

**Eleventh annual report of the Belfast District Asylum, for lunatic poor :
being from 1st April, 1840, to 31st March, 1841.**

Contributors

Belfast District Lunatic Asylum.
Stewart, Robert.

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ELEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,

FOR

LUNATIC POOR,

Being from 1st April, 1840, to 31st March, 1841.

ORDERED TO BE PRINTED AND CIRCULATED.

BELFAST:

PRINTED BY FRANCIS D. FINLAY,

CALENDER-STREET.

1841.


GOVERNORS

OF THE

BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM, FOR LUNATIC POOR,

APPOINTED BY

THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND PRIVY COUNCIL.

 *Stated Meetings of Governors are held at the Asylum, the first Monday in each Month, at One o'clock, p.m.*

MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE,
MARQUIS OF DONEGALL,
EARL OF BELFAST,
SIR A. CHICHESTER, BART.,
BISHOP OF DOWN AND CONNOR,
BISHOP OF DROMORE,
SOVEREIGN OF BELFAST (FOR THE TIME BEING),
RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT FERRARD,
HON. MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. R. PAKENHAM, K.C.B.,
REV. A. C. MACARTNEY,
REV. THOMAS HINCKS,
JOHN SUFFERN, Esq.,
SIR ROBERT BATESON, BART., M.P.,
NICHOLAS PRICE, Esq., J.P.,
WILLIAM M'CANCE, Esq., J.P.,
ROBERT JAMES TENNENT, Esq., J.P.,
ROBERT GRIMSHAW, Esq., J.P.,
JOHN SINCLAIRE, Esq.,
EDWARD BRUCE, Esq., J.P.,
WILLIAM WALLACE LEGG, Esq.,
JAMES BLAIR, Esq.,
RIGHT REV. DR. DENVIR, D.D.,
REV. DR. EDGAR, D.D.,
REV. DR. MONTGOMERY, LL.D.

Officers.

MANAGER—ROBERT STEWART, M.D., RESIDENT,
PHYSICIAN—SAMUEL SMITH THOMSON, M.D., } NON-
SURGEON-APOTHECARY—J. S. MULHOLLAND, } RESIDENT.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,

FOR LUNATIC POOR,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1841.

ADMISSIONS FOR THE YEAR.

THE NEW CASES received during the year amounted to one hundred and eleven, being an excess of two, as compared with the former year; seventy-four of which were of the ORDINARY class, and thirty-seven URGENT.

STATEMENT OF NEW CASES,

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged, recovered,	22	15	37
Do., relieved, and on trial,	4	0	4
Died,	4	3	7
Still in the Asylum,	30	33	63
	—	—	—
	60	51	111

The ages of the above were as follow:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 10 to 20 years,	11	4	15
Do. 20 to 30 do.,	15	13	28
Do. 30 to 40 do.,	18	12	30
Do. 40 to 50 do.,	10	11	21
Do. 50 to 60 do.,	4	8	12
Do. 60 to 70 do.,	2	2	4
Do. 70 to 80 do.,	0	0	0
Do. 80 to 90 do.,	0	1	1
	—	—	—
	60	51	111

RELAPSES.

Four cases of Relapse, viz. :—two males and two females, were admitted during the year, being one less than last year ; six, five, three, and two months were the respective periods which each continued at home, after being discharged from the Institution, prior to re-admission taking place.

STATEMENT OF OLD CASES.

The old cases treated during the year, amounting to 231 (including the relapses), are thus to be accounted for :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged, recovered,	11	16	27
Do., relieved, &c.,... ..	2	3	5
Died,	10	7	17
Remaining in the house,	102	80	182
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	125	106	231

AGES.

The ages of the total number of Patients discharged, recovered, during the year, were as follow :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 10 to 20 years,	6	0	6
Do. 20 to 30 do.,	6	8	14
Do. 30 to 40 do.,	13	11	24
Do. 40 to 50 do.,	3	9	12
Do. 50 to 60 do.,	2	1	3
Do. 60 to 70 do.,	3	1	4
Do. 70 to 80 do.,	0	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33	31	64

CAUSES OF DISEASE.

The following are the causes assigned, in 96 cases, out of the 111 new admissions of the year :—

I.—MORAL CAUSES.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Losses and embarrassments,	8	3	11
Grief,	5	1	6
Disappointed affections,	1	6	7
Domestic quarrels,	3	1	4
Do. calamities,	0	4	4
Over-application to business,	4	1	5
Fright,	2	1	3
Do. during sleep,	3	3	6
Poverty,	3	0	3
Fear of coming to want,	2	0	2
Jealousy,	0	1	1
Over study,	1	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32	21	53

II.—PHYSICAL CAUSES.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Inebriety,	8	3	11
Hereditary,	4	8	12
Puerperal,	0	3	3
Effects of fever,	3	2	5
Injury of head,	1	2	3
Exposure to cold,	2	0	2
Paralysis,	1	1	2
Bodily weakness,	2	0	2
Epilepsy,	1	1	2
Scrofula,	1	0	1
	—	—	—
	23	20	43
Gradual approach, and not known,	5	10	15—111

SPECIES OF INSANITY.

The forms under which the disease presented itself, in the cases admitted during the year, were the following:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania,	34	25	59
Do., complicated with Epilepsy,	1	1	2
Melancholia,	13	15	28
Mono-mania,	8	9	17
Dementia,	3	0	3
Amentia,	1	1	2
	—	—	—
	60	51	111

SUICIDAL CASES.

