

Seventeenth annual report 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, 1847 / drawn up by the resident physician.

Contributors

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10
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM

FOR

THE INSANE POOR

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

For the Year ended the 31st of March, 1847.

DRAWN UP BY THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

ORDERED BY THE GOVERNORS TO BE PRINTED AND CIRCULATED.

BELFAST:

PRINTED BY FRANCIS D. FINLAY,
CALENDER-STREET.

1847.

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# GOVERNORS

OF

## THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,

APPOINTED BY

THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND,

*Under the Provisions of 1 & 2 Geo. IV., cap. 33.*

MARQUIS OF DONEGALL.

SIR A. CHICHESTER, BART, D.L., J.P.,

MAYOR OF BELFAST (*for the time being*),

HON. MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. R. PAKEN-  
HAM, K.C.B.,

REV. THOMAS HINCKS,

SIR ROBERT BATESON, BART., D.L., J.P.,

NICHOLAS PRICE, ESQ., D.L., J.P.,

WILLIAM M'CANICE, ESQ., J.P.,

ROBERT J. TENNENT, ESQ., D.L., J.P.,

JOHN SINCLAIRE, ESQ.,

EDWARD BRUCE, ESQ., J.P.,

WILLIAM WALLACE LEGG, ESQ., D.L.,

JAMES BLAIR, ESQ.,

RIGHT REV. BISHOP DENVIR,

REV. DR. EDGAR, D.D.,

REV. DR. MONTGOMERY, LL.D.,

VERY REV. DEAN STANNUS,

REV. DR. COOKE, D.D., LL.D.,

JAMES WATSON, ESQ.,

JOHN M'NEILE, ESQ., D.L., J.P.,


R. B. BLACKISTON HOUSTON, ESQ., J.P.,

REV. JOHN S. B. MONSELL,

REV. THOS. WALKER, *Vicar of Belfast*,

CONWAY B. GRIMSHAW, ESQ.,

JOHN DUNVILLE, ESQ.

 *Stated meetings of Governors are held, at the Asylum, the first Monday of each month, at One o'clock, p.m., to receive and dispose of applications for the admission of Patients, and for the transaction of routine business.*

### OFFICERS:

*Resident Physician and Manager.*—ROBERT STEWART, M.D.

*Attending Physician.*—SAMUEL SMITH THOMSON, M.D.

*Surgeon-Apothecary.*—J. S. MULHOLLAND, M.D.

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# SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST MARCH, 1847.

TABLE I.

General statement of year's admissions, &c.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In Asylum, 31st March, 1846,	...	...	144	112	256
Admitted since, new cases,	...	...	48	59	107
Re-admitted, having relapsed,	...	...	2	4	6
			—	—	—
Total under treatment, during the year,	...	...	194	175	369
			—	—	—
Discharged, recovered,	...	...	25	35	60
Do., relieved,	...	...	7	11	18
Do., not relieved,	...	...	0	3	3
Escaped,	...	...	1	0	1
Died,	...	...	15	12	27
Leaving in the house, 31st March, 1847,	...	...	146	114	260

Being four more than at the corresponding period of last year.

The total admissions, this year, were six more than last year:—

Daily average number of Patients during the year,	...	...	254.96
Do. for the year ended 31st March, 1846,	...	...	252.18

Average annual expense of each Patient, this year, including

every charge of management,	...	...	£15 1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Do. for the year 1846,	...	...	13 15 1
Being an increase, this year, on each Patient, of	...	...	1 6 0 $\frac{3}{4}$

TABLE II.

Ages of Patients admitted during the year.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 20 years,	...	...	5	5	10
From 20 to 30 do.,	...	...	11	17	28
Do. 30 to 40 do.,	...	...	11	14	25
Do. 40 to 50 do.,	...	...	16	9	25
Do. 50 to 60 do.,	...	...	7	13	20
Do. 60 to 70 do.,	...	...	0	4	4
Do. 70 to 80 do.,	...	...	0	1	1
			—	—	—
			50	63	113



TABLE III.

Alleged causes of insanity in the cases admitted during the year.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Grief, disappointment, anxiety, ... ..	7	16	23
Intemperance, ... ..	10	4	14
Pecuniary difficulties, losses in trade, &c., ...	4	6	10
Bodily ailments, ... ..	2	5	7
Fright, ... ..	1	4	5
Religious excitement, ... ..	1	3	4
Sedentary employments, ... ..	2	2	4
Over-work, ... ..	1	2	3
Injury of head, .. ...	2	1	3
Effects of fever, ... ..	2	1	3
Cerebral inflammation, ... ..	1	1	2
Epilepsy, ... ..	1	1	2
Paralysis, ... ..	2	0	2
Puerperal state, ... ..	0	2	2
Irregular habits, ... ..	1	0	1
Remorse, ... ..	1	0	1
Unknown, but traced to hereditary predisposition,	6	4	10
Totally unknown, ... ..	6	11	17
	—	—	—
	50	63	113

TABLE IV.—FORMS OF DISEASE.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Mania, ... ..	36	33	69
Mono-mania, ... ..	5	4	9
Melancholia, ... ..	8	22	30
Dementia, ... ..	1	4	5
	—	—	—
	50	63	113

TABLE V.—RELIGION.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Established Church, ... ..	13	20	33
Roman Catholics, ... ..	14	23	37
Presbyterians and Dissenters, ... ..	23	20	43
	—	—	—
	50	63	113

TABLE VI.—SOCIAL CONDITION.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Married, ... ..	20	26	46
Single, ... ..	27	27	54
Widowers and Widows, ... ..	3	10	13
	—	—	—
	50	63	113

TABLE VII.—OCCUPATION.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Apprentices to trades, ... ..	2	0	2
Basket-maker, ... ..	1	0	1
Domestic servants, ... ..	0	6	6
Dress-makers, .. ...	0	6	6
Embroiderers, ... ..	0	4	4
Farmers, ... ..	8	2	10
Fisherman, ... ..	1	0	1
Flax-dresser, ... ..	1	0	1
Housekeepers, housewives, ... ..	0	11	11
Knitters, spinners, sewers, ... ..	0	14	14
Labourers, ... ..	10	0	10
Mechanic, ... ..	1	0	1
Medical Student, ... ..	1	0	1
Pedlars, ... ..	2	0	2
Pensioners, ... ..	2	0	2
Porters, ... ..	4	0	4
Publicans, ... ..	2	1	3
Sailor, ... ..	1	0	1
Ship-builder, ... ..	1	0	1
Shoemaker, ... ..	2	0	2
Shopkeepers, ... ..	0	2	2
Stone-mason, ... ..	1	0	1
Tailors, ... ..	4	0	4
Washerwoman, ... ..	0	1	1
Weavers, ... ..	5	0	5
Without any known occupation, ... ..	1	16	17
	—	—	—
	50	63	113

TABLE VIII.—EDUCATION.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Well educated, ... ..	1	2	3
Can read and write, ... ..	34	34	68
Can read only, ... ..	10	15	25
Totally uneducated, ... ..	5	12	17
	—	—	—
	50	63	113

TABLE IX.

