

Sixth report of the Derbyshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

Contributors

Derbyshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.
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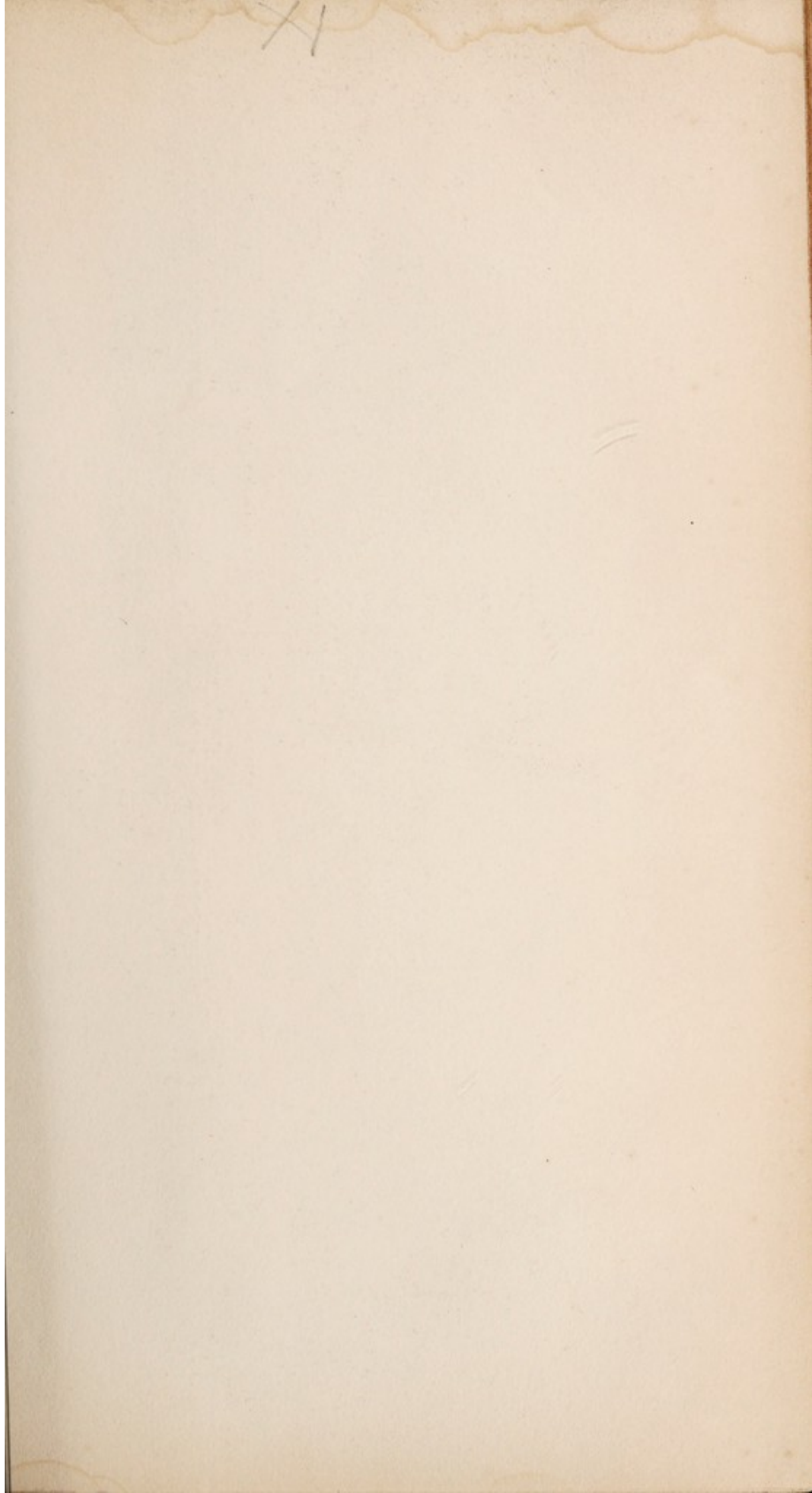
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CHERRY COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM.





Sixth Report

OF

THE DERBYSHIRE

County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

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CLERK AND STEWARDMR. JOHN LANGLEY.


JOHN BARBER,

CLERK OF THE PEACE.

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[1858]



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*To the Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby,
assembled at their General Quarter Sessions of the
Peace at Chesterfield, on the sixth day of April,
1858.*

We, the Committee of Visitors of the Derby County Lunatic Asylum, report as follows, namely :—

The Asylum has been regularly visited by the Committee, and every Patient seen once in each two months by two or more members of the Committee, who have reported their entire satisfaction with the condition of the Patients and the management of the Asylum.

The large proportion of cures, so highly creditable to this Asylum and to the Superintendent Physician, continues to be maintained. We regret that in consequence of the increase of Patients, which the Committee foresaw and would, if they had not been prevented, have provided for, it may be necessary to make additions to the building.

H. SEYMOUR BLANE,

CHAIRMAN.

