

**Nineteenth 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, 1849 / drawn up by the resident physician.**

### **Contributors**

Belfast District Lunatic Asylum.  
Stewart, Robert.

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NINETEENTH 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 31<sup>ST</sup> OF MARCH, 1849.

DRAWN UP BY THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

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**ESTABLISHED A.D. 1829.**

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ORDERED BY THE GOVERNORS TO BE PRINTED AND CIRCULATED.

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BELFAST:  
PRINTED BY FRANCIS D. FINLAY,  
CALENDER-STREET.

1849.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1900

CHICAGO, ILL., 1901

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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 GEORGE IV., Cap. 33.*

| NAME.   | DATE OF APPOINTMENT. |
|---|----------------------|
| MARQUIS OF DONEGALL, .. .. .                      | March, 1829.         |
| MAYOR OF BELFAST, FOR THE TIME BEING, .. .. .     | “ “                  |
| LIEUTENANT-GEN. SIR H. R. PAKENHAM, K.C.B., D.L., | “ “                  |
| REV. THOMAS HINCKS, A.M., .. .. .                 | “ “                  |
| SIR ROBERT BATESON, BART., D.L., .. .. .          | 29th June, “         |
| WILLIAM M'CANICE, J.P., .. .. .                   | 4th Jan., 1836.      |
| ROBERT JAMES TENNENT, M.P., D.L., .. .. .         | “ “                  |
| JOHN SINCLAIRE, ESQ., .. .. .                     | 28th Oct., 1837.     |
| EDWARD BRUCE, J.P., .. .. .                       | “ “                  |
| RIGHT REV. BISHOP DENVIR, .. .. .                 | “ “                  |
| REV. JOHN EDGAR, D.D., .. .. .                    | “ “                  |
| REV. H. MONTGOMERY, LL.D., .. .. .                | “ “                  |
| VERY REV. DEAN STANNUS, .. .. .                   | 4th April, 1842.     |
| REV. H. COOKE, D.D., LL.D., .. .. .               | “ “                  |
| JAMES WATSON, ESQ., .. .. .                       | “ “                  |
| JOHN M'NEILE, J.P., D.L., .. .. .                 | “ “                  |
| R. B. B. HOUSTON, J.P., .. .. .                   | “ “                  |
| REV. J. S. B. MONSELL, A.M., .. .. .              | 13th July, “         |
| CONWAY B. GRIMSHAW, ESQ., .. .. .                 | 8th Oct., 1846.      |
| JOHN DUNVILLE, ESQ., .. .. .                      | 16th March, 1847.    |
| JOHN CLARKE, ESQ., .. .. .                        | 13th Sept., “        |
| MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE, .. .. .                     | 16th Nov., “         |
| ROBERT GORDON, J.P., .. .. .                      | “ “                  |
| ROBERT BATT, J.P., D.L., .. .. .                  | “ “                  |
| JOHN SHARMAN CRAWFORD, J.P., .. .. .              | “ “                  |

*Stated meetings of Governors are held in the Asylum, the first Monday of each Month, at One o'clock, p.m., the following being the order in which the business is transacted :—*

- 1.—Proceedings of the last meeting read and signed by the Chairman.
- 2.—Suggestions of the Physicians received.
- 3.—Forms of admission, “urgent cases” admitted since last month, “approved” and signed by the Chairman.
- 4.—Forms of admission, “new cases” “admitted,” and signed by the Chairman.
- 5.—Accounts, for which payment was ordered last meeting, examined and checked off.
- 6.—Accounts for last month examined, and payment ordered.
- 7.—Business arising out of minutes of last meeting.
- 8.—Any other business that may be brought forward.

OFFICERS :

*Resident Physician and Manager*,..... ROBERT STEWART, M.D.  
*Attending Physician*,..... SAMUEL SMITH THOMSON, M.D.  
*Surgeon-Apothecary*,..... J. S. MULHOLLAND, M.D.





NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
THE BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 1849.

TABLE I.

General statement of the year's admissions, &c.

|   |                 |     |     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---|-----------------|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| In Asylum, 31st March, 1848,            | ...             | ... | ... | 145           | 112             | 257           |
| Admitted since,                         | { New cases,    | 56  | 59  | 61            | 59              | 120           |
|   | { Relapsed do., | 5   | 0   |               |                 |               |
| Total under treatment, during the year, | ...             | ... | ... | 206           | 171             | 377           |
| Discharged recovered,                   | ...             | ... | ... | 27            | 42              | 69            |
| Do. relieved,                           | ...             | ... | ... | 8             | 6               | 14            |
| Died,                                   | ...             | ... | ... | 21            | 9               | 30            |
| Leaving in the House, 31st March, 1849, | ...             | ... | ... | 150           | 114             | 264           |

The admissions during the year were 20 less than last year.

|  |     |     |     |     |     |                         |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| Daily average during the year,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 271.32                  |
| Do. for the year ending 31st March, 1848,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 262.56                  |
| Average annual expense of each Patient, this year, including every charge, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £12 18 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Do. for the year ending 31st March, 1848,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 2 7 $\frac{1}{4}$    |
| Being a decrease, this year, on each Patient, of                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$     |

TABLE II.