Ages of the 60 Patients discharged recovered.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 20 years, ... ..	3	6	9
From 20 to 30 do., ... ..	2	6	8
Do. 30 to 40 do., ... ..	8	9	17
Do. 40 to 50 do., ... ..	9	9	18
Do. 50 to 60 do., ... ..	3	4	7
Do. 60 to 70 do., ... ..	0	1	1
	—	—	—
	25	35	60

TABLE X.  
Causes of death during the year.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
General debility, .. .. .	7	5	12
Dropsical disease, .. .. .	0	3	3
Epilepsy, ... .. .	2	1	3
Apoplexy, ... .. .	3	0	3
Phthisis, ... .. .	1	1	2
Maniacal exhaustion, ... .. .	1	1	2
Paralysis, ... .. .	1	0	1
Inanition, ... .. .	0	1	1
	—	—	—
	15	12	27

TABLE XI.  
Ages of the Patients who died during the year.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 20 years, .. .. .	1	0	1
From 20 to 30 do., .. .. .	2	1	3
Do. 30 to 40 do., .. .. .	4	6	10
Do. 40 to 50 do., .. .. .	1	1	2
Do. 50 to 60 do., .. .. .	5	2	7
Do. 60 to 70 do., .. .. .	2	2	4
	—	—	—
	15	12	27

“DANGEROUS LUNATICS.”

DURING the past year, the cases received as “Dangerous Lunatics,” from the Jails of the District, amounted to sixteen (eleven males and five females); ten of whom came from County Down Jail (five males and five females), five (males) from County Antrim ditto, and one (a male) from the District Bridewell, Belfast, all being transmitted here, under the provisions of 1 Vict., c. 27.

Hitherto, the above class of inmates required the express sanction of Government, before they could be discharged from these Institutions, when considered fitted to leave them; the law, however, has been so far altered, during the last Session of Parliament, as to enable their dismissal being effected in the same manner as ordinary Patients, who have become convalescent or improved; which is a decided change for the better, this matter of detail, as it originally stood, having been rendered complicated and troublesome, by certificates and official correspondence, which were at once superfluous and tedious. But much more

satisfactory would the repealing altogether of this Statute have been, its provisions giving too great latitude to interested parties to have comparatively harmless persons placed in Jail as "Dangerous Lunatics," to save themselves trouble, an imperfection, however, which, with others it contains, having been fully remarked upon in former Reports, need not now again be recurred to in this one.

"CRIMINAL LUNATICS."

In last year's Report, mention was made, that the criminal inmates (those tried for, and acquitted of, criminal offences, on the ground of insanity) amounted to five, viz., two males and three females. One of the latter, however, has since died of pulmonary disease, under which she had been labouring for some time, besides being, for years past, the subject of strumous inflammations and ulcerations. Her period of inmateship amounted to ten years, having been admitted from County Antrim Jail, in the year 1837. On her admission taking place, she was labouring under symptoms of jail fever, which proved to be one of an aggravated type, but which happily did not extend, at the time, beyond herself, in the Asylum. She had been tried for the murder of her illegitimate offspring, and acquitted on the ground of insanity. She, however, never evidenced any symptoms of mental derangement, whilst in the Establishment; but her general conduct, as an inmate, afforded the fullest proof, that she was a person of a bad and vicious disposition, naturally; and, as to remorseful or contrite feelings for the unnatural act she had committed, such were unknown to others, if ever they had any existence in her own bosom.

During the past year, also, two additions were made to the "Criminal Lunatic" class, by the admission of a male and a female, from Antrim and Down Jails, respectively, whose offences, however, were of a comparatively trivial character—common assaults merely; so that the number under this head is one more than before (viz., six), being now three males and three females.

GENERAL CRIMINAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

In last year's Report, it was stated, that, as a new Act of Parliament was then in existence, for the erection of a Government Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum in Dublin, confident

expectations were held, that its provisions would shortly be carried into effect, by an Institution of the kind being in full operation, so as to enable the District Asylums, generally, to be freed from the presence of "Criminal Lunatics" altogether; but no advance, to the present time, appears to have been made in a matter of so much importance, and one which it would be so exceedingly desirable should not be delayed, the removal of the Criminal Insane to a totally distinct Establishment having been, for years past, most anxiously and urgently looked for and required.

#### SUICIDAL CASES.

Amongst the admissions of the year, the number of suicidal cases amounted to twenty-seven (eleven males and sixteen females), a large number proportionately. Eleven of these had made actual attempts, in various ways, prior to admission, to deprive themselves of life, and sixteen manifested a strong suicidal propensity. None of either class, happily, made any attempt to injure themselves, since being admitted into the House.

#### RESTRAINT.—SECLUSION.

Mild mechanical means, or seclusion in a separate apartment, for restraining the refractory and destructive, continues to be employed, as circumstances or urgency may demand; and this, it should be specially held in view, not at all as a punishment, as some, who are imperfectly informed on such a subject, might suppose, but simply and purely on the grounds of humanity and kindness towards this class of Patients; and who are thus controlled with much less of irritation and degradation to themselves, it is honestly conceived, than by the immediate presence of attendants, well-trained and humane as they may be, and unlikely to have recourse to muscular coercion, to reduce to submission, when instrumental assistance is strictly forbidden by their superiors. The cases, however, requiring the application of temporary physical restraint, or short periods of seclusion, throughout the year, were comparatively few, which, indeed, is nothing new in this Asylum, as not merely the "total abolition" plan, as it is called, but a *bonâ fide* personal liberty, generally, to its inmates, so far as is compatible with safety and discipline, has been the rule, and "Restraint" the exception, since the first day of its opening. It is only fur-

ther to be mentioned, on this head, that the occasions upon which the above alternatives had to be called into requisition were nearly equal as to sex, the female slightly predominating.

#### HEALTH OF INMATES.

A remarkable freedom from illness, whether of an epidemic, or a contagious, or otherwise of a more than ordinary character, pervaded the Establishment, throughout the whole year.— During the severest portion of the season, when catarrhs and similar affections were so general abroad, scarcely a case of the kind was to be met with amongst the Patients, which cannot but be considered as a cause of much thankfulness and congratulation. But, though this immunity from bodily ailments of a serious nature has been existing, still, it is not the less desirable or essential, that there should be special provision made for the many infirm and debilitated cases which must necessarily be always in existence in such an Institution, and of which there is generally a large share in this one, throughout the year. The special provision alluded to is an Infirmary ward or department, on the male and female sides, respectively, for the proper care and comfort, and bringing under closer observation all cases requiring immediate medical treatment, and more than ordinary superintendence of Officers, and vigilance of Domestics. This is a requirement here, only waiting a convenient opportunity for its accomplishment, and which, owing to the limited accommodation, and continued pressure of applications for admission, could not possibly be carried into effect hitherto; one, however, which, it is well still to keep in view, and, therefore, again mentioned on the present occasion.

#### MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

The cases which had a fatal termination, extending over the whole year, amounted, in the aggregate, to twenty-seven, as already stated in the general enumerations in the first page, viz., fifteen males and twelve females. Six of these came under treatment, in so debilitated and shattered a condition, mentally and physically, that no other result was to be expected but a fatal one, and the treatment of whom consisted principally in endeavouring to keep up already nearly exhausted frames, as long as possible, by the use of stimulants and diet of the most nourishing and generous kind. It is consolatory, how-

ever, to know, that, so far as human skill, and the most regular professional aid can be of any avail, in improving or mitigating the condition of such cases as the above, the same is amply at command here, by having the valuable services of Dr. Thomson, the experienced and eminent attending Physician of the Institution, as well as those of Dr. Mulholland, both of which Officers, it can, with much truth, be affirmed, discharge their respective duties faithfully and considerately. The causes of death, in fifteen cases, arose from general debility, or gradual exhaustion, of longer or shorter duration. In three cases from Epilepsy, three from Apoplexy, three from Dropsical affections, two of Pulmonary disease, and one of Paralysis. As to time of residence, four had been inmates from fifteen to twenty years; three from ten to fifteen years; four from five to ten years; eight from one to five years; and eight from one to twelve months. The oldest amongst the above (a female) was sixty-five years, and the youngest (a male) nineteen ditto.

