected is, by a course of kind and firm discipline, to procure

the sufferer a season of repose to enable him, as long as he is kept secluded from every exciting cause, to divert his attention by some useful employment, and to pass through life in a moderate degree of comfort and tranquillity. But an individual under these circumstances is totally inadequate to contend with the difficulties of life; and if, from having, whilst under restraint, conducted himself for a length of time with propriety, and without having exhibited any symptoms of insanity, he is again thought fitted to venture into the busy world, it too frequently happens, that repeated disappointments, and one anxious feeling being succeeded by another, cause an unsettled state of mind which is followed by a recurrence of all the symptoms of his former disease. There are however some instances in which cases of this kind, apparently hopeless, by perseverance in the system of occupation afforded by this Institution, have been permanently cured. The following case, amongst several others of somewhat similar description, is a remarkable illustration of this fact :- A. B., aged 43, a mechanic, of a sanguine temperament, active mind, naturally kindhearted, sober, and industrious, became insane in consequence of the loss of property and the reckless conduct of a drunken wife. He was first sent to a Private Madhouse, and afterwards to a Public Hospital, where he remained a year and seven days, his probationary time, when he was discharged and brought here as a dangerous Patient and expected to remain for life. After making observations on his character for some time with great care, he was permitted to be employed. He felt grateful for the confidence reposed on him, and gradually went on improving in his ability to work at his trade, and in recovering the tone of his mental powers. After some weeks the officer in the department in which he was occupied was taken ill with rheumatism, which disabled him from working at his business. This produced an increased desire in the Patient to render him-

self useful, and from this time his recovery became rapid. His mind, occupied by his business, and at the same time being actively employed, he had no longer any leisure in the day to indulge in fanciful delusions, and wearied by useful labour, he slept soundly during the night. Long after he appeared perfectly sane his sense of hearing was morbidly affected. He fancied he heard various sounds and the whispering of voices, but that by degrees left him. He was discharged cured in about five months, and has remained so to the present time, though he has had much to contend with that would have driven reason from her seat in many a strong mind. Since his recovery he has repeatedly said, that, had he remained where he was, that blessing would never have taken place; for, being surrounded only with the naked walls of his room, galleries, and airing courts, he was without one single object before him to occupy his mind. But any one, who traces the progress of the disease, will be convinced, that, notwithstanding the mind may sometimes regain its tone when left entirely to itself, yet the want of proper employment, still existing in the greater part of the Asylums for the Insane, is most unfavourable to their recovery. When the mind, after long excitement, from either moral or physical causes, begins to assume a moderate state of quiescence, and in a small degree to cease its discursive wanderings, it is evident, that, unless some object be presented to it which will occupy its attention without producing too much fatigue, its natural tendency will be to dwell upon its own erroneous imaginations, until the phantoms it has conjured up become identified with itself. The experience of twenty years has confirmed this view of the case, and shewn that, to dissipate such delusions, constant, energetic employment is the sole remedy that can be relied upon. The only plausible argument that can be urged against it is, the fear of more injury being done by the Patients with the tools intrusted

to them. On this account every instrument is carefully removed out of their reach; and in many Hospitals none of them are even permitted to take their food with a knife and fork, but are only furnished with a spoon. This arises from its being erroneously supposed, that, because a man is insane on one point, he will most probably act in all cases violently and irrationally. But the truth is, that, in insanity, the natural disposition of the individual influences his conduct, except in particular points on which he is insane, in the same manner as it would if he were perfectly rational; and the majority of the Insane, when not under excitement from the disease (in which case it would, of course, be improper for them to be employed), would be as little willing to do any harm with their tools as would the same number of sane persons. Care and discrimination are, of course, necessary ; but with these, long experience has proved that the system of employment is attended with much less danger than is usually apprehended. In this Institution, during the present year, occupation has been carried to a much greater extent than at any former period, the average number employed being 320. No additional servants have been engaged in the domestic parts of the Establishment, notwithstanding the increased number of the Patients. There is still but one Cook, one Laundry Maid, and one sane person, in short, at the head of every department, the work being done by the Patients, under their direction.

In former years considerable difficulty has been experienced in finding occupation for them in the winter months, particularly as the inhabitants of this part of the country are generally unaccustomed to any in-door manufacturing employments. This in a great measure has been overcome, by having procured persons to teach them the spinning of twine, making pottle-baskets for fruit, picking, carding, and spinning wool for the making of mops, together with the manufacturing of straw hats and bonnets. This is done, not only for the use of the whole 570 Patients, but a quantity of them have been sold. Six persons have also been taught to make shoes within the year, who before were totally ignorant of that business. The active bustle excited by these means has produced the most salutary effects, and many of the Patients, who, before it took place, were obliged to be confined to keep them from mischief and from destroying their clothes, are now daily amusing themselves in some of these varied avocations as their fancy dictates. In fact, a very large proportion of the Patients, with the exception of the imbecile and fatuous, are now stimulated to make an attempt to employ themselves usefully, from merely imitating the others; and, of however little value their work may be, the attempting to do something useful gives them a little feeling of self-importance, and in some measure seems to connect them with society.