Ages of Patients admitted during the year.

|                    |     |     |     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Under 20 years,    | ... | ... | ... | 2             | 5               | 7             |
| From 20 to 30 do., | ... | ... | ... | 16            | 14              | 30            |
| Do. 30 to 40 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | 14            | 12              | 26            |
| Do. 40 to 50 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | 13            | 19              | 32            |
| Do. 50 to 60 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | 10            | 6               | 16            |
| Do. 60 to 70 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | 4             | 2               | 6             |
| Do. 70 to 80 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | 2             | 1               | 3             |
|                    |     |     |     | 61            | 59              | 120           |

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, ... ..  | 11            | 15              | 26            |
| Bodily ailments, ... ..               | 4             | 7               | 11            |
| Intemperance, ... ..                  | 8             | 2               | 10            |
| Poverty and distress of times, ... .. | 5             | 3               | 8             |
| Fright, ... ..                        | 3             | 3               | 6             |
| Paralysis, ... ..                     | 5             | 1               | 6             |
| Loss of Employment, ... ..            | 3             | 2               | 5             |
| Religious excitement, ... ..          | 3             | 2               | 5             |
| Epilepsy, ... ..                      | 2             | 3               | 5             |
| Fear of want, ... ..                  | 3             | 0               | 3             |
| Puerperal condition, ... ..           | 0             | 3               | 3             |
| Abuse of Mercury, ... ..              | 1             | 1               | 2             |
| Injury from a fall, ... ..            | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Jealousy, ... ..                      | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Unknown or hereditary, ... ..         | 4             | 2               | 6             |
| Totally Unknown, ... ..               | 7             | 15              | 22            |
|                                       | —             | —               | —             |
|                                       | 61            | 59              | 120           |

TABLE IV.—FORMS OF DISEASE.

|                     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Mania, ... ..       | 38            | 28              | 66            |
| Mono-mania, ... ..  | 2             | 1               | 3             |
| Melancholia, ... .. | 16            | 27              | 43            |
| Dementia, ... ..    | 5             | 3               | 8             |
|                     | —             | —               | —             |
|                     | 61            | 59              | 120           |

TABLE V.—RELIGION.

|   | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Episcopalians, ... ..                           | 24            | 15              | 39            |
| Roman Catholics, ... ..                         | 9             | 18              | 27            |
| Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters, ... .. | 28            | 26              | 54            |
|   | —             | —               | —             |
|   | 61            | 59              | 120           |

TABLE VI.—SOCIAL CONDITION.

|                             | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Married, ... ..             | 34            | 23              | 57            |
| Single, ... ..              | 25            | 29              | 54            |
| Widowers and Widows, ... .. | 2             | 7               | 9             |
|                             | —             | —               | —             |
|                             | 61            | 59              | 120           |



TABLE VII.—OCCUPATION.

|                         |     |     |     |     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Butcher,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Clergyman,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Clergyman's Widow,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| Carpenters,             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5             | 0               | 5             |
| Cook,                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| Distiller,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Domestic Servants,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 10              | 11            |
| Dress-Makers,           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 3               | 3             |
| Embroiderers,           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 3               | 3             |
| Farmers,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12            | 0               | 12            |
| Farmers' Wives,         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 8               | 8             |
| Knitters,               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 9               | 9             |
| Labourers,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12            | 0               | 12            |
| Labourers' Wives,       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 6               | 6             |
| Musician,               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Mill-workers,           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| Nailer,                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Paper-stainer,          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Policeman,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| School-master,          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Shop-keepers,           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Shoe-makers,            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2             | 2               | 4             |
| Tailors,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Weavers,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12            | 1               | 13            |
| Writing Clerks,         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3             | 0               | 3             |
| Without any occupation, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2             | 13              | 15            |
|                         |     |     |     |     | —             | —               | —             |
|                         |     |     |     |     | 61            | 59              | 120           |

TABLE VIII.—EDUCATION.

|                     |     |     |     |     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Well-educated,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4             | 1               | 5             |
| Can read and write, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47            | 25              | 72            |
| Can read only,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5             | 22              | 27            |
| Totally uneducated, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5             | 11              | 16            |
|                     |     |     |     |     | —             | —               | —             |
|                     |     |     |     |     | 61            | 59              | 120           |

TABLE IX.

Ages of the 69 Patients discharged recovered.

|                    |     |     |     |     |    |    |    |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| Under 20 years,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  | 6  | 9  |
| From 20 to 30 do., | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  | 8  | 14 |
| Do. 30 to 40 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  | 11 | 16 |
| Do. 40 to 50 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  | 10 | 13 |
| Do. 50 to 60 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  | 7  | 13 |
| Do. 60 to 70 do.,  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 0  | 4  |
|                    |     |     |     |     | —  | —  | —  |
|                    |     |     |     |     | 27 | 42 | 69 |



TABLE X.  
Causes of death during the year.

|                       |     |     |     |     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| General Debility,     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5             | 6               | 11            |
| Paralysis,            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4             | 0               | 4             |
| Apoplexy,             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3             | 0               | 3             |
| Diarrhœa,             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3             | 0               | 3             |
| Phthisis, ...         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3             | 0               | 3             |
| Old age, ...          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 1               | 2             |
| Dysentery,            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| Diseased knee-joint,  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Cancer of the throat, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Disease of the heart, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0             | 1               | 1             |
|                       |     |     |     |     | —             | —               | —             |
|                       |     |     |     |     | 21            | 9               | 30            |

“DANGEROUS LUNATICS.”