The members of the House of Commons
assembled at their General Quarter Sessions of the
Peace at Chichester, on the fifth day of April
1858

We the Members of the House of Commons
do hereby report as follows, namely:—

The Agent has been appointed by the Government
to enquire into the state of the affairs of the
Company of the East India Company, and to report
thereon to the House of Commons, and to the
Commissioners of the Treasury and the
Board of Trade.

The Agent has reported to the House of Commons
and to the Commissioners of the Treasury, and to the
Board of Trade, that in consequence of the increase
of the business of the Company, it has become
necessary to provide for a more extensive
and efficient system of management.

H. BRIDGES, CLERK.

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REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE
DERBY COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

A leading Medical Journal states in one of its recent numbers that "There is no more dispiriting and unsatisfactory task than that of conning over the Reports of Lunatic Asylums," and it adds the gratifying assurance, that "If society would only heed to heart the lessons contained in such Reports, we should have fewer Lunatics." At a time when, according to the Returns published by the Poor Law Board, the increase of Lunatics of all classes has amounted, during the past five years, to six thousand four hundred and thirty-five; and that the Asylums of almost every County are choked up with chronic and incurable cases, when in some Counties the number of Lunatics and Idiots chargeable to Parishes is in a higher proportion than 1 in 500 of the general population, anything which can tend to check this fearful increase must be worthy the attention of the Statesman and the Philanthropist. But be this as it may, it is required by the Rule of this Institution that the Superintendent Physician should annually place before the Committee of Visitors, a Report of the Admissions, Removals, Discharges, and Deaths, which have taken place during the year, together with such other matters as may appear necessary, for the purpose of showing the state and management of the Asylum; and in obedience to that Rule, he has to report as follows:—

There have been admitted during the past year forty-six Males and thirty-three Female Patients, making a total of seventy-

Admissions.

nine, being six Males and thirty Females less than were received during the year 1856. This diminution arises solely from the circumstance that in 1856 Patients were received from Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, whereas during the year 1857, the admissions were limited exclusively to persons chargeable to some parish in Derbyshire. The largest number of Patients were admitted during the months of June, July, and December, as the following Table will illustrate :—

PATIENTS ADMITTED IN THE MONTH OF

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
January	3	3	6
February	5	0	5
March	3	1	4
April	2	3	5
May	3	2	5
June	8	2	10
July	8	4	12
August	4	4	8
September	2	2	4
October	1	2	3
November	2	2	4
December	5	8	13
	—	—	—
	46	33	79
	—	—	—

The admissions in December are unusually large. It is often that the admissions in the Winter Months exceed those of the warmer months of June, July, and August.

The Ages of the seventy-nine Cases divided into quinquennial periods have been as follows:—

BETWEEN THE AGES OF	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
15 and 20	1	3	4
20 and 25	6	5	11
25 and 30	3	3	6
30 and 35	4	5	9
35 and 40	2	4	6
40 and 45	9	4	13
45 and 50	7	2	9
50 and 55	5	3	8
55 and 60	3	1	4
60 and 65	3	1	4
65 and 70	3	1	4
70 and 75	0	1	1
	46	33	79
	—————	—————	—————

This Table accords in its chief facts with those which have been recorded through a series of years at Hanwell, and some other Asylums in England, although somewhat at variance with the Lunacy Reports obtained from the United States of America. Insanity shows itself in that country at an earlier age than with us. The one Male case occurring prior to the age of twenty years was that of a *congenital* idiot, who had become maniacal and dangerous. It appears that the more dangerous epoch to men, as respects their mental health, is between the ages of thirty and forty-five years, and that the liability to Insanity decreases after the age of fifty years. Esquirol, in an elaborate paper quoted by Prichard in his work on Insanity (p. 168), states that “the younger men live after attaining maturity, the more obnoxious they

Age of the
Patients
Admitted.

continually become to the causes which give rise to derangement or lesions of the understanding ;" but this statement does not fully accord with the facts which he has himself recorded in his various works ; nor with the statements of the distinguished statistician, Quetelet, or with the elaborate researches of Dr Thurnam, in his Work on "The Statistics of Insanity." The mental imbecility which accompanies extreme age may perhaps be regarded as exceptional to the above conclusion ; but a careful review of some two thousand eight hundred and fourteen cases which have fallen under the treatment of your Physician, and a comparison of the Tables upon this subject, compiled by various writers, it appears a fair conclusion to deduce, that, apart from the "childishness" of old age, man is more liable to Insanity between the ages of thirty and forty-five years, than at any other period of existence ; and that if attacked with Insanity after the age of fifty years, the probability of recovery is greatly diminished.

The occupation of the seventy-nine Cases admitted was as follows :—

MALES.	NO.	FEMALES.	NO.
None	4	None	3
Labourers	15	Wives of Labourers and	
Colliers	2	Mechanics	18
Carpenter	1	Domestic Servants ...	6
Tailors	2	Millhands	3
Engineer	1	Dressmakers	2
Bricklayer	1	Seamstress	1
Saw Maker	1		
Farmers	3		
Collector of Rents	1		
Wood Turner	1		
Silk Throwster	1		
Boatman	1		
Porter	1		
Bookkeeper	1		
Framework Knitter ...	1		
Journeyman Painter ...	1		
Bleacher	1		
Weaver	1		
Ironstone Labourer ...	1		
Smith's Labourer	1		
Nailmaker	1		
Printer	1		
Publican	1		
Brushmaker	1		
	—		—
	46		33

Occupation.

