

**General report of the Committee of Visitors of the County of Warwick
Pauper Lunatic Asylum : 1856.**

Contributors

County of Warwick Pauper Lunatic Asylum.
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GENERAL REPORT



OF

THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

OF THE

COUNTY OF WARWICK

PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.

1856.

PRINTED BY H. SHARPE, ADVERTISER OFFICE, WARWICK.

A LIST OF
THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS,
FOR THE YEAR 1856.

CHAIRMAN,

WILLIAM DICKINS, Esq., Cherrington, Shipston-on-Stour.

THE LORD LEIGH, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth.

SIR THOMAS GEORGE SKIPWITH, BART., Newbold Hall, Coventry.

CHARLES HOLTE BRACEBRIDGE, Esq., Atherstone Hall, Atherstone.

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THE REV. SAMUEL BRACEBRIDGE HEMING, Fenny Drayton, Nuneaton.

THE REV. RICHARD LICKORISH, Wolston, Coventry.

THE REV. CHARLES PILKINGTON, Stockton, Southam.

THE REV. JAMES CORALL ROBERTS, Witherley, Atherstone.

C. WREN HOSKYNs, Esq., Wroxall Abbey, Warwickshire.

T. S. MORRIS, Esq., the Cottage, Stoke, near Coventry.

C. M. CALDECOTT, Esq., Rugby.

J. T. ARKWRIGHT, Esq., Claverdon, near Warwick.

REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS,

PRESENTED TO THE COURT, EASTER SESSIONS, 1856, AND
ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

IN 1845 the Act of Parliament was passed, (8 and 9 Vict., c. 126,) which made it compulsory on all Counties to provide themselves with a County Asylum for Pauper Lunatics, either independently, or in conjunction with some adjoining County or Borough.

In the following year, 1846, the Court of Quarter Sessions proceeded to carry out the provisions of the Act, and a Committee of Visitors was appointed, with an instruction in the first place to enquire and report to the Court as to the expediency of uniting with some other County, or Borough, or of erecting a separate Asylum for the County of Warwick. The Committee subsequently reported in favour of a distinct and separate Asylum, which Report was adopted by the Court of Quarter Sessions.

The Committee next proceeded to obtain an eligible site for the projected Asylum, by advertisement, limiting the distance to within 5 miles of the town of Warwick. Six different plots of ground were offered, in course of time; but none of them appeared to be sufficiently eligible for the purpose, to warrant the Committee to adopt it. Application was afterwards made to the late Earl of Warwick, from whom the Committee eventually purchased 36A. 3R. 3P. in the parish of Hatton, two miles distant from Warwick, for £4000, including the timber. In marking out the ground for the building, it was found very desirable to obtain, if possible, an extension of the site; and the matter being represented to Lord Warwick, his Lordship consented

to sell to the County an additional 6A. 0R. 27P. for the further sum of £690. The total extent of land therefore purchased for the use of the Asylum is 42 acres, 3 roods, and 30 perches; and the total amount expended in the purchase £4,690. The site embraces many advantages: an easy distance from the County Town; well situated with respect to communication by railway and by canal; an elevated position, commanding a fine prospect over the surrounding country; with an abundant supply of water.

The next point which the Committee had to determine was the number of patients for whom it was advisable to prepare accommodation; and this, after examining into the Lunatic Statistics of the County, and adverting to the experience of other Counties, they finally fixed at 300.

Having settled this point, the Committee proceeded to obtain plans for an Asylum suitable to the purpose, from architects recommended to them, who had been engaged in the erection of Lunatic Asylums, and the Committee selected three, viz., one of Mr. Harris, architect of the Jamaica Lunatic Asylum, one of Mr. Duesbury, architect of the Derby County Lunatic Asylum, and one of Mr. Hill, architect of the Birmingham Borough Lunatic Asylum. And to enable them finally to decide upon the best plan, (a matter of the utmost importance, and for which they did not consider themselves altogether competent), the Committee called in the assistance of three professional gentlemen of great eminence, namely, Dr. Conolly, Visiting Physician of the Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell; Mr. Gaskell, then Medical Superintendent of the County Lunatic Asylum at Lancaster, now one of the Commissioners in Lunacy; and Mr. Fulljames, architect of Gloucester. With the assistance, and sanctioned by the opinion of these gentlemen, the Committee decided to adopt the design furnished by Mr. Harris, affording accommodation for 300 Pauper Patients, with capability of extension. The estimate accompanying this design, exclusive of architect's commission, Gas Works, Farm Buildings, and some other et ceteras, amounted to £45,829. 15s. 10d. The plan, with the estimate, having been adopted by the Court of Quarter Sessions, received the sanction of the Commissioners in Lunacy and of the Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Parliament.

While proceeding to take measures for the erection of the Asylum, the Committee were advised that a considerable portion of the land which they had purchased was well adapted to the manufacture of bricks; and, on the recommendation of the architect, it was determined that a separate contract should be entered into for making the requisite number of bricks on the spot; which contract was entered into with Mr. Betts, of Warwick, at 29s. per thousand, subsequently reduced to 23s. per thousand on the withdrawal of the duty; no bricks to be made use of, unless approved and passed by the Committee's Clerk of the Works, Mr. Croft. Subject to this arrangement of the bricks being supplied by the Committee, advertisements were put forth, with specifications for tenders to contract for building the Asylum. Ten tenders were sent in, varying exceedingly in amount, the highest being £51,944. 13s. 0d., and the lowest (Mr. John Heritage), £25,743. 10s. 3d., which was accepted by the Committee, upon his producing satisfactory testimonials as to character and competency, and good sureties for the due execution of the works.