THE admissions of the above class, from the Jails of the District, amounted to fourteen,—six males and eight females.

“CRIMINAL LUNATICS.”

The admissions, during the year, of inmates acquitted of Criminal Offences, on the ground of insanity, were two, viz.,—one male and one female. The number now in the House, of this class, amounts to nine (four males and five females.) The Government Asylum, near the Metropolis, intended for the reception of the Criminal Insane, from all parts of Ireland, has not yet come into operation; but, probably, will at no distant period, now, it being understood that it is rapidly progressing towards completion. Included in the mortality list of the year are two criminal inmates, a male and a female. The case of the male is sufficiently remarkable to make some special reference to, in this place:—He had been in the House nearly nine years, during which time he conducted himself so quietly and properly as to make his great mildness, propriety, and docility, in general, strangely to contrast with the dreadful tragedy he had enacted, four lives having been sacrificed by him, viz.,—those of his wife, two children, and mother-in-law. Throughout his inmateship, he never expressed the least wish to be at liberty, and

no remorse in particular had ever been manifested by him for what he had done : when any allusion, however, happened to be made to it, he appeared ill at ease ; but still, the utmost that ever could be collected from him, respecting an occurrence so truly shocking, was, that being unconscious of the whole proceeding, at its commission, he hoped he would not be held accountable for it in a hereafter state.

#### SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL CASES.

Twenty-three of the patients admitted this year, were suicidally disposed, viz., ten males and thirteen females—all having made very determined attempts at self-destruction, prior to admission. Those attempts were as follow :—By drowning, *eleven* (six males, five females) ; cutting the throat, *eight* (two males, six females) ; hanging and strangulation, *two* (one male, one female) ; cutting into the abdomen, *one* (male) ; poison, *one* (female.) In *sixteen* of the admissions, suicide had been threatened or meditated, but not actually attempted, viz.,—fourteen males and two females. The homicidally disposed cases amounted to four (males.)

It is a matter of great thankfulness, to have to state that, amongst such a number of inmates as the above, all having so great a propensity either to injure themselves or others, no accident, or other untoward event occurred in the establishment, during the year.

#### HEALTH OF INMATES.—CHOLERA.

The average health, which prevailed during the year, was, on the whole, good, as usual, especially too, considering the crowded state of the House, and the want of suitable hospital accommodation for the sick and the infirm. Dysentery and Diarrhœa were the most prevalent diseases here, as elsewhere ; and two unmistakable cases of Asiatic Cholera\* occurred, within the last five

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\* Immediately upon the appearance of this mysterious epidemic in the House, the Resident and Visiting Physicians were empowered by the Board to adopt such measures as they



months—one on the male side, in November (an inmate 16 years), the other in February, amongst the females (3 days only in the house); both were of a very malignant type; but, happily, neither case proved fatal.

#### DEATHS.

There were 30 deaths during the year, 21 males and 9 females, being 17 less than last year. Eleven resulted from general debility, four were cases of paralysis, three of apoplexy, three of pulmonary disease, three of diarrhœa, two of old age, one each of cancer of the throat, heart disease, diseased knee-joint, and dysentery. The respective periods of inmateship of the deceased were as follow, viz.,—*four* from fifteen to twenty years, *one* from ten to fifteen years, *eight* from five to ten years, *three* from one to five years, *one* from six to twelve months, *six* from one to six months, *five* from one week to one month, *two* from one day to one week. As to age, the oldest and youngest amongst the males were 72 and 23 respectively; females ditto, 82 and 19 ditto. Several in the above mortality list came into the Institution in a perfectly hopeless state, their condition, mental and physical, being so prostrated, that no remedial means could possibly have been of the slightest avail. The impropriety, if not cruelty, of transmitting patients, under such circumstances, cannot be too strongly animadverted upon.

#### STATE OF ACCOMMODATION.—OUTSTANDING CASES.

The House was over-crowded during the year, on the male side—as it has been for years past—with 25 outstanding cases now remaining on the books for admission, according as vacancies arise—18 being in the jails, and 7 with their own families: on the female side there was no want of accommodation, any portion of the year.

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might deem most judicious, to secure a proper treatment of its subjects, should the disease appear to any extent in the Establishment, as well as for the prevention of its spread; and, with a view to this latter important object, the admission of Patients from infected localities was temporarily suspended.