The Patients were stated to belong to the following Religious Denominations :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England	17	18	35
Roman Catholic	3	0	3
Independents	1	1	2
Moravian	1	0	1
Methodists	7	5	12
Baptists.....	3	4	7
Not known to belong to any ...	14	5	19
	46	33	79

Religious
Denomina-
tions.

Whatever influence religious opinions may exert upon the minds of the more educated classes of society—certain is that of the eight hundred and twenty-five admissions into the Asylum, since its opening in 1851, not more than one or two can be fairly ascribed to religious excitement. Several adopted the phraseology of Scripture to describe their condition; some used the language of prayer in their distress—one or two called themselves by Scriptural names, or even claimed a Divine nature; but these peculiarities displayed themselves *subsequent* to other unequivocal signs of insanity, and were fairly to be considered the effect, rather than the cause, of their respective maladies. The Relieving Officers who filled up the “statement” in the Certificates of Admission, put down “Church of England” as “Religious persuasion” of the Patient whenever it is stated that they have been baptised in that Church; but the most erroneous conclusions would be drawn, if from statistics like to these contained in the above Table it was inferred that the doctrines of the Church of England had a greater tendency to produce insanity than those of any other religious denomination. When the mind is beset by morbid grief, the sufferer, if he has had the slightest religious education—if his memory can depict, however faintly, the time when as an innocent child he lisped a prayer, will commonly prostrate himself in an attitude of devotion, and

accents of sorrow, bemoan his wretchedness. This unusual startles his family, and they at once ascribe his melancholy religion, even when the dejection of spirit has preceded the emotional fervour. Upon inquiry, it has been generally found that the religious act has been an effort of the bewildered patient, to free himself of his misery, or the only known expedient, by which he could reveal his anguish to others. "What is the most frequent cause of Insanity? I suppose Religion?" is the most frequent question, as it is the common supposition of visitors when passing through the Wards of the Asylum. It is, in truth, the popular opinion upon this subject, as November is supposed to be the special season of suicides: the experience of this Institution is opposed to both of these traditions—for of all traceable causes which have operated in the production of these diseases of the seventy-nine cases admitted during the past year, Religion has been the least—as October and November have been the months in which fewer cases of Insanity have occurred than in any other two months of the past year. These observations are simply an historical statement in relation to the special cases under consideration, and are not intended to convey the impression that "religious enthusiasm" is *never* productive of mental disease—for alas! weak and sensitive minds are occasionally overthrown by the fanatical ravings of rash and ignorant teachers: and epilepsy and other convulsive diseases have become epidemic during times of intense "religious" excitement.

The social condition of the Patients was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single	19	9	28
Married	17	21	38
Widowed	7	3	10
Unknown	3	0	3
	46	33	79

OBITUARY.

The following Obituary Table shows the number of Deaths and their causes :—

No.	SEX.		TIME IN THE				APPARENT CAUSE OF DEATH.
	M.	F.	AGE.	Y.	W.	D.	
1	1	0	30	1	19	2	General Paralysis.
2	1	0	38	0	29	6	General Paralysis.
3	1	0	47	0	50	0	General Paralysis.
4	1	0	55	1	41	4	General Paralysis.
5	1	0	49	2	34	4	General Paralysis.
6	1	0	32	2	35	3	General Paralysis.
7	0	1	45	2	31	4	Apoplexy.
8	1	0	29	0	16	0	Apoplexy.
9	0	1	61	0	26	5	Apoplexy.—Softening of Brain.
10	1	0	35	0	2	0	Congestion of Brain.
11	1	0	36	2	18	2	Epilepsy.
12	1	0	26	0	26	2	“ Suffocation during a fit of Epilepsy —Coroner's Verdict.
13	0	1	50	0	11	4	Pulmonary Consumption.
14	0	1	53	0	10	0	Pulmonary Consumption.
15	0	1	34	0	8	0	Pulmonary Consumption.
16	1	0	0	5	19	6	Pulmonary Apoplexy.
17	1	0	55	6	13	4	Tubercular Disease of the Larynx.
18	1	0	41	0	6	6	General Debility.
19	1	0	54	4	33	3	General Debility.
20	1	0	65	0	6	2	General Debility.
21	0	1	56	4	18	1	General Debility.
22	1	0	65	0	21	3	Marasmus.
23	1	0	78	1	21	3	Old Age.
24	1	0	74	3	51	4	Old Age.
25	1	0	63	5	24	3	Disease of Rectum and General Debility.
26	0	1	71	2	6	2	Natural Decay.