Amongst the admissions of the year were 22 suicidally disposed, viz., 11 males and 11 females, almost all of whom had made actual attempts on their lives prior to admission, but not afterwards.

CRIMINAL LUNATICS.

No alteration has, as yet, been enabled to be effected in the Statutory regulations, under which the criminal insane are confined in these Institutions, notwithstanding that so strong a case has been made out against such a system being continued—one which is so subversive of an important principle, never to be lost sight of in Lunatic Asylums, namely, that they should not be looked upon as places of criminal confinement, in any sense, but merely as Hospitals or Infirmaries, set apart for the treatment of mental disorders, in the same manner as Hospitals, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, are for bodily ailments. But this is a desideratum which cannot be accomplished or looked for, even in the most remote degree, until public Institutions, established for the treatment of mental disease, are altogether exempted from, and unconnected with, the reception of cases from prisons; which

cases, though comparatively few in number, yet, nevertheless, cause by their presence, and the ignominious circumstances under which they are situated, unpleasantness and dissatisfaction, to a very pernicious and irritating extent, especially those who, having escaped the infliction of the last penalty of the law, on the plea of insanity, necessarily become inmates for life, whether insanity be present or not. It may be said, that it would be contrary to every principle of justice and humanity, to punish those who, whilst the subjects of unsound mind, committed murder, or other atrocious crime, by confining them, as criminals, in Gaol; but what more fearful punishment, it is asked, could be inflicted on sane persons, than to make them the companions of the insane, for life? Yet this is precisely the case with those who have become restored to that reason which they were charitably supposed to have been bereft of, when imbruing their hands in innocent blood, or otherwise outraging the laws and the peace of society. But, in reply to this, it may be stated, how many are there not the inmates of Lunatic Asylums, who will never come out therefrom, so long as life continues, who were guiltless of any or the slightest offence against the laws of their country? and yet this is not felt in any wise as a grievance. This is quite true; but, to such patients, in their lucid moments, it is enabled to be said, when you recover sufficiently, you will again enjoy liberty and the society of your friends, a hope which, however, can never be held out to the others—one which is most soothing and consolatory even to those who labour under alienation of mind, in its worst form. Whether, therefore, unsoundness of mind be real, or only pretended, in the cases of criminals, much less of injustice it is conceived would be done to the criminal himself, as well as to the community, by confining him in Gaol, rather than in an Asylum; for this reason, that, if insanity were present at the period of his violating the law—thus, of course, rendering him unaccountable—and that, subsequently, his reason became restored, he would then, at all events, have sane, though otherwise indifferent, companions about him, and his sanity might be turned or applied to some useful purpose, which, in a Lunatic Asylum, would go for nought, as sane or insane, the so-called criminal Lunatic, by being confined therein, is doom-

ed to associate with maniacs all his natural life ; and if, on the other hand, his insanity were merely affected, as has so often happened, in order to escape merited punishment, why even the most dismal dungeon of a Gaol would be an abode too good for him. Those unhappy creatures whose melancholy lot it is to have the ties of affection and kindred rent asunder, by leaving home under the visitation of a malady so dreadful and deplorable as insanity, and who have never directly, or indirectly, offended against the laws of the land, have surely enough of reproach and obloquy to bear up under, on a return thereto, even if it were only from the heartless and unreflecting portion of the world so commonly and scoffingly designating Asylums—Mad-houses*—and the inmates thereof mad-men and mad-women (little thinking how acutely these, to say the least, most vulgar and unchristian epithets are felt both by patients and their friends), without those Asylums being looked upon, in any wise, as portions of the criminal Gaols of the country, which, necessarily, must be the case, so long as deeply-stained criminals are immured therein ; thus, to a certain extent, punishing crimeless patients, and grievously wounding their feelings, many of whom, in course of time, hearing that there are some of their companions never to be released from the establishment, take up the idea, that they, also, are to be held in continual durance, by which means, an excitement is produced very prejudicial to recovery ; and ingenuity and cunning (of which the insane have, generally, so large a share) are actively at work to attempt an escape. It is not to be wondered at, that criminal inmates, from time to time, escape from these Institutions, thereby affording another very cogent reason, otherwise to dispose of them, than in Asylums which are, in no respect, adapted for their safe custody ; their internal arrangements being, as they very properly should, such as to do away with anything of a prison-like appearance, or any resemblance thereto—no double or single-barred windows—no iron doors—no fetters or hand-cuffs—no armed turnkeys are therein, all which would be absolutely requisite to keep in proper security and subjection individuals of the stamp of Samuel Morrow, who attempted to

* At the present time a Bill is before Parliament, intituled " A Bill to alter and amend the laws of Madhouses in Scotland, and to provide for the custody of dangerous Lunatics." Could not the officials of enlightened and christian Scotland have otherwise denominated these institutions than by the above soubriquet ?

shoot his wife ; and the sanguinary and notorious John Linn, who murdered his father, each being placed in this Asylum, and both effecting an escape, the former during the last Summer, of whom no account has since been heard ; but it is generally believed, he has expatriated himself to America—the latter, some years ago, who was ultimately captured in Liverpool, on his way to America, and is now a convict in New South Wales, neither of whom, though both pronounced to be insane, ever manifested any symptoms of insanity, *after* acquittal of their respective crimes occurred, on the ground of being *non compos mentis* !

