

**Fourteenth annual report of the resident physician, &c., of the Belfast District Asylum for the insane poor of the counties of Antrim, Down, and county of the town of Carrickfergus : for the year ending 31st of March, 1844.**

**Contributors**

Belfast District Lunatic Asylum.  
Stewart, Robert.

**Publication/Creation**

Belfast : Printed by Francis D. Finlay, 1844.

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ndumxm6j>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

FOURTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN, &c., OF

The Belfast District Asylum

FOR

THE INSANE POOR

OF THE COUNTIES OF ANTRIM, DOWN, AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN OF  
CARRICKFERGUS,

*For the Year ending 31st of March, 1844.*

---

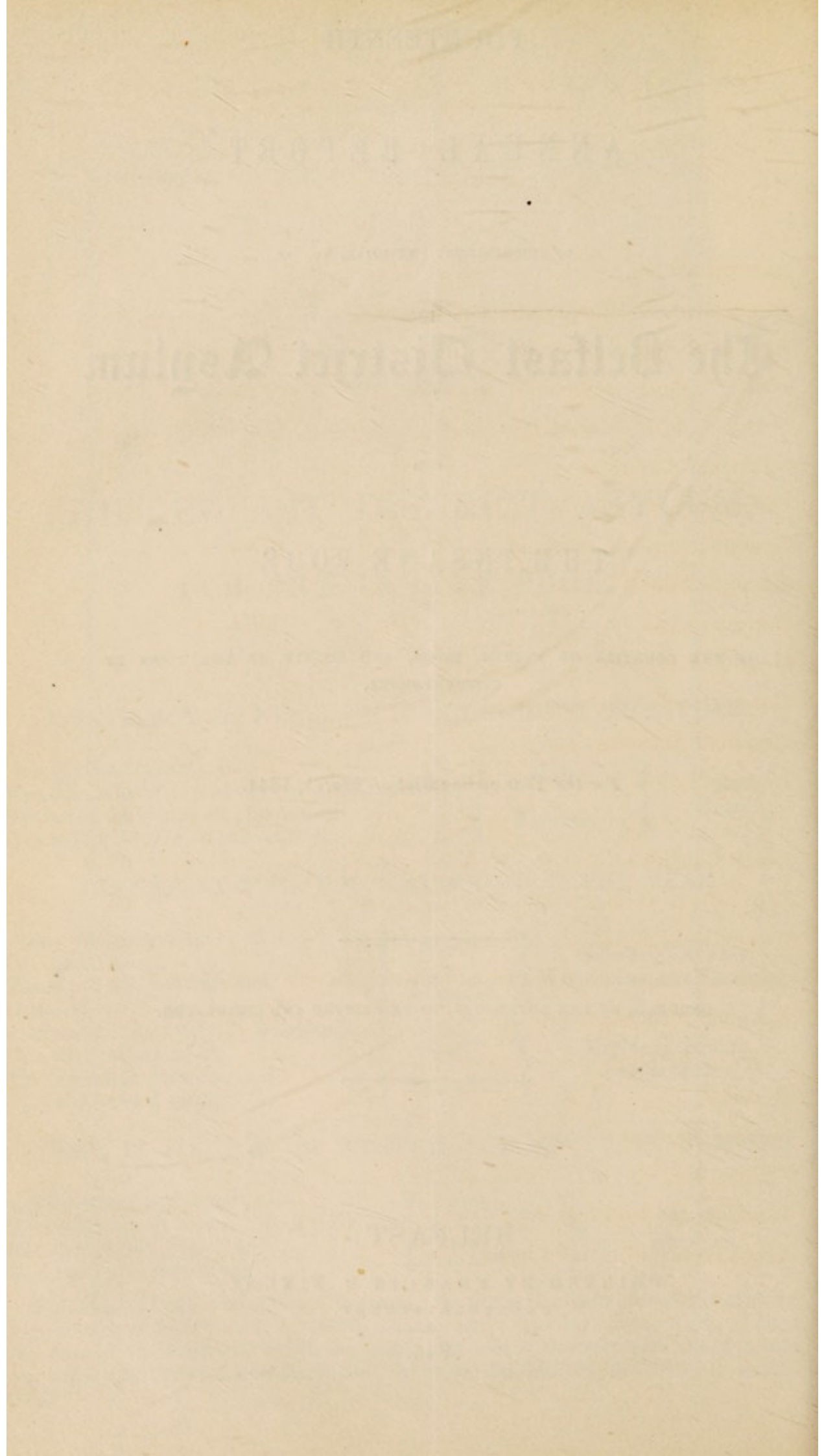
ORDERED, BY THE GOVERNORS, TO BE PRINTED AND CIRCULATED.

---

BELFAST:

PRINTED BY FRANCIS D. FINLAY,  
CALENDER-STREET.

1844.





# CONTENTS OF REPORT.

	Page.
Accommodation, ...	17
Amusements and Employments of Inmates, ...	22
Ages of Patients admitted, ... (Table 1.)	7
Do. do. discharged, recovered, ... (Table 8.)	10
Do. do. deceased, ... (Table 10.)	16
"Criminal Lunatics," ...	10
"Dangerous" do., ...	10
Deaths, immediate causes of, ... (Table 9.)	16
Domestic State, ... (Table 5.)	9
Education, ... (Table 6.)	9
General Management, ...	20
Governors and Office-bearers, ...	5
Health of Inmates, ...	15
Insanity, Causes of, in year's admissions, ... (Table 2.)	8
Do., Forms of, do., ... (Table 3.)	8
Lords' Committee Report, ...	11
Late Rev. A. C. Macartney, &c., ...	28
New General Rules, ...	20
Original Occupations of Patients admitted during the year, (Table 7.)	9
Religious Denominations, ... (Table 4.)	8
Do. Services, ...	18
Restraint, ...	14
Suicidal Patients, ...	12
Visitors, &c., ...	26
Warming and Lighting, &c., ...	25
Year's Expenditure and Financial Average, ...	25



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

# CONTENTS OF APPENDIX.

## STATISTICS CONNECTED WITH THE YEAR'S ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, &c.

	Page.
Admissions and Discharges, ... (Table 11.)	32
Do. do. of each County in District, ... (Table 12.)	32
Period of Illness before Admission, ... (Table 13.)	33
Do. of Residence in Asylum, ... (Table 14.)	33
Duration of Disease, ... (Table 15.)	33
Seasons, Admissions and Discharges in each, ... (Table 16.)	34

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF ASYLUM, SINCE ITS OPENING—DISTRICT ASYLUMS.

Admissions and Discharges of each County, ... (Table 17.)	34
Do. do. of each Season, ... (Table 18.)	35
Religious Denominations, ... (Table 19.)	35
Number remaining, and Average Number in each year, (Table 20.)	35
District Asylums, Counties, &c., contained in, ... (Table 21.)	36
Do., Original Expenditure in, ... (Table 22.)	37

## STATISTICS CONNECTED WITH THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN ASYLUM, ON 31st MARCH, 1844.

Ages, ... (Table 23.)	37
Forms of Disease, ... (Table 24.)	37
Social condition, ... (Table 25.)	38
Religious Denominations, ... (Table 26.)	38
Education, Degree of, ... (Table 27.)	38
Residence in Asylum, ... (Table 28.)	38
Original Occupations, ... (Table 29.)	39
Works and Manufactures, ... (Table 30.)	39
General Employment, ... (Table 31.)	40
Financial Statement, ... (Table 32.)	41
Farm and Garden Produce and Expenditure, ... (Table 33.)	42
Dietary, ...	43

# CONTENTS OF APPENDIX

STATISTICS COMPARED WITH THE YEAR 1890	
31	Administration and Management, ... (Table 11)
32	... of each County in Detail, ... (Table 12)
33	... of each County, ... (Table 13)
34	... of each County, ... (Table 14)
35	... of each County, ... (Table 15)
36	... of each County, ... (Table 16)
GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1890	
37	Administration and Management of each County, ... (Table 17)
38	... of each County, ... (Table 18)
39	... of each County, ... (Table 19)
40	... of each County, ... (Table 20)
41	... of each County, ... (Table 21)
42	... of each County, ... (Table 22)
STATISTICS COMPARED WITH THE YEAR 1890	
43	Administration and Management of each County, ... (Table 23)
44	... of each County, ... (Table 24)
45	... of each County, ... (Table 25)
46	... of each County, ... (Table 26)
47	... of each County, ... (Table 27)
48	... of each County, ... (Table 28)
49	... of each County, ... (Table 29)
50	... of each County, ... (Table 30)
51	... of each County, ... (Table 31)
52	... of each County, ... (Table 32)
53	... of each County, ... (Table 33)
54	... of each County, ... (Table 34)
55	... of each County, ... (Table 35)
56	... of each County, ... (Table 36)
57	... of each County, ... (Table 37)
58	... of each County, ... (Table 38)
59	... of each County, ... (Table 39)
60	... of each County, ... (Table 40)
61	... of each County, ... (Table 41)
62	... of each County, ... (Table 42)
63	... of each County, ... (Table 43)
64	... of each County, ... (Table 44)
65	... of each County, ... (Table 45)
66	... of each County, ... (Table 46)
67	... of each County, ... (Table 47)
68	... of each County, ... (Table 48)
69	... of each County, ... (Table 49)
70	... of each County, ... (Table 50)
71	... of each County, ... (Table 51)
72	... of each County, ... (Table 52)
73	... of each County, ... (Table 53)
74	... of each County, ... (Table 54)
75	... of each County, ... (Table 55)
76	... of each County, ... (Table 56)
77	... of each County, ... (Table 57)
78	... of each County, ... (Table 58)
79	... of each County, ... (Table 59)
80	... of each County, ... (Table 60)
81	... of each County, ... (Table 61)
82	... of each County, ... (Table 62)
83	... of each County, ... (Table 63)
84	... of each County, ... (Table 64)
85	... of each County, ... (Table 65)
86	... of each County, ... (Table 66)
87	... of each County, ... (Table 67)
88	... of each County, ... (Table 68)
89	... of each County, ... (Table 69)
90	... of each County, ... (Table 70)
91	... of each County, ... (Table 71)
92	... of each County, ... (Table 72)
93	... of each County, ... (Table 73)
94	... of each County, ... (Table 74)
95	... of each County, ... (Table 75)
96	... of each County, ... (Table 76)
97	... of each County, ... (Table 77)
98	... of each County, ... (Table 78)
99	... of each County, ... (Table 79)
100	... of each County, ... (Table 80)