On the 16th July, 1849, the foundations were commenced; and on the 30th June, 1852, the Asylum was opened for the admission of patients.

The buildings are of the Elizabethan style; brick, with stone dressings. No unnecessary ornament has been introduced, beyond what was requisite to give an air of cheerfulness to the whole, which is always considered to be an essential ingredient in buildings of this description.

In 1851, while the works were progressing favourably towards completion, the Committee turned their attention to the appointment of the superior Officers of the Institution, and to the salaries which should be attached to the respective offices. Availing themselves of the information afforded them by the experience of fourteen other Asylums already in operation, they determined that there should be a resident Medical Superintendent whose salary should be £300 a year, with furnished apartments, fire, lights, and washing; a Matron at £60 a year, with board, washing, lodging, fire, and lights, with a servant kept for her at yearly wages not exceeding £7; a Clerk and Steward at £100 a year salary, with a furnished house, fire, lights, and washing. After advertising in the usual manner for can-

didates, the following appointments were made, viz. :—William Henry Parsey, M.D., Assistant Medical Officer of the Devon County Lunatic Asylum, to be resident Medical Superintendent; Miss Eliza Turkington of Wisbeach, Cambridgeshire, to be Matron and Housekeeper; and Mr. Philemon Price Sanders of Warwick, to be Clerk and Steward. The Rev. C. T. Woods, Curate of Budbroke, was afterwards appointed non-resident Chaplain, with a salary of £60 a year. In 1854, the office of Clerk to the Committee of Visitors, before held by W. O. Hunt, Esq., Clerk of the Peace, was transferred to Mr. Sanders, the Clerk and Steward, and his salary increased to £140 per annum.

On the opening of the Asylum for the reception of Pauper Patients, it became the duty of the Committee of Visitors to fix the sum which should be paid weekly by the respective parishes for each Pauper Patient. It is to be understood that, by the Statute, the expenses arising out of a County Pauper Lunatic Asylum are to be divided under two heads :—Every charge connected with the permanent maintenance and repair of the buildings, is a charge upon the County Rate; and all the Establishment charges are to be defrayed by the patients by a weekly payment from each. Adverting therefore to the course which had been adopted at other County Asylums, and after examination into the details of our own Establishment, the Committee came to the conclusion that a weekly charge of ten shillings was the lowest sum that could be safely fixed, on the first opening of the Asylum. In adopting this scale in the outset, the Committee hoped that it would be possible to reduce it in some degree, after the Asylum had become fuller of patients, and had settled down into regular operation. In this they have been disappointed hitherto; for instead of lowering, they found themselves under the necessity (partly from the rapid rise in the price of provisions, and partly from other causes) of increasing the weekly charge, as high at one time as 12s. 6d. The Committee are happy to say that, with the commencement of the present year, the charge has fallen again to 10s. 6d.; and they hope that, by the exercise of a strict economy, a still further reduction will be effected.*

* N.B. An extra charge of 2s. per head per week is made upon the Gloucestershire, and any other Out-County Pauper Patients.

The total cost of the Asylum, including the main building with the airing courts, drains, and fittings, (all of which were comprised in the original estimate,) with the addition of the farm buildings, gas works, boundary walls, entrance lodge, and some other minor items, not included in the estimate, has been £68,143. 17s. 9d., which includes also the purchase of the land. The money borrowed, on security of the County Rates, has been, first £30,000, then £15,000, and lastly £10,000; the two former sums at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, the latter at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. interest. All these sums are borrowed of the Economic Life Assurance Company, to be paid off by equal annual instalments in thirty years; as set forth in the table annexed.

The Committee, in conclusion, have the satisfaction of stating that the Asylum (with the exception of the boundary walls) has been well built; that the treatment of the patients is humane, successful, and satisfactory; and that since it has been opened it has been inspected at various times by the Commissioners in Lunacy, by Dr. Conolly, and others (amongst them the late Mr. Serjeant Adams), who have, one and all, recorded their favourable opinion of the Asylum and the management of the patients.

The Committee have appended sundry Tables for the information of the rate-payers and the public. They have also added a Report from Dr. Parsey, the resident Medical Superintendent, drawn up by him expressly at their request for this purpose, and embracing the whole period from the opening of the Asylum down to the present time.

WILLIAM DICKINS.

BOLTON KING.

C. WREN HOSKYNs.

T. S. MORRIS.

O. PELL.

HENRY THOS. CHAMBERLAYNE.

RICHARD GREAVES.

C. PILKINGTON.

COUNTY OF WARWICK
PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE
PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE ASYLUM.

BUILDINGS, LAND, &c.

	£.	s.	d.
Expenses before selection of Site	49	7	0
Land purchased and Expenses of Conveyances ...	5,077	17	11
Expenses incurred in selecting the Plans	160	14	0
Main Building and General Extras	34,691	1	4
Extra in Drainage	113	18	0
Enlarging Steward's House	204	2	6
Alteration of Dead House to Engineer's House ...	230	3	4
Engine House and Smith's Shop	128	5	1
Airing Court Walls	1,725	14	3
Farm Buildings	2,020	19	7
Boundary Walls	3,733	1	1
Lodge and Entrance Gates	874	19	7
Gas Buildings, Works, and Fittings... ..	1,484	15	5
Clock, Bells, and Lightning Conductors	165	18	10
Permanent Well	224	0	0
Sewer and Tank	176	1	9
Brewing Apparatus	233	9	9
Washing and Drying Apparatus	879	4	8
Warming Apparatus... ..	1,571	16	8
Cooking Apparatus	327	9	8
Steam Engine and Boilers for Pumps	599	9	6
Removing Earth, burnt Earth, and Gravel	785	11	9
General Fittings	4,144	0	3
Architect's Commission, Salary to Clerk of the Works, taking out quantities, &c. &c.	3,394	13	4
Carried forward	£62,996	15	3