In the last Report it was stated, that, in a great number of cases, both amongst the Men and the Women, the insanity had been caused by Spirit-Drinking. It is to be lamented that this ensnaring vice has continued to be productive of the same misery in the year that is just past. Many cases have been brought to us, which, from the symptoms they have exhibited, were no doubt the consequence of this practice; and applications have lately been made for the admission of others, in which intemperance has been stated as the sole cause. Nor can this be wondered at, when it is recollected, that, at this period of the year, the worse than foolish custom of giving Christmas Boxes to all the lower classes of Society so generally prevails. These donations in their origin were, no doubt, given for the purpose of, and expended in, procuring the little comforts which every kind heart would wish their fellow creatures to enjoy, with sobriety, at this returning season. But not only has the general necessity for these gifts, in money at least, long since ceased, from the circumstances of the receivers being so materially changed; but the mode of expending the donation has now so greatly changed also, that it has in reality become a serious evil. There are, no doubt, many worthy exceptions; but a great mass of the people from this source devote themselves, as long as the means last, to drunkenness, and sink themselves to the lowest depths of human degradation; the Dram-shop only reaping the benefit; whilst many a sorrowful wife in her heart laments that such temptations are offered to vice and indolence.

During the year, 122 Patients have been admitted, forty-nine cured, six discharged by desire of their friends, and fifty-eight have died, one of them by his own hands. The proportion of the deaths this year is unusually small. With the exception of Cholera, which again visited the Establishment in August, the Patients have been remarkably healthy; four died of this appalling disease. Those attacked were all in one Ward, on the Male side of the House. On its former visitation, the Females were the only sufferers.

It is quite impossible that any benevolent mind can be made acquainted with all these various circumstances connected with this pitiable part of our fellow creatures, without being affected both by many painful and pleasurable feelings: sorrow, that there-is such a mass of human suffering from this disease, without any hope of alleviation; and thankfulness, that, amidst the various improvements and ameliorations that have taken place throughout the land for every species of distress, the Insane Paupers have at last not been forgotten: remembering, too, that each one may be more or less interested in the progressive 22

improvement that takes place in its treatment, for it is a calamity that makes no distinction in its objects. The most exalted rank, and the poorest peasant, the vivacity of youth, the sedateness of age, the brightest genius, and the dullest intellect, are alike its victims; so that no one can feel assured that he, or some who are near and dear to him, may not, in the order of Providence, be called upon to suffer from its humiliating effects.

## W. C. ELLIS, M. D.

Hanwell, 31st December, 1834.

## PATIENTS EMPLOYED-November 28th, 1834.

| Males.  | Females.  |
|---|---|
| Handicrafts43In Cleaning Wards29Agriculture56Clerk in Office1 | In the Kitchen, Dairy, and<br>Bakehouse15Bakehouse15In Cleaning Wards31In the Garden13Straw-work, and making Pottles63Spinning, Knitting, and Needle<br>Work58In the Laundry.19 |
| Total   | Total   |

## PATIENTS.-31st Dec., 1834.

| In the Asylum 1st of January, 1834              | 237 | Females.<br>321<br>52 | Total.<br>558<br>122 |
|---|-----|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Males. Females. Total.                          | 307 | 373                   | 680                  |
| Dead  | 62  | 51                    | 113                  |
| Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st Dec., 1834. | 245 | 322                   | 567                  |

#### ADMITTED.

| Cases not ex-<br>ceeding three<br>monthsduration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding twelve<br>months duration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding 2 years<br>duration and first<br>attack | Cases of more<br>than 2 years du-<br>ration. | Cases of those<br>who have had<br>previous attacks. |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 20   | 18   | 13   | 58   | 13  |

## DISCHARGED.

| Cases cured, not<br>having been insane<br>more than 3 months<br>before admission,<br>and discharged<br>within 6 months. | missionanddiscd. | Cases cured hav-<br>ing been insane<br>2 years and up-<br>wards before ad-<br>mission. | Cases cured hav-<br>ing had previous<br>attacks. | cases not cured,<br>discharged by de-<br>sire of their<br>friends, and by<br>order of the ma-<br>gistrates. |
|---|------------------|--|--|---|
| 18  | 22               | .belalan ana   | 6  | 6   |

| The contract of the second sec |                        |                      | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Admitted since the Asylum of   | pened                  |                      | 484    | 558      | 1042   |
| Males.<br>Discharged 99<br>Dead 140  | Females.<br>121<br>115 | Total.<br>220<br>255 | 239    | 236      | 475    |
| _  |                        |                      | 245    | 322      | 567    |

(Average Number of Patients during the Year-564.)

## THE FIFTH REPORT

## OF SIR WILLIAM ELLIS, M. D.

Presented at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions, 1836.

THE additional room made for the Patients during the year has been almost entirely filled up by old and incurable cases; only ten said to be of recent date having been admitted. The number of cures must therefore be expected to be proportionally small. A few, however, of many years' standing, have recovered, have been discharged, and continue well to the present time. This unexpected result is to be attributed entirely to a perseverance in moral remedies. By inducing the patient to exercise and combine the mental faculties which remain to him, these become strengthened, and others are gradually developed, until the mind is eventually restored to its original powers. It will be evident that, to carry this plan into execution, a great diversity of employment and amusement must be carefully selected and continued with unremitting attention for years, according to the different states and various habits and tastes of the Patients. By keeping the attention completely engrossed, so as to allow the mind no time to dwell upon its prevailing delusions, these almost imperceptibly fade away, and, after a period, vanish altogether. It will not be a matter of surprise, that many years are often requisite to eradicate erroneous notions which have existed in the mind for years undisturbed. The fact that restoration ever takes place under such apparently hopeless circumstances should be an encouragement to leave no means untried. A few of the old cases which have been discharged as cured have quickly relapsed, and have been again received into the Asylum. Some of these relapses have arisen from dissolute habits, some from injudiciagement, and others from poverty and distress pressing too heavily upon them, without any hope of relief. For the latter cases, a remedy has in some degree been provided by Her most gracious Majesty and a benevolent public in the formation of a fund, called Queen Adelaide's Fund, and which at present amounts to  $\pounds 1,148$ , the interest of which is to be applied to the relief of the destitute, when discharged

cured.