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AND MANAGER  
OF THE  
BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM.

---

THE Resident Physician and Manager has the honour of submitting to the Board of Governors of the Belfast District Asylum the following, as the fourteenth annual Report of the Institution, for the year ending 31st March, 1844.

At the termination of the year ended 31st March, 1843, there remained in the Asylum 252 patients, since which period, 114 new cases have been admitted, making together a gross total of 366; of which have been discharged, during the year, as RECOVERED, 68; as RELIEVED, &c., 13; and have DIED, 21; thus leaving on the books, at the close of this year, viz., 31st March, 1844, a total number of 264 inmates, of whom 144 are males, and 120 females.

The admissions were nine less than in 1843 (when they amounted to one hundred and twenty-three.) There were five re-admissions during the year, viz.:—three males and two females. The usual particulars connected with the admissions of the year are as contained in the following tables:—

TABLE I.—AGES.

Ages of the 114 patients admitted during the year:—

				Males.	Females.	Total.
From 10 to 20 years,	...	...	...	3	1	4
Do. 20 to 30 do.,	...	...	...	22	18	40
Do. 30 to 40 do.,	...	...	...	16	10	26
Do. 40 to 50 do.,	...	...	...	14	16	30
Do. 50 to 60 do.,	...	...	...	6	4	10
Do. 60 to 70 do.,	...	...	...	3	1	4
				64	50	114

TABLE II.—CAUSES OF INSANITY.

Causes, as assigned, of mental disorder, in 65 cases out of the 114 admitted, during the year:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Pecuniary embarrassments, ... ..	7	4	11
Abuse of intoxicating liquors, ... ..	6	4	10
Perverted views on religious subjects, ... ..	5	0	5
Grief—disappointments,... ..	3	4	7
* Hereditary disposition,... ..	5	2	7
General poverty, ... ..	4	0	4
Bodily ailments, ... ..	2	1	3
Domestic disagreements, ... ..	1	2	3
Injury of the head, ... ..	1	2	3
Sudden fright, ... ..	0	2	2
Epilepsy, ... ..	2	0	2
Puerperal affections, ... ..	0	2	2
Abuse of calomel, ... ..	1	0	1
Over-bodily exertion, ... ..	2	1	3
Irregular habits, ... ..	1	0	1
Sedentary employment, ... ..	0	1	1
	—	—	—
	40	25	65
Gradual approach, and cases in which no particular cause could be ascertained,	24	25	49
	—	—	—
	64	50	114

TABLE III.—FORM OF DISEASE.

Form of mental disorder in the 114 cases admitted, during the year:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Mania (or general insanity), ... ..	47	33	80
Mono-mania (or partial insanity), ... ..	16	16	32
Dementia (or general incoherency), ... ..	1	1	2
	—	—	—
	64	50	114

TABLE IV.—RELIGION.

Religious denominations to which the 114 patients, admitted during the year, belonged:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Established Church, ... ..	13	11	24
Roman Catholics, ... ..	20	13	33
Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters,	31	26	57
	—	—	—
	64	50	114

\* There are at present in the Asylum five cases, in the following degrees of relationship, viz.:—three of brothers, one of sisters, and one of mother and daughter.



TABLE V.—DOMESTIC STATE.

Domestic state of the 114 patients admitted, during the year :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Married, ... ..	21	22	43
Widowers and Widows, ... ..	3	5	8
Unmarried, ... ..	40	23	63
	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 114

TABLE VI.—EDUCATION.

Degree of education of the 114 patients admitted, during the year :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Ordinarily well educated, ... ..	2	0	2
Capable of reading and writing, ... ..	48	16	64
Do. reading, ... ..	12	28	40
Totally uneducated, ... ..	2	6	8
	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 114

TABLE VII.—OCCUPATION.

Occupation of the 114 patients admitted, during the year :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Basket-maker, ... ..	1	0	1
Blacksmith, ... ..	3	0	3
Bleacher, ... ..	1	0	1
Carpenter, ... ..	1	0	1
Coachmaker, ... ..	1	0	1
Cooper, ... ..	1	0	1
Dealers, ... ..	4	0	4
Domestic Servants, ... ..	1	10	11
Dressmakers, ... ..	0	2	2
Embroiderers, ... ..	0	5	5
Farmers, ... ..	8	0	8
Gardener's Apprentice, ... ..	1	0	1
Knitters, Spinners, Sewers, ... ..	0	11	11
Labourers, ... ..	12	0	12
Pensioner, ... ..	1	0	1
Saddler, ... ..	1	0	1
Sailor, ... ..	1	0	1
Schoolmasters, ... ..	2	0	2
Shoemakers, ... ..	5	0	5
Soldier, ... ..	1	0	1
Stonemason, ... ..	1	0	1
Strawplatter, ... ..	0	1	1
Watchmaker, ... ..	1	0	1
Weavers, ... ..	11	0	11
Winders to do., ... ..	1	1	2
Writing Clerks, ... ..	2	0	2
Without any known occupation, ... ..	3	20	23
	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 114



TABLE VIII.—AGES.

Ages of the 68 patients discharged recovered, during the year :—

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
From 10 to 20 years,	...	...	...	4	3	7
From 20 to 30 do.,	...	...	...	11	6	17
From 30 to 40 do.,	...	...	...	9	3	12
From 40 to 50 do.,	...	...	...	14	9	23
From 50 to 60 do.,	...	...	...	3	4	7
From 60 to 70 do.,	...	...	...	1	1	2
				—	—	—
				42	26	68

CASES RECEIVED AS “DANGEROUS LUNATICS,” UNDER  
1 VICTORIA.

The cases admitted from the gaols of the district, during the year, as “dangerous lunatics,” under the provisions of the Act 1 Victoria, chapter 27, amounted to fourteen—ten males and four females—which are included in the year’s new admissions.

“CRIMINAL LUNATICS.”

One case only coming under the above legal denomination was placed in the Asylum during the past year, viz.,—that of a young man transmitted to it, in August last, from County Down Gaol, who had been tried the previous Summer Assizes, on a charge of assault, and threatening to take the life of an immediate member of his own family, but acquitted thereof, on the ground of insanity. Since his inmateship, however, commenced, no symptom, whatever, of unsoundness of mind has manifested itself; on the contrary, his habits and general conduct have been perfectly rational, in consequence of which, as well as owing to the extremely crowded state of the Institution, on the male side, and so many cases (of an acute nature) waiting for admission, but unable to be accommodated, for want of room, an application was duly made to the Lord Lieutenant, for his discharge; but such not having been granted, he, as a matter of course, remains in the Asylum.

There are now, altogether, on the books, eight cases of “criminal lunatics,” viz.,—three males and five females, all of whom, with the above exception, have been in confinement in the establishment, for periods varying from four to nine years; and the majority of whom are, and have been throughout, apparently sound in mind. Five of the eight, viz.,—one male and four females, committed homicidal acts; the remaining three, viz.,—two males



and one female,—violent assaults, each and all escaping the penal consequences of crime, on the ground of insanity, at the expense, however, of a deprivation of their civil rights, by confinement, for life, in the Asylum, be their sanity, subsequently, perfect as it may.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF HOUSE OF LORDS ON CRIMINAL  
LUNATICS, &C.