#### PRESENT STATE OF ACCOMMODATION.

It is again to be reported, that the male department was full to over-crowding, during the year, and still unable to admit the cases which were sought to be placed in it, without more or less unavoidable delay—waiting for vacancies to arise, and then selecting the most urgent. There are, at present, six ordinary certificate cases of males for admission, for whom there is no room, but who, of course, will be taken under treatment, immediately, as vacancies become available. With respect to the female department, no delay arose in receiving Patients into it, there having been sufficient accommodation to meet all demands, when regularly made; and the applications for which, at present, are not greater than can be attended to, besides leaving a few vacancies still for any emergency that may arise.

#### PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF ASYLUM.

The Governors are already aware—it being officially before them—of the proceedings which have been taking, during the past year, for affording increased accommodation for the care and treatment of the Insane Poor, generally, of this District. According to an Official Document, brought under the immediate cognizance of the Board, it appeared, that there were, up to the 31st Dec., 1845, two hundred and forty-five cases of all grades of mental

disease, in this District, requiring Asylum accommodation, in addition to those already in the House; this large number being located in Jails and Work-houses, greatly to the detriment of persons so unhappily circumstanced, as well as most embarrassing to the Institutions referred to, which are unprovided with the requisite means and appliances, for the management of so peculiar and difficultly-treated a description of inmates.

After much consideration of so important a subject, and specially conferring with F. White, Esq., M.D., the Government Inspector of Lunatic Asylums, who attended at the Asylum in September last, for this specific purpose, it was ultimately and unanimously decided upon, by a full Board, to recommend to Government to enlarge this Institution, by the erection of an Additional Building, which, when finished, would, with the existing one, accommodate 550 cases of *all grades* of mental disease; the Board objecting, altogether, to the proposition of the Asylum being set apart for recent or supposed curable cases *alone*, and the chronic or incurable class "drafted" to a Provincial Establishment at a distance, to be wholly, or in part, allocated for the reception or immuring of incurables; the hardship and apparent cruelty of which were brought under notice in last year's Report, when referring to this point of detail.* Thus amply, for present purposes, would be met, by carrying into effect the above plan, all the wants of the two Counties of An-

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* The following are the Board's Resolutions on the above subject:—

*Resolved*, 1st,—That the suggestion, that a Central Provincial Asylum should be erected near Omagh, for the purpose of receiving therein (as they may accumulate in, and be drafted out of, this and similar Asylums) that class of Patients commonly called incurables, does not meet with the approval of this Board, for the following reasons:—1. Because the removal of such an Establishment from the inspection and control of the Grand Juries, by whose assessment it must be largely supported, would be objectionable. 2. Because the expense of transporting Patients to such a distance from their homes would be considerable. 3. Because their removal from the near neighbourhood of their relations and friends would be unfeeling. 4. Because such a removal, passing, as it would, the sentence of incurable upon them, would be, as regards their friends, unkind, as regards themselves, injurious, and as regards the dealings of Providence, presumptuous.

*Resolved* 2d,—That, having ascertained, from due examination of the subject, that an Asylum, capable of holding 550 Patients, would be, for the present at least, fully adequate to the necessities of the Counties of Down and Antrim; and that such addition could be easily made to this Asylum, in front of the present building, as would afford such accommodation, we do now recommend the accompanying plans, as those deemed most suitable for carrying out our views, with due regard to economy of funds, efficiency of treatment, and propriety of appearance.

*Board-Room, Belfast District Lunatic Asylum,  
5th October, 1846.*



trim and Down, which are embraced in the District, and which, according to the census of 1841, contained a population of 722,321, in the gross.

In this state matters still continue, nothing definitive having been arrived at by the Government, in whose hands it now entirely rests what future proceedings are to be adopted, in connexion with a subject at once urgent and important.

#### PAY-PATIENTS.

It has been formally suggested to the proper Authorities, that, in the event of an additional building to the Asylum being erected, provision should be made, by law, for the reception and accommodation of a class of Patients above the rank of mere paupers, whose friends, though unable to reach the lowest scale of board, in a private Asylum, could, nevertheless, afford to pay something, viz., the average annual cost, per head, of the Patients generally, towards their support, in such Institutions as these. This, at the first view, appears a very desirable and not less feasible matter; but it is seriously to be apprehended, that, in carrying it into effect, should the suggestion meet with the sanction of the Legislature, much discomfort and unpleasantness would be caused in the management of the Institution, as well as that a fruitful source of jealousy and contention, amongst the Patients themselves, would be one of the inevitable consequences of payment of any kind being introduced into Establishments strictly eleemosynary, and originally founded for the "Insane Poor" alone: those, for instance, for whom payment was received, exulting over those admitted without any, independently of other inconveniences, to say nothing of expectations, on the part of Pay-patients and their friends, as to better treatment in diet, &c., and more indulgences being granted; besides inclining domestics to devote more attention, and give more respect to this class of Patients, to the apparent neglect of the others, which would, in itself alone, be mortifying to the feelings, and exceedingly detrimental to the comfort and welfare of the inmates at large. These are a few only of the objections which it occurs to state on the present occasion, to the adoption of a measure, whether mandatory or simply permissive in its nature, for receiving Pay-patients into the District Lunatic Asylums, and which it would be out of

place enlarging upon more than has been, but which, from the importance of the subject, and its several bearings, it appeared desirable to make some reference.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT.—EMPLOYMENT.

As regards the general management of the Patients, it appears almost unnecessary to state, that it continues in essentials much as hitherto.

To induce the inmates to employ themselves is a primary consideration, such being the most likely moral means to restore diseased minds to a healthy tone. Abundance of employment, which, after all and before all, is the “one thing needful” in a Lunatic Hospital, is at command in this Asylum, whether in the House or on the grounds; but it must again be noticed, that the Institution is defective in proper accommodation for the various ways in which the Males might be occupied, within doors, when the weather precludes their out-of-doors avocations, particularly during the Winter season. The Board, however, is already acquainted with this deficiency, it having been alluded to last year; and improvements, in this respect, as well as in many others, are, it should be observed, only delayed, being attended to, until it be known what steps will be taken by the Executive, in affording increased accommodation, in general, for Patients.

The various ways in which the inmates are employed are given in detail, amongst the tables appended to this Report, as well as the product of their respective stated avocations, so that neither need be referred to here, further than to observe, that thorough-draining was carried on, to some extent, by the Males, during the past year, as well as the preceding one,—226 perches of main drains and 1,604 parallel ditto, making a total of 1,830 perches being now completed on the farm.

The farming operations of the year, so far as regards the potato crop, it need scarcely be stated, were a total failure. Six acres were planted with this esculent, which required six tons of seed, and the produce of the whole was under four tons, or in other words, two tons less than the seed consumed; the produce, too, if such it can be termed, being most inferior in quality.—The other crops, viz., oats, hay, and vegetables, were generally good, both as to quality and quantity. It is not intended to

allocate more than from two to three acres of the farm to Potatoes, this season, the risk being conceived too great to venture on more.