## NEW BUILDINGS.

Nothing has been done, as yet, towards improving and adding to the buildings of the Institution, and of which it stands so much in need, especially as regards Kitchen, Servants' Dining Hall, Laundry, Work-shops, and Hospital Accommodation; the Laundry department is daily becoming more and more unsuited, and inadequate for its important purposes, and upon which the comfort, if not health, of the Institution so much depends; its size, too, is so contracted, that but a very limited number can be employed in it, which, in itself, is an evil of great magnitude, the fullest employment of the females, in this way, being a matter of such paramount importance and necessity.

## GENERAL TREATMENT.—RECOVERIES.

There is nothing out of the usual course to be noted under this head, every approved means having been perseveringly had recourse to, as well to promote the recovery of the more recent cases, as to make the older inmates feel as easy and comfortable as possible, under the heavy dispensation with which an unerring Providence has seen good to afflict them—a treatment which, it will be seen, had the thankful and cheering result of restoring, as recovered, the large number of 69 fellow-creatures to their families and society at large, during the period embraced in this Report.

## RESTRAINT.

No coercion, by mechanical means, that can be avoided, is ever permitted; and the number under physical restraint is so trifling, as to make it the exception to the general rule of the fullest liberty. And on those occasions when restraint becomes indispensable for the safety of excited and unruly patients themselves, and the due safety of others, it is of the mildest description, and kept on for the shortest possible period.

## INSTRUCTION OF PATIENTS.

During the past year, instruction has been carried on amongst



the inmates, to a certain extent, a qualified person having been appointed for that purpose ; and, as a means towards an end, either of promoting a cure, or mitigating the "mind diseased," it has effected as much good, as could, under the circumstances, have been expected.

#### RECREATIONS.

The patients, besides being regularly exercised on the grounds, have amusement supplied otherwise, through the medium of reading, singing, music, &c. Those patients, who are sufficiently convalescent, and who desire going outside the Institution occasionally, either on Sundays, to attend their respective places of religious worship, or, at other times, to visit their friends, are permitted to do so under the charge, of course, of a responsible attendant.

#### ATTENDANTS.

As regards the Attendants, whose duties are so trying and unceasing, every diligence is used to obtain the services of the most humane and otherwise competent persons in their condition of life ; and common justice demands it to be stated, that their kindness, attention, and humanity, in general, to their unfortunate charge, cannot but be highly commended. The remuneration, however, they receive, when the all-engrossing and constantly-anxious nature of their avocations is held in view, is on entirely too limited a scale, thus making it very difficult to obtain suitable persons for so responsible a charge ; and, when obtained, to retain them. More liberal wages, therefore, it may here be stated, would, in every point of view, be most desirable, in order to ensure the services of competent and trustworthy Domestics, in so important a sphere of duty.

#### DIETARY.

The attention of the Medical Officers having been specially directed, during the past year, to the Dietary of the establishment, and having suggested certain improvements and addi-



tions in it, more in accordance with that in use in similar Institutions,\* the same were considered, and for the most part approved, by the Board, and are to be adopted accordingly.

On this head it may be stated, that the most eminent and experienced authorities, in the treatment of insanity, agree in opinion that its subjects require a nutritious, if not generous, diet, with a fair proportion of solid animal food—this deplorable malady being, in a large proportion of those attacked with it (amongst the poorer classes, at least), a disease of debility and exhaustion. Dr. Thurnam, so long the able Medical Superintendent of the Friends' Retreat at York, in his excellent work, "The Statistics of Insanity," very judiciously remarks, that "The diet for all classes of the insane should be approximated to that of the respectable middle classes of this country, that of the insane pauper being somewhat more liberal and nutritious than he usually, or, at least, frequently, meets with in his own cottage; whilst that of the wealthy insane person should be simpler and plainer than that of which he generally partakes at his own table."—(P. 90, *Section Diet.*)

#### GOVERNMENT INSPECTION.

Official examinations of the establishment, as usual, were made by Inspector Dr. Nugent, M.D., during the year, who reported as follows:—

"I inspected the Asylum this day, and, as heretofore, have every cause to be satisfied with its cleanliness, order, and comfort. It reflects the greatest credit on the Manager, that, in such an establishment—numbering over 250 inmates—so many should be employed, and so exceedingly small a proportion invalid,—only three cases confined to bed.

(Signed),

"June 5, 1848."

"JOHN NUGENT."

\* The Medical Officers beg to express their best thanks to their respected brethren in charge of other Asylums, for the very prompt and satisfactory information they received from them, in reply to their inquiries on the Diet in use in their respective Establishments.



“I inspected this Institution, and have every reason to report most favourably on its general state.

(Signed),

“JOHN NUGENT.

“*December 4th, 1848.*”

#### ADDITIONAL LAND.

The Board having had under special consideration, during the past year (Dr. Nugent being present, to advise with the Governors, by direction of the Lord Lieutenant)—the propriety of obtaining some additional land, between the Institution and Belfast, resolved recommending to Government that the grounds adjoining the North-eastern extremity of the Asylum, amounting to about fourteen statute acres, should be purchased, inasmuch as there existed no room, in that direction, for the extension of the building, for which there was now an urgent necessity, as well as for the reason, that there was an apprehension of those grounds being soon occupied by other buildings, the immediate contiguity of which would seriously interfere with the privacy and general well-being of the Institution,—which recommendation having been approved of by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, it now only remains for the Board of Public Works to take the necessary legal steps to have the same purchased, and added to the Asylum grounds accordingly.