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	62,996	15	3
Materials for Building, Artizans' Wages, Labourers' Wages, laying out Grounds, and formation of Roads, Team Labour, Gravel, burning Earth, Levelling, Draining, Soiling, &c.	4,418	11	7
Law Charges, including Mortgages and Remuneration to the Clerk to the Visitors	641	12	5
Interest to Treasurer	86	18	6
BUILDING	68,143	17	9

ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

FURNITURE, &c. :—	£.	s.	d.
Fittings, Furniture, Bedsteads, &c. ...	1,352	3	5
Bedding and Linen Drapery ...	1,047	2	8
Ironmongery, Cutlery, &c.	244	0	3
Earthenware, Turnery, & Sundries ...	299	8	3
CLOTHING, Boots, Shoes, &c.	485	11	5
INCIDENTAL CHARGES :—			
Coals and Coke	883	12	2
Provisions and General Stores ...	2,614	16	3
Medicine, Surgical Instruments, &c.	143	10	6
Salaries and Wages	1,391	2	10
Printing, Advertising, Stationery, Books, &c.	164	19	7
Rates	22	6	4
Miscellaneous Expenses	171	0	3

FARM :—

Farming Implements, Saddlery, Live Stock, Hay, Straw, Corn, &c.	328	7	7
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ESTABLISHMENT	9,148	1	6
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£77,291	19	3

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

For the Maintenance of Patients from the Opening of the Asylum, 30th June, 1852, to 31st December, 1853, from Unions, &c.

	£.	s.	d.
Alcester Union	131	14	8
Aston Union	5	2	10
Atherstone Union	49	13	3
Chipping Norton Union	32	0	5
Coventry Union	630	4	7
Foleshill Union	154	11	6
Meriden Union	146	5	5
Nuneaton Union	189	5	3
Rugby Union	224	2	4
Shipston-on-Stour Union	309	14	6
Solihull Union	266	3	11
Southam Union	193	2	2
Stratford-on-Avon Union	542	17	1
Tamworth Union	87	18	2
Warwick Union	1,268	12	8
County of Warwick, the Treasurer of	110	6	8
	<hr/>		
	4,341	15	5
Amount due for the Quarter ending 29th September, 1853	51	13	2
Amount due for the Quarter ending 25th December, 1853	1,134	14	9
	<hr/>		
	1,186	7	11
	<hr/>		
	£5,528	3	4
	<hr/>		

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APRIL, 1856.

## COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

|                              | £.    | s. | d. | £.      | s. | d. |
|------------------------------|-------|----|----|---------|----|----|
| Amount of Money borrowed ... |       |    |    | 55,000  | 0  | 0  |
| 1851—52, Paid off ... ..     | 2,166 | 13 | 4  |         |    |    |
| 1853, Ditto ... ..           | 1,500 | 0  | 0  |         |    |    |
| 1854, Ditto ... ..           | 1,833 | 6  | 8  |         |    |    |
| 1855, Ditto ... ..           | 1,833 | 6  | 8  |         |    |    |
| 1856, January, ditto ... ..  | 500   | 0  | 0  |         |    |    |
| 1856, April, ditto ... ..    | 500   | 0  | 0  |         |    |    |
|                              | <hr/> |    |    | 8,333   | 6  | 8  |
|                              | <hr/> |    |    |         |    |    |
| Balance now due ... ..       |       |    |    | £46,666 | 13 | 4  |
|                              | <hr/> |    |    | <hr/>   |    |    |



## DR. PARSEY'S REPORT.

THIS Asylum was opened for the reception of the insane poor of the County of Warwick on the 30th of June, 1852; and, during the subsequent twelve months, nearly all the chronic cases, that had previously been confined in different Asylums in this and neighbouring counties, were removed here. Their removal was necessarily gradual, as none of the wards were at first in a finished state.

During the six months of 1852 there were 145 admissions, and 101 in the year 1853; of these 156 were removed from other Asylums, or Union-houses; the majority of the others were brought directly from their homes, where many had been for a long time under the charge of their friends. In the year 1854 there were 62 admissions of patients belonging to this county; in 1855 there were 79; and up to the present date of this year (April 3rd) 32. In the year 1854 20 chronic cases were temporarily admitted from the Asylum for the County of Gloucester, during the enlargement of that Asylum. The whole number received into this Asylum since its opening, has, therefore, been 439, viz., 230 males and 209 females; and of these 122 males and 119 females remain within its walls.

|                                                 |          |     |     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| At the close of the year 1852 the numbers resi- |          |     |     |               |                 |               |
| dent were                                       | .....    | 58  | ... | 72            | ...             | 130           |
| „ „ „                                           | 1853 „ „ | 86  | ... | 102           | ...             | 188           |
| „ „ „                                           | 1854 „ „ | 112 | ... | 108           | ...             | 220           |
| „ „ „                                           | 1855 „ „ | 124 | ... | 113           | ...             | 237           |

That our numbers have not nearly reached their full limit, both the steady increase from year to year, and the experience of other Asylums, tend to demonstrate; and, whilst the majority of counties have found it necessary, after a few years, to make additions to their Lunatic Asylums at a great outlay, and often with the disadvantage of having a building ill-adapted for the requisite enlargement, there is every reason to anticipate that your Committee will have to congratulate themselves on having provided amply, but by no means too extensively, for the wants of this county.