A case of the above class, named John Hill, was transmitted hither last August, from County Antrim Gaol, who, in the month of March, previously, took the lives of no fewer than four members of his own family, viz., wife, mother-in-law, and two children, a deed which he effected, in a moment of time almost, with a spade : his ill-fated wife was in the act of removing a blister from his head, which had been applied for a severe cephalalgic affection he was periodically the subject of, when, under the hallucination that she was going to murder him, he suddenly sprang, tiger-like, on the unfortunate woman, and felled her dead at his feet—and so with the others, in quick succession, no help being convenient to stay his fiend-like vengeance, as the house was in the country, and at some distance from any other ; it appears, hitherto, there could not have been a more affectionate husband or parent, and that he had never before committed the least act of violence, his character, naturally, being peaceable and industrious ; to the present time, nothing of insanity has been evidenced in his conversation, habits, or movements ; still, his recollection of the dreadful tragedy he enacted, is, it would seem, very obscure. Since admission he has been rather taciturn ; and, on the whole, his conduct has been correct and orderly. The other cases of admissions from the Gaols, in all 13, are of a character not requiring particular notice in this report, none of them having been guilty of any more serious offence, than assaults of a trifling description, the Act, 1 Victoria, giving too much facility for the placing of unruly members of families, in the first instance, in Gaol, as “ dangerous Lunatics,” which is found a more convenient method of disposing of them, than by apply-

ing for their admission, in the ordinary manner, into these Asylums, to which they are subsequently sent by order of Government. In many instances, it has proved a most difficult matter, on a restoration to sanity occurring amongst this class of inmates, to prevail on their relations to remove them from the Asylum, when an order for their discharge has been applied for, and received from Government, there being no power, such as exists in the admission of cases by certificate, to compel the withdrawal of patients received from Gaol, by the Lord Lieutenant's warrant. A difficulty of this description happened within the last two months. A husband pertinaciously refused to take home his wife; but, ultimately, through fear of ulterior proceedings, he very unwillingly came for her. This state of affairs ought, most assuredly, to be put an end to; a simple remedy appears at command, which is, that warrant patients, when deemed sufficiently recovered to leave the Asylum, should be delivered up to the Police authorities, who, from their local knowledge of the parties concerned, could, with little difficulty, have them duly handed over to their families, or otherwise look after their proper disposal; as it must be obvious, that, to allow those who had been the subjects of insanity, and who were the inmates of an Asylum, to leave such, in the first instance, without being given up to a discreet friend or companion, would, in the great majority of cases, be most injudicious; and, therefore, it is that the wholesome regulation of a fit and proper person attending, when called upon, to take in charge *certificate* patients, on convalescence occurring, to their respective homes, is made indispensable by the Governors, thus taking off all further responsibility from Institutions, whose officers have, in the regular routine of business, sufficiently important labours to attend to, without the imposition of more, on the part of those inmates received from Gaol, who are fitted for dismissal.

STATE OF ACCOMMODATION DURING THE YEAR.

The house, on the Male side, has been completely filled throughout the year, and at times inconveniently so, from the pressure of urgent, as well as ordinary cases. The Female department has, also, been generally occupied, but not to the same extent as the male, at any period during the year now terminated.

There are many harmless incurables in the house, who, if received into the Work-houses of the district, would tend greatly to relieve the establishment, as well as enhance its usefulness, by being enabled to receive both urgent and ordinary cases, without that delay which, at times, unavoidably occurs, notwithstanding the additional accommodation afforded to the Institution some few years since. The year's average daily number of patients was 244.67, being an increase of $27\frac{1}{4}$ over the year preceding, the males exceeding the females, by 20, on a general daily average.

HEALTH OF PATIENTS DURING THE YEAR.

With reference to the general health of the patients, the same satisfactory report has to be made on the present occasion, as in former years. Throughout the year, we happily were altogether exempt from any epidemic, and though the number of patients was so much greater, comparatively, this year, than last, yet the deaths were fewer in proportion, the total amount being 24, or about 9 per cent. Some of the patients, prior to admission, were in a hopeless state of exhaustion, from long-continued privations of various kinds, coming in as it were merely to add to the mortality list, without the least chance of any benefit being obtained; but, in all similar Institutions, cases of this description, though doubtless improper ones, are presented, and to refuse admission, would, perhaps, be an act of great hardship, if not of cruelty, especially when brought from a remote part of the district; but all persons concerned in the signing of the printed recommendatory certificates, the only guarantee the Governors have, that the objects certified for are really fit for reception, should practise every reasonable precaution, so as not to be instrumental in transmitting unfortunate beings, merely to linger out a wretched existence, for a few weeks, in a public Institution, set apart for far different purposes.

DEATHS.

Out of the 24 deaths which occurred, 14 were males, and 10 females; of the former, the average age was 43, the oldest being 62, and the youngest 21; and the average of the latter 37 years, the oldest and youngest being respectively, aged 65 and 18.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Died of general debility,	7	3	10
Phthisis Pulmonalis,	0	4	4
Maniacal exhaustion,	1	2	3
General paralysis,	2	1	3
Apoplexy,	2	0	2
Diseased Liver,	1	0	1
Dropsy,	1	0	1
	—	—	—
	14	10	24

Of the above, two were inmates between 5 and 18 days ; seven between two and five months ; two under twelve months ; five between one and two years ; four between three and five years ; and four between ten and eleven years.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT—RESTRAINT.

