Fourth report of the Derbyshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

Contributors

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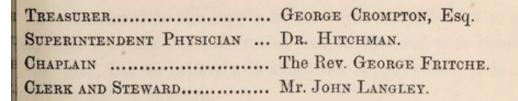
Fourth Report

OF

THE DERBYSHIRE ounty Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

SIR HUGH SEYMOUR BLANE, BART., CHAIRMAN. SIR HENRY SACHEVEREL WILMOT, BART. WILLIAM EVANS, Esq. WILLIAM MUNDY, Esq., M.P. THOMAS BENT, Esq., M.D. THOMAS PEACH, Esq., M.D. JOHN RADFORD, Esq. CHARLES CLARKE, Esq. FRANCIS WRIGHT, Esq. JAMES SUTTON, Esq. JOHN STRUTT, Esq. THOMAS WILLIAM EVANS, Esq. FRANCIS BRADSHAW, JUN., Esq. ASHTON MOSLEY, Esq.



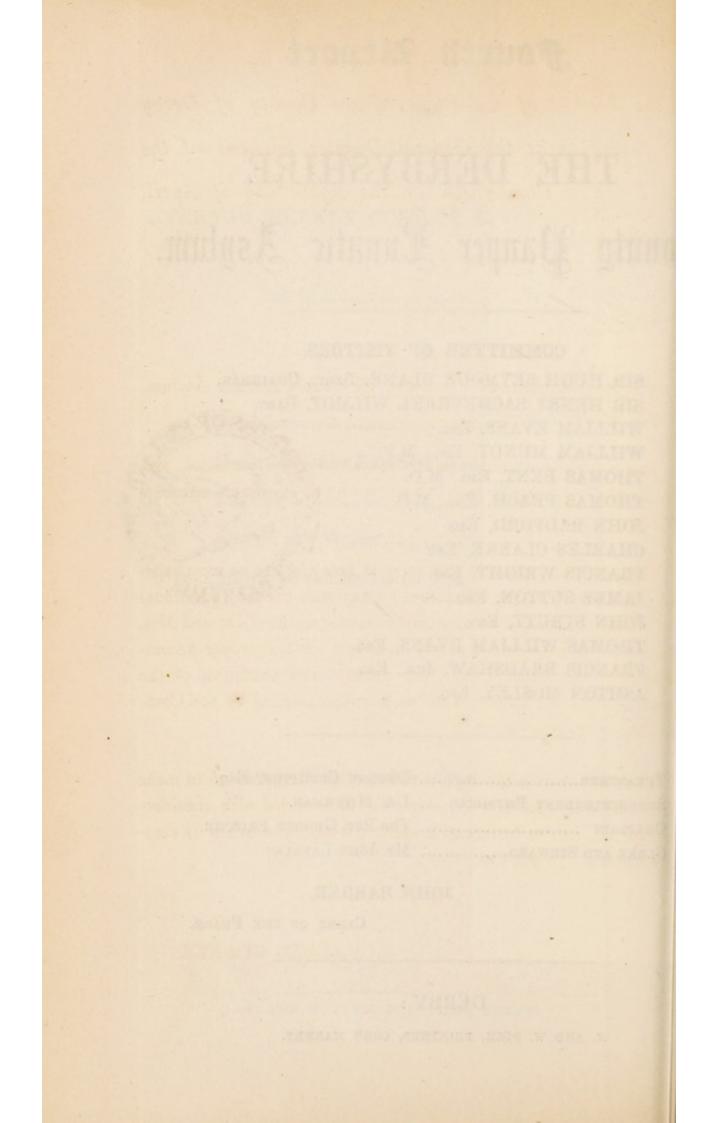
JOHN BARBER,

CLERK OF THE PEACE.

DERBY:

W. AND W. PIKE, PRINTERS, CORN MARKET.

[1856]



'o the Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace at Chesterfield, on the eighth day of April, 1856.

We, the Committee of Visitors of the County Lunatic Asylum, port as follows, viz. :---

The Asylum has been regularly visited by the Committee, and ery Patient seen once in each two months by three or more members the Committee.

The proportion of cures continues as heretofore to be most satisctory and gratifying, and furnishes (if any were needed) additional loof of the judicious, kind and careful management of Dr. and Mrs. litchman. The Asylum is amply sufficient for the proper accomodation of the Patients; and the conduct and condition of the sylum is most satisfactory, and has been commended by the Comissioners who have visited it.

The deficiency in the supply of water has compelled us to make rings and sink another well, which will be attended with considerle expense, but we believe will afford the supply which it is absotely necessary to procure.

CHARLES CLARKE.

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TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

The Superintendent of the Asylum has again the pleasing duty of placing before you a brief history of the progress of he Institution during the past year.]

Between the first of January, 1855, and the thirty-first of December inclusive, there have been admitted into the Asylum one hundred nd thirty-three Patients —of these sixty-one were Males, and seventywo were Females. To this number other Counties than Derby have ontributed in the following proportions :—

Lincolnshire	28
Nottinghamshire	15
Northamptonshire	3
Leicestershire	2

aking a total of forty-eight; which, with eighty-five Patients from derbyshire, constitute the number before stated of one hundred and nirty-three. Seventeen of the above persons—namely, eleven of ne Men and six of the Women—were admitted upon weekly paytents from their friends.

As in the year 1854, so in the year 1855, there were more

Patients admitted into the Asylum during the month of May than i any other month of the year, as the following Table will illustrate:-

EFFECT OF SEASONS.