The continued influx of patients into County Asylums, and the apparently rapid increase in the numbers of insane poor, without any



corresponding augmentation of population or of pauperism, must be in some measure attributed to the fact that, prior to the erection of these Institutions, no ready means presented themselves for their proper care ; all, that could be possibly taken charge of in the Union-houses, or at their homes, were so provided for ; and only those, who were manifestly so dangerous to themselves or others as to be unmanageable under such a supervision, were ever placed in an Asylum ; they were mostly scattered over the country, uncared for by any except those on whom the immediate burden of their maintenance fell, and without any facility being afforded for ascertaining their real numbers, or the duration of their lives. Another source of increase of this class, which grows out of the existence of County Asylums, is the number of persons sent to them of a position rather above the most indigent, whose friends would formerly not have thought of applying to have an insane relative taken charge of by the parish, not knowing where he might be removed to, nor what treatment he might be subjected to ; but who, on understanding the nature of the County Asylum—that it is under the supervision of a Committee of County Magistrates, and that it is conducted by officers and servants, who have no personal advantage to gain from their patients, (a consideration of great weight among the poor and the ignorant) ; and, more especially, that it is within an accessible distance from their homes ;—gladly avail themselves of the opportunity it affords of relieving themselves of their burdensome charge, though they may be very properly required by their parish to contribute something towards the cost of maintenance. To these must also certainly be added the fact that the present mode of treatment, as contrasted with that which they formerly had to undergo, conduces materially to the prolongation of their lives, and to the consequent accumulation of their numbers. The mortality among the insane must always be very much above that of the ordinary population, and the average of life in County Asylums, in which no restriction is placed on the nature of the cases admitted, is less than ten years. The period has not long passed away when the average life of the insane poor was probably not more than a third of that period.

Up to the present date the discharges have been 105 ; and the deaths 92 ; and one patient has escaped. Of those discharged, 94, viz., 52 males and 42 females, were recovered ; 3 males and 6 females



improved, some at the time approaching convalescence ; and two males not improved. Excluding the 20 chronic cases temporarily received from the Gloucester Asylum, the recoveries bear a proportion of  $22\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to the admissions ; but, from the large majority of the earlier admissions being cases of chronic insanity, presenting no prospect of cure, the ratio of recoveries to admissions during different periods varies greatly, and strongly exemplifies the importance of having all cases of insanity brought under treatment as speedily as possible after the development of the disease.

|        |           |                     |              |                                               |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Of the | 1st       | 100 cases admitted, | 11 recovered | } Admitted within the<br>first twelve months. |
| „      | 2nd       | 100 „ „             | 22 „         |                                               |
| „      | 3rd       | 100 „ „             | 38 „         |                                               |
| „      | remaining | 119 „ „             | 23 „         |                                               |

and more than 20  
others, still under treatment,  
present fair hope of recovery.

From the general experience of those older Asylums, which receive all the pauper lunatics of their respective counties, directly on their being considered by their parish authorities in a state requiring removal to an Asylum, the average of recoveries is nearly 43 per cent. ; and, if the necessary measures for removal were taken with more promptitude than they often are, there is no doubt that the results of treatment might be more favourable ; for few, except those conversant with the treatment of insanity, can appreciate the rapidity with which the prospect of recovery in ordinary cases diminishes with the delay in bringing them under necessary treatment. The too common rule has hitherto been, when symptoms are not very active, to delay removal to an asylum, in hopes that the unfortunate patients will get better at home ; or, as has been several times the case here, they are transferred to an Asylum only when the physical powers have been reduced to the lowest ebb, by maniacal exhaustion, refusal of food, or accompanying bodily disease, and the only prospect of the termination of the case is in death.

In the insane the mortality among males has been found greatly to exceed that among females. In this Asylum the difference has, as yet, been not so marked, there having been 51 deaths out of 230 males admitted, and 41 out of 209 females. The annual mortality has been 13 per cent. on the daily average number resident, (the usual



method adopted for estimating the mortality in Asylums). This is about a mean between that of the older Asylums (11.2), and of those which have been only a few years in operation (15.1).

The patient who escaped was a criminal lunatic, sentenced to two years' imprisonment; his insanity was apparently consequent on the depression produced by several months' prison discipline on a mind naturally restless, and impulsive, and extremely ill-regulated. When he escaped he was nearly, if not quite, convalescent. He was an Irishman, and a tramp, so that, having evaded immediate pursuit and enquiry, all clue to his further movements was lost until many months afterwards, when he was heard of as being committed with some companions to the Hereford Gaol, for burglary. Though there can be no doubt that, on the supervention of symptoms of insanity, removal from the influences of a prison is necessary to avert the danger of irremediable mental disease; yet a County Asylum is not a place in which an active criminal can be safely detained, especially if his convalescence is established before the term of his sentence is expired. The larger number of insane criminals present no greater difficulties in their management than the ordinary inmates of an Asylum, and many of them have been branded as such, merely because proper steps had not been taken to guard against their earlier indications of insanity; and no distinction is called for in the treatment to which they and other lunatics are subjected. But there are among this class a sufficient number to have been a source of difficulty, annoyance, and alarm, to almost all County Asylums, and to call for the erection of a place of detention in the country, combining more of the supervision and security of a prison with the curative agencies of an Asylum.