#### LIBRARY.

Such of the Patients as wish to amuse themselves in reading, for instance, are supplied with the means of doing so, to a certain extent at least; Chambers's Edinburgh Journal is a favourite periodical in the House, generally, and appears one very well calculated both to amuse and instruct its inmates. Newspapers, also, are supplied, which a number read with the greatest avidity (more so by far than any other species of reading), taking a very keen interest in everything that is going on in the world outside, especially its politics. Hitherto, a regular Library has not been in existence in the Institution, though suitable books have always, on occasions, been supplied by the Officers, to such of the Patients as were better educated, and could be interested in their perusal. A carefully selected Library, however is at present in course of formation, and will, it is expected, be no inconsiderable secondary means, in benefiting those at all capable of availing themselves of its advantages.

#### AMUSEMENTS.

The inmates are granted, each season, as has always been the case for years past, the variety and indulgence of a special entertainment, to which a select number of ladies and gentlemen are invited, whose presence greatly gratifies them, and is productive of the best effects. In addition to this stated recreation, those amongst them who fancy the exercise or amusement, as each may consider the matter, of dancing, are constantly in the habit of doing so, to the music of a violin or piano-forte, which are not indifferently played by some of the Patients themselves.

In similar Institutions in England and Scotland, the Patients are not confined to one or two stated entertainments in the year merely, but such are given every two or three months, if not more frequently, and in which visitors of both sexes regularly take a part; for, without their presence, the affair would be valueless in the estimation of the inmates, and this very naturally. But, in various other ways, besides, are recreations, such as Balls, Musical and Stage Performances, &c., &c.; and personal liberties, of the most unrestricted kind, meted out

to the Insane, generally, poor as well as rich, more particularly in Scotland (whose Institutions for the Insane bear a character of the highest order), which, if attempted in Ireland, would perchance incline the strictly economical and the so-called common sense portion of the public respectively to infer, that Lunatic Asylums were prodigiously costly affairs, and altogether unnecessary even as places of "Non-Restraint," concluding that their "occupation was gone," in this latter respect, by reason of such approved mundane amusements not only finding a place, but being actually enjoyed, within their walls.

#### EDUCATION OF THE INSANE.

As regards the moral treatment of the inmates of an Hospital for the Insane, in an educational point of view, the plan of having a regular system of school instruction, for hitherto totally uneducated Patients, carried on, is held in much approval, and spoken of as being productive of useful effects in those Institutions in which it has been tried. A neighbouring District Asylum, of long established repute for its very creditable management—that at Armagh—has had it in operation, on a limited scale, and favourable reports have been made, from time to time, of its good working. At the Lancaster Pauper Lunatic Asylum, an Establishment, also, of deservedly high character, the inmates are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and singing, by qualified instructors, with much benefit, generally; and, at the Hanwell Asylum, likewise, something of a similar description has been practised. But not merely is the fact so, that the insane inmates (properly so called) of a Lunatic Hospital have been found capable of receiving instruction, but even congenital Idiots, of the most hopeless condition, have been taught to read and write, as well as to make no small progress in Arithmetic, and even to become somewhat of proficient in the rudiments of Mathematics and Geometry,—proof of which has been lately furnished in the pages of a justly popular weekly Periodical,* wherein will be found a series of articles well worthy of attention, giving an interesting account of the writer's visits (the Superintendent, it would appear, of a Northern Eng-

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* Chambers's Edinburgh Journal, Nos. 158, 160, and 163; articles entitled "Education of Idiots at the Bicetre."

lish Lunatic Asylum) in October last, to the school for the instruction of Idiotic Patients, at the Bicetre, in the vicinity of Paris, where he was an eye-witness of the "means used in regenerating all but mindless fellow-creatures;" and left it, as he states, "with a deep feeling of thankfulness for the opportunity he had enjoyed of becoming practically acquainted with the system in operation, and for the delight he had experienced in witnessing a sight so intensely interesting and important."

It becomes, therefore, worthy of consideration, perhaps, the propriety of adopting something of an educational system in this Asylum, by the appointment of responsible persons qualified to conduct the same. Although no stated teaching has been pursued in it, yet, individual cases of Patients, of likely parts, have been taken under special charge, and, after much labour, taught to spell and read, which, so long as convalescence continued, they retained the ability of doing; but all was generally forgotten, on a recurrence, however slight, of the mental disease, so that the same ground had, Sisyphus-like, to be gone over again and again, as if nothing had ever previously been done.

But, leaving out of view, altogether, the mere schooling or A B C part of the question, which may or may not be curatively useful, it is conceived, that it would be productive of happy effects, were due provision made for the more educated inmates being regularly assembled, to read and hear read instructive and entertaining portions of Works, as much within their powers of comprehension as possible, as well as that those who are at all capable of reading, should be encouraged to occupy a portion of the day in so doing, as also to read aloud, for their own improvement, and the advantage of their fellow-patients. During the long and wearisome Winter evenings, especially, a system of this kind would be most desirable, and tend greatly to dispel that monotony, which, from the nature of circumstances, must necessarily prevail, more or less, within the walls of an Asylum. The male and female departments, respectively, would require a properly educated person for this special service; but who, besides acting in the manner stated, might, also, from their position, be very serviceable otherwise, particularly by exercising an intermediate and constant superintendence in the House, generally, which, in itself, would be a matter of considerable importance.

## STATISTICS.—RETURNS TO ORDERS OF PARLIAMENT, &amp;c.

The usual Tables of Statistics, &c., with such additional ones as, from time to time, have appeared desirable, continue to be given regularly, with the ordinary Annual Report, such having hitherto afforded general satisfaction, and in making out which there has been no sparing of labour or pains to have them as complete and correct as possible. Those Returns, fiscal and otherwise, now so frequently, and often very voluminously, required by Parliament, and the respective Public Departments exercising authority over these Institutions, being for annual periods, varying from the termination of the Asylum official year, it is to be stated, are productive not only of much additional labour and consumption of valuable time, in supplying them; but apparent discrepancies and other inconveniences are thus caused, which, it is respectfully submitted, might be easily removed, by a uniform annual period being adopted for the same. And, as the Accounts, &c., of these Institutions have all to be made up to the 31st of March, yearly, for the Commissioners for Auditing the Public Accounts—the period fixed by Act of Parliament—it would be both desirable and convenient, that, when “Orders” are made, or Returns called for, by Parliament, or any of the Government Authorities, they should be brought within the above annual limit, and which, for all the requisite purposes of Public information, would, it is conceived, answer as well as the 31st Dec., the one generally chosen. Another point of detail, of no small importance and convenience, to be attended to in these matters is, the obvious necessity of furnishing proper printed blank forms to each Institution, with the view of obtaining, in a uniform manner, the Returns required by Orders of the House of Commons especially, which sometimes extend over a series of years, and are framed in so indefinite a way, that no two Returns from the Asylums will likely correspond, owing to the circumstance of printed forms, duly tabled, not accompanying the “Orders,”—each Institution taking a different course, as must naturally be the case, in reducing into tables what has been called for in the mass.—The every day anxious duties and labours of the immediate Officers of the District Asylums have, of late years, been so greatly increased, that it is a matter of essential moment to

give them every reasonable facility in furnishing official documents for public purposes. On the subject of Statistics generally, in connexion with these Institutions, it only remains to say, that so many changes have been made, within the last few years, of various kinds, in the mode of keeping Registries, &c., that it has become a most difficult matter to furnish to the Authorities the Returns they may be pleased to call for. The Legislature, within the last two years, changed the Registries altogether, complicating them not a little, and which, of course, have to be kept according to the forms prescribed, no discretion being left to Officers; and yet, those Registries, intended, no doubt, to be simple and complete, are deficient in details, which other Authorities require being supplied to them when demanded.