MONTHS.	MALES.		FEMALE	s.	TOTAL.
January	.7		6		13
February	5		7		12
March	10	·	3		13
April	8		3		11
May	5		10		15
June	2		9		11
July	7		7		14
August	2		11		13
September	4		5		9
October	7		6		13
November	2		2		4
December	2		3		5
	61		72		133

The time over which these facts extend is not of sufficient duration, or the facts themselves numerous enough to authorize any deduction respecting the influence of Seasons upon the production of Insanity. It is, however, probable, that the popular idea which regards *November* as the month most productive of Insanity, and of the gloom which leads on to suicide, is unfounded in fact. In November, 1854, eight Patients were received, as against twentythree in May, and in the past year four, as compared with thirteen received in the latter month; and of these four, there was not a greater proportion suicidal than in the larger number. In a Report, published some years ago by the Statistical Society, of the number of suicides committed in Westminster during twentyfive years, it was stated "that six hundred and fifty-six deaths—

Effect of Seasons. namely, four hundred and seventy-eight of Men, and one hundred and seventy-eight of Women—had occurred; and of this number seventy-five cases happened in June, as contrasted with forty-nine in November; and during the progress of these twenty-five years, it ive times happened that no suicide was committed in November, whereas September was the only other month that obtained a like exemption."

There was a marked increase of maniacal excitement during he month of July, and especially from the nineteenth day to the wenty-fourth. On the twenty-third of this month, the thermometer eached as high as 78 degrees, when a thunder-storm ensued and the mermometer fell 10 degrees. During this period seclusions, which re rarely required, became more frequent, as many as four Patients eing secluded in one day : epileptic fits were both frequent in their courrence and severe in their character. During the past year, owever, epileptic fits were most frequent when the temperature was -w—thus the largest number of Patients who had fits in any one ay was eleven, and occurred on the following days :—

January 23rd—Eleven Patients had epileptic fits. Wind, orth. Snow on the surface of the ground. Temperature out of pors, at 9 a.m., 31 degrees. Moon within two days of its first uarter.

December 11th-Eleven Patients had epileptic fits. Weather psty. External temperature, 27 degrees. Moon, "two days old."

27th-Eleven Patients had epileptic fits. Wind, South. Weather wet. External temperature, 47 degrees. Moon, four days ist its full.

The temperature in the Wards at a corresponding hour was degrees.

A large number of Patients were epileptic on the 23rd of Sep-

tember, and on the 27th of October, when the temperature wa respectively 53 and 48 degrees at 9 a.m. These days occurred two · days before, and two days after the Full Moon. The Wind wa Seasons. North in September, and South-west in October. There is n Apparatus in the Institution to test the electric condition of th Atmosphere; but at the above dates, at the Royal Observator Greenwich, it was described as being "positive and strong."

Effect

of

The social condition of the Patients admitted was as follows :-

	MALES.	in i	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Single	24		24	 48
Married	34		33	 67
Widowed	3		14	 17
Unknown	-		1	 1
	61	•••	72	 133

The Trades and Occupations were :---

	MALES.	NO.	
	None	5	Not
	Joiner	1	Unk
l	Baker	1	Dor
	Storekeeper	1	Wiv
	Grocers	2	
	Curriers	2	Cha
	Watchmakers	2	Lac
	Soldier	1	Glo
	Druggist	1	Silk
	Lace Maker	1	Stay
2	Bricklayer	1	Trip
-	Labourers	14	Fact
2	Boatman	1	Bute
N M	Gardener	1	· Innl
-	Fisherman	1	Dres
11	Blacksmith	1	Bool
	Silk mill Hand	1	Farr
-	Tailors	4	Sem
P.	Clerk	1	
1	Shoemakers	3	
X	Colliers	3	
	Green Grocer	1	
	Miller	1	
8	Tallow Chandler	1	
-	Framework Knitters	2	
3	Nailmaker	1	
	Waterman	1	
and the second s	Farmer	1	
100	Dyer	1	
111	Rag Gatherer	1	
C	Stone Mason	1	
-	Iron Moulder	1	
-00-	Shopkeeper	1	
		_	
	-	61	

FEMALES.	NO.
None	8
Unknown	2
Domestic Servants	22
Wives of Labourers and	
Mechanics	19
Charwomen	5
Lace Worker	1
Glove Stitchers	3
Silk mill Hands	3
Stay Maker	1
Tripe Seller	1
Factory Hand	1
Butcher's Wife	1
Innkeeper	1
Dress Maker	1
Book Stitcher	1
Farmer's Widow	1
Sempstress	1
a new second of the second of the second	

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Twenty-three Men, and twenty-seven Women, were reported to be suicidal at the period of their admission, and fourteen others were described as doubtful. Two of the Men had made incisions in their throats. One was brought in a very exhausted state, and from day to day appeared not likely to live to its close. The wound in his necwas large and deep, separating the larynx from its connection with the hyoid bone and penetrating the esophagus and pharynx. He required the presence of two Attendants for a long period, for h endeavoured to prevent the healing of the wound by throwing his head forcibly backwards, and by other contrivances. At a later date h made a great effort to snatch a Razor from the Attendant in order to repeat the suicidal act. The wound healed in about five months and he became convalescent in mind nine months after his admission into the Asylum.