The period, during which the Asylum has been in working, has afforded a fair opportunity for judging of the adaptation of the building to its purposes, and of appreciating both its advantages and imperfections; and it is with great pleasure I am able to state that, as far as my experience extends, the former so *manifestly preponderate* over the latter, as to lead me to consider it *exceedingly well calculated to fulfil the objects of its construction*. The plan of the building is recognised as one of the most useful for easy working and general convenience of arrangement, and for the advantageous distribution and supervision of the patients. The ventilation might have been better, but in this we share



the misfortune too common to large buildings, in which an abundance of pure air is at all times and seasons essentially necessary. It has been the fashion with architects of late years to trust too much to systems for artificial ventilation, which have generally proved to be more or less a failure, or have required a disproportionate expenditure to perfect their operation, and to attain to results, which might have been as efficiently insured by a judicious arrangement of windows opening both at top and bottom, and by a sufficient number of fire-places properly distributed about the building. The means, also, for artificially heating the wards by steam have certainly not yet answered their requirements, and have been found to be both inadequate and very expensive ; and this is the more to be regretted, as, since the opening of the Asylum, we have experienced some of the coldest weather that has been known for many years. This has, unquestionably, exercised a deteriorating influence on the health of the inmates. To the robust and healthy a severe winter is an additional source of health, but to those, whose physical powers are much reduced below the ordinary standard of health, prolonged severe cold is a fertile source of increased debility and death ; and, when it is considered how many of the inmates of Lunatic Asylums are, from their permanently diseased condition, or from the exhausting nature of their mental malady, in such feeble health as to be in a great measure dependent for the prolongation of their lives on a more than ordinary amount of food, clothing, and artificial warmth, the serious consequences of a deficiency of any of these may be appreciated.

This subject having already engaged the consideration of your Committee, I hope that, before the occurrence of another inclement season, we shall be well provided against its prejudicial effects.

The site chosen, from its commanding and beautiful prospects, is such as cannot fail to impress every one with its desirableness. From every window in the galleries and day rooms a large extent of the surrounding country is visible, and the walls around the airing courts, that would otherwise obstruct the view from them, being sunk in ha-has, the fullest possible advantage has been taken of that formerly neglected but useful and important adjunct in the treatment of insanity, the pleasing calming influence of rich and beautiful scenery. From the nature of the soil the water, *of which the supply*



*is abundant*, is of too hard a quality to be economically applied to most domestic uses. At first the inconvenience arising from this was considerable, but has already been partially remedied by applying the rain water to some of those purposes for which the hard water was found most unsuited; and, by a further extension of this means of supply, the inconveniences at first experienced may be in a great measure removed. Deficiency of supply, or badness of quality of water, have been a fertile source of trouble to Asylums, and in some have led to great subsequent expenditure. Its daily consumption is very great, and by many might be considered enormous and extravagant, but is so necessary that, next to ordinary healthiness of locality, facilities for obtaining it abundantly ought to be the great consideration in selecting a site for an Asylum.

Aided by the great advantages of locality, construction, and general arrangements, and by the willingness of your Committee to carry out matters of minor detail, that I have at any time suggested as necessary or beneficial for the patients, I have endeavoured to pursue the system of treatment, which experience of late years has indicated as most conducive to the recovery of the unfortunate class, for whose wants this Institution has been erected; and as best calculated to promote the preservation of life, and restoration to some amount of intelligence, and social comfort, of the large number, whose lot it will be to pass the remainder of their days as its inmates. The broad principle to be kept in view in the treatment of insanity, and to which all our resources, whether moral, hygienic, or in the more restricted sense medical, ought to be applied, is—in recent cases to restore, as quickly as possible, the equilibrium of the nervous system, and, at the same time, to endeavour so to improve the general health, as to maintain this equilibrium when restored—in chronic cases to place the system in as favourable a condition as possible to promote a high standard of health, to improve disordered functions, and to remove, where practicable, the effects of morbid secretions and deposits. The proportion among recent cases is very small, in which the use of medicines ought not to form a prominent part of the treatment, though, doubtless, much is contributed towards the successful issue of the disease, by the complete revulsion of feeling and ideas, often consequent on the sudden introduction of an insane person to Asylum



life, by the change of scene and diet, and by the diversion of thought, induced by the various means of employment and amusement afforded as soon as the mind can be awakened to an appreciation of their meaning. At this point the treatment merges into that of the chronic or incurable cases; the means applicable to the improvement of the one being equally so to the recovery of the other. All reasonable inducements are held out for them to engage in the various forms of industrial labour and domestic employments, in accordance with their different capacities. For the men, garden or agricultural work is the most desirable occupation, whilst some are advantageously engaged in different trades, such as shoemaking, tailoring, carpentering, assisting the engineer, baker, or painter, or in making themselves useful in the wards. The labour of some of the insane may thus be turned to very profitable account, though, in providing employment for them, the quantity of work to be got through ought to be a very minor consideration to the fact of being able to give occupation for the body, without more stress on the mind than what may help to draw it into new and cheerful trains of thought. The more active of the insane must be busy at something, if not at work, at mischief, and with the more lethargic a great object is to rouse and exercise their torpid faculties; and, to those interested in the treatment of insanity, the satisfaction derived from observing a person passing out of active mania, or a confirmed melancholic, for the first time taking a broom to sweep a few yards of floor, is far greater than that of seeing the most robust incurable do a hard day's work. Among the females, the laundry and kitchen, needle and domestic work, afford an ample source of employment; and the records of many Asylums shew that all the necessary work for the Establishment is mainly by their exertion performed within its walls—a result advantageous in itself, and gratifying, as shewing that a large proportion of them must be more or less usefully engaged.