#### VISITERS.

During the past year, the Asylum was visited, as usual, by several eminent strangers, officially connected with similar Establishments at a distance, or otherwise more than ordinarily interested in their conduct, the records of whose visits, respectively, as written by each in the Visitors' book of the Institution, are now appended. Of the number, it should be particularly observed, was Mr. Tuke, of York, Treasurer of the ably conducted Asylum thereat, so well known as the "Friends' Retreat."—This gentleman's name, it is almost superfluous to observe, is of the widest and not less deserved celebrity for the indefatigable and able manner in which he has exerted himself, for nearly half-a-century past, in all matters affecting the welfare of the Insane. He appeared greatly struck with the spaciousness of the grounds of this Institution, and much pleased at seeing so many of the inmates actively employed thereon, in various farming pursuits, and other free and healthful occupations of the kind. Doctor Buttolph, M.D., of New-York, was another of those deeply interested in, and, at the same time, professionally connected with, the immediate treatment of the Insane, who visited the Establishment, and this specially too. He had been on a tour to the principal Hospitals for the Insane, throughout the Continent of Europe and Great Britain, and came direct to Belfast, from Scotland, to visit this one, not having time to extend further his Irish tour of inspection. It ought to be mentioned, that this is the third Ameri-

can Medical Superintendent of the Insane who has been through this Institution within the last two years; one and all of whom had crossed the Atlantic, for the express purpose of making themselves personally acquainted with the details of management carried on in European Lunatic Hospitals, in order to the improvement of their own, to the utmost extent—a circumstance which redounds so highly to their honour and philanthropy, as individuals, as well as adds so greatly to the character of their common country, for practical humanity towards its Insane.—Dr. Rogan, M.D., who has been the zealous and efficient Medical Attendant of the Derry District Lunatic Asylum, since its opening, upwards of twenty years ago—an Institution which stands so high in public estimation for its excellent management—was also amongst the above class of Visitors of the year.

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The following are the records of visits now referred to, and as contained in the “Visitors’ Book:”—

“I have gone through this Hospital for the Insane, with a high degree of satisfaction. Of its cleanliness and sweetness (no insignificant points) one may speak in the fullest terms; and there is an air of ease and comparative comfort in the general aspect of the Patients, which has given me the most favourable impression of the principles of management which are carried out by Dr. Stewart, in this Establishment.

“*Belfast*, 18. IV., 1846.”

“SAMUEL TUKE.

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“I have visited the Belfast Institution for the Insane, and was much pleased with the general management of the Asylum, the classification of Patients, and the perfectly clean and well ventilated state of the Institution. I was more particularly gratified with the light and cheerful occupation in which I found most of the Patients engaged, and, from having learned, from the Resident Medical Officer, that “restraint” is altogether abolished, except occasionally, and then only employed for the Patients’ safety. Having been formerly a pupil in La Salpêtrière, and having visited many similar Institutions, both on the Continent and in Great Britain, I was happy to find the Belfast Asylum second to none. “RICHARD EADES, M.D.

“27th August, 1846.”

“(OF DUBLIN.)



“Visited the Belfast Asylum for the Insane, and was much gratified with the good order and neatness prevailing throughout its wards, as well as with the quiet and comfortable condition of the Patients.

“H. A. BUTTOLPH, M.D.,

“ASSISTANT-PHYSICIAN TO STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
NEW-YORK.

“*September 2d, 1846.*”

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“I have, this day, visited this Asylum, and have minutely inspected every part of it. I have been much gratified by the excellence of its Management, and the good order of the Institution, in all its Departments.

“FRANCIS ROGAN, M.D.,

“PHYSICIAN TO THE DERRY DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.

“*22d January, 1847.*”

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“I have, this day, visited, and carefully inspected, this Asylum, and have been highly gratified. I have been struck with the cleanliness and air of comfort which pervades the House, the number of Patients employed, and the excellence of the arrangements, in every department.

“DAVID SKAE, M.D.,

“PHYSICIAN, ROYAL EDINBURGH ASYLUM.

“*March 30, 1847.*”

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#### WARMING OF DAY ROOMS.—OPEN FIRES.

The Day Rooms and Establishment, generally, continue to be supplied with artificial warmth, by means of Perkin's Patented Hot-water Apparatus, and Steam Pipes, respectively, the latter being supplied with steam from the boiler in the kitchen, erected a few years back, for culinary and laundry purposes chiefly. Those rooms having the steam pipes are far more comfortably, easily, and economically, warmed than those by the Apparatus. Some objections, however, might be raised against the former method of warming, one being the clumsy effect of the pipes, which are necessarily of a large diameter, being two inches in the bore—thus taking off from the general appearance of the Rooms encircled by them. Another, the greater danger

perhaps, of the Patients injuring themselves, by placing their hands, for instance, on the pipes, when the steam is fully up, and so running the risk of being blistered; these, however, are very minor objections after all, the advantages of heating by steam far counterbalancing the drawbacks touched upon; and no matter what heating system may be adopted, greater or less inconveniences, &c., must be expected, and only provided against as well as circumstances will admit. But, be the temperature of Day-Rooms perfect and complete as possible, open or ordinary fire-places should never be dispensed with. All know and feel the exhilarating and enlivening influence of a bright fire, and none do this more than the Insane; an air of comfort, cheerfulness, and happiness, is immediately perceptible in the Rooms furnished with a fire, in the proper season, strongly contrasted with those not so appointed; and the poor inmates themselves will earnestly endeavour to be occupants of the Room having the attraction of the bright and glowing fire, notwithstanding how comfortable the temperature may be of the others not having one. Besides, the open fire-places greatly assist in ventilating, an advantage which ought not to be overlooked. To insure then an equable temperature, and a cheerful appearance at the same time, the Day Rooms should certainly have the advantage both of steam or hot-water pipes, and an open fire-place. Those practically acquainted with the immediate treatment of the Insane can alone fully understand and appreciate the value of Rooms so heated, and have constant demonstration of the fact, how much it moderates the restlessness and morbid excitement particularly of the more violent inmates, attending to a comfortable temperature, and the means used for procuring the same. It may only further be remarked, on this subject, that the greater number of the Day Rooms in the Asylum have now the advantage of open fire-places, in addition to Steam or Hot-Water Pipes.

#### PATIENTS' BEDDING.

In a former Report, it was suggested, that the convalescent, and generally clean and well conducted, inmates should be supplied with hair mattresses, in lieu of straw beds—a suggestion which the Board kindly approving, has since been commenced carrying into effect; a quantity of such bedding being now in

use, greatly to the comfort and satisfaction of these classes of Patients who highly value the change. Indeed, if there be one better ascertained fact than another, in the every-day treatment of the inmates, at large, of an Hospital for the Insane, that one is this, that the best and most practical way, of all others, to mitigate their lamentable disease, if not completely to restore them, under Providence, to mental health, is *liberally* to provide for their physical wants and comforts, in every reasonable respect—a line of treatment, too, which, in the end, will prove the truest economy—certainly the most humane and laudable.