The inconvenience and great anomaly of making Institutions, set apart for the treatment of mental disease, places of imprisonment, merely, as they virtually are, in such cases as the above, having been dwelt upon, in former reports, to some extent, the subject would not, on the present occasion, be more than incidentally referred to, but that, happily, since the last annual report was printed, circumstances have arisen which lead to a well grounded hope, that, before long, the District Asylums in Ireland will be altogether exonerated from so serious a charge, as that of confining “criminal lunatics” within their walls. The circumstances referred to are, that a special Committee of the House of Lords was appointed, towards the close of the last Session, to take into consideration the state of the lunatic poor in Ireland, from which a report emanated, containing much valuable information, statistical, and otherwise connected with the several subjects brought under its notice, and a copy of which was, in November last, transmitted, by the Irish Government, to this Asylum, in common with all the other District Asylums, with the view of obtaining the opinions and suggestions of the respective Governors on the several propositions with which the report in question concluded. The following is a copy of those propositions, together with an abstract of the Board’s reply to the same :—

“The Committee are desirous of impressing on the House, as the result of their inquiries, the following propositions, on which they have formed the strongest opinions :—

“1.—The necessity of discontinuing, as soon as practicable, the Commitments of Lunatics to Gaols and Bridewells.

“2.—The necessity of amending the Act of the 1st Victoria, cap. 27, which appears, on the Authority of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, to have led to the most serious Abuse.

“3.—The Inexpediency of appropriating the Union Workhouses, as Places either for the Custody or the Treatment of the Insane, for both which purposes they appear wholly unsuited.



"4.—The Necessity of providing One Central Establishment, for Criminal Lunatics, under the immediate Control and Direction of the Government of Ireland, to be supported by the same funds, and under the system adopted, in respect to Criminal Lunatics, in England.

"5.—The Necessity of increasing the accommodation for Pauper Lunatics, in Ireland, and of providing for the cases of Epilepsy, Idiocy, and Chronic Disease, by an increased number of the District Asylums, by an enlargement of those Asylums, or by the erection of Separate Establishments, specially appropriated for these Classes of Patients."

The Board, in their reply to Government, fully approved of the first four of the above propositions, more especially, the second and fourth ; and, with reference to the fifth, recommended the making of extensive additions to the existing Asylums, or the erection of new establishments (as might be deemed most expedient), for the accommodation of the patients therein specified, provided that the funds necessary for the erection and maintenance of such additional Asylums, as it contemplated, could be raised, without adding to the existing burdens of the owners and occupiers of land in Ireland. The Board, also, availed themselves of that opportunity, as the most fitting one, of deliberately and strongly recommending to Government, that, for the future, as vacancies arose amongst the Managers or Superintendents of the Asylums generally, that none but Medical men, of high moral character, and known professional attainments, should be selected for the discharge of the duties of so grave and important an office.

#### SUICIDAL PATIENTS.

Next to the anxieties and harassings which arise from the custodizing of "criminal lunatics," especially when *sane*, there is no part of the accustomed duty of a Superintendent of the insane, and his immediate assistants, more painfully responsible, or continually onerous, than that connected with the care and management of self-destructively disposed patients.

The almost insuperable difficulty of guarding against the artifices which this irresistible propensity would appear to give its unhappy subjects such extraordinary facility in devising, and determination of purpose in putting into practice, is alone known to those entrusted with their charge ; what follows may suffice, in proof of this assertion. On a remote occasion, an inmate amongst the males, whose intellect apparently had become all but obliterated, and who never evinced much, if any, of a suicidal disposition, having taken a metal stud off his coat, contrived to



put an edge on it, nearly as sharp as that of a razor, by rubbing it against the flags of the airing court he was accustomed to exercise in, concealing which in his mouth, he thus cunningly brought it into bed with him. The attendant in charge of the division this patient slept in, on going through its dormitory, to satisfy himself that all was right for the night, observed some appearance of blood on his bed-clothes, which naturally led him to make a particular examination of the cause, when he discovered that the man in question had made a pretty large and deep gash in the bend of the arm, with a view of opening a vein, and bleeding himself to death ; a vein had thus been succeeded in being partially opened, and blood, to some extent, though not so largely as to endanger life, flowed from the wound effected as described. Now, had not this discovery been made with this case when it was, it is not at all improbable but that he would have accomplished his purpose ; and yet, what watchfulness or foresight, it is confidently asked, could have prevented such an occurrence taking place ? The patient, afterwards, fully acknowledged what he had done, and his object ; and, strange to relate, this man, whose mental condition appeared, as has been stated, all but hopeless, ultimately recovered his reason, and that quite perfectly, being enabled to resume his accustomed place in society ; and, to the present time, it is believed, fulfil its duties steadily and satisfactorily. The foregoing instance is merely given as one out of many that might be adduced from this, and every other Asylum, of the amazing craft and ingenuity displayed by the suicidally disposed, in endeavouring to effect their object.

None of the patients of the above class, twelve of whom, viz.,— five males and seven females,—were admitted during the year, attempted to injure themselves, since being received, although one and all had made sundry efforts to do so, before coming to the Asylum ; nor was any physical restraint had recourse to, in accomplishing this desideratum, with any of them, except in one instance, that of a female, now an inmate nearly three months, who occasionally has to be muffed, being not only suicidally, but also homicidally, disposed, to a degree causing the utmost anxiety, and whose constant cry is, that she is “ burning in hell.” A male patient, however, of a former year’s admission, with a strong suicidal impulse, but which was supposed to have nearly, if not altogether, subsided, made a most unexpected and determined attempt to



destroy himself, six months back, by means of strangulation. He, for some time previously, employed himself regularly at shoe-making, to which trade he belonged. Other patients worked in the same room with him, all being superintended by a responsible servant. The day on which he made the attempt, he appeared in his usual settled state of spirits, and had just closed two pairs of shoes, when he left his bench, and went out to an adjoining passage, as he was in the habit of doing, at intervals, to walk about. He had not been absent more than five or six minutes, when another patient, happening to go into the passage in question, suddenly exclaimed, that this patient was destroying himself. On going to his assistance, it was found he had, by means of his cravat, simply, which he always wore in a loose and careless manner, deliberately suspended himself from a low door in the passage, his feet not being more than eight inches from the ground, and never, it appeared, making the least struggle, or any other motion, from the moment he suspended himself, so determinedly purposed was he to effect his object. On being cut down, he was found to be in a state of complete asphyxia, from which, however, by appropriate remedies being immediately had recourse to, he gradually recovered, and the following day was quite collected, and otherwise nearly as well as usual; but he never could be gotten to admit what he had done; and, to the present time, gives inconceivable trouble in watching him, the suicidal propensity being still unsubdued. A somewhat remarkable circumstance, in connexion with this case, was, that another patient, also suicidally disposed, a Surgeon by profession, gave very important assistance in the emergency of the moment, and took the greatest possible interest in the result, though, hitherto, quite listless and apathetic as to all going on about him, and into which state he again lapsed, after the excitement of the day's occurrence had subsided.

#### RESTRAINT.

Connected with this important point in the moral management and discipline of the patients, there is nothing further to be added to what has already been stated in former Reports, viz.,—that the imposing of physical restraint, in this establishment, continues now, as heretofore, to form the exception to the rule of that total freedom from any thing of the kind which, it is well known, so very generally exists amongst, and is enjoyed



by, its inmates. Occasional instances, however, occur, in which temporary recourse to partial or close mechanical confinement, of determinedly refractory and viciously disposed patients, becomes a bounden duty; but such, of course, is never employed, except it have been directed by the Resident Superintendent himself, none of the attendants being permitted, of their own mere motion, or without proper authority, to place any patient in their charge under instrumental restraint, or otherwise to act with the least degree of harshness or severity towards them, upon pain of being heavily fined, if not summarily dismissed; and, indeed, it must be mentioned, as a matter much to their (the attendants') credit, that, at all times, the utmost forbearance is exercised on their parts, and this, too, even when placed under circumstances peculiarly trying, and eminently calculated to call into activity all the angry passions of our common nature.

#### HEALTH OF INMATES.

The general health enjoyed by the patients, during the past year, was, as hitherto, on the whole, most excellent; and no contagious or epidemic disease, happily, presented itself in the establishment, throughout the entire year.

It may, in this place, be stated, that, amongst the admissions of the year was one, that of a married female, aged 21, taken under treatment three weeks ago, from the Union Workhouse, at Ballymena, whose case has been, to the present time, rather remarkable in its character. She is apparently the subject of an affection resembling catalepsy; place the body or a limb, for instance, in any particular position, and it will remain fixed in the same for some little time. She has spoken scarcely at all since admission; and when she has, it has only been monosyllabically. She is quite insensible to all the calls of nature; takes liquid food when presented to her, sometimes pretty well, but more frequently with great difficulty; for the last week, however, she has been taking it more freely, but always by spoon-feeding; and is supported, principally, by gruel, seasoned with wine, whisky, &c.; emaciation of the body is not observable; on the contrary, the muscles, those of the chest, in particular, are plump, and not at all flaccid; her pulse, at periods, is scarcely to be felt, but at others, is pretty firm and distinct; respiration is natural; countenance placid, and the complexion of a healthy and florid



hue. The fear, at first, was, her sinking from the effects of inanition ; but, at present, this is not apprehended ; and, altogether, she is not losing ground, but rather improving. Nothing satisfactory could be ascertained of the particulars of her case, prior to being transmitted to the Asylum, except, merely, that she had been the subject of "insanity" for three months, the supposed cause of which was "misfortune."