To afford a remedy to the two former classes is a more difficult task, and can be expected only to take place in the first, through the influence of morality and religion operating upon the mind; and, in the second, through the guardians and overseers of the poor departing from their regular discipline, by providing the persons discharged with a temporary residence out of the workhouse, where they will not be subject to the jeers and taunts of those around them, but have an opportunity of quietly creeping again into society under the aid and assistance of the parochial officers. A little extra allowance and a little kindness shewn to one, under the painful feelings of fear and uncertainty which must ever accompany the coming out of seclusion, and the having again to contend with the world, would be amply repaid by the consciousness of the good that had been done, as well as, in all probability, by the saving effected in preserving him from relapse, which, in many cases, ends but with life. It may be gratifying to know, that the Patient designated "A. B." in the last Report, who recovered in a few months after he was considered incurable, remains perfectly well.

The Patients have, as usual, been remarkably healthy. During the present year, no epidemic of any description has existed, and the deaths have principally taken place from pure exhaustion.

In former years, from the very incorrect notions entertained of this disease, religious and moral instruction of any kind was never thought of being afforded to the insane. Happily, a better knowledge and a better state of feeling now exist. And it is at this time generally admitted, that though on some points the mind may be insane, yet on others it may be perfectly rational. And it is no ordinary blessing to many of the sufferers, that a just sense of religion often remains, when every other feeling seems obliterated. An Act of Parliament now provides that the religious services, according to the Established Church, should be performed in all large Asylums in this country. Here, the Patients have the instruction of the Rev. J. Stoddart, the Chaplain to the Institution, and a more orderly and attentive congregation cannot be assembled together. Some of the Committee and other gentlemen have frequently been present, and have expressed their astonishment and delight at witnessing the reverence and decorum of the Patients.

It is much to be lamented, that some prejudices still remain in the minds of many persons, very detrimental to this suffering class of our fellow creatures, which much retards (if not entirely prevents) the cure of several of them. One of the worst is, that of totally excluding them from all rational society, until they can be proclaimed *perfectly* well. There is reason to believe, that if a proper degree of liberty be allowed, as the mind begins to open, and objects be presented to it with which it had been previously familiar and interested, many might at least be partially introduced into society, and enjoy much of happiness, who are now, in all ranks, doomed to incarceration for life. The occupation of the Patients has been progressively increasing. During the year, upwards of 360 have been constantly more or less employed, either in the house, or in the grounds when the weather has been favourable; and, it is with thankfulness recorded again, without a single accident. The delight experienced in witnessing the benefit derived by this system is, in some measure, a compensation for the additional duties and danger which it necessarily entails. This delight, too, must, in some measure, be felt by those who have provided such ample means for carrying these plans into execution; and it cannot but be an additional gratification to the benevolent to witness also, in those who have been discharged from the Asylum, the happiness diffused from the distribution of that fund which has been so generously raised, to afford relief in the most trying moments of life.

### W. C. ELLIS,

Hanwell, 31st December, 1835.

### PATIENTS, DEC. 31st, 1835.

| WILLIAM FLIIS, M. D.   | Males.    | Females.  | Total.     |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|
| In the Asylum on the 1st January, 1835                       | 245<br>78 | 322<br>63 | 567<br>141 |
| Males. Females. Total.                                       | 323       | 385       | 708        |
| Discharged          18         15         33           Dead. | 63        | 41        | 104        |
| Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st Dec., 1835               | 260       | 344       | 604        |

#### ADMITTED.

| Cases not ex-<br>ceeding three<br>months duration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding twelve<br>months duration,<br>and first attack. | Cases not ex-<br>ceeding 2 years<br>duration and first<br>attack. | Cases of more<br>than 2 years du-<br>ration | Cases of those<br>who have had<br>previousattacks. |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 10  | 16   | 14  | 68  | 33   |

### DISCHARGED.

| Cases not having<br>beeninsane more<br>than 3 months<br>before admission,<br>and discharged<br>within 6 months. | been insane more<br>than 12 months<br>before admission,<br>and discharged | Cases having<br>been insane 2<br>years & upwards | Cases having had<br>previous attacks. | Cases not cured,<br>discharged by de-<br>sire of their<br>friends, and by<br>order of the ma-<br>gistrates. |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 6   | 6   | 70000  | 10 01                                 | emploping th  |

| section of the work performed, that, if the   | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|
| Admitted since the Asylum opened  | 562    | 621      | 1183   |
| Discharged          117         136         253           Dead          185         141         326 | 302    | 277      | 579    |
| been suggested by several visitors, that the  | 260    | 344      | 604    |

Average number of Patients during the Year, 580.

## THE SIXTH REPORT

## OF SIR WILLIAM ELLIS, M. D.

Presented at the Epiphany Quarter Sesions, 1837.