Pleasing and varied scenery, so cheering and tranquillizing in its effect on the mind, is insured by the locality of the Asylum; and by walks about the country, to which a large number look forward with great pleasure, more especially on a part of Sunday not appropriated to divine service. These, also, serve to break the monotony, which must otherwise, to some degree, attach to Sunday in the wards of an Asylum,



many of the inmates not being able to regard it in any other light than as their idle day. Several of the cheaper periodicals are regularly supplied, and, in addition to bibles and prayer books, a number of instructive and amusing books are kept in circulation. Weekly meetings for dancing and singing, in which the two sexes are assembled together—the rearing and tending of flowers in the windows, which throughout the Asylum are free from wire guards or any other defence—out and in-door games, such as cricket, skittles, quoits, bowls, bagatelle, and draughts—are other means chiefly relied on to promote health and good feeling, and to keep in abeyance those mental peculiarities, which, if not provided with some cheerful and amusing facilities for displaying themselves, would be a constant source of anger, quarrels, and turbulence. So far as their condition will allow of it, all are made to feel themselves treated as persons responsible for their actions; and this is only in accordance with the mental capabilities of a large number of them; for, except on subjects more immediately connected with their delusions, or on the sudden outbursts of uncontrollable impulses, many are quite capable of appreciating their own motives of action, and the influences brought to bear on them, especially in all matters of self-interest.

Under this treatment and management I can conscientiously say that tranquillity and good order are the general characteristics of the inmates of this Asylum; and, with attendants trained to look upon these as the means of preserving discipline, sudden paroxysms of excitement and violence that must occasionally occur are good-temperedly allayed. Seclusion in their own rooms is rarely required to be resorted to; indeed, very rarely with the men, though with one or two of the women of unusually excitable temperament occasional recourse to it is found serviceable. The withholding ordinary indulgences is the common way of checking breaches of discipline.

*Mechanical restraint is unknown in the Asylum*; as a means of coercion for the preservation of discipline, or the so-called prevention of violence, it is in my opinion utterly unjustifiable in a properly-constructed Asylum, with an efficient staff of attendants; and, as a means of protection to the patient from attempted or threatened self-inflicted injuries, I believe it can always be safely dispensed with; but it may be not only useful, but essential, where insanity is com-



plicated with some bodily injury which demands for its recovery perfect quietude, which the patient will not voluntarily allow. Such a case has, however, not been under treatment here.

I have not appended any statistical tables of minute detail in connexion with the results of treatment, as they more appropriately accompany the Report I am required annually to make to the Committee of Visitors of the progress and working of the Asylum.

W. H. PARSEY, M.D.,

*Medical Officer and Superintendent.*

3rd April, 1856.



## STATEMENT,

*Shewing the Total Maintenance Expenses for the Year ending the  
31st of December, 1855.*

## SALARIES AND WAGES.

| OFFICERS :—                                                 | £.     | s. | d. | £.     | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----|----|--------|----|----|
| Medical Superintendent ... ..                               | 300    | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Matron ... ..                                               | 60     | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Chaplain ... ..                                             | 60     | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Clerk and Steward, and Clerk to<br>Visitors ... ..          | 140    | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Ditto Assistant ... ..                                      | 19     | 10 | 0  |        |    |    |
| Eight Male Attendants ... ..                                | 192    | 4  | 1  |        |    |    |
| Eight Female Attendants and Two<br>Occasional ditto ... ..  | 108    | 4  | 11 |        |    |    |
|                                                             |        |    |    | 879    | 19 | 0  |
| SERVANTS, IN-DOOR :—                                        |        |    |    |        |    |    |
| Cook ... ..                                                 | 16     | 10 | 0  |        |    |    |
| Kitchen Maid ... ..                                         | 10     | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Laundress ... ..                                            | 17     | 3  | 7  |        |    |    |
| Ditto, Under (2) ... ..                                     | 17     | 18 | 8  |        |    |    |
| Brewer and Baker (part of the<br>Year) ... ..               | 7      | 13 | 9  |        |    |    |
| Hall Porter ... ..                                          | 8      | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Matron's Servant ... ..                                     | 7      | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
|                                                             |        |    |    | 84     | 6  | 0  |
| SERVANTS, OUT-DOOR :—                                       |        |    |    |        |    |    |
| Farm Bailiff ... ..                                         | 46     | 18 | 7  |        |    |    |
| Brewer, Baker, and Gate Keeper<br>(part of the Year) ... .. | 43     | 0  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Gate Keeper and Labourer (part<br>of the Year) ... ..       | 14     | 3  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Assistant Engineer ... ..                                   | 44     | 2  | 7  |        |    |    |
| Assistant Smith ... ..                                      | 2      | 2  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Shoemaker ... ..                                            | 46     | 9  | 8  |        |    |    |
| Tailor ... ..                                               | 1      | 3  | 4  |        |    |    |
| Three Labourers (part of the Year)                          | 19     | 7  | 3½ |        |    |    |
|                                                             |        |    |    | 217    | 6  | 0½ |
| PROVISIONS :—                                               |        |    |    |        |    |    |
| Meat ... ..                                                 | 1,198  | 8  | 11 |        |    |    |
| Malt and Hops ... ..                                        | 431    | 1  | 0  |        |    |    |
| Flour, &c. ... ..                                           | 838    | 13 | 2  |        |    |    |
| Milk ... ..                                                 | 40     | 18 | 1  |        |    |    |
| Carried forward ... ..                                      | £2,509 | 1  | 2  | £1,181 | 11 | 0½ |