Males, 19

Females, 7

—
26

Per centage of Deaths upon the entire number
under treatment..... 7.32
Daily average throughout the whole year 268.85

Not one case of Fever has originated in the Asylum since its opening. Dysentery, once the fatal scourge of the Lunatic, and regarded almost as an inseparable concomitant of the later stages of Chronic Insanity, is comparatively unknown. Choleraic Diarrhoea is rife in Derby and the neighbourhood during the Summer and Autumn, but not a single case occurred in the Asylum. The general Hygienic arrangements of the Institution may therefore be considered satisfactory; for although nearly all the Patients are in feeble health when admitted, yet the Mortality has been low, and has been caused chiefly by severe organic diseases of the nervous system, and by Pulmonary Consumption, maladies under which the Patients were suffering at the period of their admission. During the year 1856 the Mortality was less than five per cent., and it was therefore reasonably to be anticipated that it would not be a higher rate during the past year; nevertheless, the result has been satisfactory, the Mortality not reaching $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the surviving Patients generally are well nourished and healthful. A recent Writer states that eight years ago the Mortality in some County Asylums (exclusive of deaths from Typhoid Fever) reached as high as 17, and even 20 per cent.: now, at the present time, 9 or 10 per cent. is perhaps the average. The mortality among Lunatics by superior Hygienic arrangements being thus diminished nearly one-half, it follows, that the Asylums must become in this cause alone more full than heretofore, to say nothing of the necessary increase of Lunatics through the hereditary transmission of the disease, or of the numerous social influences which in the present day act so powerfully and injuriously upon the nervous systems of all classes. From whatever cause, it is plain, that in all the Counties of England there is a growing demand for accommodation for Pauper Lunatics. Derbyshire forms no exception as to the increase of the Malady, although accommodation has been found hitherto for every case that has presented itself. Every year's experience, however, makes one regret that the forethought of the Committee had not been carried

Hygienic
Condition.

Increase of
Pauper
Lunatics.

into practice, and an Asylum built for the accommodation of three hundred and sixty Patients, with offices, and other provision sufficient for five hundred Patients, so as (to use the words of the Committee, in reply to the objections of their plan on the part of the Commissioners in Lunacy) "To meet the necessity which has been felt in every existing Asylum of giving accommodation for increased numbers, and which not having been originally provided for has ultimately been obtained at much inconvenience and great cost."

That "inconvenience" and "great cost" have been somewhat modified through the Committee not entirely yielding to the requirements of the Commissioners, but they will be found to that degree in which the Committee, out of deference to the Commissioners, as the publicly constituted authority in Lunacy and Lunatic Asylums, forewent their own opinions, and acquiesced in the erroneous conclusions of that Board. The Commissioners, in their prolonged correspondence with the Committee, stated, that "the rate-payers of the County of Derby would be subjected to great and unnecessary expense, by provision being made for 360 Lunatics, whereas the total number of Pauper Lunatics belonging to the County of Derby does not apparently exceed 216." It is surprising that such a statement should have emanated from any Board having acquaintance with the subject of Lunacy; because, supposing that there were at that time 216 Lunatics in the County, and that the cures in the Asylum did not exceed the cures of other Hospitals, it would become certain that accommodation would be required for 216 Patients, the number specified by the Committee in the course of six or seven years; or the County of Derby would form a remarkable exception to the experience of all the other Counties in England. Fortunately, there were not at that time 216 Lunatics who availed themselves of Asylum accommodation, or the County would long since have been called upon to correct the mistake.

The Commissioners by building an additional Wing to this Asylum. Since the opening of the Asylum in August, 1851, there have been 825 Lunatics admitted, and there are remaining at present 271; of these, 19 belong to parishes out of Derbyshire, leaving 252 who have a legal right to be detained in the Asylum. Of these, 232 are probably incurable. These facts make it certain that the Committee will have shortly to carry out their primary intention, and make the Asylum of the size which they intended it should have been, had not the Commissioners in their unanimity induced Sir George Grey to withhold his approval of the plans in question.

The annexed Table will give the number of Patients now in the Asylum, and the Parishes to which they are respectively chargeable.

PATIENTS CHARGEABLE TO THE UNDERMENTIONED UNIONS
AND PARISHES ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1857.

Name of Union and Parish.	M.	F.	Total.	Total chargeable to Unions.
<i>Derby-de-la-Zouch.</i>				
Measham	0	3	3	
Hartshorn	0	2	2	
Packington	1	0	1	
Ticknall	1	1	2	
	<hr/>			8
<i>Ashbourne Union.</i>				
Ashbourne	1	0	1	
Bradley	1	0	1	
Clifton & Compton	0	1	1	
Snelston	0	1	1	
Brailsford	1	0	1	
Middleton	1	0	1	
	<hr/>			
<i>Tissington</i>	0	1	1	
<i>Kirk Ireton</i>	1	1	2	
	<hr/>			9
<i>Basford Union.</i>				
Codnor	1	1	2	
Ilkeston	4	6	10	
Basford	1	0	1	
Heanor	1	0	1	
	<hr/>			14
<i>Belper Union.</i>				
Belper	1	2	3	
Alfreton	4	2	6	
Common Fund ..	1	3	4	