#### EXPENDITURE OF THE YEAR AND AVERAGES.

The total outlay, in maintaining the Establishment during the year, amounted, it will be seen, to three thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine pounds, one shilling, and sevenpence, being three hundred and seventy pounds, ten shillings, and ninepence, over and above the year preceding. The greatly advanced price of all articles of provisions at once accounts for the chief portion of this excess, the total cost of food for 1845-6 being only fifteen hundred and ninety-three pounds, seven shillings, and elevenpence; whereas, for 1846-7, it was nineteen hundred and twenty-seven pounds, fifteen shillings, and ninepence, making a difference, in this respect alone, of three hundred and thirty-four pounds, seven shillings, and tenpence.—In addition to this unavoidable increase, there was an outlay besides, not exactly in the usual course of domestic expenditure, connected with the purchase of hair mattresses, and to which allusion has been made in another place.

The following are the principal averages, per head, during the year :—

Average Expense, $\text{p}$ head, $\text{p}$ annum, including every charge,	£15	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Average Expense, $\text{p}$ head, $\text{p}$ diem,.....	0	0	9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Total Expenditure in food only, during the year,.....	1,927	15	9
Cost $\text{p}$ head, in food only, during the year,.....	7	11	2 $\frac{5}{8}$
Cost $\text{p}$ head, $\text{p}$ day, in food only, during the year,.....	0	0	4 $\frac{7}{8}$
Total Expenditure in clothing, during the year,.....	369	9	3
Cost $\text{p}$ head, in Clothing, during the year,.....	1	8	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total Expenditure in salaries and wages, during the year,...	664	7	6
Cost $\text{p}$ head, in salaries and wages, during the year,.....	2	12	1 $\frac{3}{8}$

#### BOARD CHANGES.

Some alterations on the Board of Governors having occurred, during the year, the same may be shortly stated in this place.

And first, it has, with much and unfeigned regret, to be mentioned, that one of its original Members, John Suffern, Esq., died within the last few months,—a gentleman who gave very efficient attendance, so long as his declining state of health permitted, and who entered into all that concerned the promotion of the interests and usefulness of the Establishment, in a manner the most kindly, benevolent, and unobtrusive. Secondly, two of the Board have resigned, viz., the Bishop of Down and Connor, and Dromore, and Robert Grimshaw, Esq., D.L. The former Right Rev. and distinguished personage was also amongst the first appointed Governors, and, for a long series of years, took a most able, zealous, and eminently regular part in superintending the general conduct of the Asylum. And, lastly, two additional Governors have been recently appointed, by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland, in the persons of Conway B. Grimshaw, of Belfast, Esq., and John Dunville, of Belfast, Esq.

#### CONCLUSION.

The Resident Physician having now referred, as briefly as possible, to the principal occurrences of the past year, and respectfully called attention, as he trusts, to such other matters as appeared desirable, it only remains for him to give expression to his feelings of thankfulness to the Board of Governors, for their unvarying kindness to him in the performance of his arduous duties, and the able co-operation he has received at their hands, in endeavouring to fulfil the same; as, also, to thank them for the extreme readiness and considerate manner in which they have been always pleased to attend to any suggestions having in view the progressive improvement of the Establishment, and for promoting the comfort and welfare, as far as possible, of its unhappily afflicted inmates.

**ROBERT STEWART, M.D.,**

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

*Belfast District Asylum, March 31st, 1847.*

And that it has, with much and thoughtful regard to its  
 honor that one of its original members, John Smith Esq.  
 died within the last few months—a gentleman who was  
 almost unexampled, so long as his declining state of health per-  
 mitted, and who exerted into all that concerned the promotion  
 of the interests and welfare of the Establishment in a man-  
 ner the most laudable, disinterested, and unobtrusive. The  
 case of the Board lately reviewed, viz. the Bishop of Down and  
 Connor and Dr. Young and Robert Grimshaw Esq. B.D. The  
 former three, and distinguished persons who also engaged  
 the first appointed Governor, and for a long series of years  
 took a noble and active part in super-  
 tending the general conduct of the Asylum. And finally two  
 additional Governors have been very ably assisted by the late  
 Lieutenant and Major General W. Ireland, the persons of  
 George H. Colman, Esq. Robert Esq. and John Parrish of  
 Belfast Esq. who were appointed to the office of the  
 second and third Governors.

The Resident Physician having now retired as usually is  
 possible to the principal functions of the last year and a half  
 fully called attention, as he seems to such other matters as  
 appeared desirable. It only remains for him to give occasion  
 to his fellow of this House to the Board of Governors, in  
 their several and kindness to him in the performance of the  
 duties he has and the able co-operation he has received at their  
 hands in endeavoring to fulfil the same; as also to thank  
 them for the extreme civilities and considerate manner in which  
 they have been always pleased to attend to his suggestions hav-  
 ing in view the progressive improvement of the Establishment,  
 and for promoting the comfort and welfare, as far as possible,  
 its indigently afflicted inmates.

**ROBERT STEWART, M.D.**

Resident Physician of the Asylum for the Insane,  
 Belfast, Ireland, March 18th 1847.

# GENERAL TABLES OF STATISTICS,

*&c., &c.*

TABLE XII.,

*Shewing the admissions, discharges, &c., &c., during the year ended 31st of March, 1847.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In Asylum, 1st April, 1846, ... ..	144	112	256
Admitted from do. to 31st March, 1847, ...	48	59	107
Re-admitted, having relapsed, ... ..	2	4	6
	194	175	369
Discharged, recovered, ... ..	25	35	60
Do., relieved, ... ..	7	11	18
Do., not relieved, ... ..	0	3	3
Escaped, ... ..	1	0	1
Died, ... ..	15	12	27
Remaining in Asylum, 31st March, 1847,	146	114	260
	194	175	369

TABLE XIII.,

*Shewing the admissions, discharges, &c., from each County in the district, during the year ended 31st of March, 1847.*

ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Antrim, ... ..	31	40	71
Down, ... ..	19	23	42
County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ...	0	0	0
	50	63	113

DISCHARGED TO EACH COUNTY.

Antrim, ... ..	27	37	64
Down, ... ..	20	23	43
County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ...	1	1	2
	48	61	109

REMAINING IN ASYLUM, 31ST MARCH, 1847.