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | £.         | s.       | d.       | £.            | s.        | d.        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Brought forward ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2,509      | 1        | 2        | 1,181         | 11        | 0½        |
| Butter, Cheese, Coffee, Tea, Oatmeal, Rice, Sugar, Candles, Oils, Soap, Soda, Starch, Tobacco, Snuff, Vinegar, Mustard, Pepper, Salt, Peas, Eggs, Scotch Barley, Currants, Raisins, Treacle, Arrow Root, Sago, and sundry other Articles of Grocery ... | 1,022      | 4        | 1        | 3,531         | 5         | 3         |
| <b>FUEL AND LIGHTING:—</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |            |          |          |               |           |           |
| Coals ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 765        | 2        | 6        |               |           |           |
| Coke ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 6          | 0        | 0        |               |           |           |
| Wood ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4          | 19       | 5        | 776           | 1         | 11        |
| <b>SURGERY:—</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |          |          |               |           |           |
| Drugs ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 31         | 11       | 2        |               |           |           |
| Wine and Spirits ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 17         | 16       | 6        |               |           |           |
| Bottles ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2          | 1        | 3        | 51            | 8         | 11        |
| <b>CLOTHING, including Bedding ... ..</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>507</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>507</b>    | <b>0</b>  | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>FUNERAL EXPENCES:—</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |            |          |          |               |           |           |
| Burial Fees ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 1          | 1        | 0        | 1             | 1         | 0         |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS:—</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |          |          |               |           |           |
| Advertising, Printing, and Stationery ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 61         | 15       | 2        |               |           |           |
| Rates and Taxes ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 11         | 0        | 8        |               |           |           |
| Earthenware ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 27         | 14       | 0        |               |           |           |
| Ironmongery ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 26         | 15       | 2        |               |           |           |
| Culinary & other Utensils, Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Cocoa Fibre, &c.                                                                                                                                                                                      | 66         | 3        | 0        | 193           | 8         | 0         |
| Live Stock, Implements, Proven-der, Seeds, Glass, Timber, &c., chargeable to the Maintenance Account, and not included under any other head ... ..                                                                                                      | 307        | 1        | 4¾       | 307           | 1         | 4¾        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |            |          |          | <b>£6,548</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>7½</b> |



THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN THE ASYLUM FOR THE  
YEAR 1855 WAS 222—349.

### SUMMARY OF THE COST PER HEAD.

|                                                       | PER YEAR. |    |     | PER QR. |    |    | PER WEEK. |    |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|-----|---------|----|----|-----------|----|-----|
|                                                       | £.        | s. | d.  | £.      | s. | d. | £.        | s. | d.  |
| Maintenance, including Provisions and Necessaries ... | 21        | 12 | 3½  | 5       | 8  | 0¾ | 0         | 8  | 3¾  |
| Clothing and Bedding ...                              | 2         | 5  | 8   | 0       | 11 | 5  | 0         | 0  | 10½ |
| Salaries and Wages ...                                | 5         | 6  | 5½  | 1       | 6  | 7½ | 0         | 2  | 0½  |
| Advertising, Printing, and Stationery ...             | 0         | 5  | 6¾  | 0       | 1  | 4½ | 0         | 0  | 1½  |
|                                                       | 29        | 9  | 11½ | 7       | 7  | 5½ | 0         | 11 | 4   |

### STATEMENT,

*Shewing the Quantity of the Different Articles Consumed during  
the Year 1855.*

|                               | LBS.   | OZ.      |                          |       |          |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| Beef ...                      | 19,613 | 0        | Malt ...                 | 800   | Bushels. |
| Mutton ...                    | 22,267 | 4        | Potatoes, home grown ... | 294   | „        |
| Veal ...                      | 2,189  | 4        | Sago ...                 | 19    | lbs.     |
| Pork (home fed) ...           | 4,794  | 8        | Arrow Root ...           | 80    | „        |
| Bacon (ditto) ...             | 587    | 0        | Tobacco ...              | 159   | „        |
| Bread (home made) ...         | 87,642 | 0        | Snuff ...                | 32    | „        |
| Butter ...                    | 2,385  | 12       | Starch ...               | 232   | „        |
| Cheese ...                    | 6,529  | 10       | Blue ...                 | 24    | „        |
| Coffee ...                    | 155    | 0        | Soap ...                 | 7,928 | „        |
| Tea ...                       | 1,046  | 0        | Soda ...                 | 7,932 | „        |
| Hops ...                      | 819    | 0        | Vinegar ...              | 126   | Pints.   |
| Flour ...                     | 78,346 | 0        | Mustard ...              | 74    | lbs.     |
| Oatmeal ...                   | 3,640  | 0        | Pepper ...               | 47    | „        |
| Rice ...                      | 2,146  | 0        | Salt ...                 | 3,169 | „        |
| Scotch Barley ...             | 253    | 0        | Saltpetre ...            | 18    | „        |
| Lump Sugar ...                | 271    | 4        | Black Lead ...           | 71    | „        |
| Moist Sugar ...               | 3,747  | 0        | Peas ...                 | 620   | Quarts.  |
| Treacle ...                   | 110    | 4        | Eggs ...                 | 1,360 | „        |
| Currants & Raisins ...        | 915    | 0        | Coals, including Gas ... |       | T. c. q. |
| Carraway Seeds ...            | 9      | 0        | Coals ...                | 931   | 11 1     |
| Candles ...                   | 609    | 0        | Coke ...                 | 4     | 1 2      |
| Ale and Beer, home brewed ... | 12,103 | Gallons. | Blacking ...             | 771   | Packets. |
| Milk ...                      | 3,774  | „        | Wine ...                 | 51    | Bottles. |
|                               |        |          | Spirits ...              | 73    | „        |