With reference to the general and every day management of the Institution, a little will suffice on the present occasion, and though that little must, necessarily, be of comparatively trivial interest, yet, as every thing connected with so peculiar, and, withal, so humiliating an affection as insanity, commands the attention of the philanthropist, as well as, more or less, even of the most apathetic, something should be said on this head, devoid though it be of importance or concern to the many ; and, as in last year's Report, the subject of the restraint or non-restraint of patients, when labouring under violent paroxysms of mania, was particularly alluded to, it being then a question which largely occupied both professional and public attention, the same may again be worthy of a passing observation, and this the more especially, as the matter, so far from having ceased to be agitated, has increased manifold in intensity of discussion, and, consequently, in interest ; indeed, a Committee of the House of Commons, it is believed, is sitting for the purpose of investigating into certain charges brought against a justly celebrated and very extensive public Institution, in the sister Kingdom, conducted on the non-restraint principle, at least, notice of motion for a Committee was given upwards of a month since, by Mr. Ewart, M.P. After another additional year's experience in the management of the patients committed to his charge, the Manager of this Asylum sees no occasion, whatever, to change the opinion he ventured to give in his last Annual Report, on so exceedingly important a point of detail, as that of restraint in the treatment

of the furious insane ; on the contrary, he feels bound to state, and that with the utmost deference to those distinguished individuals from whom he differs, that to substitute, in cases of violent mania, a species of living terror, in the questionable form of able-bodied men, of "not less than six feet high," in lieu of temporary and mild physical restraint, is a proposition utterly inconsistent, not only with common sense, but also common humanity. It may, with truth, be affirmed, that non-restraint is the rule, and restraint the exception, in this establishment ; but it would be want of candour to state, that the former could be practised, or is practised, every day in the year, with every case in the house—no ; it would be folly, in the extreme, to say so, and in those Reports which have emanated from total abolition Asylums, something in the shape of mechanical restraint is still, even in them, or at least some of them, found unavoidable ; though, at the same time, the impression is endeavoured to be made, that nothing, whatever, of the kind is used : it would be much more creditable, at once, to admit, that a mild form of coercion, with vicious and unruly inmates, was called into operation, instead of thus playing on terms, and honestly to avow, "that judicious restraint will not, unfrequently, be found a most powerful engine in the *moral treatment* of insanity ; and, farther, that cases do occasionally occur, in which it is impossible to dispense with it, without exposing the patient to imminent danger." * It, of course, need not here be explained, that the terms *restraint* and *coercion* have reference merely to the confining of a violent patient, either by muffs being placed on the hands, or, if very outrageous, by the imposition of a strait-waistcoat, which latter, however, owing to its inducing much artificial heat, and necessarily pressing on parts of moment, to keep free from pressure ought to be applied as seldom as possible ; neither need it be mentioned, for the satisfaction of the public, that corporal punishment, as a means of intimidation, or "chains, bolts, or iron hobbles," are ever thought of being called into requisition, in the efforts adopted to moderate and subdue maniacal violence. The shower-bath is often a very potent assistant in such cases, and though condemned or found fault with by some experienced

* Doctor Blake and Surgeon Powell's Report of the Nottingham General Lunatic Asylum, June, 1840.

superintendents, yet, in the great majority of instances, its application is productive of the best and happiest effects, as also the warm-bath. There are some constitutions, of course, that cannot bear the former ; but the exceptions are very few, indeed, in which the shower-bath may not be used with the most perfect safety : the warm-bath is decidedly of vast advantage : the patients, generally, in this Asylum, have one, once each week ; comfort and cleanliness, besides other good effects, being thus ensured.

The use of tobacco and snuff, it may be observed, has been given up, in this Asylum, these some years past, and with the best results, besides effecting a saving of between £40 and £50 per annum ; indeed, it is a matter of no small surprise, that, in similar Institutions, these not only most unnecessary but filthy and injurious articles, should be so freely used amongst the patients, as must be the case, from the comparatively heavy item of annual expenditure they present. In this Asylum, a constant destruction of clothes was occurring, by the tearing of body-linen, and the linings of coats, &c., in order to light pipes, coupled with which was the risk of fire taking place, by artful patients managing to bring lighted pipes into their sleeping apartments ; but these, with several other inconveniences, have been removed, by putting a stop entirely to the introduction of the pernicious weed in question, in any form, into the establishment, amongst the patients ; and many of the greatest slaves to its use, acknowledged the service they received mentally and physically, by having to forego its indulgence.

RECOVERIES.