#### DEATHS DURING THE YEAR.

The total number of deaths, embraced in the period of this report, amounted to twenty-one, being three more than the preceding year, when they amounted to eighteen ; but this increase on the year's mortality, as compared with 1843, is, in point of fact, very trifling, the average daily number of cases in the house, viz., 253.15, being greater than that of last year, which was only 249.44. It may be observed, that four of the cases died within three weeks after admission ; two between one and two months ; five between three and five months ; three between two and three years ; four under five years ; two between five and ten years ; and one after fourteen years residence in the Asylum.

TABLE IX.—SHEWING THE CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 21 PATIENTS WHO DIED DURING THE YEAR.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Died of general Debility,	...	...	5	2	7
" Epileptic Exhaustion,	...	...	2	1	3
" Maniacal do.,	...	...	0	2	2
" General Paralysis,	...	...	1	1	2
" Pulmonary Consumption,	...	...	1	1	2
" Inanition,	...	...	1	1	2
" Anasarca,	...	...	1	0	1
" Hydro-thorax,	...	...	1	0	1
" Cynanche tonsillaris,	...	...	1	0	1
			—	—	—
			13	8	21

TABLE X.—AGES OF THE 21 PATIENTS WHO DIED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1844.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 20 years,	...	...	...	0	1	1
20 to 30,	...	...	...	4	5	9
30 to 40,	...	...	...	4	1	5
40 to 50,	...	...	...	1	0	1
50 to 60,	...	...	...	2	1	3
60 to 70,	...	...	...	2	0	2
				—	—	—
				13	8	21



The average age of males, in the mortality casualties of the year, was thirty-eight and a-half years nearly; and that of females, about twenty-nine years; the total average amounted to a little less than thirty-five years.

#### ACCOMMODATION.

During the entire year, the accommodation, on the male side of the establishment, has been insufficient to meet, at once, the applications for admission; and this, notwithstanding the providing of additional beds in different dormitories, which were already sufficiently full, for convenience sake. At present there are nine outstanding male cases, which must only be received as vacancies arise, and according to the pressing urgency of each. The female department of the establishment has not been so greatly in requisition (though generally well filled also); and all of that class have been enabled to be taken in without any delay. From the increasing wants of the District, it is now pretty evident, that steps must promptly be taken to provide due accommodation for the same; but whether, by enlarging the Asylum, or erecting a Provincial one, agreeably to the recommendation of the 5th Proposition of the Lords' Committee, is, of course, for the Authorities to determine upon. It is deserving of particular observation, that if all the incurable cases were withdrawn from this Institution, not much more than sixty would be left within its walls, fully two hundred of its present inmates being cases not likely, humanly speaking, ever again to take their place in life's busy scene. The Asylum, added to as it already has been, does not appear well circumstanced for the making of any further addition, at least without greatly interfering with its uniformity, cheerfulness, &c. With the enlarged numbers now under treatment, its accommodation, in several most important respects, is indifferent to a degree; the Laundry and Kitchen departments, for instance, originally planned but for 104 inmates, are now required to have work done in them for 264, being 160 more than at first intended for. The Laundry, in particular, is most unsuited for the important domestic duties of that department; one at least double its size, with the requisite fittings (which, at the outset, were far from being complete), is absolutely necessary for executing the increased washing of linen, &c., as well as giving proper employment to the female inmates. Many other points of detail, also, which are unnecessary here to enumerate,



would require being attended to, for the greater usefulness, comfort, and good working of the establishment, amongst which, however, should not be omitted to be mentioned Infirmary wards—one on the male side, and another on the female—for the more convenient attendance upon sick and debilitated patients, instead of having such throughout the building, as, under present circumstances, is unavoidably the case. That wards, of this description, should not have been provided for, in the original construction of the Asylums generally, in erecting which, such immense sums were expended, appears to have been an extraordinary oversight, but not more so than other defects and deficiencies equally manifest and unaccountable.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The system which has been in operation, these some years past, in this Institution, and particularized in former reports, for the religious improvement of those of its inmates who are considered at all capable of receiving such, continues in regular operation, and with the same good effects, apparently, as hitherto. That system is one which the Governors, generally, have fully approved of; and which, under all the circumstances of the case, appears as well calculated, as the nature of things will admit of, to accomplish the end had in view,—the praise of the Creator, and the spiritual welfare of the patients. The duration of the Sunday's religious exercises is necessarily short, varying from half to three quarters of an hour, as a longer period would not be likely to command the attention of a congregation so peculiar and heterogeneous in its component parts. Were it only to make a distinction between Sunday and the ordinary days of the week, the performance of a stated social religious service, it is conceived, is productive of good, by keeping up in the minds of the patients a reverence and respect for that sacred day, by thus endeavouring, practically, to fulfil the command,—“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy;” and which the patients, themselves, for the most part, are disposed to do, in some manner or other. Whether it is positively beneficial for the inmates of those Institutions wherein regular congregational services are statedly performed by duly appointed chaplains, is a question which the proper object of a report forbids to discuss; truth, however, requires it to be stated, that, unhappily, proof is too frequently afforded, that



the exercise of religion, or of religious services in general, produces but little good effect, if any, of a permanent kind, on the minds of the mentally afflicted. It must, also, be remarked, that the exercise of any form of religious worship, be it social or congregational, within the walls of an Hospital for the Insane, requires the greatest caution ; and, further, that where circumstances will admit of the Superintendent undertaking "this work of faith, and labour of love," as a Christian duty, on himself to perform, that he, acquainted as he necessarily is, with each patient's particular delusion, and exercising, too, as he does and must, a moral influence and control over their minds, which none but himself can do, in any degree, to the same extent, will, of all others, be the most likely to apply the "balm" of comfort, and "pour in oil and wine," with effect, on the wounded hearts of those who are labouring under so grievous and deplorable a visitation as insanity, present itself how it may, in any of its protean forms. On the subject of religious truths being brought before insane patients by Clergymen, the late Dr. Cheyne, Physician-General, a practitioner who had been alike eminent for professional abilities of the highest order, as for true Christian piety and benevolence, has laid it down as an axiom, in a recent posthumous work of "Essays" of much value, and deserving not only of being generally read, but carefully studied :—"That Clergymen (to whom the author's essays are particularly addressed) have little to hope for in placing divine truth before a melancholic or hypochondriacal patient, until the bodily disease with which the mental delusion is connected is cured or relieved." \*

Before leaving this subject of the Report, it may not be amiss again to repeat what has been already stated in former Annual Reports, that the patients are never debarred the comfort and consolation of being visited by their respective Ministers, provided that their state of mental health will admit of such, without fear of any excitement, of an injurious description, being caused thereby ; and, likewise, that convalescent inmates are, from time to time, allowed to attend public worship (in charge, of course, of a responsible attendant of the Institution), on their expressing a desire to do so, and that such can be prudently acceded to.

---

\* Essays on partial derangement of the mind, in supposed connexion with religion, by John Cheyne, M.D., F.R.S.E., M.R.I.A. Curry : Dublin, 1843.



## GENERAL MANAGEMENT.—NEW GENERAL RULES.

There is necessarily so much of sameness in the general arrangements, economy, and daily routine of duties, going forward in these Institutions, that there is seldom any thing partaking of the character of novelty to call particular attention to; for, with much truth, it may be stated, that "One day telleth another," in all the more essential details thereof. So far, therefore, as this one is individually concerned, all matters, in the general treatment of the patients, and management of the Asylum, continue to be conducted in that manner, which the experience of many years has proved to work well, and afford, it is humbly hoped, satisfaction in its results. The only remarkable event which has occurred since last Report was published, and which has been, at all, out of the usual course of things, is in the circumstance of a new code of "General Rules and Regulations" for the due management of the District Asylums throughout Ireland, having been issued by the authority of the Lord Lieutenant and Council, and directed accordingly to be put in operation in each; but, inasmuch as this Asylum had, for years previously, been acting quite in accordance with the spirit of those rules—a spirit wholesome and excellent in many important respects—no other change almost was requisite to carry them fully out in it, further than formally acknowledging the Manager as a regular medical officer; for though hitherto giving what professional services he could, in co-operation with his able and esteemed brother-officer, Dr. Thomson, the visiting Physician, he did not do so appointedly; but being now in the duly recognized character, also, of Resident Physician, the affairs of the establishment, in its general conduct and discipline, continue to go on, as usual, that is to say, that the treatment, in ordinary, of the patients, remains fully vested in the hands of the Resident Physician—the attending Physician continuing to visit statedly, as before; on which occasions, both officers co-operate and consult together, for the general benefit of the establishment.