Antrim, ... ..	73	58	131
Down, ... ..	72	55	127
County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ..	1	1	2
	146	114	260

TABLE XIV.,

*Shewing how long the Patients who were discharged, and died, during the year, were ill before admission :—*

ILL BEFORE ADMISSION.	Recovered and Relieved.		Died.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 3 months, .. .. .	14	23	3	4
From 3 to 6 do., .. .. .	10	14	3	2
From 6 to 12 do., .. .. .	5	5	4	0
From 1 to 2 years, .. .. .	2	4	1	1
From 2 to 5 do., .. .. .	2	2	1	2
From 5 to 10 do., .. .. .	0	1	3	2
From 10 to 20 do., .. .. .	0	0	0	1
Total, .. .. .	33	49	15	12
	82		27	

TABLE XV.,

*Shewing how long the Patients who were discharged, and died, during the year, resided in the Asylum :—*

PERIOD OF RESIDENCE.	Recovered and Relieved.		Died.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 3 months, .. .. .	9	13	1	4
From 3 to 6 do., .. .. .	11	19	3	—
From 6 to 12 do., .. .. .	4	7	—	—
From 1 to 2 years, .. .. .	3	7	3	1
From 2 to 5 do., .. .. .	3	3	2	3
From 5 to 10 do., .. .. .	1	—	3	—
From 10 to 18 do., .. .. .	2	—	3	4
Total, .. .. .	33	49	15	12
	82		27	

TABLE XVI.,

*Shewing the duration of the disease of the Patients, who were discharged, and died during the year :—*

DURATION OF DISEASE.	Recovered and Relieved.		Died.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 3 months, .. .. .	1	5	—	1
From 3 to 6 do., .. .. .	9	14	—	1
From 6 to 12 do., .. .. .	10	14	4	—
From 1 to 2 years, .. .. .	6	11	1	1
From 2 to 5 do., .. .. .	5	4	2	4
From 5 to 10 do., .. .. .	—	1	4	—
From 10 to 20 do., .. .. .	2	—	3	4
From 20 to 30 do., .. .. .	—	—	1	1
Total, .. .. .	33	49	15	12
	82		27	

TABLE XVII.,

*Shewing the admissions and discharges, together with the average number of Patients in the Belfast Asylum, each quarter, for the year ending 31st March, 1847 :—*

Quarter ending.	ADMITTED.						DISCHARGED.						Average daily No. per quarter		
	New Cases.		Relapsed Cases.		Total.		Recovered.		Relieved, &c.		Died.			Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.
June 30, 1846	16	14	—	2	16	16	8	9	2	1	5	5	15	15	256.75
Sept. 30, do.,	8	15	—	—	8	15	5	9	1	8	2	3	8	20	252.85
Dec. 31, do.,	9	15	—	1	9	16	8	9	2	2	4	2	14	13	255.13
Mar. 31, 1847,	15	15	2	1	17	16	4	8	3	3	4	2	11	13	255.13
Totals, {	48	59	2	4	50	63	25	35	8	14	15	12	48	61	254.96
	107		6		113		60		22		27		109		

TABLE XVIII.,

*Shewing the aggregate admissions, discharges, &c., from each County in the District, from the opening of the Asylum, in June, 1829, till 31st March, 1847 :—*

COUNTIES.	ADMITTED.						DISCHARGED.						Remaining 31st March, 1847.	
	New Cases.		Relapsed Cases.		Total.		Recovered and Relieved.		Died.		Total.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Antrim, ... ..	428	448	26	31	454	479	281	303	100	118	381	421	73	58
Down, ... ..	423	376	32	28	455	404	311	270	72	79	383	349	72	55
Carrickfergus,	11	9	—	1	11	10	6	6	4	3	10	9	1	1
Totals, ... ..	862	833	58	60	920	893	598	579	176	200	774	779	146	114
	1,695		118		1,813		1,177		376		1,553		260	

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

ADMITTED, ..	{ New Cases, .. ..	1,695	Ratio,.. ..	93.49
	{ Relapsed, .. ..	118	Do., .. ..	6.51
		1,813		100.00
DISCHARGED, {	Recovered & Relieved,	1,177	Ratio,.. ..	64.92
	Dead, .. ..	376	Do., .. ..	20.74
Remaining in Asylum, .. ..		260	Do., .. ..	14.34
		1,813		100.00

TABLE XIX.,

*Shewing the religious persuasions of the 260 Patients remaining in the Asylum, on the 31st March, 1847.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Established Church, .. ..	33	31	64
Roman Catholics, .. ..	52	47	99
Presbyterians and Dissenters, .. ..	61	36	97
	146	114	260



TABLE XX.,  
Distinguishing the religions of the total number of Patients admitted from the opening of the Asylum, in June, 1829, till 31st March, 1847, with centesimal ratios:—

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	RATE PER CENT.
Established Church, .. ..	219	224	443	24.43
Roman Catholics, .. ..	305	295	600	33.09
Presbyterians and Dissenters, .. ..	395	374	769	42.42
Jew, .. ..	1	—	1	.06
Totals, .. ..	920	893	1813	100.00

TABLE XXI.,  
Shewing the number of Patients remaining in Asylum, on the 31st March of each year, from its opening, and the yearly average number:—

YEARS.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	YEARS' AVERAGE.
1830	44	34	78	39.45
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
1845	142	106	248	258.83
1846	144	112	256	252.18
1847	146	114	260	254.96

TABLE XXII.,  
Forms of disease of the total number of Patients remaining in the Asylum, on 31st March, 1847:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania, ... ..	101	85	186
Do., complicated with Epilepsy, ... ..	6	5	11
Mono-mania,—Melancholia, ... ..	20	9	29
Dementia, ... ..	17	14	31
Congenital Idiocy, ... ..	2	1	3
	146	114	260

Of the above cases remaining in the Asylum, 31st March, 1847, are

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Convalescent, } from actue Mania, { ...	5	7	12
Considered curable, } ...	25	26	51
Doubtful, ... ..	16	5	21
Considered Chronic cases, from Chronic Mania, } Epilepsy, &c., ... ..	100	76	176
	146	114	260

TABLE XXIII.,

*Shewing the per centages of discharges and deaths, during the year ended 31st March, 1847 :—*

	OF 113 RECENT CASES.		OF 256 CHRONIC CASES.		ON 369—THE TOTAL NUMBER.	
	No. of Cases.	Rate per cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate per cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate per cent.
Discharged Recovered,	32	28.32	28	10.94	60	16.26
Do. Relieved, &c.,	11	9.73	11	4.30	22	5.96
Died, ... ..	7	6.20	20	7.81	27	7.32
Remaining, ... ..	63	55.75	197	76.95	260	70.46
Total, ... ..	113	100.00	256	100.00	369	100.00

TABLE XXIV.,

*Shewing the per centages of discharges and deaths, and the average per centage, calculated on the average number of Patients for ten years, ended 31st March, 1847 :—*

Years ending 31st March.	Yearly average number.	RECOVERED.		RELIEVED.		DIED.	
		No. of Cases.	Rate per cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate per cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate per cent.
1838	178.84	50	27.95	9	5.03	22	12.30
1839	194.13	58	29.87	7	3.60	16	8.24
1840	217.35	55	25.30	5	2.30	28	12.88
1841	244.67	64	26.15	9	3.67	24	9.80
1842	246.80	72	29.17	11	4.45	27	10.94
1843	249.44	90	36.08	13	5.21	18	7.21
1844	253.15	69	27.25	13	5.13	21	8.29
1845	258.83	68	26.36	21	8.14	40	15.50
1846	252.18	61	24.19	14	5.55	24	9.51
1847	254.96	60	23.53	22	8.62	27	10.58
Averages of the } above 10 years, }	235.03	64.70	27.58	12.40	5.17	24.70	10.52

TABLE XXV.,

*Shewing the articles manufactured and made by the Patients during the year :—*

2,031 Hanks Linen Yarn.	25 Men's Jackets.
95 Hanks Thread.	29 Pairs Trousers.
1,758 Yards Plain Linen.	18 Vests.
32 Yards Twilled Linen.	20 Quilts.
127 Yards Ticken.	238 Shirts.
105 Yards Twilled Calico.	140 Shifts.
75 Yards Gingham.	44 Aprons.
32 Yards Diaper.	142 Petticoats.
165 Yards Chequer.	62 Wrappers.
507 Pairs Stockings.	96 Day Caps.
50 Pairs Leather Shoes.	30 Nightcaps.
66 Pairs do. (soled and heeled.)	20 Bed Tickens.
71 Pairs List do. do.	104 Handkerchiefs.
76 Pairs Sheets.	24 Gowns.
20 Pairs Suspenders.	68 Bolsters.