Of the patients discharged during the year, the cured amount to about 66 per cent. A table will be found appended, shewing the period of time each case was under treatment, &c., &c. In more instances than one amongst the females, who have become convalescent, recovery could be attributed to employing them in the private department of the Institution, as servants, in the performance of various simple offices, and particularly as occasional attendants upon the children of the Superintendent, they being permitted to do which was looked upon as a great favour, and gave the poor creatures a confidence in themselves, seeing that they were so confided in, and thus a new association of ideas

was given rise to, and what was apparently all chaos in their dis-tempered imaginations, gradually became settled down into that state emphatically termed a "right mind." At the present time, there is a young female patient, whose mental improvement has been chiefly, if not altogether, brought about by being employed in this way, she having been for some time amongst the other inmates, without any perceptible amendment; but having been given leave to come into the nursery from time to time, she took such a fancy to, and was so delighted with, the children, that, by degrees, she was allowed to be more and more with them, and now she is so far recovered, as to be nearly able to leave the house, though a most unpromising case on admission. Such facts may appear too trifling, formally to recount here, but they are mentioned merely in corroboration of what has been observed, and pointedly recorded in reports of other Asylums, and which go far to bear out what was stated in a former year's Report, that the more we endeavour to treat the insane, as if they were sane, the greater the chances are of an amendment, if not of entire recovery being the issue, thus acting on the principle of non-restraint, in its fullest and wisest extent; and, no doubt, if Lunatic Asylums, generally, could be conducted on the principle of having detached houses in the one establishment, in which only a few patients would be collected together, and so classified, as that the quiet and harmless, and, above all, recent cases, could be more completely isolated from the violent, the dangerous, and the incurable, results of the happiest description might be expected; for it certainly must be manifest, that the crowding together of an immense number of unfortunate beings, who are afflicted with insanity, and every one of whom is variously affected, is not the most likely way of effecting a restoration to reason. Our Asylums are too much looked upon in the light of mere prisons; and so long as this opinion prevails in the public mind, so long will their usefulness be impaired; but the limits of a formal report preclude the possibility of a point of this importance being more than merely glanced at, as it now has been.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF PATIENTS.

With reference to the subject of Religious Instruction being practised in this Asylum, a word or two may not be out of place,

and this the more especially, as it is a very chief one in almost all the annual reports of the public Asylums in England and Scotland. Since this Institution commenced operations, a regular professional chaplain has not been appointed; the subject, however, of affording religious comfort and instruction was early and duly provided for, the rule on this head being, that, in those cases, where a patient expressed a desire to be visited by his pastor, and that the doing so was not deemed likely to cause excitement to any prejudicial extent, liberty was immediately to be given, and no obstruction, whatever, was to be thrown in the way of such visits being repeated. More than this, those patients who have become sufficiently convalescent, and who desire it, are permitted to go on Sundays, in charge of an attendant, to their respective places of worship, which is an indulgence highly valued by the parties concerned, and looked forward to with no small delight; and, furthermore, all the inmates who are capable of having their faculties, in any wise, engaged in hearing the word of God read and briefly expounded, and of joining in common simple prayer, are assembled together by the Manager, in one of the day-rooms, in numbers varying from 70 to 80, each Lord's day, thus forming a congregation, which, for general attention and propriety of demeanour, though composed of such dissimilar parts, as would be no discredit to a regular House of Worship; and all denominations of creeds meet, as it were, on neutral ground, no interference, whatever, with the peculiar tenets of any, either being thought of on the one hand, or dreaded on the other; for, be the patients insane as they may, their particular religious opinions are still unforgetten. In this manner, then, the comforts and consolations of Religion are endeavoured to be afforded to all capable of appreciating the same, and, it is trusted, with as much of good effect as could reasonably be expected or looked for, with those labouring under so heavy a dispensation, as unerring Wisdom has seen fit to visit them with.

YEAR'S EXPENSES, &c.

The comfort of the establishment continues to be greatly enhanced, by the regular temperature of the hot-water apparatus.

The expenditure of the year will be found fully accounted for, amongst the annexed tables. The average expense of each patient

during the year, including every charge, has been £16 11s 4½d; that of last year, £16 13s 4½d, being exactly 2s per head less; the total expenditure amounted to £4,051 7s 3d.

The farm and garden, it will be seen, produced a nett profit of £185 1s 6d; exceeding last year, by £29 15s 8d.

The Manager, in conclusion, desires to express his best thanks to the Board of Governors, for the kind support he has, at all times, received so freely and liberally at its hands, and he trusts still being enabled to look for the same, by a faithful discharge of the duties of his office.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D.,
Resident Manager.

Belfast Asylum, 31st March, 1841.

GENERAL
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CASES

IN THE

Belfast District Lunatic Asylum,

Being from 1st April, 1840, to 31st March, 1841.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Asylum, 1st April, 1840, . . .	123	104	227			
Admitted,	60	51	111			
Admitted, having relapsed, . . .	2	2	4	185	157	342
Discharged, recovered,	33	31	64			
Do., relieved,	5	3	8			
Died,	1	0	1			
Escaped,	14	10	24			
Remaining in Asylum, 31st March 1841,	132	113	245	185	157	342

Admitted from each County.

Down,	30	31	61			
Down,	32	21	53			
Downpatrick,		1	1	62	53	115

Discharged to each County.

Down,	21	19	40			
Down,	32	25	57			
Downpatrick,				53	44	97

Remaining in Asylum, 31st March, 1841.

Down,	68	58	126			
Down,	62	53	115			
Downpatrick,	2	2	4	132	113	345

State of cases remaining, 31st March, 1841.