Several had attempted strangulation by hanging, others by drowning, and one female had made a desperate effort to destroy life by beating her head with a hammer. In many of these cases grean relief was obtained by Battley's Sedative Solution of Opium, prescribed in large doses, and repeated twice or thrice a day, according to circumstances. This fact has been mentioned in former Reports but its great value justifies a repetition of the statement. Anything which can add to the safety of these sufferers, and mitigate the anxiety which their care involves upon the Physician and Attendants must be an acceptable boon; but the above remedy does more than this-it acts specifically in many cases, reducing the cerebral irritation, restoring the appetite, and procuring sleep. In every case where the Patient has been agitated by an overwhelming sense of fear, the steady use of this anodyne has been advantageous. It is almost superfluous to add, that any existing corporeal disorder will require its special treatment, and that a mere empirical use of the above remedy, without attention to accompanying symptoms, would be productive of disappointment and mischief.

No circumstance in the retrospect of the past year brings greater consolation to your Physician than the fact that none of

Suicidal Patients. hese unfortunate beings have consummated their purpose. Many reeks of painful watchings, many hours of anxious suspense, which annot be described, have been passed to secure this fortunate esult. These cases are the most distressing that fall under the care If the Psycopathic Physician, for no moment is wholly free from larm-ere the ink dries which gratefully records this result, an ncident may transpire to cloud the pages of a future Report. It is, owever, among the bright results of that treatment which Charlesforth and Hill conceived, and which the genius of a Conolly sponsed and confirmed, that it tends to diminish the suicidal inpulse, by removing the sense of degradation which Restraints avolve, and by surrounding the Patients with cheerful influences, nd bringing them more completely under medical control. Still, eek after week, month after month, some of these grief-smitten persons struggle to terminate an existence, which is to them, in very uth, a prolonged anguish. No pen can describe the wretchedness such Patients; there is no sorrow like unto their sorrow, for their corbid imaginations paint the woe which to them is most woeful, nd no appeal to external circumstances can dispel the vision.

The great majority of Patients at their admission have been e feeble states of bodily health, and their malady has assumed de form of mental depression and morbid grief, rather than the Id tumultuous excitement of the more active forms of Mania. everal of these abject Invalids were in a state of the greatest h; too feeble in mind to bestir themselves for any purpose, and inting the kind aid of others, their bodies had become encrusted hh dirt, and in some instances covered with vermin. In such a te was A. C., a female far advanced in pregnancy. Under the pources of the Asylum she has become clean, cheerful, and strong, ill although not yet restored to sanity, has been safely delivered of Fir child, and is now employed in useful occupations in the Laundry all elsewhere. One or two Patients had been confined by manacles their own cottages until rescued by charitable interference, and the brought to the Asylum with their wrists and ankles excoriated the ligatures deemed necessary for their proper control. Such

Condition of Patients on Admission. was the case of A. B.; twenty-five years of disease have placed hi for ever beyond the reach of the healing art; but the Institution wi it is hoped, be an Asylum to him in the loftiest sense of the wor and that henceforth he will not be irritated by bodily pain, pr duced by the clumsy attempts made to control his mental pertubations.

Disease had made great encroachments upon others, and it w obvious at a glance that neither skill or kindness could do more the simply smooth their passage to the grave. Of these a few were the last stage of acute cerebral disease; a larger proportion we nearly worn out by chronic maladies, by old age, or by the insidica yet fatal progress of general paralysis. A few extracts from t "Case Book" will illustrate each of these conditions :-- "G. B. female, aged forty-six years, brought in restraints, which had to cut off, because the keys of the straps had been inadvertently 1 behind, is in a state of great exhaustion; she has a wild, delirio look, and keeps beating the air as if at some imaginary phanton She does not speak in articulate language, but mutters lowly som incomprehensible sounds. If parties approach her she strikes at the without passion, and more mechanically than otherwise, for she more one arm about continuously. Her physical appearance resembles the of a person in fever, or in the typhoid stage of severe brain diseas she cannot walk without aid, and is evidently paralysed. Her sl has many bruises upon it, about the arms, shoulders, and back; head feels hot, her eyes have a wild stare, and yet wherewithal a d aspect, and their angles and lids are covered with a dry, mucc secretion; her tongue and lips are black and dry, and the breath foetid. She refuses food, and seems incapable of comprehending nature. The pulse is weak and irregular; her voice is indistinct a hoarse; the respiration is feeble, but somewhat quickened; she altogether in a very unsatisfactory condition, and will probably survive many days."-p. 407. She was sustained by wine and ou resources for a short time, but she sank on the fifth day after admission.

"R. M., a Male, aged 34 years, has been desponding for so

Condition of Patients on Admission. months. It is stated by his friends, that on the eleventh of January, he walked into the River Trent; but that he fancied he heard a voice saying, 'Go home to your wife,'-and obeyed the command. Subsequently to that, he imagined himself to be under the Divine lispleasure, and was very melancholy, but still quiet and controlable. At this date he refuses to speak-he has a wild, haggard expression, and his eyes are much injected with blood. The pupils are dilated. His face is bedewed with a shining, greasy excretion-his lips are dirmly compressed, but dry-his skin is moist, and the pulse is apid. He cannot be persuaded to open his mouth-his head feels very hot-he sometimes strikes at persons near to him-he is aralysed on the right side-he has no control over, or is indifferent to, ne excretions of the bladder and rectum." This Patient never spoke fter his admission into the Asylum; he became comatose in a few ays-was placed in a Water Bed to avoid bed-sores-remained notionless, and unable to swallow solids for ten days, and expired in the sixteenth day after his arrival. This Patient appears to have cen roused from a state of Melancholia, into a dangerous condition a acute mania, by too excessive a use of brandy administered under dedical directions. His wife informed the Superintendent Physician at R. M. did not become maniacal until he had drank five bottles brandy, under the direction of his Medical Attendant, who ordered me ounce to be taken every hour until the above quantity had been unsumed. It is not perhaps generally known that "Melancholia" often a phase of "Mania." There are Patients who pass through ese two stages of mental disease with great regularity (not indeed precise periods of time, for the state of excitement and depression nry as to their respective duration), the one following the other, as rely as day succeeds to night. In the melancholic stage, not only tes mind become dormant, but all the functions of life appear pressed; the eye loses its brightness, the voice is seldom heard, re appetite is less keen, the bowels are sluggish, the respiration and n pulse are slower and more feeble, while in extreme cases the nds and feet become cold and blue from want of energy in the culation. Bye and bye, the dull eye grows bright and sparkling, mute tongue becomes loquacious; the Individual once motionless