#### VISITERS.

Amongst a number of eminent persons who visited the Institution, during the past year, was the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, Ireland, who, after spending some time in going through its various departments, grounds, &c., accompanied by the Attending and Resident Physicians, made the following gratifying memorandum in the Visitors' Book:—

“I this day visited this Institution, and I feel that I ought to testify the gratification I felt, at witnessing the order, cleanliness, and comfort, which were manifested in all its parts and

arrangements, with the care and attention which its Medical and other Officers most manifestly bestow on its unfortunate inmates. I am persuaded that there is the utmost amount of mitigation, in desperate cases, and the best chance of recovery in those which are not beyond the reach of human skill.

(Signed),

“F. BLACKBURNE.

“*Belfast District Asylum, 2d Aug., 1848.*”

CONCLUSION.

The Resident Physician, in conclusion, begs to thank the Governors, very respectfully and sincerely, for the kind and able support he received at their hands, during the past year, in the discharge of his duties; and, at the same time, desires to avail himself of the present stated opportunity of recording the eminently efficient and humane manner in which the duties of Attending Physician were performed, by his estimable and distinguished colleague, Dr. Thomson; and those of the Surgeon, by Dr. Mulholland.

R. STEWART.

*Belfast Asylum, March 31st, 1849.*



# NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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

TABLE XI.,

*Shewing the admissions, discharges, &c., &c., during the year ended 31st of March, 1849.*

|  | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| In Asylum, 1st April, 1848, ... ..         | 145           | 112             | 257           |
| Admitted from do. to 31st March, 1849, ... | 56            | 59              | 115           |
| Re-admitted, having relapsed, .. ..        | 5             | ..              | 5             |
|  | 206           | 171             | 377           |
| Discharged recovered, ... ..               | 27            | 42              | 69            |
| Do. relieved, ... ..                       | 8             | 6               | 14            |
| Died, ... ..                               | 21            | 9               | 30            |
| Remaining in Asylum, 31st March, 1849,     | 150           | 114             | 264           |
|  | 206           | 171             | 377           |

TABLE XII.,

*Shewing the admissions, discharges, &c., from each County in the District, during the year ended 31st of March, 1849.*

ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY.

|  | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Antrim, ... ..                           | 30            | 24              | 54            |
| Down, ... ..                             | 30            | 31              | 61            |
| County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ... | 1             | 4               | 5             |
|  | 61            | 59              | 120           |

DISCHARGED TO EACH COUNTY.

|  |    |    |     |
|--|----|----|-----|
| Antrim, ... ..                           | 31 | 28 | 59  |
| Down, ... ..                             | 25 | 26 | 51  |
| County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ... | .. | 3  | 3   |
|  | 56 | 57 | 113 |

REMAINING IN ASYLUM, 31ST MARCH, 1849.

|  |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Antrim, ... ..                           | 67  | 55  | 122 |
| Down, ... ..                             | 81  | 57  | 138 |
| County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ... | 2   | 2   | 4   |
|  | 150 | 114 | 264 |

TABLE XIII.,  
*Shewing the percentages of discharges and deaths, and the average percentage calculated on the average number of Patients, for twelve years, ended 31st March, 1849.*

| 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          |
| 1848                     | 262.56                 | 81            | 30.85          | 15            | 5.71           | 47            | 17.90          |
| 1849                     | 271.32                 | 69            | 25.43          | 14            | 5.16           | 30            | 11.05          |

TABLE XIV.

| NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.                           | Males. |                | Females. |                | Total. |
|---|--------|----------------|----------|----------------|--------|
|   | No.    | Rate per Cent. | No.      | Rate per Cent. |        |
| Cultivating the ground, .. .. .                 | 64     | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Weaving, winding, and warping,.. ..             | 12     | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Making and repairing shoes, .. .. .             | 2      | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Pumping water, .. .. .                          | 6      | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Tailoring, .. .. .                              | 3      | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Sweeping yards, carrying coals, .. ..           | 12     | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Breaking freestone, &c., .. .. .                | 4      | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Smith work, .. .. .                             | 1      | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Painting, .. .. .                               | 1      | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Basket-making, .. .. .                          | 1      | ..             | ..       | ..             | ..     |
| Spinning, .. .. .                               | ..     | ..             | 20       | ..             | ..     |
| Knitting, .. .. .                               | ..     | ..             | 10       | ..             | ..     |
| Making and repairing clothing, bedding, &c., .. | ..     | ..             | 16       | ..             | ..     |
| Embroidering, .. .. .                           | ..     | ..             | 2        | ..             | ..     |
| Quilting, .. .. .                               | ..     | ..             | 2        | ..             | ..     |
| Washing in laundry, .. .. .                     | ..     | ..             | 14       | ..             | ..     |
| Assisting servants, .. .. .                     | ..     | ..             | 10       | ..             | ..     |
|   | 106    | ..             | 74       | ..             | 180    |

TABLE XV.