Convalescent,	15	8	23			
Considered curable,	29	24	53			
Considered incurable,	88	81	169	132	113	245

Domestic State of Patients admitted during the year ending 31st March, 1841.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Single,	39	26	65
Married,	20	20	40
Widowed,	3	7	10
	62	53	115

Religious persuasions of the patients admitted during the year ending 31st March, 1841.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Episcopalians,	19	23	42
Roman Catholics,	21	11	32
Protestant Dissenters,	21	18	39
Moravian,		1	1
Jew,	1		1
	62	53	115

Degree of Education of the Patients admitted during the year ending 31st March, 1841.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Can read and write,	39	12	51
Can read only,	14	22	36
Can neither read nor write,	9	19	28
	62	53	115

Table distinguishing the numbers admitted, discharged, and died during each season, from the opening of the Belfast Asylum in June, 1829, to 31st January, 1841, with centesimal ratios.

<i>Seasons.</i>	<i>ADMITTED.</i>				<i>DISCHARGED.</i>					
	<i>New cases.</i>		<i>Relapsed cases.</i>		<i>Recovered.</i>		<i>Relieved, &c.</i>		<i>Died.</i>	
	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
Spring,	229	22.28	21	25.00	122	22.68	21	19.44	57	26.63
Summer,	271	26.36	17	20.24	117	21.74	25	23.15	42	19.53
Autumn,	284	27.63	23	27.38	173	32.16	39	36.11	49	22.80
Winter,	244	23.73	23	27.38	126	23.42	23	21.30	66	30.84
Total,	1028	100.00	84	100.00	538	100.00	108	100.00	214	100.00

Table of admissions and discharges, together with the average daily number of Patients in Belfast Asylum, each month, for the year ending 31st March, 1841.

Months.	ADMISSIONS.							DISCHARGES.							Average daily number per month.		
	New cases.		Relap- sed do.		Totals.			Reco- vered.		Reliev- ed, &c		Died.		Totals.			
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females	Sum total	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.		Females	Sum total
1840.																	
April, ...	4	6	1	1	5	7	12	5	1	...	1	1	1	6	3	9	229.66
May, ...	8	4	...	...	8	4	12	1	3	...	1	2	...	3	4	7	233.03
June, ...	2	6	...	...	2	6	8	1	1	...	...	2	1	3	2	5	237.19
July, ...	10	6	...	...	10	6	16	...	4	2	...	...	1	2	5	7	241.64
August,	5	3	...	...	5	3	8	7	3	1	...	...	...	8	3	11	245.58
Sept., ...	5	4	...	1	5	5	10	3	2	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	247.06
October,	6	2	...	...	6	2	8	3	2	1	...	2	1	6	3	9	246.64
Nov., ...	3	2	...	...	3	2	5	1	2	...	...	1	2	2	4	6	246.93
Dec., ...	6	8	...	...	6	8	14	1	1	...	..	2	1	3	2	5	251.25
1841.																	
January,	4	3	...	...	4	3	7	3	4	1	...	2	...	6	4	10	254.87
Feb., ...	5	4	...	...	5	4	9	4	1	...	1	2	2	6	4	10	252.42
March,	2	3	1	...	3	3	6	4	7	1	...	...	1	5	8	13	249.96
Totals,...	60	51	2	2	62	53	115	33	31	6	3	14	10	53	44	97	244.67

Recapitulation of the above Table, divided into solar seasons, with the proportions of admissions, discharges, &c., during each season.

Seasons.	ADMISSIONS.				DISCHARGES.					
	New cases.	Rate.	Relap- sed cases.	Rate.	Reco- vered.	Rate.	Reliev ed, &c.	Rate.	Died.	Rate.
Spring,	24	2.16	3	7.50	22	3.44	3	3.33	7	2.92
Summer,	36	3.24	...	...	10	1.56	3	3.33	6	2.50
Autumn,	25	2.25	1	2.50	20	3.13	2	2.22	3	1.25
Winter,	26	2.35	...	...	12	1.87	1	1.12	8	3.33
	111	10.	4	10.	64	10.0	9	10.	24	10.

Table of Discharges, for the year ending 31st March, 1841, shewing how long the Patients were ill, before admission, period of their residence in the Asylum, and the total duration of the disease.

Months.	Ill before Admission.						Residence in Asylum.						Duration of disease.					
	Reco- vered.		Reliev- ed, &c.		Dead.		Reco- vered,		Reliev- ed, &c.		Dead.		Reco- vered.		Reliev- ed, &c.		Dead.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 3	13	15	3	...	3	3	15	8	2	...	3	2	5	6	1	...	2	1
3 to 4	3	4	...	...	3	...	4	5	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
4 to 5	5	1	...	1	2	...	3	4	1	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
5 to 6	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	3	2	1	...	1	...
6 to 7	3	3	...	1	2	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	...	...
7 to 8	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...
8 to 9	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
9 to 10	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 to 11	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	2	...
11 to 12	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
12 to 13	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
13 to 14	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	...
14 to 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
15 to 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
16 to 17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
17 to 18	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
18 to 19	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 to 20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20 to 21	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
21 to 22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
22 to 23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
23 to 24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Years.																		
2 to 5	1	2	...	...	1	2	...	3	...	1	4	2	2	3	...	2	3	2
5 to 10	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	3
10 to 15	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	2
15 to 20	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
20 to 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals,	33	31	6	3	14	10	33	31	6	3	14	10	33	31	6	3	14	10

Table of the total number of Patients admitted from the opening, together with the numbers remaining from each County, in the Belfast District Lunatic Asylum, on 31st March, 1841, with the proportion they bear to the population, as taken by the census of 1831.