Name of Union and Parish.	M.	F.	Total.	Total chargeable to Unions.
Crich	3	0	3	
Kirk Langley	0	1	1	
Duffield	2	1	3	
Ashleyhay	1	0	1	
Wirksworth	1	0	1	
Mackworth	0	1	1	
Heage	0	1	1	
Mapperley	0	1	1	
Holbrook	0	1	1	
Shottle	0	2	2	
Ripley	0	1	1	
				29
<i>Burton-on-Trent.</i>				
Swadlincote	0	1	1	
Rosliston	1	0	1	
Newton Solney ..	1	1	2	
Marston-on-Dove..	1	0	1	
Willington	1	0	1	
Foston	1	0	1	
Scropton & Foston	0	1	1	
Church Broughton	1	0	1	
Findern	1	0	1	
Twyford & Stenson	1	0	1	
Etwall	0	1	1	
				12
<i>Bakewell Union.</i>				
Matlock	0	3	3	
Youlgreave	2	0	2	
Bakewell	2	0	2	
Baslow and Bubnell	0	1	1	
Tideswell	0	1	1	
Common Fund ..	1	4	5	
Darley	1	0	1	
Winster	1	0	1	
Moneyash	1	0	1	

Name of Union and Parish.	M.	F.	Total.	Total chargeable
Bradwell	1	1	2	
Hartington Quarter	1	1	2	
Elton	1	0	1	
Cromford	1	0	1	
				2
<i>Chesterfield Union.</i>				
Chesterfield	1	5	6	
Woodthorpe	0	1	1	
Common Fund ..	5	5	10	
Clay Laue	0	1	1	
Eckington	1	2	3	
Shirland & Higham	0	1	1	
Unstone	0	1	1	
Wingerworth	1	1	2	
Whittington	1	0	1	
Ashover	1	0	1	
Barlow Great	0	1	1	
Dronfield	1	2	3	
Brampton	1	1	2	
Calow	0	1	1	
Staveley	1	1	2	
Walton	0	1	1	
Sutton-cum-Duck- manton	0	1	1	
				3
<i>Chapel-en-le-Frith Union.</i>				
Chinley	1	0	1	
Hope	2	0	2	
Hartington Upper Quarter	1	0	1	
Thornhill.....	0	1	1	
Chapel-en-le-Frith..	0	1	1	
<i>Derby Union.</i>				
All Saints	2	4	6	

Name of Union and Parish.	M.	F.	Total.	Total chargeable to Unions.
Common Fund ..	9	6	15	
Alkmund	2	3	5	
Peter	7	6	13	
Werburch	9	5	14	
Church	0	1	1	
	<hr/>			54
City Treasurer ..	6	0	6	
	<hr/>			6
<i>Walsall Bierlow.</i>				
Walsall	2	0	2	
Common Fund ..	0	1	1	
Warton	1	1	2	
	<hr/>			5
Walsall Union	4	4	8	
	<hr/>			8
Walsall Union	2	5	7	
	<hr/>			7
Walsall Union	1	0	1	
	<hr/>			1

Name of Union and Parish.	M.	F.	Total.	Total chargeable to Unions.
<i>Mansfield Union.</i>				
Pleasley	0	1	1	
Tibshelf	2	1	3	
	<hr/>			4
Rotherham Union ..	1	0	1	
	<hr/>			1
<i>Shardlow Union.</i>				
Ockbrook	0	1	1	
Shardlow	7	1	8	
Melbourne	1	1	2	
Long Eaton	1	1	2	
Spondon	1	1	2	
	<hr/>			15
Uttoxeter Union	0	1	1	
	<hr/>			1
Worksop Union	1	0	1	
	<hr/>			1
				123 119 242

MENTS CHARGEABLE TO UNIONS NOT BELONGING TO THIS COUNTY, DECEMBER 31, 1857.

Name of Union.	M.	F.	Total.	Name of Union.	M.	F.	Total.
Walsall-on-Soar ..	0	1	1	Gainsborough	0	1	1
Walsall-ingham	1	0	1	Newark	1	1	2
Walsall-inghamstone	0	1	1	Northampton	0	2	2
Walsall-ingham	2	3	5	Do. Borough Fund	0	1	1
Walsall-ingham	0	2	2	Market Harborough	0	1	1
Walsall-ingham	0	1	1		<hr/>		
Walsall-ingham	0	1	1		4	15	19

The following Table gives a general summary of the leading facts in connection with the admission and discharge of Patients during the entire year :—

	Males	Females	Total
Patients admitted	46	33	79
— Discharged Recovered	21	27	48
— — Relieved	1	1	2
Patients Removed to other Asylums			
Relieved	1	1	2
— Ditto, Not Improved	4	1	5
— Escaped	1	0	1
— Died	19	7	26
— Remaining in the Asylum Dec. 31	134	137	271

Per centage of Deaths upon the entire number under treatment	7.7
Per centage of Recoveries upon the Admissions ...	60.8
Per centage of Recoveries upon the entire number under treatment	13.5

It will be observed that one Patient, T. G., has escaped. His resolve to escape must have been one of those impulsive sudden caprices which sometimes spring up in the human mind. He was very happy in the Asylum, and might have escaped any day during the past three years. He was tested with a large amount of liberty, under surveillance for one year, and supposed trustworthy he was allowed, at his own solicitation, to have the entire charge of a pony and carriage; in these, and some pet rabbits and birds, which he had captured, he was interested, and although excitable, and even sometimes fractious in the Wards, yet, occupied with these, he was cheerful, humane, and even industrious, filling up his time in composing a volume of poetry, and in the manufactory of rude flutes, fifes, pipes, and other toys. Although very insane, he would clean shoes, and be useful in various ways when at liberty in the stable.