A REPORT, almost exclusively referring to Patients incurable from the long continuance of the disease, is necessarily of much less interest than one relating to a class where a reasonable hope may be entertained of their recovery. Unfortunately this is not the case with the majority of the Patients admitted into this Institution. Much as this is to be regretted, it is yet gratifying to know, that the few remaining days or years of the existence of its inmates are rendered as comfortable as it is possible for them to be under such a state of affliction. During the year, 113 Patients have been admitted, 42 have been discharged, and 65 have died; 610 remain.

The whole of the Establishment have been remarkably healthy during the year; no epidemic, or disease of any peculiar kind, having occurred: pure exhaustion of nature being again the cause of the deaths.

The experience of every year affords additional proof that the mode adopted in this extensive Establishment, of regularly employing the Patients, is conducive not only to their own personal happiness, but that it is also highly advantageous in a pecuniary point of view to the Institution. No minute account has ever been kept of their earnings; but it has been evident, from the mere inspection of the work performed, that, if the labour had been hired, it would have cost a very large sum of money. As the end intended was accomplished, no anxiety was felt to make its advantages more apparent. During the present year it has been suggested by several visitors, that the

work absolutely performed by the Patients should be brought more prominently before the public, in order that, from the various occupations of which the lunatic Patients themselves are capable being known, other public establishments may be induced to pursue a similar system, and the condition of this unhappy class of our fellow creatures be generally ameliorated, by their own earnings enabling additional comforts to be afforded them, without any increase of expense to the Parishes; as it is obviously most desirable that the saving should be made to the Parishes, not by diminishing the comforts of the Patients, but by making their labour available. It may not, however; be necessary to do more than to state, that, as far as possible, every species of employment that any of the Patients have been formerly acquainted with is procured for them; and if that cannot be accomplished, they are furnished with some occupation as analagous to it as possible. The Establishment of itself thus presents rather the appearance of a little independent colony, than of a sick hospital; each one taking a share in promoting the general welfare. The men are daily occupied, according to their previous habits and abilities, as bricklayers, joiners, stone masons, painters, glaziers, shoe makers, tailors, coopers, blacksmiths, farmers, gardeners, and spinners of twine. The female Patients not only serve in the place of hired servants, in the performance of the domestic duties, but they are also much employed in spinning twine, in the gardens, farm, dairy, and other out-door labour. And for those of them who have previously been in better circumstances, and in early life have had the advantages of education, and many of whom have been reduced to pauperism solely in consequence of their having been overtaken by this disease, occupation more congenial to their taste is provided. Within the last few months a room has been set apart, as a small bazaar, for the working and disposing of fine needle work. This has proved highly advanageous. The ornamental work, and the occupation, have brought back associations of feeling most salutary. There is every reason to believe, that some of the Patients have, in consequence of the establishment of this Bazaar, absolutely recovered; and others are rendered comparatively happy in their confinement. It is so far, too, from being attended with any expense, that the sum of 23*l*. 18*s*., which was advanced as a capital, has already been repaid out of the money derived from the sales; and, in the course of another year, there is no doubt but that a considerable profit will be derived from it to the Institution: for it is found that there is no want of good feeling amongst the enlightened public to encourage the Patients in their laudable undertaking.

Many, both amongst the men and women, have, during their insanity, been taught at the Asylum various mechanical arts, with which they were before totally unacquainted; and one man, for eighteen months after his leaving the Asylum, partly supported himself by shoe-making, of which he was, when first admitted as a Patient, entirely ignorant. Within the year, a species of employment has also been discovered for the imbecile, and even the mischievous Patients. It is that of picking in pieces the fibres of the outer husk of the Cocoa-nut, which is becoming generally used for the same purposes as horse-hair. Six pounds ten shillings a ton is received for the work; and the employment saves more than the sum paid for the labour in keeping the Patients from destroying their clothes, and it also renders personal confinement less and less necessary. As an encouragement for those establishments which have hitherto kept their unfortunate inmates in listless indolence to commence this system of general employment, it may be well to observe, that, within the last few years, it has been adopted in many of the new Institutions, both in England and Scotland,

as well as in France, and also particularly in America with the same success which has attended it at Hanwell.

What has hitherto been said, has been in reference to paupers only. But it would be an unspeakable blessing, if the same views were extended to the higher class of society, who suffer equally with them, when overtaken by this disease : for here rank and opulence make no distinction. The same faculties remain to the one as to the other; and they are equally capable of being called forth by the application of proper motives. A crying evil, indeed, still remains to be remedied in this department, but the observations upon it do not fall within the province of this Report.

Several donations have been received during the year to Queen Adelaide's Fund, the interest of which has been bestowed most beneficially upon twenty recovered Patients; many of whom have, by its aid, been supported until they were able to get into employment.

Hanwell, Dec. 31st, 1836.