is now cheerful, busy, and greedy of notice, and resembles much person slightly under the influence of wine. This excitement im creases daily, and the pleasant symptoms pass on to the wildnes and agitation of "Mania;" if, towards the termination of the torpi stage, powerful stimulants are given, the subsequent phase of maniace agitation sometimes becomes so intense as to lead on to dangerou and even fatal exhaustion. These facts are well known to Physician engaged in the special treatment of Insanity, but the case of A. H warrants this brief allusion to them in this Report. To return to the cases before alluded to-" J. W., a Male, aged seventy-five years wa brought to the Asylum in a very dirty condition. His legs and fer appeared not to have been washed for many months; they we swollen and edæmatous. He was delirious in manner and language and could not walk without support. There was a diffused 'rhonchu over the whole chest-the heart's action was quick and tumultuou there were bruises over many parts of the body, and his lips and the extremities of his fingers were livid and cold, indicating the u healthy condition of the heart and lungs. He was garrulous, nois and restless." He sunk rapidly, having died on the thirteen day after his admission. "W. B., a Male, aged seventy-nine year admitted to-day in a very feeble and exhausted condition; he stated to have been insane six months, and to have been so viole during the past week, that it was deemed necessary to fasten him a wall in his bed-room. He is at this date unable to walk with support; his voice is low, husky, and indistinct, and he appear likely to die in a few days. There is a bruise on his left cheek, a his legs have bruises upon them. He is much emaciated, and appeworn out by old age." He died on the fifth day after his admissi "J. H., a Male, aged eighty-two years, admitted to-day, has bruised condition of both hands, and an abrasion over the kn His skin bruises from the slightest touch-the skin being wrinkl the veins flaccid, and the muscles attenuated by old age. He restless, noisy, and mischievous. The Medical Man who wrote certificate stated that "J. H. had attempted bodily injury upon children, and that he followed him with a large knife for a l purpose, and that he attempted to throw himself out of a chamb

Condition of Patients on Admission. window, but was fortunately prevented." This poor man was frantic and delirious during the short period he was in the House; he was received on the sixteenth, and died on the eighteenth day of July.

These illustrations of the delirium which sometimes supervenes apon extreme age, might be multiplied ; for several analogous cases mave been received-but perhaps it will be better briefly to refer to ther forms of incurable disease, namely General Paralysis. "G. A., Male, aged thirty five years, married, has been insane three years -his lips are tremulous-his tongue is protruded with difficulty and y jerks-he totters in his gait and all his muscles tremble after the lightest exertion-he has lost all control over the sphincters of the ladder and rectum-he appears unconscious of the action of either. Ie is emaciated, and has a cough; his voice is 'muffled' and andistinct. He has two large ulcers on each leg, and the toes of hch foot are cold and livid. He boasts of his great height, his vast rength, and his enormous wealth, and is very noisy, restless, and marrelsome. His memory is so much impaired that he does not member his former residence, or know whether or not he is a varried man; he is altogether in an unsatisfactory condition, and Ill probably sink with great rapidity on the approach of cold mather." This Patient died from the above disease, in less than a onth after his admission.

This malady is little understood by the Medical Practitioner, ecause rarely, if ever, seen apart from Insanity. False inferences be deduced, and hopes of recovery held out to the friends of Patients ecases in which the practised eye at once perceives the germs of bid decay and inevitable death. Fifteen individuals suffering from us malady have been received during the past year—among others, A. B., a private Patient in respectable circumstances, and paid for his friends. He was accompanied to the Asylum by his Medical endant—sanguine hopes of recovery had been held out—the fanity was recent—the Patient looked well, and was cheerful, opy, and hopeful. He was in the prime of life; a wife and family cious for his speedy restoration had, at a great sacrifice to their General Paralysis. feelings, consented to his removal from home and to his residence here, under the assurance that a few weeks would restore him t health and to usefulness. It was a painful task to disturb all thes bright hopes, and to pourtray a career of insanity ending only if death. The true interests of the Patient's family and the reputation of this Asylum as a curative Institution demanded that the truth stern and painful though it was, should at once be told, and therefor it was told in terms as gentle, yet as clear, as your Physician coul command. The result was, that a business then flourishing could b brought at once into the market, instead of being suffered to dwind, into insignificance, under the vain hope that in a few brief month its proprietor would be able to resume it again.

General Paralysis.