County.	Population of each County.	Total Admissions.	Proportion.	Numbers remaining.	Proportion.
* Antrim, ...	316·909	577	1 to 549·23	126	1 to 2515·15
Down, ...	352·012	536	1 to 656·74	115	1 to 3060·97
Carrickfergus, ...	8·706	15	1 to 580·40	4	1 to 2176·50
Totals, ...	677·627	1,128	1 to 600·73	245	1 to 2765·12

* The Admissions from County Antrim, with a smaller population, being so much greater in proportion than those from County Down, with a larger, is, in a great measure, perhaps, owing to so many cases coming in from Belfast alone; which town gives one insane Patient to every 1,911 inhabitants.

Table of the occupation of the Patients admitted during the year ending 31st March, 1841.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Bleacher,	1	...	...
Black-smith,	1	...	...
Cabinet-maker,	1	...	...
Cattle dealer,	1	...	...
Cooper,	1	...	...
Carpenter (House),	1	...	...
Calico-printer,	1	...	...
Clergyman (Catholic),	1	...	...
Errand-Boy,	1	..	...
Farmers,	5	...	...
Furniture-dealer, . . . . .	...	1	...
Ham-Curer,	1	...	...
Labourers,	16	...	...
Lath Cutter,	1	...	...
Mason (Stone),	1	...	...
Mill Girl, . . . . .	...	1	...
Mercer's Apprentice,	1	...	...
Pedlar,	1	...	...
Painter (House),	1	...	...
Publican,	1	...	...
Students,	2	...	...
Shoemaker,	1	...	...
Farm and other servants,	2	18	...
School-mistress, . . . . .	...	2	...
School-masters,	2	...	...
Sempstress, . . . . .	...	4	...
Stay-maker, . . . . .	...	1	...
Tailor,	1	...	...
Weavers,	15	1	...
Wax Manufacturer,	1	...	...
Washer-woman, . . . . .	...	1	...
Wives of Farmers, Tradesmen, &c.,	...	13	...
Without occupation, and unknown,	2	10	...
	63	52	115

Table distinguishing the religious persuasions of the total number of Patients admitted from the opening of the Asylum, to 31st March, 1841, with centesimal ratios.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per Cent.
Episcopalian,	143	132	275	24.38
Roman Catholic,	193	193	386	34.21
Protestant Dissenters,	228	237	465	41.23
Moravian, ... ..	...	1	1	.09
Jew,	1	...	1	.09
Totals,	565	563	1128	100.

Summary of the aggregate admissions, discharges, &c., from each County, from the opening of the Asylum in June, 1829, to 31st March, 1841.

	ADMITTED.						DISCHARGED.								Remaining 31st March, 1841.		
	New Cases.		Relapsed Cases.		Total.		Recovered.		Relieved &c.		Died.		Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			
Antrim,	260	277	19	21	279	298	117	159	32	19	62	62	211	240	68	58	126
Down,	253	238	25	20	278	258	140	133	32	26	44	46	216	205	62	53	115
C.fergus,	8	6	...	1	8	7	4	1	...	1	2	3	6	5	2	2	4
Totals,	521	521	44	42	565	563	261	293	64	46	108	111	433	450	132	113	245

Recapitulation of the above Table, with centesimal ratios.

ADMITTED, ...	{	New cases, ...	...	1,042	Ratio, ...	92.38
		Relapsed cases, ...	...	86	do. ...	7.62
				1,128		100.
DISCHARGED, ...	{	Recovered, ...	...	554	Ratio, ...	49.11
		Relieved, &c., ...	...	110	do. ...	9.75
		Dead, ...	...	219	do. ...	19.42
Remaining in Asylum,		...	...	245	do, ...	21.72
				1,128		100.

Table shewing the number of Patients remaining in the Asylum, on the 31st March, of each year, from its opening.

Year,	Males.	Females.	Total.
1830	44	34	78
1831	58	61	119
1832	66	75	141
1833	59	71	130
1834	67	78	145
1835	81	86	167
1836	80	82	162
1837	79	90	169
1838	85	93	178
1839	106	102	203
1840	123	104	227
1841	132	113	245

Table shewing the total admissions, with centesimal proportions of the total discharges, deaths, &c., in the respective District Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, made up from their opening, to 31st March, 1840.

Asylum.	Year opened	Total Admissions	PROPORTIONS.				Remaining in Asylum.
			Of Recovered.	Of Relieved, &c.	Of Mortality.		
Armagh, ...	1825	1,089	45.27	29.66	13.87	11.20	100
Belfast, ...	1829	1,013	48.37	9.97	19.25	22.41	...
Carlow, ...	1831	404	46.53	3.96	11.39	38.12	...
Connaught, ...	1833	665	33.83	10.38	22.41	33.38	...
Clonmel, ...	1835	291	44.33	10.66	12.71	32.20	...
Limerick, ...	1827	1,325	52.15	7.10	15.09	25.66	...
Londonderry, ...	1829	960	45.42	11.46	21.66	21.46	...
Maryborough, ...	1833	403	41.44	3.97	15.88	38.71	...
Waterford, ...	1835	278	32.73	23.38	6.12	37.77	...
Richmond, at Dublin, ...	1830	1,115	42.89	13.61	18.44	25.06	...