It may only further be remarked, on the subject, generally, of the rules in question, and what it is conceived, too, must at once strike even those not practically acquainted with the details of Institutions so peculiarly circumstanced as those for the insane are, that that official who is considered the chief one of the establishment (which the medical officer now is), and who is, consequently, and most properly too, clothed with superior and



the fullest powers for carrying out its general treatment, and, accordingly, the life and soul, the mainspring, of the Institution, should reside amongst his patients, in order to do them common justice ; as the making of visits merely, whether daily or more frequently, whether at certain or uncertain periods, by a non-resident chief, cannot, and will not, it is respectfully, but confidently, affirmed, afford that justice or supply that influence which alone can be done, by the "chief" residing in the establishment—a personal influence, moreover, which is absolutely requisite to keep up that *esprit de corps*, so essential for the good working of any ordinary Institution, but particularly so of an Asylum ; for, if the inmates, to say nothing of the domestics, of a Lunatic Hospital, once imagine that the officer immediately placed over them is subject to the control of another officer, and that officer an extern too, or trammelled down, directly or indirectly, by the exercise only of a merely secondary power, which, be it known, they will very soon become acquainted with,—a fatal blow, it is more than to be feared, will be given to the welfare and prosperity of the establishment, throughout its whole ramifications. The public at large have but little conception of the difficulties inseparably connected with the discharge of the seriously onerous duties of the resident officer of an Asylum, duties which, truly it may be said, are unceasing, by night as well as by day ; and the only way in which those duties can be discharged, either satisfactorily or effectively, will be by giving that officer the most encouraging support, and vesting him, when a medical man, with co-ordinate powers with the attending physician, in the purely medical treatment of the patients, but with undivided power and responsibility in all that relates to their hourly—their general—management, which latter he alone can possibly be competent to direct, by being on the spot : this is a point so very obvious, that it need not be dwelt upon more at length in this place.

Hitherto, the Irish Asylums have been quite differently managed, as compared with the principal public Hospitals for the Insane in England and Scotland, as well as on the Continent, in which Physicians or Surgeons, of high character, are alone eligible to fill the important and responsible office of Superintendent, in the conducting of the medical and moral treatment ; but, in Ireland, it has been quite otherwise (until now that a step in advance



rather has been taken); as, from the first establishing of the District Lunatic Asylums, the system on which they were based was to make the moral treatment\* of the patients the *ne plus ultra*; and to confide the same to resident non-professional "Managers"† as their chief officers, and the medical treatment to non-resident Physicians, whose duty solely consisted in visiting twice or thrice a week, to prescribe for cases actually the subjects of bodily sickness; thus leaving Institutions situated, on an average, a mile, at least, from their respective towns, and with inmates in each, varying from one hundred and fifty to three hundred, without any regular medical assistance whatsoever, in the event of any sudden emergency occurring, to require the same, which, in such Institutions especially, must and often does arise. But the new rules referred to have now altered the system, by assimilating it to the Asylums in Great Britain, &c., so far as placing the moral and medical treatment in the hands of one officer, but with this great and striking difference, that the officer charged with so serious and important a trust is a non-resident.

#### AMUSEMENTS AND EMPLOYMENTS OF THE PATIENTS.

In every reasonable manner, the amusements of the patients, as well as their being properly employed, is endeavoured to be attended to. Such of them as can read are furnished with newspapers, periodicals, &c. Sometimes they have a dance, with music,—one amongst themselves, on such occasions, playing the violin

---

\* In Dr. Cheyne's work, already quoted in this report, the following very sensible and judicious observations appear on the mistaken views which have been too prevalent, touching the "all importance" of merely moral treatment :—

" The writer avails himself of this opportunity of expressing his conviction, that an opinion which obtained, a good many years ago, and is still prevalent and influential, relative to the all importance of the moral government of the insane, has prevented improvements, founded upon Pathology, in the treatment of that class of sufferers, which might, ere this, have been introduced into general practice. Whereas, if the principles which he wishes to establish were to be acted upon, more intimate attention would be paid to the disorder of the body, which supports the derangement of the mind, and more frequent removal of the latter might be expected.

" It must not be inferred from this, that the writer wishes to discountenance all attempts to benefit the insane by moral discipline. All that he insists on is, that its right place should be assigned to this mode of treatment."

† Except in two instances, it is believed—this Institution and the one at Clonmel, of which latter, a Physician, also (Dr. Flynn), is the able Resident Superintendent.



or the piano-forte, which latter instrument was gotten, during the last year, and affords a very agreeable recreation. As to the regular employment of the patients, that, in the open air, on the spacious grounds of the Institution is the chief, and is, beyond doubt, the most conducive, of all others, towards ameliorating and improving, if not restoring, their mental, as well as continuing their bodily, health. The out-door occupations comprise Gardening, in all its branches; Arboriculture, Horticulture, and general farming. All the farming work is done by means of spade labour, no ploughing being had recourse to on the land, thus giving employment to a greater number, besides increasing the produce of the soil. And here it is worthy of remark, that, during the fourteen years the Asylum has been in operation, the agricultural patients have been entrusted, throughout, with every kind of ordinary farming and gardening implements (as, also, those who are tradesmen, with their respective tools), and no accident or other untoward event has ever occurred from so doing. Some thorough-draining, as an experiment, according to the plan recommended by Mr. Smith, of Deanston, has been executed by the patients, during the past year; and more is purposed to be done, when opportunity serves, the ensuing season. No ground requires draining more than that upon which the Institution stands, the soil being naturally cold, stiff, and retentive, consequently not the most productive; however, by labouring and draining it, great improvement may, in the course of time, be reasonably expected. Were stones to be had on the ground, the draining could be effected with little expense; but, as it happens, it is altogether free of any; however, as the stones are gotten in the rough state merely, and afterwards broken by the patients into the proper size, the expense will thus be considerably lessened.

The avocations of the females are, of course, principally within doors, and of as varied a nature as circumstances will admit of. As far as possible, the inmates, generally, are endeavoured to be employed in such manner as formerly had been usual with them, or otherwise as agreeably to their own wishes as can be done; all capable of being employed are so, and upwards of two hundred are engaged in some useful work, in-door or out-door, the greater number of whom are induced to follow some pursuit without much trouble comparatively, but not a few, if left alto-



gether to the bent of their own wishes, would spend their time doing nothing whatever, though physically strong and healthy. Several of the chronic cases, in particular, carry on a merely animal or vegetative state of existence, so to speak,—they eat and sleep, but have no idea of any thing beyond these, being utterly dead, as it were, to all the ordinary impulses and sympathies of human nature ; and many of this class, if left to themselves, would remain in utter nudity, even in the extremest cold, so completely insensible are they apparently to all outward impressions, and, especially so, to the sense of feeling.

But, besides out-door employments amongst the males, it will be observed, by referring to the “Table of Employment,” in the appendix to this Report, that several are engaged in handicraft pursuits, viz.,—shoe-making, which is carried on pretty largely ; tailoring, carpentry, joinery, smith-work, painting, &c. In the latter department, the establishment has been embellished and beautified to a considerable extent, by one of its older inmates, who, though never having served his time as a painter, or received any but the most casual instruction in that art, wields the brush with the greatest taste and skill. Some of his imitation wood-work has been greatly admired and praised ; as, also, his imitations of stained glass. In his own estimation he is a very exalted character—no less than a Prince of the blood-royal ; and if addressed, even by the Superintendent, by his ordinary name, he will immediately, and often sharply, correct his want of due respect for his dignity, by telling him the right and courtly appellation, viz.,—“Your Royal Highness ;” with the addition, sometimes, of “Prince Napoleon Buonaparte.” The Superintendent, however, and his respected colleague, Dr. Thomson, he has been graciously pleased to elevate to positions, by no means despicable, amongst mortals, considering the one an Emperor, and the other a King ! In general smith-work, the Institution, during the past year, has also been benefited and saved not a little in the way of expense, by an inmate, admitted during the year, who makes himself very useful in that line, and who, in order to carry on his trade the more completely, made, some months since, a very substantial and efficient pair of forging bellows ; his delusions, however, are, at times, rather dangerous for their continuous good working, as he fancies they are filled with, to use his own expression, “dead men’s



bones;" and, accordingly, is very desirous, now and again, of cutting into their interior, in order to convince himself to the contrary; and, if not, to withdraw occupants which in no degree add to his comfort or satisfaction in using them.

#### WARMING AND LIGHTING OF DAY-ROOMS, &c.

The steam-boiler which was erected, two years since, for preparing the patients' food, as well as for laundry purposes, drying clothes inclusive, together with heating some of the day-rooms, continues to give every reasonable satisfaction. From the opportunity which has now been afforded of testing the two methods of warming the day-rooms, viz., that by means of hot-water pipes, and that by pipes conveying steam, the latter undoubtedly appears deserving of the preference, both as regards economy and efficiency. A very serious drawback in the hot-water system of heating arises from the circumstance of there being no certain means always at command of making repairs on the apparatus, in the event of any contingency arising to require the same, as no tradesman, in town, can undertake to do so, the apparatus being protected by a patent, so that none but persons authorized by, and under the direction of, the patentees can interfere with it, the presence of whom, in or about Belfast, may or may not be the case. At the present time, one of the boilers happens to be out of working order, some of its coils having been burnt through, and remains useless, there being no means, for the reasons stated, of having it adjusted, which is an inconvenience by no means inconsiderable in its way.

The lighting of the establishment generally with Gas continues to be found productive of the greatest comfort, cleanliness, and safety. The air of cheerfulness this brilliant light imparts to the day-rooms and corridors, during the long and gloomy Winter evenings especially, cannot too highly be estimated, particularly in such an Institution, where every help towards dispelling gloom of all kinds is of the utmost importance. The original fittings, it is satisfactory to state, merit the fullest approbation, having been executed by the fitter, Mr. Aldritt, in a manner so complete and serviceable, as hitherto not to have given any or the least cause for complaint.