TABLE XXVI.,

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.						<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Cultivating the Ground, ...	...	...	...	...	...	60	—	
Weaving, winding, warping,	...	...	...	...	...	14	—	
Making and repairing shoes,	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	
Pumping water, ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	—	
Tailoring, ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	
Sweeping yards, carrying coals, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	12	—	
Breaking freestone, &c., ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	
Smith-work, ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	
Painting, ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	
Basket-making, ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	
Spinning, ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	18	
Knitting, ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	16	
Making and repairing clothing, bedding, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	—	21	
Embroidering, ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	
Quilting, ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	
Washing, &c., in Laundry,	...	...	...	...	...	—	14	
Assisting Servants, ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	6	
						108	80	188

XXVII.

*Tabular View of the Admissions and Discharges from first opening of Asylum, in the year 1829, till the 31st of December, 1846.*

YEARS.	YEARLY ADMISSIONS.						YEARLY DISCHARGES.													
	Remaining from former year.		Admitted each year.		Total under treatment each year.		CURED.		IMPROVED.		INCURABLE.		DIED.		Total of the four preceding columns.		Remaining Yearly.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.	
1829	..	..	47	32	47	32	10	4	4	..	..	1	2	..	..	16	5	31	27	58
1830	31	27	47	75	78	75	15	14	3	3	..	..	4	3	20	20	58	55	113	
1831	58	55	51	104	109	104	29	22	3	3	..	..	10	5	41	30	68	74	142	
1832	68	74	41	106	109	106	19	24	6	6	..	..	15	8	52	38	57	68	125	
1833	57	68	32	89	89	111	17	25	6	6	..	..	5	6	24	37	65	74	139	
1834	65	74	42	107	107	117	16	22	3	3	..	..	7	7	29	32	78	85	163	
1835	78	85	39	117	117	122	21	26	4	4	..	..	7	9	39	39	83	83	161	
1836	78	83	50	128	128	128	33	22	3	3	..	..	14	16	50	41	78	87	165	
1837	78	87	38	116	116	140	17	27	8	8	..	..	11	12	30	47	86	93	179	
1838	86	93	46	132	132	145	22	33	4	4	..	..	5	5	31	51	101	94	195	
1839	101	94	54	155	155	153	20	36	1	1	..	..	10	19	35	56	120	79	217	
1840	120	97	66	186	186	157	31	36	3	3	..	..	14	9	49	88	137	119	256	
1841	137	119	54	191	191	171	41	35	6	6	..	..	11	16	58	57	133	114	247	
1842	133	114	71	204	204	169	43	44	8	8	..	..	8	14	62	61	142	108	250	
1843	142	108	61	203	203	156	48	28	8	8	..	..	10	6	61	42	142	114	256	
1844	142	114	62	204	204	171	30	31	5	5	..	..	15	21	59	57	145	114	259	
1845	145	114	59	204	204	163	41	31	5	5	..	..	8	16	61	52	143	111	254	
1846	143	111	43	186	186	174	25	34	10	10	..	..	16	17	46	63	140	111	251	
			963	877			478	484	98	81	15	3	172	198	763	766				
				1780			962		179		18		370		1529					

RECAPITULATION.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Total Admissions to 31st December, 1846, .....	963	877	1780
Total Discharges to 31st December, 1846, .....	763	766	1529
Remaining in Asylum, 31st December, 1846, ....	140	111	251

TABLE XXVIII.

*An Account of Receipts and Disbursement of the BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM, for one year, being from 1st April, 1846, till 31st March, 1847.*

### The Charge.

Balance of last account, in favour of the public, ..	£72 0 6	
Received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, ..	3,668 8 0	
	<hr/>	£3,740 8 6
Received for Garden Vegetables, sold in market, ..	70 2 0	
Received for Oats, ..	5 18 0	
	<hr/>	76 0 0
Received Government duty on Policies of Insurance refunded, being the amount erroneously paid for the years 1843, '44, and '45, ..		46 16 0
		<hr/>
Balance in favour of the public, 1st April, 1847, £24 2 11		£3,863 4 6
		<hr/>
		£3,863 4 6

### The Discharge.

Paid for Provisions, ..	£1,927 15 9
“ “ Clothing, ..	369 9 3
“ “ Bedding, ..	251 13 5
“ “ Furniture, ..	48 8 7
“ “ Stationery, Advertising, and Printing, ..	31 4 7
“ “ Coals, Soap, and Gas, ..	247 8 4
“ “ Medicine, ..	21 10 0
“ “ Repairs on Buildings, &c.,	147 13 11
“ “ Farm and Garden expenses, ..	47 10 2
“ “ Incidental expenses, ..	74 4 1
“ “ Insurance, ..	7 16 0
“ “ Salaries and wages, ..	664 7 6
	<hr/>
Balance on hand, 1st April, 1847, ..	£3,839 1 7
	24 2 11
	<hr/>
	£3,863 4 6

TABLE XXIX.

*An Account of the Expenditure and Produce of the BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM, for one year, being from 1st April, 1846, till 31st March, 1847.*

Dr.		Cr.	
EXPENDITURE.		PRODUCE.	
To Lime, .. .. .	£18 1 8	By Potatoes, 73 cwt. (used in the establishment), and valued at 3s 6d per cwt., .. .. .	£12 15 6
“ Farm and Garden Seeds, ..	8 2 4	By Oats, 87 cwt. (used in the establishment), at 10s per cwt.,	£43 10 0
“ Repairing Carts, .. .. .	7 2 0	By Do., 12 cwt. 1qr. 20lbs., sold at 9s 6d per cwt., .. .. .	5 18 0
“ Scythes and Rakes, .. .. .	1 6 0		49 8 0
“ Stones, .. .. .	3 6 5	By Hay, 180 cwt. (used in the establishment), at 2s per cwt.,	18 0 0
“ Bran, .. .. .	2 15 0	By Straw, 200 cwt. (used in the establishment), at 1s 6d per cwt.,	15 0 0
“ Cart Harness and Repairs, ..	4 7 8	By Vegetables sold, .. .. .	£70 2 0
“ Shoeing Farm & Market Horse, ..	1 16 6	“ Do. (used in establishment),	31 4 0
“ Horse Brush and Comb, &c., ..	0 12 7		101 6 0
	£47 10 2	By Osier Rods, made into baskets,	1 10 0
“ Balance, .. .. .	150 9 4		£197 19 6
	£197 19 6		

# Dietary

OF

## THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM

### FOR THE INSANE POOR.

---

#### BREAKFAST.

---

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

---

#### DINNER.

---

One half-pound loaf bread, and	}	Males.	} Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday.
One quart soup, ... ..			
One half pound loaf bread, and	}	Females.	
One and half-pint soup, ... ..			
Three-quarters of a lb. loaf bread, and	}	Males.	} Monday, Friday, and Saturday.
One pint mixed milk, ... ..			
One half-pound loaf bread, and			
One pint mixed milk, ... ..	}	Females.	

---

#### SUPPER.

---

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

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☞ 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.