Number of Patients generally employed.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Cultivating the ground,	60	—	—
Weaving Linen, Calico, &c.,	7	—	—
Spinning for Weavers,	4	—	—
Spinning for do,	1	—	—
Knock-making and Mending,	2	—	—
Carrying Water,	8	—	—
Tailoring,	1	—	—
Keeping Yards, Carrying Coals, &c.,	10	—	—
Breaking Freestone, &c.,	8	—	—
Carpenter Work,	1	—	—
Basket-making,	1	—	—
Knitting,	—	28	—
Knitting,	—	7	—
Making and Repairing Clothing, Bedding, &c.,	—	26	—
Needlework,	—	2	—
Quilting,	—	4	—
Washing, &c., in the Laundry,	—	16	—
Assisting Servants, &c.,	—	12	—
	103	95	198

Average number of patients, daily, during the past year,	244·67.
Average cost of each patient, per annum, including all charges,	£16 11 4½.
Average cost of diet, per head, per day,	0 0 5½.

The following articles were manufactured and made by the Patients, during the Year :—

743 Hanks Linen Yarn.	40 Pair Linen Trousers.
62 ... Thread.	72 Vests.
269 Yards Plain Linen.	33 Quilts.
108 ... Twilled do.	151 Shirts.
162 ... Ticken.	108 Shifts.
108 ... Druggett.	74 Aprons.
647 .. Twilled Calico.	44 Petticoats.
613 .. Plain do.	34 Wrappers.
128 ... Camlet.	80 Caps.
91 ... Chequer.	21 Bed-ticks.
121 Pair Stockings.	21 Bolsters.
61 ... Leather Shoes.	122 Handkerchiefs.
60 ... Listen do. (Soaled.)	60 Towels.
47 ... Sheets.	8 Table-cloths.
44 ... Suspenders.	

*An Account of Receipts and Disbursements of the BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM, for one year—being
from 1st April, 1840, to 31st March, 1841.*

The Charge.

Received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury,	£3,990 0 0	
Balance of last account in favour of the Public,	96 10 4	£4,086 10 4
Received for Vegetables sold,	22 2 0	
Do. for Oats,	11 10 0	
Do. for Linen Yarn,	9 12 0	
Do. for Old Timber,	0 5 0	43 9 0

The Discharge.

Paid for Provisions,	£2,048 9 11	
“ Clothing,	313 6 11	
“ Bedding,	129 8 4	
“ Furniture,	108 17 10	
“ Stationary, Advertising, and Printing,	15 18 9	
“ Coals, Soap, Candles, &c., ..	235 1 8	
“ Medicine,	18 0 6	
“ Repairs on Building, &c., ...	335 2 9	
“ Farm and Garden Expenses,	68 16 8	
“ Incidental Expenses,	88 2 6	
“ Insurance,	21 17 8	
“ Salaries, Wages, &c.,	668 3 9	£4,051 7 3
Balance,	78 12 1	

£4,129 19 4	
£4,129 19 4	£4,129 19 4

Balance in favour of the Public, 31st March, 1841, £78 12 1

*An account of the Expenditure on, and the produce of, the Lands of the BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM,
for one year—being from 1st April, 1840, to 31st March, 1841.*

Dr.				Cr.					
Expenditure,				Produce.					
To Seed Potatoes,	£14	14	0	By Potatoes, 1,100 cwt. (used in the Establishment), and rated at 2s 4d per cwt., ...	...	£128	6	8
“ Farm and Garden Seeds,	9	4	6	“ Oats, 34 cwt. (sold), ...	...	£11	10	0
“ Thorn Quicks,	7	6		“ Do., 30 cwt. (used in Establishment), rated at 7s per cwt., ...	...	10	10	0
“ Manure,	21	14	0	“ Wheat, 5 cwt. (used in Establishment), rated at 11s 6d per cwt., ...	...	2	17	6
“ Lime,	6	10	0	“ Hay, 240 cwt. (used in Establishment), rated at 3s per cwt., ...	...	36	0	0
“ Wheelbarrows,	2	14	6	“ Straw, 120 cwt. (Occ.), used in Establishment, rated at 1s 2d per cwt., ...	...	7	0	0
“ Spades and Shovels,	4	7	9	“ Straw, 10 cwt. (Wheat), used in Establishment rated at 1s per cwt., ...	...	0	10	0
“ Scythes, &c.,	0	10	8	“ Vegetables (sold), ...	...	22	0	0
“ Tithes,	3	16	6	“ Do. (used in Establishment), rated at ...	...	31	0	0
“ Bran,	2	0	0	“ Osier Rods (made into baskets for the Establish- ment), ...	...	1	4	0
“ Horse-shoeing,	1	13	0	“ Nursery Plants, ...	...	3	0	0
“ Repairs on Cart Harness,	1	4	3					
To Balance,	By Balance, ...	...	£293	18	2
							£185	1	6
							£253	18	2

Dietary

OF

THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,

FOR LUNATIC POOR.

BREAKFAST AT NINE, A.M.

One quart stirabout, and	}	Males.	}	Each Morning.
Three-fourths of a pint new or mixed milk,						
One-and-a-half-pint stirabout, and				Females.		
One-half pint new or mixed milk,						

DINNER, AT TWO, P.M.

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

SUPPER AT SIX, P.M., IN WINTER, AND SEVEN, IN SUMMER.

Eight ounces loaf bread, and	}	Males.	}	Each Evening.
Three-fourths of a pint 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 that may be necessary, such as wine, tea, mutton, &c., &c., is substituted.