# CONTRACT PRICES DURING THE YEAR 1855.

| ARTICLES.       | Half-Year ending<br>30th of June. | Half-Year ending<br>31st of December. | ARTICLES.       | Half-Year ending<br>30th of June.    | Half-Year ending<br>31st of December. |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Beef .....      | 6½d. per lb.                      | 6½d. per lb.                          | Milk .....      | 10½d. per gallon.                    | Supplied from Farm.                   |
| Mutton .....    | 6½d. "                            | 6½d. "                                | Malt .....      | 9s. per bushel.                      | 8s. 6d. per bushel.                   |
| Veal .....      | 6½d. "                            | 6½d. "                                | Sago .....      | 3d. per lb.                          | 3½d. per lb.                          |
| Butter .....    | 1s. 1d. and 10½d.<br>per lb.      | 1s. 2d. and 11d.<br>per lb.           | Arrow Root ...  | 1s. 6d. "                            | 1s. 2d. "                             |
| Cheese .....    | 6d. per lb.                       | 7d. per lb.                           | Tobacco .....   | 3s. 4d. "                            | 3s. 6d. "                             |
| Coffee .....    | 1s. 4d. "                         | 1s. 3d. "                             | Snuff .....     | 5s. 4d. "                            | 4s. 4d. "                             |
| Tea .....       | 3s. "                             | 3s. 6d. "                             | Starch .....    | 5½d. "                               | 6d. "                                 |
| Hops .....      | 2s. 6d. "                         | 2s. "                                 | Blue .....      | 1s. 4d. "                            | 1s. 2d. "                             |
| Flour .....     | 57s. per sack.                    | 57s., 59s., and 61s.<br>per sack.     | Soap .....      | 46s. 8d., 36s., and<br>28s. per cwt. | 38s., 31s. 6d., and<br>29s. per cwt.  |
| Oatmeal .....   | 20s. per cwt.                     | 22s. per cwt.                         | Soda .....      | 7s. per cwt.                         | 6s. 6d. per cwt.                      |
| Rice .....      | 2½d. per lb.                      | 2½d. per lb.                          | Vinegar .....   | 1s. 8d. per gallon.                  | 1s. 8d. per gallon.                   |
| Scotch Barley . | 2d. "                             | 2½d. "                                | Mustard .....   | 1s. 4d. per lb.                      | 10d. per lb.                          |
| Lump Sugar ...  | 5d. "                             | 5½d. "                                | Pepper .....    | 1s. 2d. "                            | 1s. 3d. "                             |
| Moist Sugar ... | 4d. "                             | 4½d. "                                | Salt .....      | 1s. 8d. per cwt.                     | 1s. 9d. per cwt.                      |
| Treacle .....   | 2½d. "                            | 2½d. "                                | Saltpetre ..... | 6d. per lb.                          | 6d. per lb.                           |
| Currants .....  | 9d. "                             | 11d. "                                | Blacklead ..... | 6d. "                                | 6d. "                                 |
| Raisins .....   | 5d. "                             | 5d. "                                 | Peas .....      | 10s. per bushel.                     | 9s. per bushel.                       |
| Mould Candles   | 8d. "                             | 7½d. "                                | Eggs .....      | 1s. 3d. per score.                   | 1s. 6d. per score.                    |
| Dip ditto       | 7d. "                             | 6½d. "                                | Coals .....     | 17s. & 18s. per ton.                 | 15s. 6d. & 18s. pr. ton.              |
|                 |                                   |                                       | Blacking .....  | 4s. per gross.                       | 5s. per gross.                        |



# STATEMENT,

*Shewing the Receipts and Expenditure on the Maintenance and Building Account during the Year ending the 31st day of December, 1855.*

## RECEIPTS.

|                                                                                                      | £.    | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.                                                                                 |       |    |    |
| For Pauper Patients ... ..                                                                           | 6,959 | 1  | 6  |
| „ Private Patients ... ..                                                                            | 0     | 13 | 6  |
|                                                                                                      | <hr/> |    |    |
|                                                                                                      | 6,959 | 15 | 0  |
| Deduct amount transferred to Building Account for extra weekly charge for Out-County Patients ... .. | 117   | 1  | 5  |
|                                                                                                      | <hr/> |    |    |
|                                                                                                      | 6,842 | 13 | 7  |

## BUILDING ACCOUNT.

|                                                  |         |    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|----|----|
| From Rates ... ..                                | 4,474   | 18 | 6½ |
| „ Maintenance Account, amount transferred ... .. | 117     | 1  | 5  |
| Balance ... ..                                   | 140     | 15 | 5¾ |
|                                                  | <hr/>   |    |    |
|                                                  | £11,575 | 9  | 0¼ |

## PAYMENTS.

|                                               | £.    | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.                          |       |    |    |
| Salaries and Wages ... ..                     | 1,181 | 11 | 0½ |
| Provisions and Necessaries ... ..             | 3,531 | 5  | 3  |
| Fuel and Lighting ... ..                      | 776   | 1  | 11 |
| Surgery ... ..                                | 51    | 8  | 11 |
| Clothing, including Bedding ... ..            | 507   | 0  | 1  |
| Burial Fees ... ..                            | 1     | 1  | 0  |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                          | 193   | 8  | 0  |
| Live Stock, Implements, Provender, &c. ... .. | 307   | 1  | 4¾ |
|                                               | <hr/> |    |    |
|                                               | 6,548 | 17 | 7¼ |

## BUILDING ACCOUNT.

|                                                                       |         |    |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|----|
| Interest on money borrowed from the Economic Assurance Company ... .. | 2,047   | 1  | 7  |
| Instalments of Principal paid off ... ..                              | 1,833   | 6  | 8  |
| Property Tax on Interest on Money borrowed                            | 105     | 7  | 11 |
| Building Materials, Wages, &c. ... ..                                 | 1,040   | 15 | 3  |
|                                                                       | <hr/>   |    |    |
| Total Payments ... ..                                                 | £11,575 | 9  | 0¼ |

RICHARD GREAVES, ESQ.,  
J. T. ARKWRIGHT, ESQ.,

AUDITORS.

P. P. SANDERS, Clerk.