The progress of this malady is very rapid in some casesothers, it is prolonged over several years. The distinguished Frence Physician Esquirol had never known a case extend over three years; but either from improvements in the general hygienic cond tions of Asylums, or from other causes, some exceptional cases an now met with, who survive four, or even five years. The earling stages are however overlooked, and Patients suffering under th malady are seldom seen at the Asylum, until like G. A., T. A., at others they have reached the final stage of the disease, when from their helplessness, and unavoidable filthiness, their removal is desire and they are brought into the Hospital to die. It may, perhaps, well to state for the information of Medical Men, before whom the Report may come, that this disease may be always suspected who with most exaggerated notions of wealth, health, and strength, t individual displays a lingering in his speech, not a stammer or repl tition of syllables, but a pause between words, as if he could n readily command the muscles of the tongue and lips; and mo especially if these symptoms have been preceded by a fit of unconsciousness however slight, and are accompanied by a quivering the facial muscles, and a tremor in the limbs after slight exertio If ever a cure be realised it will be combating the malady in its ver earliest stage, and nowhere can the Patient be so readily surround by the necessary moral and physical agencies of cure, as in an He pital for the Insane.

The following "Obituary Table" will show how very fatal this inalady is to the Male Patients—more than half the deaths having peen caused by it, or by diseases which its presence sometimes procluces—such as congestion of the brain and apoplexy.

OBITUARY.

Jo.	SEX.	Age	IN THE ASYLUM.	APPARENT CAUSE OF DEATH.
1	Female	15	16 weeks 3 days	Exhaustion after Fever
2	F.	46	6 days	Congestion of the Brain & Paralysis
3	Male.	34	2 weeks 4 days	Paralysis
4	Μ.	47	3 weeks	Chronic Pneumonia
5	F.	37	30 weeks	Paralysis
6	F.	55	3 years 19 weeks)	
	179		2 days	Cancer
7	F.	48	13 weeks	Schirrus Disease of the Uterns
8	M .	44	43 weeks 1 day	General Paralysis
9	M.	80	1 week	Old Age
0	M.	45	11 weeks	General Paralysis
1	M.	50	10 weeks 2 days	General Paralysis
2	M.	55	3 weeks 2 days	Disease of Heart
3	M.	42	25 weeks 5 days	General Paralysis
4	M.	82 .	3 days	Old Age
5	M.	68	14 weeks 5 days	General Debility
6	M.	34	16 weeks 2 days	General Paralysis and Abscess
7	M.	. 39	8 months 10 days	General Paralysis
8	M.	52	38 weeks 2 days	General Paralysis
9	M.	46	46 weeks 6 days	Pneumonia supervening upon General Debility
	F.	80	2 months	"Natural Decay." Coroner's verdict
	M.	37	59 weeks 3 days	Apoplexy and General Paralysis
2	M.	75	8 weeks 4 days	General Debility
3	M.	41	51 weeks 3 days	General Paralysis
1	M.	33	Queren QG marker	" Epilepsy." Coroner's verdict
5	M.	40	I wan 99 wooks)	General Paralysis
3	M.	33		General Paralysis
7	M.	34		General Paralysis
3	M.	45		General Paralysis

A Coroner's Inquest was held in two cases; it will be observed! that in each case the Verdict was to the effect, that the Patient had died from Natural Causes.

The following Table will present at one view the General Statistics of the Asylum for the past year :---

	GENERAL STATISTICS.	Males	Females	Total
Statistics of Asylum.	Patients Admitted Discharged Recovered Improved Unimproved Died Died Died Died Died Died Died Remaining in the Asylum December 31 Per centage of Recoveries upon Admissions	61 18 4 2 2 22 135 35.3	72 29 8 0 0 6 142	133 47 12 2 2 28 28 277
	number under treatment Deaths upon the entire num- ber under treatment	12.84 7.65		

As the above Table illustrates, the general health of the Patients has been excellent. Dysentery, once the scourge of Asylums, and still present among too many, is here unknown. Although much embarrassment has been felt, much time occupied, and much labour resorted to, in consequence of the great scarcity of water, yet these have been cheerfully undergone in order to secure enough of this important element to keep the place clean, so as not to permit, by removable causes, the germination of fever, or other epidemics, and no fever has occurred. The deaths have been caused chiefly by general paralysis, and diseases incident to extreme age. The low mortality contrasts favourably with many Institutions, but more especially with the few, which untaught by the events around them retain Non-medical Men as their Superintendents, and adhere in other respects to antiquated systems. In such Asylums mortality anges as high as 19 and 20 per cent. per annum.

Two Patients have escaped from the Asylum during the past rear. The law which prohibits their recapture (except by new cerificates) after the lapse of a fortnight, encourages many to make the ttempt to escape from Asylums. One of the above Patients (the Committee will remember) fearing that he might be indicted for tealing wearing apparel belonging to the Institution, sent the clothng, in which he had escaped, back to the Asylum on the third day fter his absence. He continued in concealment until the expiration of a fortnight, when he voluntarily came to the Asylum, presented simself before the Committee, and stated that " he thought it right op come, and tell the Gentlemen that he had been well treated while we was in the Asylum, but being impatient to see his children, he ad run away before the Meeting of the Board, at which he had been old, he was to have been discharged in the usual manner." This nan had been in the Asylum about twelve weeks, and had become vonvalescent.