#### W. C. ELLIS, M. D.

32

| the of flear-  | Sinc   | the Asy opened. | lum    | set allow a hite                    | D         | ouring 183           | 6.         |
|--|--------|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| tiegy cho  | Males. | Females.        | Total. | were extended to                    | Males.    | Females.             | Total.     |
| In the Asylum on 1st<br>Jan. 1836                    | 629    | 667             | 1006   |                                     | 260<br>67 | 344<br>46            | 604<br>113 |
| Admitted   | 029    | 007             | 1296   |                                     | 327       | 390                  | 717        |
| Discharged.<br>Males. Females. Total.<br>139 156 295 | 1.96   | na edicar       | in. Di | Maics, Females, Total,<br>22 .20 42 | Abs       | goius.               |            |
| Died.           228         163         391          | 367    | 319             | 686    | 43 22 65                            | 65        | 42                   | 107        |
| Remaining in the Asy-<br>lum on 31st Dec. 1836.      |        | 348             | 610    |                                     | 262       | 348                  | 610        |
| Patients ;   | boner  | Ly ageo         | any i  | w boneficially phot                 | Tota      | l daily ave<br>(611) | erage,     |

## PATIENTS ADMITTED, DISCHARGED, AND DEAD.

## CASES DURING 1836.

| Mur himanie have also all will                | Adr                                      | nitted.   | Disc          | harged.       | Deillagen                                  |
|---|--|---|---------------|---------------|--|
|   | Males.                                   | Females.  | Males.        | Females.      | vinitary (                                 |
| Not exceeding from first attack, 3 Months.    | 9  | 3   | 5-            | 23            | Within Six Months.                         |
| Ditto 12 do<br>Ditto 2 Years<br>Exceeding do. | $\begin{vmatrix} 4\\1\\37 \end{vmatrix}$ | $     \begin{array}{c}       3 \\       2 \\       21 \\       18     \end{array} $ | $\frac{1}{4}$ | $\frac{3}{6}$ | Within Two Years.                          |
| Exceeding do.<br>More than one attack         | 16                                       | 18  | 9             | 7             | o wit al                                   |
|   | 11 . ZH                                  |   | 2             | 2             | By desire of<br>Friends when<br>not cured. |
|   | 67                                       | 46  | 22            | 20            | Law prove                                  |

## THE SEVENTH REPORT OF SIR WILLIAM ELLIS, M. D. Presented at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions, 1838.

FEWER changes have taken place amongst the Patients in the year 1837 than in any preceding one since the Asylum opened. At the beginning of the year it was nearly filled with incurable cases; and in consequence of the deaths being unprecedentedly few, and the accommodation being somewhat curtailed, from the building being in a course of enlargement, only thirty-seven males and twenty-seven females, making a total of sixty-four, have been admitted.

Twenty males and thirteen females have been discharged, and twenty-four of each sex have died. The per centage of deaths at this Asylum, from its first opening to the present time, is much smaller than in any other large institution similarly circumstanced with which I am acquainted, either in England or on the Continent. This is to be attributed to the salubrity of its situation, which is evinced as much from the mildness of epidemic diseases when they occur, as from the smallness of the mortality. Hitherto the inmates have almost entirely escaped from those maladies which increased the funerals in the metropolis and its neighbourhood a short time since to an appalling extent. The following table will shew the average number of Patients and deaths, for the last six years in the only three large Asylums in England, viz. those at Lancaster, Wakefield, and Middlesex, where only paupers are received, and where the Patients must remain until they die or are cured, or cease to require parochial assistance.

AVERAGE NUMBER of PATIENTS and NUMBER of their DEATHS in the following Years, at the undermentioned COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

|   | -              |                           |         |         | _      |             |                   |                   |   |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| to 23rd   |                | Per Cent                  | 20.09   | 46.92   | 20.32  | 15.27       | 18.96             | 26.73             | learly. 522<br>0 : : 522 : 24,29.<br>Centage of Deaths dur-<br>Six Years,<br>1.29<br>Cholera.<br>Phthisis after Influenza.  |
| 5R.<br>d March<br>ving Year   | Deaths.        | Total.                    | 69      | *147    | 65     | 55          | 26                | +110              | r. 522<br>522 :<br>199 of De<br>ears,<br>ra.<br>sis after   |
| LANCASTER.<br>Year calculated from 22nd March to 23rd<br>March in the following Year. | Dea            | Females.                  | 27      | 09      | 24     | 25          | 36                | 54                | 2148 <sup>2</sup> <sub>365</sub> = 2148,7 nearly. 522<br>And 2148,7 : 100 : : 522 : 24,29.<br>Average Annual Per Centage of Deaths dur-<br>ing last Six Years,<br>24.29<br>* Of whom 94 by Cholera.<br>+ 46 ., Phthisis after Influenza |
| LA<br>culated J<br>farch in   |                | Males.                    | 42      | 87      | 41     | 30          | 40                | 56                | =2148<br>148.7 :<br>Annual ,<br>ing l<br>ing l<br>., 46   |
| Year cal  | Average        | of<br>Patients.           | 343,255 | 3133855 | 319365 | $360_{385}$ | $400_{365}^{262}$ | $411_{365}^{140}$ | 2148 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>365</sub> =2148,7 nearly. 522<br>And 2148,7 : 100 : : 522<br>Average Annual Per Centage of J<br>ing last Six Years,<br>24.29<br>* Of whom 94 by Cholera.<br>+ 46 ., Phthisis aft                               |
| st Dec.   |                | Per Cent                  | 18.53   | 17.21   | 14.19  | 19.80       | 18.12             | 19.31             | 7,87.<br>the dur-   |
| .D.<br>Jan. to 31   | ths.           | Total.                    | 53      | 52      | 43     | 60          | 56                | 62                | 326<br>326 : 1<br><i>ge of Dea</i><br><i>ears</i> ,   |
| WAKEFIELD.<br>Year calculated from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec.<br>inclusive.                | Deaths.        | Males. Females.           | 18      | 21      | 21     | 30          | 24                | 28                | 1824<br>And 1824 : 100 : : 326 : 17,87.<br>Average Annual Per Centage of Deaths dur-<br>ing last Six Years,<br>17.87.   |
| WA<br>culated   | i ao i<br>henà | Males.                    | 35      | 31      | 22     | 30          | 32                | 34                | 1824 :<br>Annual 1<br>ing l   |
| Year ca   | Average        | of<br>Patients.           | 286     | 3(2     | 303    | 303         | 309               | 321               | 1824<br>And<br>Average  |
| st Dec.   | i nais         | Per Cent Patients.        | 23.18   | 14.33   | 10.28  | 12.24       | 10.63             | 7.89              | 3327 418<br>And 3327 : 100 : : 418 : 12,56.<br>Average Annual Per Centage of Deaths during<br>last Six Years,<br>12.56.<br>* Of whom 12 died from Cholera.  |
| X.<br>Jan. to 31  | ths.           | Total.                    | *99     | 17      | 58     | 11          | 65                | 48                | 418<br>418:1<br>418:1<br>e of Deat<br>urs,  |
| MIDDLESEX.<br>ed from 1st Jan<br>inclusive.   | Deaths.        | Females.                  | 53      | 31      | 23     | 26          | 22                | 24                | 4<br>: 100 : : 41<br><i>l</i> Per Centage of<br>last Six Years,<br>12.56.<br>m 12 died from   |
| MIDDLESEX.<br>Year calculated from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec.<br>inclusive.                |                | Males.                    | 46      | 46      | 35     | 45          | 43                | 24                | 327 418<br>And 3327 : 100 : : 418 : 12,56.<br>erage Annual Per Centage of Deaths duri<br>last Six Years,<br>12.56.<br>* Of whom 12 died from Cholera.   |
| Year cal  | Average        | Number<br>of<br>Patients. | 427     | 537     | 564    | 580         | 611               | 608               | 3327<br>And<br>Average  |
|   | YEAR.          |                           | 1832    | 1833    | 1834   | 1835        | 1836              | 1837              |   |