#### YEAR'S EXPENDITURE AND AVERAGES.

The total sum expended in carrying out the benevolent purposes of the Institution, during the year now terminated, it will



be seen, by referring to the regular financial return accompanying this Report, amounted to £3,267 16s ; making the cost per head per annum, on the total expenditure, £12 18s 2d ; and the cost per head per diem, do., 8½d., on the average daily number of patients during the year, which was 253.15.

The total expenditure, in food only, during the year,				
amounted to	...	...	...	£1,462 11 11
Making the cost per head per annum, in food,	...			5 15 6½
And the cost per head per diem, in food,	...			0 0 3¾
The total expenditure in clothing was	...			307 5 9
The cost per head per annum, in clothing,	...			1 4 3¼
The total expenditure in Salaries and Servants'				
Wages was	...	...	...	659 2 6
And the cost per head per annum in Salaries and				
Servants' Wages, ...	...	...	...	2 12 0¾

The total expenditure of last year was to the amount of £3,720 11s 9d, the average cost of each patient being £14 18s 4d, shewing, accordingly, a decrease of £453 2s 9d on the present ; or £2 0s 2d on the average cost of each inmate. Cheapness of provisions, the practising of as much economy as possible, together with no necessity having arisen for any extraordinary outlay being incurred during the year in the Institution, furnished each its respective quota in effecting the above stated decrease in the year's entire discharge.

#### VISITERS.

In connexion with the past year's history of the Institution, not the least interesting feature is, perhaps, the circumstance of several strangers, from a distance, and of celebrity, having visited its premises ; amongst whom may be mentioned the names of Dr. A. Combe, consulting physician to the King and Queen of the Belgians ; Dr. Howe, of Boston, United States (well known for the interesting account he has written of that remarkable character, "Laura Bridgman"), and Robert Cox, Esq., of Edinburgh, individuals eminent not only for their professional and literary attainments, but, also, for their philanthropy. Doctor Combe, amongst other works of general interest and high character, is the author of one on "Mental Derangement," the practical and important contents of which are considerably enhanced in value, from the fact of his having made himself personally acquainted with the management of the insane, by visiting the principal Hospitals for their care and treatment, not only in Great Britain, but, also, on the Continent and in America.



Dr. Thomson and the Superintendent had the pleasure of conducting him through the whole establishment, the cheerful aspect and open situation of which, especially, appeared to afford him much satisfaction; and having examined its several departments, he made a record of the same on the books, from which the following is an extract:—"The quiet and comfortable condition of the patients, in every part of the house, and the order and regularity visible, everywhere, among the employed, are the best evidences of a kind and considerate management. In cleanliness, good ventilation, and other physical comforts, I have seen no Institution which excels this." Dr. Howe states,—“The Asylum seems to be managed with great skill and humanity; a larger proportion of patients are usefully employed than in any Institution which I have visited in Great Britain.” And Mr. Cox, in recording his visit, observes,—“I have visited a number of the principal public Institutions for the Insane in Britain and France; and after inspecting the Belfast Asylum, now under the care of Drs. Stewart and Thomson, it gives me great pleasure to say, that I have nowhere observed better arrangements than those adopted in it, for the care, comfort, and employment of the inmates; greater cleanliness, order, and attention to ventilation and warmth, or more perfect quietness throughout the building. The state of the Institution gives unequivocal evidence of the judgment and ability with which the duties are performed.”

#### TABLES OF STATISTICS.

It may be necessary to remark, that the particulars connected with the patients admitted, &c., during the year, are contained in the preceding tables. Those in the appendix are of a more general nature, taking in *all* the patients in the establishment, at the end of the year, &c., &c.; and, in addition to the usual tables, as given in former Reports, some entirely new ones, have been added to the present, in order to make the statistics of the Institution as complete as possible. Amongst the new, is one connected with the population (according to the census of 1841), expenditure, number of patients, &c., &c., of each District Asylum in Ireland, which, it is conceived, will be an interesting and important one of its kind. It may only further be observed, that all have been compiled with the greatest carefulness, so as to ensure as much accuracy as possible.



## THE LATE REV. A. C. MACARTNEY.

Having now noticed, as concisely as possible, those matters as being more immediately in connexion with the details of the Institution itself, there remains one other which the Manager could not, either with justice to the memory of one who is now unhappily no more, or satisfactorily to himself, omit shortly referring to, intimately connected as it is with the past general conduct of the establishment, and legitimately coming, as it therefore does, within the scope of this report; and sorry—unaffectedly so—is he, that an occasion of the kind has arisen for the expression of sincere regret and respect, however inadequately on his part, for departed worth and excellence, an expression which, he can testify, his colleague, Dr. Thomson, in common with every other officer, and all the domestics of the establishment deeply participate in. He alludes to the loss which the Asylum sustained, by the lamented death, some months since, of the Rev. A. C. Macartney, the much-esteemed Vicar of Belfast, one of the senior Governors of the Institution, who, during the series of years he was a member of the Board, rarely omitted being present at its stated meetings; and being thus so fully acquainted with the minutiae of the establishment, his services and advice had become highly valuable; and, besides, were always most freely at command, when required. Indeed, one of the last benevolent acts of his untiringly useful life was in immediate connexion with the Asylum—one in which he took a very lively interest, and spared neither time nor trouble in assisting towards perfecting, in such a manner, as to give, as he did, the fullest satisfaction to all parties that act had reference to. This is but a very faint record of this truly excellent and amiable man; more, however, is unnecessary in this place, and less would not have been doing justice to his memory.

---

In now closing the customary report of the past year's transactions of the establishment, the Resident Physician and Manager begs the Governors, one and all, will be pleased to accept his most respectful thanks for the unceasingly liberal, effective, and cheering support he has received from them, in the discharge of the duties of his office, and without which his own efforts, merely, to fulfil them, would have been but of little avail. The kindness and courtesy which he has so uninterruptedly and in so large a



measure experienced from the Board, since the commencement of his official connexion with the Asylum (especially as manifested towards himself, personally, during the past year), and the harmony and unity of action which have pervaded the establishment, in all its accredited officers and domestics, in carrying out its benevolent objects, demand from him the expression of unmixed thankfulness and gratitude.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D.,

*Resident Physician & Manager.*

Belfast District Lunatic Asylum,  
31st March, 1844.



# GENERAL TABLES OF STATISTICS, &c., &c.

## TABLE XI.,

*Shewing the admissions, discharges, &c., &c., during the year ended 31st of March, 1844.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In Asylum, 1st April, 1843, ... ..	140	112	252
Admitted, since 1st April, 1843, ... ..	61	48	109
Re-admitted, having relapsed,... ..	3	2	5
	204	162	366
Discharged, recovered, ... ..	42	26	68
Do., relieved, ... ..	4	8	12
Escaped,* ... ..	1	—	1
Died, ... ..	13	8	21
Remaining in Asylum, 31st March, 1844, ... ..	144	120	264
	204	162	366

## TABLE XII.,

*Shewing the admissions, discharges, &c., from each County in the district, during the year ended 31st of March, 1844.*

### ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY, DURING THE YEAR.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Antrim, ... ..	27	28	55
Down, ... ..	37	20	57
Carrickfergus, ... ..	0	2	2
	64	50	114

### DISCHARGED TO EACH COUNTY, DURING THE YEAR.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Antrim, ... ..	24	19	43
Down, ... ..	36	23	59
Carrickfergus, ... ..	0	0	0
	60	42	102

### REMAINING IN ASYLUM, 31st MARCH, 1844.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Antrim, ... ..	72	58	130
Down, ... ..	70	60	130
Carrickfergus, ... ..	2	2	4
	144	120	264

\* This was a recovered case, in which the sureties had been duly noticed to remove him; but, not doing so, he became impatient, and, eluding the observation of the attendants, effected an escape, by getting over the boundary wall, whilst at work on the grounds.