*Forms of Disease of the total number of Patients remaining in the Asylum, on 31st March, 1849.*

|                                      | Males. |                | Females. |                | Total. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------|----------|----------------|--------|
|                                      | No.    | Rate per Cent. | No.      | Rate per Cent. |        |
| Mania, .. .. .                       | 104    | ..             | 73       | ..             | 177    |
| Do., complicated with Epilepsy,.. .. | 7      | ..             | 6        | ..             | 13     |
| Mono-mania,—Melancholia, .. .. .     | 19     | ..             | 18       | ..             | 37     |
| Dementia, .. .. .                    | 17     | ..             | 17       | ..             | 34     |
| Congenital Idiocy, .. .. .           | 3      | ..             | ..       | ..             | 3      |
|                                      | 150    | ..             | 114      | ..             | 264    |



TABLE XVI.,

*Shewing the state of cases remaining in the Asylum, 31st March, 1849.*

|  |                       |    | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--|-----------------------|----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Convalescent,  | } from acute Mania, { | .. | 10            | 13              | 23            |
| Considered curable,  |                       | .. | 23            | 25              | 48            |
| Doubtful, ..   | ..                    | .. | 12            | 7               | 19            |
| Considered Chronic cases, from Chronic Mania, }<br>Epilepsy, &c., .. | ..                    | .. | 105           | 69              | 174           |
|  |                       |    | 150           | 114             | 264           |

TABLE XVII.,

*Shewing the articles manufactured and made by the Patients during the year.*

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2,499 Hanks Linen Yarn.         | 15 Men's Jackets.  |
| 100 Hanks Thread.               | 18 Pairs Trousers. |
| 1,888 Yards Plain Linen.        | 12 Vests.          |
| 74 Yards Twilled Linen.         | 178 Shirts.        |
| 138 Yards Twilled Calico.       | 98 Shifts.         |
| 96 Yards Gingham.               | 250 Aprons.        |
| 34 Yards Diaper.                | 162 Petticoats.    |
| 188 Yards Chequer.              | 54 Wrappers.       |
| 260 Pairs Stockings.            | 75 Day Caps.       |
| 54 Pairs Leather Shoes.         | 25 Night Caps.     |
| 48 Pairs Do., Soled and Heeled. | 82 Handkerchiefs.  |
| 72 Pairs List Do.               | 20 Gowns.          |
| 105 Pairs Sheets.               | 86 Bolsters.       |

TABLE XVIII.

*An Account of Receipts and Disbursements of the BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM, for one year, being from 1st April, 1848, to 31st March, 1849.*

| THE CHARGE.  |             | THE DISCHARGE.                     |             |
|--|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance of last Account, in favour of the Public, .. .. .            | £99 14 6    | Paid for Provisions, .. .. .       | £1,584 11 1 |
| Received from the Lords' Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, .. | 3,571 3 11  | “ Clothing, .. .. .                | 425 18 7    |
| Received for Vegetables sold, .. £27 14 9                            |             | “ Bedding, .. .. .                 | 91 2 8      |
| Do. for Oats sold, .. .. . 12 17 3                                   |             | “ Furniture, .. .. .               | 86 1 8      |
| Do. for Bones sold, .. .. . 3 14 6                                   |             | “ Stationery & Printing, ..        | 32 10 1     |
|  |             | “ Coals, Soap, and Gas, ..         | 247 5 3     |
|  |             | “ Medicine, .. .. .                | 30 2 11     |
|  |             | “ Repairs on Buildings, ..         | 166 3 3     |
|  |             | “ Farm and Garden Expenses, ..     | 80 2 11     |
|  |             | “ Incidental Expenses, ..          | 80 0 10     |
|  | 44 6 6      | “ Insurance, .. .. .               | 7 16 0      |
|  |             | “ Salaries and Wages, ..           | 680 13 0    |
|  | £3,715 4 11 |                                    | £3,512 8 3  |
| Balance in favour of the Public, 1st April, 1849, £202 16 8          |             | Balance on hands, 1st April, 1849, | 202 16 8    |
|  |             |                                    | £3,715 4 11 |



TABLE XIX.