The Comparative Averages could not be taken from an earlier period, as the Asylum at Hanwell opened on the 15th May, 1831. N. B. The mortality in the former appears far less than in either of the two latter, especially than at Lancaster, where cholera and influenza were awfully destructive of human life. This can only be attributed to difference of locality, as the high talents and zeal of the medical gentlemen at those hospitals precludes every idea of unskilfulness or inattention. So small a per centage of deaths as occurred at Hanwell must not be expected again. After a careful inspection of the Patients now in the Asylum, and a consideration of all the circumstances connected with them, there do not appear to be more than twentyfour of whose permanent cure there is the slightest hope; and it is not probable that more than thirteen of these will be restored. And as all but those who are cured or cease to be paupers must remain in the Institution until they die, the annual mortality will increase with their increasing years.

The proportion of deaths and cures at the Asylum at Hanwell is affected by a cause which does not operate in any other County Asylum in England. Many of the Patients are, at the commencement of the disease, sent to Bethlem and St. Luke's, which receive none who have been insane longer than twelve months, or who are liable to fits or any other disease likely to endanger life; and which retain the Patients until they are cured, or until there ceases to be any hope of their recovery. After being dismissed as incurable from these Hospitals, numbers of these are sent to the Asylum at Hanwell, very probably to remain there for life.

The domestic works which were stated in the last Annual Report to have been commenced, are proceeding prosperously. The Bazaar, which was instituted to employ a few of the better educated females, who had been reduced to pauperism by insanity, has afforded a great source of enjoyment to some, and has beguiled away many a tedious hour to others. At the close of last year the sum of 231. 18s. advanced as its little capital, was stated to have been repaid from its profits. It has now, by the patronage of visitors to the Asylum and their friends, realised 1471. 18s. without the aid of any donation. The Committee have consented to the accounts of this little department being kept distinct from the general affairs of the Institution, and also to a part of the present gains being devoted to the purchase of an Organ for the Chapel. It is intended to procure one which can be played either by finger or barrel, so that it will be available when there does not happen to be a Patient in the Asylum capable of performing upon it. It will be the more prized, too, from being the product of their own industry. Brush-making has been, during the last year, introduced into the Asylum as an additional occupation, and it may very likely become as amusing and as advantageous as any of the trades now carried on in it. The Patients were taught the business in one month, by a person hired for that purpose; they now, both males and females, make a variety of articles, under the superintendance of the servants of the Establishment.

### W C. ELLIS, M. D.

December 31st, 1837.

| and the set   |  | e the Asy<br>opened.   | lum      |              | 1 18 2         | Sellis St. | D                | uring 183          | 7.        |
|---|--|------------------------|----------|--------------|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| and the second  | Males.   | Females,               | Total.   | al and a la  |                |            | Males.           | Females.           | Total     |
| In the Asylum on 1st<br>Jan. 1837<br>Admitted                 | 665  | 694                    | 1359     |              |                |            | 262<br>37        | 348<br>27          | 610<br>64 |
| Aumitteu  | 000  | 0.54                   | 1000     |              |                |            | 299              | 375                | 674       |
| Discharged.<br>Males. Females. Total.<br>158 169 327<br>Died. | initia de la composition de la | ntsimit P<br>bristrini |          | Males.<br>20 | Females,<br>13 | Total.     | anglos<br>at gas | ada<br>goo         |           |
| 252 187 439   | 410  | 356                    | 766      |              | 24             | 48         | 44               | 37                 | 81        |
| Remaining in the Asv-<br>lum 31st of Dec.1837.                | 255  | 338                    | 593      |              |                |            | 255              | 338                | 593       |
| 1011 al 37 10<br>1417 al 37 10                                |  | a South                | aurite's | 183-63       | BELL ST        | hep self   | Total            | Daily Av<br>(608.) | verage,   |