moody, discontented, and idle when in the Wards. He sold
 s and other birds to visitors, and thus accumulated some
 ey. For three years he went out and in with undeviating
 etuality. He often censured any person who attempted to
 pe, and only two days before he left was excessively angry
 a fellow Patient from this cause. In brief, he gained the
 confidence of those around him, as to his safety in respect to
 it, and thus his escape became easy. He was sought for in
 y places, and the police of Derby, Liverpool, London, and
 r places were communicated with without success. He once
 ped from an Asylum at Colombo, in Ceylon, and he said he
 left a wife and children in that Island; but whether or not
 s gone thither it is impossible to state.

The General Management of the Asylum during the past
 , has been similar to that described in former Reports.
 h Individual Case has required a peculiar and special treat-
 t; for just as Respiration may be disordered by a great
 ety of causes, so may Insanity be induced by various de-
 rements of the brain, and even by the disorders of other
 era remote from it. Every man seems to possess a bias to
 e especial form of disease—thus, one person exposes himself
 old, and gets a sore throat, or a cough, as a consequence ;
 e a second, submitted to like influences, manifests their
 lts in Rheumatism, or some other malady. In persons pre-
 posed to mental derangement the outbreak is caused sometimes
 moral shock and sometimes by bodily disorder. This bodily
 ngement varies much in different individuals,—and it has
 n the anxious study of the Superintendent Physician to detect
 to remove the special lesion which was irritating the brain,
 rendering it an imperfect medium for the manifestations of
 d. Moral treatment, all important as an auxiliary to medicine,
 not, of itself, effect a large amount of cures; and medicine,
 dded by moral agencies, is inefficient, delusive, and disappoint-

General
 Management.

ing. The treatment which has been found most successful has been that in which, so to speak, moral and medical therapeutics have been combined, and which was based on the idea that mind and body act and react upon each other—that as mental anxiety can shock and derange the digestive function, so can disorders of the digestive function embarrass and disturb the operations of the mind. The entire arrangements of the Asylum have been carried out upon the psychological principle, thus briefly illustrated. The Patients have had their minds occupied calmly by pleasing pursuits; by attendance upon Lectures and Reading from various authors, by Pictorial Exhibitions, by visits to the Arboretum Fetes, by pleasant walks into the country, by judicious supply of newspapers and magazines, by chess, cards, bagatelle, and draughts. The most rigid attention has been paid to their bodily health, by providing them with warm clothing, by securing a warm, agreeable, and equable temperature, and efficient ventilation of their rooms; by scrupulous cleanliness of their persons, their dress, and their bedding; by a good diet regularly supplied; by accurately adjusting repose and occupation, and by combating the earliest indications of bodily disorder. Exercise has been secured to them by light labour in the garden and fields; by tending to the stock on the farm, and to various pet animals and birds of their own; by dances in the Winter evenings; and by skittles, cricket, foot-ball, and other manly out-door pastimes in the Summer. The Females are occupied in laundry and domestic work, and in making and repairing their own clothing, and the linen garments and stockings of the men, and during the Summer months have been amused by long excursions into the surrounding country, by dances in the open air, and by gentle games suited to their sex. In the Winter evenings they share in the lectures, the singing class, the music, the magic lantern, exhibitions, and dances with the men. Their pursuits are not irregular, and at wide intervals, but are pursued in a continuous and systematic manner. Believing the stud-

ral history in its various branches to be highly beneficial to Insane, your Physician has had great pleasure in presenting the Institution a small collection of stuffed animals and birds (codile, seal, auks, gulls, swan, wild-ducks, widgeon, &c.), a set of Professor Henslow's beautiful botanical diagrams. These, he trusts, may form the nucleus of a larger collection, and form the materials for some interesting lectures during the coming year. The mind, like the body, becomes enfeebled if not exercised, and the study of natural history, by its constant appeals to the senses, interests without unduly stimulating the intellect, and furnishes, so to state, a mental tonic—much needed by those predisposed to imbecility and dementia.

The highest interest of the Patients has not been disregarded. Divine Service has been performed by the Chaplain with great order and regularity on every Sunday throughout the year; and Morning and Evening Prayers have been read daily by your Physician to the Patients and Attendants in the Wards of the Asylum.

Divine
Service.