The general principles of treatment have been such as have been escribed in former Reports. The well-being of the Patient has been eadily considered, both in his occupations and his amusements. It as been attempted to make him not only a more sane man, but a metter man; for whatever adds to the moral strength of an individual erves as a barrier against the encroachments of disease. Idleness, sovenlinesss, and dirt are enemies alike to bodily and mental health ; and a distaste for these enervating influences has been inculcated, not railing against them, but by surrounding the Patient with their Treatment. soposites-industry, order, and cleanliness. Twice a week the personal linen of every Patient is changed (some require, and have an changed several times daily). His bed-linen is changed once reekly; his meals are served up to him with cleanliness, order, and undeviating punctuality, and he is expected to be cleanly and orderly

General Principles of

Escapes.

too. He is taught by a brief grace before meat to recognise the goodnes of Him from whom all blessings come. His room is rendered com fortable and cheering by warmth, flowers, and pictures (cheap i their original cost, but not destitute of beauty in design and execution), and other simple accessories; it has been found that love of flowers, and of Nature is more diffused, and is indeed a more instinctive feeling than many persons may suppose ;--- it is perhap stronger in the minds of the English than in other nations, at all events it is obviously felt by many Patients, and its strength seem to grow with the moral elevation of the individual. The work of th day is followed by innocent amusements-such as Bagatelle Draughts, and the like-while the Library affords the means of prof and pleasure to all who are capable of reading. The weekly period cals-The Leisure Hour, The Sunday at Home, Chambers' Journa Dickens' Household Words, The Illustrated News, The Cottage Gardener, The Family Friend, Punch-and the local papers-th Treatment. Reporter and the Mercury-afford much enjoyment. Those wh are incapable of gaining information by reading themselves, lister with interest to others who read aloud for their benefit. During the past Winter, the Superintendent Physician read a Course of Lecture on English History, which being illustrated chiefly by inciden which had transpired in their own and neighbouring Counties, wer listened to by the Patients with great interest, and furnished topic for conversation afterwards. Dr. Spencer Hall of Derby, has gratuitously given very interesting Lectures, which were much applaude These incidents, with Exhibitions of the Magic Lantern, Weekl Singing Classes, and occasional Dances, have agreeably filled up th long evenings of Winter. In the Summer, excursions were mac weekly into the surrounding country, and groups of the more orderly of the Patients have visited the "fetes" of the Arboretum in Derby

General

Principles

of

The works of the Laundry and of the Female Workroom, have been efficiently carried out by the Female Patients The operation on the Farm and Garden have been achieved by the Male Patien and their Attendants, and many take a lively interest in the succes of these departments. In all these details your Physician has again to acknowledge the cordial co-operation of Mr. Langley (the Clerk), Ind of the Chief Attendants ; and indeed it is with unfeigned pleaure that he here records, that he has also every reason to be satisfied rith the humanity, industry, and discipline of the Servants generally. A Male and Female Attendant from this Asylum are now employed It Hartford, Connecticut, one of the oldest Lunatic Hospitals in the inited States. The distinguished Physician of that Institution (Dr. utler) in his late Report, thus writes of English Asylums :-- " During e six months' vacation which was so kindly granted me by the berality and indulgence of your Board, I had the pleasure of being ple to visit many of the most prominent Lunatic Hospitals in Ingland and Scotland. I embrace this opportunity to express my ateful sense of the cordiality and courtesy with which, as the resperintendent of one of the oldest Lunatic Hospitals in the United sates, I was everywhere received, and with the frankness and nomptitude with which the details of the different Institutions were rown.

"It is evident that from a variety of causes a spirit of improveent is pervading these Hospitals. A great impetus has of late ars been here given to this department of human effort, and the last beneficial and gratifying results have been obtained.

"It is not expedient in the narrow limits to which I desire to extrict this Report, to go into a consideration of these causes. It is ficient for my present purpose to say, that notwithstanding a few a rs since our leading institutions were not surpassed by the best incheirs, it is very evident to me that we have now none which will impare with some of those lately erected there.

"In the older Hospitals there was manifest improvement in the ddings where original defects could never be wholly remedied.

"In the new Institutions, those erected within a very few years or now going into operation, I found a beauty of structure with a goughness and perfection of arrangement which I had never seen

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equalled elsewhere. Among these, it will not I hope be invidious to mention the Asylums at Prestwich and Cheadle, near Manchester at Mickleover, near Derby; at Clifton, near York; and the new Asylum at Stafford.

"The chief points of excellence were extensive, well laid out, and carefully planted Airing Courts and Pleasure Grounds, and sufficiency of cultivated land for out-of-door employment. Spacious airy and well ventilated Apartments; the extensive application of steam the every available purpose—cooking, pumping, heating, ventilating, &co —and open fire-places in every admissable room. The most important of all was the extensive arrangements made for the manual employs ment of the Inmates, both within doors and without. There were workshops for the different trades, in some of which these trades has been successfully taught, and in many the amount of work performe showed that the shops were sources of profit to the Institution, a well as of beneficial employment to the Patients.

"Another feature which struck me most pleasantly was the construction in several Hospitals of a large and handsome Room expressly for the social gatherings and amusements of the Patients My attendance at some of these festive occasions is among the mospleasant reminiscences of my visit. A large amount of profitable out-door labour was insisted upon in many, and the amount accomplished in some instances was highly creditable.

"It is very evident that if the American Institutions are t maintain the comparatively high rank to which they have just heretofore had claim, a more liberal expenditure than has been adopted in most in regard to occupation both of body and mine amusement, &c., must be adopted."—Pages 27, 28.