## PATIENTS ADMITTED, DISCHARGED, AND DEAD.

## CASES DURING 1837.

| and the other state there   | Admitted. |             | Disc        | harged.        |   |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---|
|   | ind see   | Females.    | Males.      | Females.       | or avail                                |
| Not exceeding from first attack, 3 Months.<br>Ditto 12 do<br>Ditto 2 Years. | 5.6       | 1<br>5<br>1 | 331         | $\frac{-3}{2}$ | Within Six Months.<br>Within Two Years. |
| Exceeding do.<br>More than one attack                                       | 17<br>6   | 18<br>2     | 2<br>5<br>2 | 4<br>4         | (Escaped)                               |
| (One Patient retaken)   | 1         | C 195 (200) | 4           | adau an        | By desire of Friend<br>when not cured.  |
|   | 37        | 27          | 20          | 13             |   |

## THE REPORT

### OF J. V. MILLENGEN, M. D.

Presented at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions, 1839.

ON the 1st of January, 1838, the Asylum contained 593 cases, of which 255 were males and 338 females, and when, according to the Report of the late Superintendent, Sir William Ellis, "After a careful inspection of the Patients now in the Asylum, and a consideration of all the circumstances connected with them, there do not appear to be more than twenty-four of whose permanent cure there is the slightest hope; and it is not probable that more than thirteen of these will be restored." This unfavourable fact I fully ascertained upon my appointment to the Institution.

During the year 1838, 325 cases have been admitted, of which 139 were males, and 186 females. Of this number 284, viz. 120 males and 164 females, were received during the last six months, upon the admission of Patients into the new Wings; but so far from *these* Patients being of a class calculated to afford any sanguine expectation of relief, only sixty-six cases had been labouring under a year's insanity, twenty-eight above one year, sixty more than two years, seventy-four exceeding six years, and fifty-six were cases in which the period of lunacy was unknown; but, in most instances, evidently of long duration.

From these unfavourable circumstances, the discharges of cured and relieved have only averaged six per cent. on the whole establishment; but on the other hand, the discharged, cured and relieved in the sixty-six recent cases having amounted to fourteen during the last six months, showing an average for that period of about 20 per cent., and as there is every reason to hope that an equal, if not a greater, proportion of these cases will be discharged during the following half year, the average would then amount to about 40 per cent. per annum.

The deaths that have occurred in the Asylum during the year have averaged about 9 and 6-10ths per cent., eighty-nine Patients having died out of 918.

When the increasing years and infirmities of the old inmates of the Institution are taken into consideration, together with the number of epileptic and paralytic subjects, the proportion cannot be looked upon as considerable; but it would in all probability have been much lower, but for the state of extreme debility and bad health of many of the subjects recently admitted, several of whom died of chronic diseases and exhaustion shortly after their reception, a circumstance which may lead to the expectation of fewer casualties in the ensuing year. This average of deaths may be considered gratifying, when it is found that the most celebrated Institutions in Europe, the Salpétrière and Bicêtre of Paris, which like the Middlesex Lunatic Asylum are obliged to receive epileptic, paralytic, and phthisical cases, together with incurables exhausted by long protracted excitement, return a proportion of fatal cases amounting to 49 per cent.

The annexed Return of Deaths, stating diseases and ages, will show that they have occurred chiefly in Patients of the above description, only four acute cases having been treated during the year, a convincing evidence of the favourable state of health of the Institution. Notwithstanding the difficulties which must arise in classing Patients during a rapid influx of cases whose history is involved in utter obscurity, since the opening of the new Wings, this desirable end has been attained as far as circumstances of locality allowed, and as vacancies occur the classification is carried into completion.

The moral treatment of the Patients by application to various occupations, continues to be pursued with most advantageous results. At the present period there are 187 males and 362 females, employed in various domestic works; and it is gratifying to state that not a single accident has occurred, although the occupations of many of the inmates are of a description calculated to afford them ready means of injuring themselves and others. In an economical point of view the works performed in the establishment have materially diminished the expense which would otherwise have been incurred, while a more important object has been attained, by affording constant occupation both of mind and body, and not unfrequently recalling in a favourable manner former relative associations of life.

It is to be regretted that the want of a proper enclosure facilitates the escape of many Patients employed in out-door work. This inconvenience not only deprives the Institution of the service of the Keepers sent in pursuit; but the anxious hope of being able to obtain their liberty, keeps up a prejudicial excitement in the minds of those individuals who are constantly watching for an opportunity to effect their purpose.

J. G. V. MILLENGEN, M. D.

Medical Superintendent.

Hanwell, Dec. 31st, 1838.

#### CASES ADMITTED.

From 1st July to the 31st December, 1838.

| Cases.                    | Males. | Females. | Total. | Remarks.   |
|---------------------------|--------|----------|--------|--|
| Under One Year's Duration | 30     | 36       | 66*    | During the Half-year 14 of<br>these Persons have been<br>discharged, cured, and re-  |
| Above One ditto           | 13     | 15       | 28     | lieved.  |
| Above Two ditta           | 26     | 34       | 60     | in the second se |
| Above Six ditto           | 27     | 47       | 74     |  |
| Of Unknown Duration       | 24     | 32       | 56     | and and the second of the  |
| Total                     | 120    | 164      | 284    | Endes, employed to   |

\*This number includes several cases of Epilepsy.