The result of these general arrangements has been, that the recovered Patients have looked back upon the Asylum as a Hospital and a Home. They speak kindly of it to their friends, frequently make visits to the Nurses and Attendants under the care they have been. When, as it sometimes happens, they experience a relapse of their malady, they have no dread (as was once the case with the Insane) of being retaken to an Asylum—nay, in the early stage of the recurrent Malady they occasionally implore their friends to bring them to the Asylum immediately; and twice during the past year have Patients, who gave some indications of returning Insanity, hastened voluntarily to this Hospital, without waiting for the necessary Order of Admission and Certificates to be filled up. A young

Woman, living fourteen miles from the Asylum, left her home four o'clock one wet morning, and taking the Railway as her guide, hurried to the Asylum ; she passed through several tunnels on her road, and reached this place in a wet and exhausted condition. She said she "dreaded being ill at home, for they treated her badly when mad"—that she "knew the Asylum was her best place, and she came as fast as she could to get help in time"—that "she did not let her friends know of her intention, for she had asked them to bring her, and they were unwilling to do so." Happily there was no need for her full detention ; and a little medicine and repose tranquillised the rising nervous agitation, and in two days she returned to her home with her friends, and has remained there ever since.

The Cures during the past year have reached 60 per cent upon the admissions ; but the most gratifying fact has been that of twenty Patients, unafflicted with General Paralysis, who were admitted within one month of the primary attack of their malady, sixteen have left the Asylum cured—three are convalescent, and will probably be discharged at the next Meeting of the Committee, and the other one was in the last stage of Pulmonary Consumption when she came to the Asylum, and died in three weeks after her admission. These facts, corresponding as they do with the successful results of treatment in St. Luke's and Bethlehem Hospitals, prove that Insanity, when under fit treatment in a proper Hospital, is, *during its early stages*, as curable a malady as rheumatism or inflammation of the lungs, or any other important bodily disorder. There is no *specific* for the cure of Insanity. Each case demands its own especial treatment, and he only is qualified to treat this, or any other disease, who has studied carefully the human organism, and has duly appreciated the insoluble yet mysterious sympathy which exists between mind and corporeal and spiritual nature. The dependence of sound mental manifestations upon healthy corporeal structure has been admitted

Importance
of
Early
Treatment.

a theory, but the public do not practically act upon it; and professional men, absorbed in the cares of general practice, readily acquiesce in the notion, that the Insane person is without the pale of their art; that symptoms which are not readily amenable to the drugs of the Pharmacopeia pass from the province of the Physician, and are to be controlled only by mechanical or brute force. Strange as it may seem many professional men do not *practically* recognise in the frantic violence of the Maniac, or the profound grief of the Melancholic, the symptoms of a disordered body; they cease to regard the sufferer as "an interesting case," and in too many instances consent that he should be committed to the care of non-medical persons.

As stated above, *each* case demands its special treatment, and whenever the size of the Hospital, or the number of the Patients becomes so large that minute attention cannot be given to each in the early stage of the disease; whenever the Attendants are too few, or too ignorant, or too harsh to carry out implicitly and faithfully the instructions of the Physician; or wherever the Patient is detained from treatment during the primary stages of the malady, or that primary stage be maltreated, there will the number of cures become diminished, and an accumulation of chronic cases will foster the fatal notion that Insanity is a mysterious spiritual disorder, which admits of no solace, and before which the science of medicine must stand helpless and appalled. No language can be too strong to protest against such a mischievous belief, for it causes the Patient to be detained at home until the curative stages have passed away, and the case become hopeless. Moreover, the fearful ideas which such a creed engenders, may be understood when it is stated that thrice has the Superintendent of this Asylum been requested by the *parents* of insane persons under his care "to let them know whenever the malady of their sons should become so bad as that they would require to be suffocated." They looked upon the suffo-

Treatment.

cation of the Patient as no unusual incident, or requirement in the management of such cases. Let not the reader sneer at such simplicity. It is the full grown logical consequence of every theory which separates mental derangement from corporeal disorder. "Idiots are men," said Luther, "in whom devils have established themselves, and all the Physicians who heal these infirmities as though they preceded from natural causes are ignorant blockheads, who know nothing about the power of the demon. Eight years ago I myself saw, and touched at Dessau a child of this sort, which had no human parents, but had proceeded from the Devil. He was twelve years old, and in outward form exactly resembled ordinary children. I said to the prince of Anhalt, with whom I was at the time 'If I had the order of things here, I would have that child thrown into the river Moldau, at the risk of being held its murderer.' But the Elector of Saxony and the princes were not of my opinion in this matter. Thus, doth a mistaken theory give rise to cruel acts, even by men who have strong minds and benevolent hearts. Let not, therefore, the Physician forego his high mission in the treatment of mental disorders. The disease is special only in its manifestations, and not in its seat or pathological character. It ought to be one of the most transcendent interests, instead of one upon which too many look with disdain. The Anatomy it involves is the most beautiful, and it is the most complex of the human organism, nor can medicine have a loftier aim than to call back the troubled mind to health, to peace, and to usefulness.

The Asylum has been visited during the past year by several Physicians of eminence from America; by Dr. Nugent, the Inspector of Asylums for Ireland; and officially by the Commissioners in Lunacy of England. The latter state:—"We have to day visited the Patients of both sexes, and have inspected their Wards, with

* Michelet's Life of Luther, p. 325.

clean, well ventilated, and comfortable. A large number of pictures, prints, and other objects of interest have been introduced into the Asylum (including the Wards appropriated to violent cases), and the whole has at present a cheerful aspect. The Asylum appears to us to be in a very satisfactory condition, and to be under very skilful and careful superintendence."