A great aim has also been to infuse a love of industry into the minds of convalescent and other Patients, and to imbue them wit a taste for higher pursuits than those to which many had bee addicted; to show by example that cleanliness can be secured by

personal effort without much cost—that taste rather than wealth is required to surround a Cottage with an appearance of order and comfort, and that home may be made to produce more happiness than an be found in the glare of a gin palace, or the revel of the beerhop. The effect of regular employment and innocent recreation is shus referred to in a letter from one of the Patients to his Father-I continue pretty well in health, and very comfortable in my uarters. I shall be very glad to be once more at liberty, but still shall always reflect upon the days that I have spent here with cleasure; certainly it will be intermingled with a degree of sadness pon considering the circumstances under which I came. I am a leal more comfortable here than I was three months before I left nome. This may seem rather surprising at first, but having some legular employment greatly contributes to the happiness of any person, Ind I have found it to have that effect upon me. My health seems » be again pretty well established, and my spirits are pretty even. I not think that my nervous system will allow any approach to what I call the acme of equability, which the poet Denham ascribes to the mhames, when he says-

> ⁶ O could I flow like thee, and make thy stream My great example, as it is my theme; Though deep yet clear; tho' gentle, yet not dull, Strong without rage, without o'erflowing full.'

Let still I do not know that my spirits ever had a more regular flow, I d I think that if I can get some regular employment when I get int, they will continue so."—Case Book, p. 292.

Prayers have been read twice daily in the Wards; and on every anday throughout the year the Chapel has been filled by a conegation of orderly and devout worshippers. Not a single instance disturbance has occurred. The responses demanded by the turgy of the Church of England keep the attention aroused, and rve as an appropriate and chastened utterance to the wants of most every mind.

Chapel Services. The Asylum has been visited by the Commissioners in Lunacy who, after recording the statistics of the Asylum, have given th following summary of the condition of the Patients :—" The Patien were quiet and comfortable; they were well clothed,—their beddin was of excellent quality, and the Wards were clean and we warmed."

Of the Patients who have been restored to their friends and t usefulness, a great portion of them were [admitted within a fe months of the accession of their malady. Many of the Lunati Asylums of this realm are crowded to excess, and new Hospitals an choked up by chronic cases as soon as they are completed ; and from two great causes, namely, because the Patient is not brought suff ciently early under appropriate medical treatment; and secondly Importance because the Lunatic Asylums of some Counties are built upon to large a scale to be successful as curative Institutions. Your Physic Early Treatment, cian has in every Report urged upon the parochial authorities of Derbyshire to send their Patients to the Asylum as soon as the malady manifests itself, as being at once the most humane and th most economical proceeding. The County has done its duty nobl in providing an efficient Hospital; it rests with the Poor Lav Guardians, and with the friends of the Patients, to determin whether 4 per cent. or 60 per cent. of the Insane Poor shall be cured of their distressing malady. As facts are more eloquent that words, it may be stated that of two Asylums, the Reports of which are on the table,-one, let it be called "A," receiving chronic and recent cases, the other "B," receiving recent cases only, and those free of Paralysis or Epilepsy,-the former did not cure 10 per cent whereas the latter under great disadvantages of site and resources cured upwards of 69 per cent.

> Your Physician is reluctant to write a phrase which may savou of self-applause; but in order to arouse the parochial authorities c this County to the vital importance of early treatment in this fearfu malady, he cannot avoid stating that of cases admitted within : week of the first appearance of the disease, and free from Paralysi

or Epilepsy, he has himself realised as large a per centage of "Cures as that reached in St. Luke's Hospital, London,-viz., 60 per cent.; and it is his firm conviction, founded on twenty years experience, that the disease, if not tampered with in its early stages, as as curable in a good Lunatic Asylum, as is any other serious bodily elisease in a well conducted Hospital. Insanity is nearly always dependant on corporeal disorder, and amenable to the same laws, as anflammation of the lungs, or gout, or rheumatism ; but as these would se aggravated by impure air, or improper diet, so is Insanity aggrastated and confirmed by improper moral treatment, and is further mendered incurable whenever the Physician by mistaking the physical mauses upon which it is dependant, applies to it improper remedies. at is not denied that cures have been, and are accomplished under the everest systems of mechanical control; but a sense of humiliation is usft upon the mind of the Patient which irritates his feelings and isturbs his peace long after he has left the Asylum and entered upon the business of the world. Its effect has often been described in muching terms to your Physician by individuals who have passed morough these sufferings and degradation, and they have referred to nem as among the most painful incidents of this terrible malady. m was once thought by all, and still is by some, that for purposes of are, the Patient should be "conquered," and should regard his attendants with awe ; ignorance invested the Patient with demoniac properties-his violence inspired fear, and fear is ever cruel. Kinda:ss and love as active powers were unrecognized, and physiology and not then shed her light over the marvellous functions of the man brain. Beneficence has been the handmaiden of Knowledge a the treatment of Insanity, proving that there was a great truth in me ancient Myth which ascribed healing powers to "Phabus Apollo" it being the antithetical expression of a like truth derived from far ther authority, and applying more closely to this subject, namely "ht "the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of relty." It is only in proportion as science has comprehended the sure of Insanity, and by its teachings illumined the mind of the plic, that anything like tenderness has been manifested towards Insane. So long as Insanity was regarded as purely spiritual

in its character, as a malady wholly independent of the material organization, the Patient was subjected to a treatment at once cruel, inhuman, and destructive. The Christian charity which bestowed sympathy and solace upon almost every woe, turned aside from the poor Lunatic or assented to his chains. Even now, public opinion is but slowly recognising the fact that the brain is the instrument of the mind, and that as a material structure it is liable to disorder and decay. Practically, indeed, the truth is ignored by the greater part of mankind. What has been achieved, has been done by a few individuals, who have struggled (under much obloguy, and more ridicule) to impress this great truth with all its concomitant results, upon the mind and the conscience of the world. Whenever the public mind shall comprehend this truth in all its fulness, then, and not till then, will the Insane be placed in a position to gain all the good, which Medical Science has the power to bestow upon their respective maladies.