### PATIENTS ADMITTED, DISCHARGED, AND DEAD SINCE THE ASYLUM OPENED.

| Admitted since the A        |   |                  | and such as                           |     | Females.  | Total.  |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|-----------|---------|
| Admitted since the As       | sylum of                                | enea             |                                       | 804 | 880       | 1684    |
| Cured                       |   | Females.         | Total.<br>816                         |     | the Track | A LANCE |
| Discharged Relieved<br>Dead | $\begin{array}{c} 32\\ 303 \end{array}$ | $\frac{17}{225}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 49\\528\end{array}$ | 483 | 410       | 893     |
| Remaining in the Asy        | lum on t                                | he 31st De       | c 1838.                               | 321 | 470       | 791     |

## PATIENTS ADMITTED, DISCHARGED, AND DEAD DURING THE YEAR 1838.

| and an Interfere                 | in the second     | ere anne | - transfert - | 2  | Males.     | Females.   | Total.     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|----|------------|------------|------------|
| In the Asylum 1st of<br>Admitted | January           | v. 1838  |               | :: | 255<br>139 | 338<br>186 | 593<br>325 |
| Cured<br>Discharged Relieved     | Males.<br>17<br>5 | Females. | Total.        |    | 394        | 524        | 918        |
| Dead                             | 51                | 38       | 5<br>         |    | 73         | 54         | 127        |
|                                  |                   |          |               |    | 321        | 470        | 791        |

Daily Average Number of Patients in the Asylum, 692.

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Return of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, &c. from 1st January to 31st December, 1838.

|  | 18 1 Se      |                 |                  |               |                  |         |                    |
|--|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|--------------------|
| ng.  | Total.       | 52              | 25               | 58            | 78               | 62      | 275                |
| Remaining.   | Females      | 31              | 15               | 33            | 48               | 40      | 167                |
|  | Males        | 21              | 10               | 25            | 30               | 22      | 108                |
|  | Total.       | :               | :                |               | :                |         | :                  |
| Escaped.   | Females      | :               |                  | :             | :                | :       | :                  |
| Esc  | Males        |                 | :                |               | :                |         |                    |
| 181 19   | Total.       | 6               | 4                | с.            | 3                | 14      | 32                 |
| Died.  | Females      | 4               | 1.               | 63            | . <del>.</del> . | 9       | 14                 |
| D  | Iales        | õ               | 3                | 1             | 1                | 00      | 18                 |
| p  | Total. Males | 50              | :                | 1             | :                | :       | 3                  |
| Discharged<br>Relieved.  | Females      | :               | :                | :             | :                | :       | :                  |
| Discl<br>Reli  | Males        | 5               | :                | 1             | :                | :       | 3                  |
| tes baund  | Total. N     | 12              | :                | :             | 1                | 50      | 15                 |
| Cured.   | Females      | 5               | :                | :             | :                | :       | 5                  |
|  | Iales        | ~               | ·                |               | 1                | 50      | 16                 |
| Admissions.  | Total. Males | 68              | 30               | 62            | 82               | 83      | 325                |
|  | Females      | 36              | 17               | 35            | 49               | 49      | 981                |
|  | Males        |                 | 13               | 27            | 33               | 34      | TOTAL. 139 186 325 |
| Duration of<br>Insanity at<br>Time of<br>Admission.  |              | Under 1 Year 32 | Above 1 ditto 13 |               | Ditto 6 ditto    | :/      | АГ.,               |
|  |              | r 1 3           | e 1              | Ditto 2 ditto | 9                | Unknown | ToT                |
| Dura<br>Insa<br>Tin  | Adn          | Unde            | Abov             | Ditto         | Ditto            | Unkn    |                    |
| and the second sec |              |                 | 4                | -             |                  |         |                    |

## MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.

## Return of Deaths from 1st January to 31st December, 1838, inclusive.

| Disease.   | Males  | Females  | Total.  |
|--|--|--|---|
| Erysipelas<br>Pleurisy<br>Inflammation of the Lungs<br>Dysentery<br>Apoplexy<br>Paralysis<br>Epilepsy<br>Diarrhœa<br>Pulmonary Consumption<br>Water on the Chest.<br>Suppression of Urine<br>Disease of the Womb<br>Aneurism of the Aorta<br>Disease of the Heart<br>Lumbar Abscess<br>Exhaustion<br>Old Age | $ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \\ 1 \\ 9 \\ 12 \\ 9 \\ 5 \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ \end{array} $ | $ \begin{array}{c}  & & & \\  & &$ | $\begin{array}{c} 2\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\3\\15\\17\\7\\2\\1\\2\\1\\1\\1\\1\\4\\9\\89\\\end{array}$ |

## AGES OF DECEASED.

| Years.         | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------|--------|----------|--------|
| From 10 to 20  | 3      |          | 3      |
| 20 30          | 8      | 2        | 10     |
| 30 40          | 6      | 6        | 12     |
| 40 50          | 8      | 6        | 14     |
| 5060           | 2      | 2        | 4      |
| 6070           | 5      | 2        | 7      |
| 7080           | 1      | 2        | 3      |
| 80104          | 1      | ī        | i      |
| Age Unknown    | 18     | 17       | 35     |
| A La Sur Sinki | 51     | 38       | 89     |