Your Physician has the happiness to state, that all his efforts to advance the cure, and promote the comfort of the Patients have been zealously aided by the Officers and Servants of the Institution; and he has further to express his thanks to the Committee of the Derby Horticultural Society, and their indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Dodwell, for their kindness in allowing the convalescent and other Patients to attend gratuitously the public fêtes of the Society; to Mr. Huggins, of Derby, for the loan of two beautiful transparencies; and to Dr. Spencer Hall for giving the amusing and instructive lectures to the Patients on the Lives and Poetry of Burns, Bloomfield, and Clare.

In conclusion, your Physician begs to record his grateful acknowledgments of the kindness which he has always received from the Committee of Visitors, and which has been a great solace and support to him in all the anxieties and cares of his responsible appointment.

JOHN HITCHMAN, M.D.

January, 1858.

General Statement of Receipts and Payments between the 1st of January and the 31st of December, 1857.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1856	2,920	9	0				Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st December, 1856	1,366	19	10			
Ditto in Steward's ditto	56	16	8				Officers' Salaries ditto	200	0	0			
				2,977	5	8					1,566	19	10
RECEIPTS.													
Transfer from County Rate				123	3	2	Provisions	3,048	8	8			
Sundry Sales				47	15	0	House and other Expenses	1,524	6	0			
Officers' Uniform				17	14	0	Clothing	398	7	0			
Maintenance of Patients from Unions and Parishes belonging to this County	5,765	7	1				Salaries and Wages	1,826	18	9			
County Treasurer	124	7	2				Extras for Sick	152	7	7			
Unions and Parishes belonging to Out Counties	959	19	1				Supplies to Farm and Garden				6,950	8	0
Private Patients	332	2	0				Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1857	2,854	13	7			
Funerals	17	3	0				Ditto in Steward's ditto	47	19	8			
				7,198	18	4					2,902	13	3
Accounts due to Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st December, 1857	1,217	10	9										
Officers' Salaries to ditto	200	0	0										
				1,417	10	9							
				£11,782	6	11					£11,782	6	11

Examined and Audited,

JOHN LANGLEY,

7	Antimacasars.
81	Aprons.
14	Bed Quilts.
13	Bolster Cases.
9	Bonnets.
38	Boots, Pairs of.
102	Caps, Men's.
110	Caps, Women's.
26	Carpets.
35	Chair Covers.
77	Chemises.
50	Curtains.
1	Curtains (Long Window) Knitted.
44	Drawers.
122	Gowns.
17	Gowns, night.
123	Handkerchiefs.
98	Jackets.
51	Knitting, Yards of.
73	Mattress Cases.
65	Petticoats.
26	Pillow Cases.
41	Pinafores.
17	Shawls.
66	Sheets.
13	Shirts.
25	Ditto, Flannel.
18	Shrouds.
5	Sofa Covers.
56	Stays.
284	Stocks.
5	Strong Dresses.
160	Stockings, Knitted.
49	Table Cloths.
2	Table Covers, Knitted.
363	Towels.
21	Trousers.
6	Waistcoats.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING, MADE BY THE FEMALE PATIENTS,

Between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1857.

The whole of the Repairs are done in the Asylum.

ABSTRACT OF SUPPLIES TO THE HOUSE FROM THE FARM AND GARDEN

From January 1st to December 31st, 1857.

	Pork.	Milk.	Cabbages.	Carrots.	Onions.	Parsnips.	Potatoes.	Rhubarb.	Turnips.	Lettuce.	Beans.	Peas.
lbs.		Galls.	Tons cwt. gr. lb.	Tons cwt. gr. lb.	Tons cwt. gr. lb.	Tons cwt. gr. lb.	Tons cwt. gr. lb.	lbs.	Tons cwt. gr. lb.	Heads.	Bushels.	Pecks.
4261	6714	9	1 3 6	1 14 0 27	1 14 0 2	2 0 1 27	23 10 1 25	2445	0 12 0 2	2351	1204	2914

ORDINARY DIET.

	BREAKFAST.				DINNER.								SUPPER.							
	Males.		Females.		Males.				Females.				Males.		Females.					
	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.	pt.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pt.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pt.	oz.	oz.	pt.				
Sunday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	1
Monday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	..	..	1	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	1
Tuesday ...	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	1
Wednesday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	1
Thursday ..	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	..	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	1
Friday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	1
Saturday ...	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	..	14	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	..	14	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	1

Workers $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer extra at 11 o'clock a.m., and at 4 o'clock p.m.

DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

AVERAGE WEEKLY COST FOR MAINTENANCE
MEDICINE, CLOTHING, AND CARE OF PATIENTS
DURING THE YEAR 1857, viz. :

		s.	d.
Provisions	4		4½
Clothing	0		6¾
Salaries and Wages	2		6½
Necessaries (fuel, light, &c.)	1		1¾
Surgery and Dispensary	0		¾
Wine, Spirits and Porter	0		1½
Furniture and Bedding	0		6½
Garden and Farm	0		3
Miscellaneous	0		3¼
		9	10½
Less Receipts from Sales	0		3
		9	7½
		9	7½
Average number of Patients			268