JOHN HITCHMAN.

January 5, 1856.

THE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

Mickleover, Jan. 9th, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

As Chaplain to your valuable Institution, I again present my annual Report to you with feelings of no little pleasure.

During the past year the number of Patients who have attended ar religious services has greatly increased—the same order and necorum as expressed in my first Report have been maintained. to interruption whatever has taken place during Divine Service; and seldom or ever do I come away from the Chapel without being laruck with the soothing and salutary influence religion has even pon the minds of the disorderly and insane.

From observations made by several discharged Patients I have very cause to believe that their residence in the Asylum was not only deneficial to their bodily disease, but that the word spoken was by god's grace carried home to the heart, and thus blessed to their miritual and everlasting welfare.

I am thankful to say that my visits to the Patients at all times upear to afford great consolation, and I have always received from em every possible degree of respect.

The kind response of the British and Foreign Bible Society to my splication by the gift of two dozen large octavo Bibles for the use of Patients, I feel ought not to be passed over without notice; as no the kindness of Dr. Hitchman, who always renders me every vility for the discharge of my clerical duties.

I have the honour to remain,

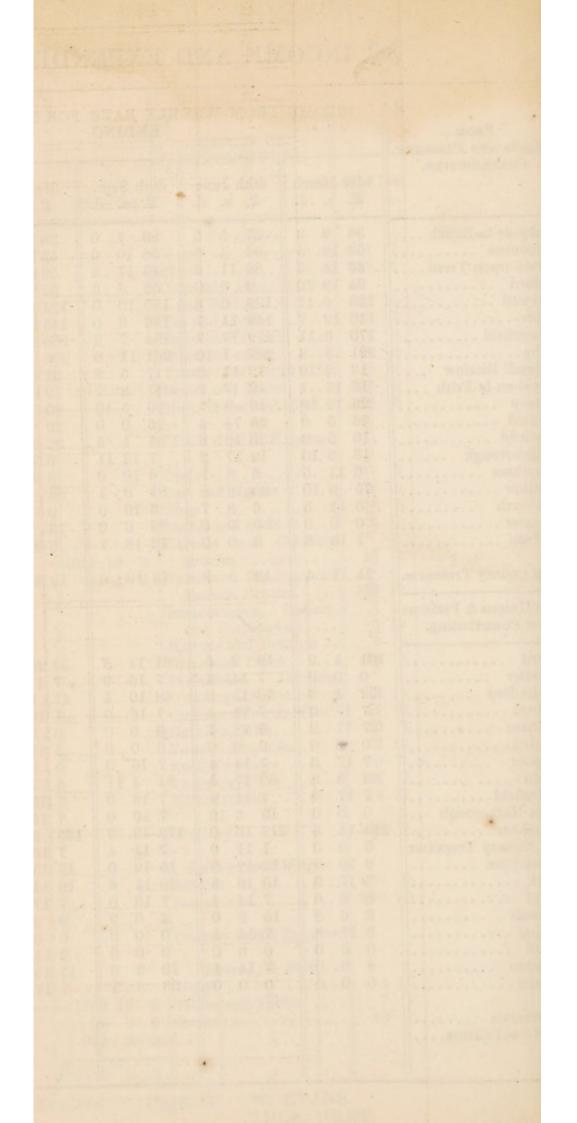
Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

G. FRITCHE.

Examined and Audited, (Signed) W. EVANS, THOS. BENT.	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	RECEIPTS. £. s. d. £ s. d. Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st
чS, ENT. Joнn LangLey, Clerk and Steward.	$ \begin{array}{c} \mbox{Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st De} \\ \mbox{cember, 1854} \dots \dots$	RECEIPTS. L. s. d. L. s. d. PAYMENTS.

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Examined. (Signed) W. EVANS. THOS. BENT. JOHN LANGLEY, CLERK & STEWARD.														

DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE 1st JANUARY TO THE 31st DECEMBER, 1855.



204	Aprons.	
120	Bonnets.	
200	Bolster Cases.	
co	Bed Quilts.	
230	Caps, Women's.	
100	* Ditto, Men's.	
234	Chemises.	
24	Drawers.	
186	Gowns.	
46	Ditto, night.	H
60	Handkerchiefs.	
50	Jackets.	
20	Men's Suits.	
12	Mantles.	
99	Mattress Cases.	
12	Pillow Cases.	
30	Pinafores.	
214	Stocks.	
70	Sheets.	
186	Shirts.	
98	Ditto, Flannel.	
60	Stays.	
18	Shawls.	
36	Shrouds.	
12	Strong Dresses.	
60	Towels.	
60	Trousers.	
24	Table Cloths.	
30	Waistcoats.	

The whole of the Repairs are done in the Asylum.

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RETURN OF CLOTHING AND BEDDING, MADE BY THE FEMALE PATIENTS,

BETWEEN THE 1st JANUARY AND THE 31st DECEMBER, 1855.

AVERAGE WEEKLY COST OF EACH PATIENT.

	s.	d.
Provisions	5	81
House and other Expenses	1	91
Clothing	0	5 1
Salaries and Wages	2	9
Medicines and Extras for Sick	0	2
in a long a grad and		
	10	101

Average Daily Number of Patients, 260.