| <i>An Account of the Expenditure and Produce of the BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM, for one year, being from 1st April, 1848, to 31st March, 1849.</i> |  |
|---|--|
| Dr.   | Cr.  |
| <b>EXPENDITURE.</b>   | <b>PRODUCE.</b>  |
| To Seed Potatoes (two years), .. £40 3 8  | By 345 Cwt. Potatoes (used in establishment), valued at 4s per cwt., £69 0 0 |
| “ Seeds and Plants, .. .. 10 14 8   | “ 68 Cwt. Oats (used in establishment), valued at 6s per cwt., .. £20 8 0    |
| “ Draining Stones, .. .. 14 15 7  | “ 21 Do. do. sold at 6s per cwt., .. 6 6 0                                   |
| “ Tithe, .. .. 3 16 6   | “ 21 Do. do. do. at 6s 3d per cwt., .. 6 11 3                                |
| “ Spades, Scythes, Hooks, &c., .. 3 8 9   | “ 200 Cwt. Oats' Straw (used in establishment), at 1s per cwt., .. 10 0 0    |
| “ Repairing Cart, .. .. 2 10 0  | “ 280 Cwt. Hay (used in establishment), at 1s 6d per cwt., .. 21 0 0         |
| “ Bran, .. .. 2 1 3   | “ Manure, valued at .. .. 20 0 0   |
| “ Shoeing Market Horse, .. .. 1 12 0  | “ Vegetables sold, .. .. 27 14 9   |
| “ Shaving do. do., .. .. 0 10 6   | “ Do. (used in establishment), .. 31 4 0                                     |
| “ Head Collars for do., .. .. 0 10 0  | “ Osier Rods, made into baskets, .. 58 18 9                                  |
| “ Balance, .. .. 133 11 1   | 1 10 0   |
|   | £213 14 0  |
|   | £133 11 1  |

TABLE XX.

**Dietary**

OF

THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM

FOR THE INSANE POOR.

BREAKFAST.

|   |          |                     |
|---|----------|---------------------|
| One quart stirabout, and<br>Three-fourths of a pint mixed milk, .. .. | } Males. | } Every<br>Morning. |
| One and half pint stirabout, and<br>One-half pint mixed milk, .. .. . |          |                     |

DINNER.

|   |                         |                      |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes), six<br>ounces solid meat, and one pint soup, .. ..   | } Males and<br>Females. | } One day<br>a-week. |
| One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes), and<br>one quart soup (made with ox heads, vege-<br>tables, oatmeal, barley, and pease), .. .. |                         |                      |
| Three-fourths of a pound loaf bread (or 3½lbs. po-<br>tatoes), and one pint mixed milk, .. .. .   | } Males.<br>Females.    | } One day<br>a-week. |

SUPPER.

|   |                      |                         |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| One-half pound loaf bread, and<br>Three-fourths of a pint mixed milk, .. .. . | } Males.<br>Females. | } Summer<br>Six Months. |
| One-half pound loaf bread, and<br>One-half pint mixed milk, .. .. .           |                      |                         |
| One quart stirabout, and<br>Three-fourths of a pint new milk, .. .. .         | } Males.<br>Females. | } Winter<br>Six Months. |
| One and half pint stirabout, and<br>One-half pint new milk, .. .. .           |                      |                         |

The above is the improved Dietary, as referred to in the Report (page 16). It should be observed, also, that those of the convalescent Patients who are actively employed, are allowed a portion of meat, in addition to the soup, five days in the week; and that, when the state of the Patients' health requires it, the diet is changed accordingly, and any other substituted that may be considered requisite by the Medical Officers.



THE DISTRICT

THE DISTRICT DISTRICT ASSYLUM

FOR THE YEAR 1880

REPORT

The following table shows the number of patients admitted to the District District Assylum during the year 1880, and the number of patients discharged, and the number of patients who died during the year.

| Year | Admitted | Discharged | Died |
|------|----------|------------|------|
| 1880 | 120      | 80         | 10   |
| 1879 | 110      | 70         | 12   |
| 1878 | 100      | 60         | 15   |
| 1877 | 90       | 50         | 18   |
| 1876 | 80       | 40         | 20   |
| 1875 | 70       | 30         | 25   |
| 1874 | 60       | 20         | 30   |
| 1873 | 50       | 10         | 35   |
| 1872 | 40       | 5          | 40   |
| 1871 | 30       | 0          | 45   |
| 1870 | 20       | 0          | 50   |

The following table shows the number of patients who were admitted to the District District Assylum during the year 1880, and the number of patients who were discharged, and the number of patients who died during the year.

| Year | Admitted | Discharged | Died |
|------|----------|------------|------|
| 1880 | 120      | 80         | 10   |
| 1879 | 110      | 70         | 12   |
| 1878 | 100      | 60         | 15   |
| 1877 | 90       | 50         | 18   |
| 1876 | 80       | 40         | 20   |
| 1875 | 70       | 30         | 25   |
| 1874 | 60       | 20         | 30   |
| 1873 | 50       | 10         | 35   |
| 1872 | 40       | 5          | 40   |
| 1871 | 30       | 0          | 45   |
| 1870 | 20       | 0          | 50   |

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| 1876 | 80       | 40         | 20   |
| 1875 | 70       | 30         | 25   |
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| 1876 | 80       | 40         | 20   |
| 1875 | 70       | 30         | 25   |
| 1874 | 60       | 20         | 30   |
| 1873 | 50       | 10         | 35   |
| 1872 | 40       | 5          | 40   |
| 1871 | 30       | 0          | 45   |
| 1870 | 20       | 0          | 50   |



## REPORTS RECEIVED.

THE following Reports were received, during the year, and are now very thankfully acknowledged:—