TABLE XIII.,

*Shewing how long the patients, who were discharged recovered, &c., during the year, were ill before admission :—*

ILL BEFORE ADMISSION.	Recovered and relieved.		Died.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 3 months, .....	29	17	6	4
From 3 to 6 months, .....	6	7	2	—
From 6 to 12 do., .....	4	3	2	—
From 1 to 2 years, .....	5	5	—	1
From 2 to 5 do., .....	2	1	2	1
From 5 to 10 do., .....	—	—	—	1
From 10 to 20 do., .....	1	1	1	—
Above 20 do., ..	—	—	—	1
Total, .....	47	34	13	8

TABLE XIV.,

*Shewing how long the patients, who were discharged recovered, &c., during the year, resided in the Asylum :—*

PERIOD OF RESIDENCE.	Recovered and relieved.		Died.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 3 months, .....	15	9	4	1
From 3 to 6 months, .....	16	6	3	3
From 6 to 12 do., .....	6	10	—	—
From 1 to 2 years, .....	6	6	1	1
From 2 to 5 do., .....	4	2	4	1
From 5 to 10 do., .....	—	1	1	1
From 10 to 15 do., .....	—	—	—	1
Total, .....	47	34	13	8

TABLE XV.,

*Shewing the duration of the disease of the patients who were discharged recovered, &c., during the year :—*

DURATION OF THE DISEASE.	Recovered and relieved.		Died.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 3 months, .....	5	5	2	2
From 3 to 6 months, .....	15	5	3	—
From 6 to 12 do., .....	13	8	2	1
From 1 to 2 years, .....	6	9	1	—
From 2 to 5 do., .....	7	5	2	2
From 5 to 10 do., .....	—	1	2	1
From 10 to 20 do., .....	1	1	1	—
Above 20 do., .....	—	—	—	2
Total, .....	47	34	13	8



TABLE XVI.,

*Shewing the admissions and discharges, together with the average quarterly number of patients in the Belfast Asylum, each quarter, for the year ending 31st March, 1844:—*

Quarters.	ADMISSIONS.							DISCHARGES.							Average daily number per quarter.
	New cases.		Relaps- ed do.		Totals.			Recovered and relieved.		Died.		Totals.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1843.															
April, May, June,	16	10	1	...	17	10	27	13	9	4	3	17	12	29	248.63
July, Aug., Sept.,	13	11	...	1	13	12	25	11	13	1	...	12	13	25	249.81
Oct., Nov., Dec.,	15	13	1	...	16	13	29	12	6	3	2	15	8	23	252.69
1844.															
Jan., Feb., March,	17	14	1	1	18	15	33	11	6	5	3	16	9	25	261.52
Year's Totals,.....	61	48	3	2	64	50	114	47	34	13	8	60	42	102	253.15

TABLE XVII.,

*Shewing the aggregate admissions, discharges, &c., from each County in the District, from the opening of the Belfast Asylum, in June, 1829, to 31st March, 1844.*

Counties.	ADMITTED.						DISCHARGED.						Remaining 31st March, 1844.		
	New cases.		Relapsed Cases.		Total.		Recovered and Relieved.		Died.		Total.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Antrim,	343	359	24	23	367	382	214	236	81	88	295	324	72	58	130
Down,	351	308	29	24	380	332	256	216	54	56	310	272	70	60	130
C.fergus,	10	8	...	1	10	9	5	4	3	3	8	7	2	2	4
Totals,	704	675	53	48	757	723	475	456	138	147	613	603	144	120	264

*Recapitulation of the above, with centesimal ratios:—*

ADMITTED, ...	{	New cases, ...	...	1,379	Ratio, ...	...	93.18
		Relapsed cases, ...	...	101	Do., ...	...	6.82
				<hr/> 1,480			<hr/> 100.00
DISCHARGED, ...	{	Recovered and relieved, ...	...	931	Ratio, ...	...	62.90
		Dead, ...	...	285	Do., ...	...	19.26
Remaining in Asylum, ...		...	...	264	Do., ...	...	17.84
				<hr/> 1,480			<hr/> 100.00



TABLE XVIII.,

*distinguishing the number of admissions, discharges, and deaths, during each season, from the opening of the Belfast Asylum, in June, 1829, to 31st January, 1844, with centesimal ratios :—*

SEASONS.	ADMITTED.				DISCHARGED.			
	New Cases.		Relapsed.		Recovered and relieved.		Died.	
	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
Spring, .....	305	22.54	25	25.51	229	24.68	77	27.50
Summer, .....	355	26.24	21	21.43	205	22.09	59	21.07
Autumn, .....	362	26.76	24	24.49	290	31.25	63	22.50
Winter, .....	331	24.46	28	28.57	204	21.98	81	28.93
Total, .....	1,353	100.00	98	100.00	928	100.00	280	100.00

TABLE XIX.,

*distinguishing the religious persuasions of the total number of patients admitted from the opening of the Asylum, in June, 1829, to 31st March, 1844, with centesimal ratios :—*

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per cent.
Established Church, .....	181	165	346	23.38
Roman Catholics, .....	255	246	501	33.85
Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters, ....	320	312	632	42.70
Jew, .....	1	—	1	.07
Total, .....	757	723	1,480	100.00

TABLE XX.,

*showing the number of patients remaining in the Asylum, on the 31st March, of each year, from its opening, and the yearly average number :—*

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Year's average.
1830	44	34	78	49.35
1831	58	61	119	103.68
1832	66	75	141	132.65
1833	59	71	130	131.45
1834	67	78	145	136.78
1835	81	86	167	156.20
1836	80	82	162	163.37
1837	79	90	169	165.96
1838	85	93	178	178.84
1839	106	102	208	194.13
1840	123	104	227	217.35
1841	132	113	245	244.67
1842	138	112	250	246.80
1843	140	112	252	249.44
1844	144	120	264	253.15



TABLE XXI.,

*Shewing the Counties and Population of each District (including the Asylum at Cork, not a district one), the year opened, and the total admissions, discharges, deaths, &c., in the respective District Asylums or Hospitals for the Insane, in Ireland, made up from their opening, to 31st March, 1843:—*

Name of District Asylum.	Counties and population in each district.		Year Opened.	Total Admissions.	Discharged.		Patients Remaining in Asylums.	Total annual expense of each patient.
	Population of the Counties and towns included in each District, according to the census of 1841.	Total popu- lation of each District			Recovered and Relieved.	Dead.		
Armagh, .....	{ Armagh, ..... 232,393 Monaghan, ..... 200,442 Fermanagh, .... 156,481 Cavan, ..... 243,158 Antrim, ... 276,188	832,474	1825	1,267	966	177	124	£ s. d. 17 14 7
Belfast, .....	{ Belfast Town, 75,308 Down, ..... 361,446 Carrickfergus, 9,379	722,321	1829	1,366	850	264	252	14 18 4
Carlow, .....	{ Carlow, ..... 86,228 Kildare, ..... 114,488 Wexford, ..... 202,033 Kilkenny Co., 183,349 Do. Town, 19,071	605,169	1831	532	293	75	164	14 4 4
Clonmel, .....	{ Tipperary, .... 435,553 Galway Town, 17,275 Do. Co., ... 422,923	435,553	1835	405	247	58	100	18 2 9
Connaught, .....	{ Mayo, ..... 388,887 Roscommon, ... 253,589 Leitrim, ..... 155,297 Sligo, ..... 181,002 Limerick Co., 281,638	1,418,973	1833	984	463	239	282	12 13 8½
Limerick, .....	{ Limerick City, 48,391 Clare, ..... 286,394 Kerry, ..... 293,880	910,303	1827	1,594	986	261	347	13 19 7
Londonderry, ..	{ Londonderry, . 222,174 Donegall, ..... 296,448 Tyrone, ..... 312,956 King's Co, .... 146,857	831,578	1829	1,230	748	271	211	14 16 3
Maryborough, ..	{ Queen's Co., ... 153,930 Westmeath, .... 141,300 Longford, ..... 115,491 Dublin City, ... 232,726 Dublin Co., .... 140,047	557,578	1833	523	267	92	164	16 5 7
Richmond, .....	{ Meath, ..... 183,828 Wicklow, ..... 126,143 Louth, ..... 111,979 Drogheda, ..... 16,261	810,984	1830	1,215	652	273	290	16 15 7
Waterford, .....	{ Waterford Co., 172,971 Waterford City, 23,216	196,187	1835	395	248	32	115	18 17 10
Cork, .....	{ Cork Co., ..... 773,398 Cork City, ..... 80,720	854,118	1826	3,139	2,116	593	430	11 17 1
	Gross Total, .....	8,175,238		12,650	7,836	2,335	2,479	



TABLE XXII.,

*Shewing the original expenditure in lands, buildings, &c., of the respective District Asylums, in Ireland.*

Name of District Asylum.	Year Opened.	No. of patients intended for.	Land Purchased, (Statute measure.)	Price, per Acre.	Amount of Building.	Furniture, Bedding, &c.	Total Expense.
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
magh,.....	1825	104	8 0 23	81 3 11	18,094 4 8½	1,715 14 2	20,900 4 5½
merick,....	1827	150	11 3 12	259 6 9	24,120 0 6	1,886 8 1	29,856 11 5½
lfast, .....	1829	104	21 1 11*	77 1 11	21,838 7 4	1,411 5 8	25,319 13 0
ndonderry,	1829	104	12 5 2	76 4 9	23,507 9 10	1,417 14 1	25,667 2 4
flow, .....	1831	104	15 0 39	152 2 6	18,474 5 9	1,789 4 4	22,552 10 4
ryborough,	1833	104	22 2 17	50 8 4	21,518 13 6	1,513 1 0	24,172 2 6
nnaught,...	1833	150	22 2 28	69 16 2½	23,581 9 10	1,965 15 3	27,130 4 6
aterford,...	1835	100	14 2 12	85 15 0	14,313 1 10	1,311 15 11	16,887 12 7
onmel,.....	1835	60	11 1 14	119 15 9	14,019 6 1	1,220 16 5	16,587 19 3
		980			179,466 19 4½		209,085 0 4¼

TABLE XXIII.