- 1.—**ABERDEEN LUNATIC ASYLUM** (April, 1848),—J. F. Ogilvie, M.D., Medical Officer and Superintendent.
- 2.—**BETHLEHEM ROYAL HOSPITAL**, Reports for the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, (Dec.),—Edw. Thomas Munro, M.D., and Alexander Morrison, Knt., M.D., Physicians.
- 3.—**CARLOW DISTRICT ASYLUM** (March, 1848),—Matthew Esmonde White, A.M., M.D., J.P., Resident Superintendent.
- 4.—**CRICHTON ROYAL INSTITUTION, DUMFRIES** (Nov., 1848),—W. A. F. Browne, M.D., Resident Physician.
- 5.—**CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND, LUNATIC ASYLUM**, for united Counties of, at Dunston-Lodge (Reports for January, 1848 and 1849),—N. Watson, M.R.C.S., House Surgeon; J. E. Wilkinson, Superintendent.
- 6.—**DORSET COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM** (Dec., 1848),—G. P. Button, M.D., Superintendent.
- 7.—**DUNDEE ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS** (June, 1848),—A. Mackintosh, M.D., Medical Superintendent.
- 8.—**EDINBURGH ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM** (Dec., 1848),—D. Skae, M.D., Resident Physician.
- 9.—**FISHPONDS PRIVATE ASYLUM, BRISTOL**,—Magisterial Report upon Management of (Dec., 1848.)
- 10.—**GLASGOW ROYAL ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE**, (January, 1848),—William Hutcheson, M.D., Physician and Superintendent.
- 11.—**GLOUCESTER LUNATIC ASYLUM** (Dec., 1848),—W. W. Williams, M.D., F.L.S., Resident Physician and Superintendent.
- 12.—**HARTFORD (CONN.) RETREAT FOR THE INSANE** (April, 1848),—John Butler, M.D., Physician and Superintendent.
- 13.—**LANCASTER COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM** (June, 1848),—S. Gaskell, F.R.C.S., England, Superintendent.
- 14.—**LINCOLN LUNATIC ASYLUM** (June, 1848),—F. D. Walsh, House Surgeon.
- 15.—**LIVERPOOL LUNATIC ASYLUM** (Dec., 1848),—Mr. Newton, Medical Officer.
- 16.—**LONDONDERRY DISTRICT ASYLUM** (March, 1848),—David Cluff, Manager.
- 17.—**MARYBOROUGH DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM** (March, 1848),—William Abbott, Manager.
- 18.—**MORNINGSIDE MIRROR** (Monthly Periodical), conducted by Inmates of Edinburgh Royal Asylum.



- 19.—NETHERLANDS LUNATIC ASYLUMS,—Government Report, transmitted per Netherland Minister.
- 20.—STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL LUNATIC ASYLUM (Dec., 1848),—Mr. Wilkes, Resident Medical Officer and Superintendent.
- 21.—SURREY LUNATIC ASYLUM (April, 1848),—John Holland, M.R.C.S., England, Resident Medical Officer.
- 22.—WARNEFORD HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, OXFORD (Dec., 1848),—F. T. Wintle, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, Resident Medical Superintendent.
- 23.—WATERFORD DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM (May, 1848),—John Dobbs, Manager.
- 24.—YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM (June, 1848),—I. W. Metcalfe, M.R.C.S., England, Resident Medical Superintendent.
- 25.—YORK (FRIENDS') RETREAT,—Fifty-second Annual Report (March, 1848),—John Thurnam, M.D., Medical Superintendent.
- 6.—DORSET COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM (Dec., 1848),—G. P. Hillier, M.D., Superintendent.
- 7.—DUBLIN ROYAL ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE (June, 1848),—A. Mackintosh, M.D., Medical Superintendent.
- 8.—EDINBURGH ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM (Dec., 1848),—D. Smead, M.D., Resident Physician.
- 9.—FISHPOLE PRIVATE ASYLUM, BRISTOL,—Managerial Report upon Management of (Dec., 1848).
- 10.—GLASGOW ROYAL ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE (January, 1848),—William Hutchison, M.D., Physician and Superintendent.
- 11.—GLOUCESTER LUNATIC ASYLUM (Dec., 1848),—W. W. Williams, M.D., F.R.S., Resident Physician and Superintendent.
- 12.—HARTFORD (CONN.) RETREAT FOR THE INSANE (April, 1848),—John Butler, M.D., Physician and Superintendent.
- 13.—LANCASTER COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM (June, 1848),—S. Gasbell, F.R.C.S., England, Superintendent.
- 14.—LANGLIS LUNATIC ASYLUM (June, 1848),—T. D. Walsh, House Surgeon.
- 15.—LIVERPOOL LUNATIC ASYLUM (Dec., 1848),—Mr. Newton, Medical Officer.
- 16.—LONDON DISTRICT ASYLUM (March, 1848),—David Clark, Manager.
- 17.—MARRINGTON DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM (March, 1848),—William Abbott, Manager.
- 18.—MORNINGSIDING HOSPITAL (Monthly Periodical), conducted by inmates of Edinburgh Royal Asylum.