*Ages of the total number of Patients remaining in Asylum, on 31st March, 1844.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
nder 20 years,	4	1	5
0 to 30 do.,	32	24	56
0 to 40 do.,	46	42	88
0 to 50 do.,	38	26	64
0 to 60 do.,	19	15	34
0 to 70 do.,	5	10	15
0 to 80 do.,	0	2	2
	144	120	264

TABLE XXIV.

*Forms of Disease of the total number of Patients remaining in Asylum, on 31st March, 1844.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
mania, ...	116	95	211
o., complicated with Epilepsy, ...	7	7	14
ono-mania, ...	10	10	20
ementia, ...	9	6	15
ongenital Idiocy, ...	2	2	4
	144	120	264

*Of the above 264 cases remaining in the Asylum, 31st March, 1844, are*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
invalescent, } from acute Mania, { ...	5	8	13
onsidered curable, } from acute Mania, { ...	30	25	55
onsidered incurable, from Chronic Mania, Epilepsy, &c.,	109	87	196
	144	120	264

\* In 1835, an addition of land, to the amount of 12 Irish acres (or 19 acres, and upwards, Statute measure), was made to this original purchase, at an outlay of £2,350, being about £195 16s 8d per acre, Irish, or £120 18s, the Statute acre.



TABLE XXV.,

*Shewing the social condition of the 264 patients remaining in the Asylum,  
on 31st March, 1844:—*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Single, ... ..	100	65	165
Married, ... ..	36	34	70
Widowers and Widows, ... ..	8	21	29
	144	120	264

TABLE XXVI.,

*Shewing the religious persuasion of the 264 patients remaining in the Asylum,  
on the 31st of March, 1844:—*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Established Church, ... ..	38	36	74
Roman Catholics, ... ..	56	51	107
Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters, ... ..	60	33	83
	144	120	264

TABLE XXVII.,

*Shewing the Degree of Education of the 264 Patients remaining in the Asylum,  
on the 31st day of March, 1844.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Well educated, ... ..	3	0	3
Ordinarily well do., ... ..	6	3	9
Can read and write, ... ..	78	29	107
Can read only, ... ..	45	60	105
Totally uneducated, ... ..	12	28	40
	144	120	264

TABLE XXVIII.,

*Shewing the period of residence of the 264 patients remaining in the Asylum,  
on 31st March, 1844:—*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 3 months, ... ..	12	9	21
From 3 to 6 months, ... ..	9	13	22
From 6 to 12 do., ... ..	12	11	23
From 1 to 2 years, ... ..	15	14	29
From 2 to 5 do., ... ..	34	28	62
From 5 to 10 do., ... ..	32	32	64
From 10 to 15 do., ... ..	30	13	43
	144	120	264



TABLE XXIX.,  
*Shewing the original occupations of the 264 patients remaining in the Asylum,  
on the 31st of March, 1844.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Basket-maker, ... ..	1	0	1
Blacksmiths, ... ..	2	0	2
Bleachers, ... ..	2	0	2
Bonnet-makers, ... ..	0	2	2
Cabinet-makers, ... ..	1	0	1
Carpenters, ... ..	2	0	2
Cooper, ... ..	1	0	1
Domestic Servants, ... ..	4	28	32
Dress-makers, ... ..	0	3	3
Dyer, ... ..	0	1	1
Embroiderers, ... ..	0	18	18
Farmers, ... ..	10	0	10
Farmers' Wives, ... ..	0	14	14
Gardeners, ... ..	2	0	2
Knitters, Spinners, Sewers, ... ..	0	17	17
Labourers, ... ..	35	0	35
Labourers' Wives, ... ..	0	16	16
Mechanics, ... ..	2	0	2
Musicians, ... ..	2	0	2
Nailer, ... ..	1	0	1
Painter, ... ..	1	0	1
Paper-maker, ... ..	1	0	1
Pedlar, ... ..	1	0	1
Publicans, ... ..	2	0	2
Sailors, ... ..	6	0	6
School-mistress, ... ..	0	1	1
Shoe-makers, ... ..	6	0	6
Shop-keepers, ... ..	4	2	6
Soldiers, ... ..	10	0	10
Stay-makers, ... ..	0	2	2
Stone-masons, ... ..	3	0	3
Surgeon, ... ..	1	0	1
Tailors, ... ..	2	0	2
Tobacco-spinners, ... ..	2	0	2
Washerwomen, ... ..	0	2	2
Weavers, ... ..	21	1	22
Wig-maker, ... ..	0	1	1
Writing Clerks, ... ..	8	0	8
Without any known occupation, ... ..	11	12	23
	144	120	264

TABLE XXX.,

*Shewing the articles which were manufactured and made by the patients, during the year —*

1,100 Hanks of Linen Yarn.	10 Pairs of Trousers.
88 Hanks of Thread.	12 Vests.
1,700 Yards of Plain Linen.	4 Quilts.
64 Yards of Twilled Linen.	185 Shirts.
290 Yards of Ticken.	169 Shifts.
83 Yards of Twilled Calico.	143 Aprons.
423 Yards of Plain Calico.	100 Petticoats.
133 Yards of Camlet.	86 Wrappers.
162 Yards of Chequer.	100 Day Caps.
586 Pairs of Stockings.	52 Night Caps.
74 Pairs of Leather Shoes.	32 Bed Ticks.
115 Pairs of Listen do. (soled.)	55 Handkerchiefs.
80 Pairs of Sheets.	20 Gowns.
24 Pairs of Suspenders.	



TABLE XXXI.,

*Shewing the number of patients generally employed :—*

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.						Males.	Males.	Total.
Cultivating the ground,	...	...	...	...	...	60	—	60
Weaving, winding, and warping,	...	...	...	...	...	14	—	14
Making and mending shoes,	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Pumping water,	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Tailoring,	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Sweeping yards, carrying coals, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	15	—	15
Breaking free-stone, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	10	—	10
Carpenter-work,	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Smith-work,	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Painting,	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Basket-making,	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Spinning,	...	...	...	...	...	—	16	16
Knitting,	...	...	...	...	...	—	16	16
Making and repairing clothing, bedding, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	—	24	24
Quilting,	...	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
Washing, &c., in laundry,	...	...	...	...	...	—	14	14
Assisting servants,	...	...	...	...	...	—	14	14
						114	88	202







TABLE XXXIII.

*An account of the Expenditure on, and Produce of, the Lands of the BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM, for one year, being from 1st April, 1843, to 31st March, 1844.*

<b>Dr.</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE.</b>	<b>Cr.</b>	<b>PRODUCE.</b>
To Seed Potatoes, ...	£23 6 8	By Potatoes, 1,200 cwt. (used in the establishment), and rated at 1s 8d per cwt., £100 0 0	
" Farm and Garden Seeds, ...	3 5 8	" Small Potatoes sold, ...	£109 9 2
" Manure, ...	30 18 2	" Oats, 70 cwt. (using in the establishment), and rated at 5s 6d per cwt., ...	£19 5 0
" Lime, ...	2 3 4	" Oats (sold), ...	7 18 3
" Spades, Shovels, &c., &c., ...	6 3 8	" Hay, 60 cwt. (using in the establishment), and rated at 1s 8d per cwt., ...	£5 0 0
" Tithe, ...	3 13 5	" Hay (sold), ...	7 0 0
" Shoeing Market Horse, ...	1 10 0	" Straw, 80 cwt. (used in the establishment), and rated at 1s 4d per cwt., ...	£28 8 8
" Repairing Cart Harness, ...	1 2 9	" Vegetables (sold), ...	31 0 0
" Iron, ...	1 9 11	" Do. (used in the establishment), and rated at ...	59 8 8
" Stones for draining, &c., ...	17 1 8	" Osier Rods, made into Baskets, for the establishment, ...	1 10 0
To Balance, ...	£90 15 3		£214 17 9
	124 2 6	By balance, ...	£124 2 6



# Dietary

OF

## THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM

### FOR THE INSANE POOR.

---

#### BREAKFAST.

One Quart Stirabout (made with 7 oz. of coarse, or 8 of fine meal) and	}	Males.	} each Mornng.
Three-fourths of a pint of new or mixed milk, .. ..			
One and half pint Stirabout, and	}	Females.	
One half-pint new or mixed milk, .. .. .			

---

#### DINNER.

Three pounds potatoes, and					} Males.	} Sunday, Tuesday,
One quart of soup,	..	..	..			
Three pounds potatoes, and					} Females.	} Wednesday, & Thursday.
One and a-half pint of soup,	..	..				
Three and a-half pounds potatoes, and	..				} Males.	} Monday, Friday, and
One pint mixed milk,	..	..	..			
Three pounds potatoes, and					} Females.	} Saturday.
One pint mixed milk,	..	..	..			

---

#### SUPPER.

Eight ounces loaf bread, and	} Males.	} Each Evening.
Three-fourths of a pint of mixed milk, ..		
Six ounces loaf bread, and	} Females.	
One half-pint mixed milk, .. ..		

☞ Those of the convalescent patients who are actively employed are allowed four ounces of boiled meat, in addition to the soup, four days in the week. When the state of the Patients' health requires it, the diet is changed, accordingly; and any other substituted that may be considered necessary.



