Fourth annual report of the Argyll District Asylum for the Insane: 1867.

Contributors

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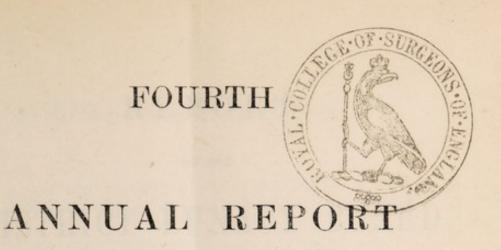
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OF THE

ARGYLL DISTRICT ASYLUM

FOR THE INSANE.

1867.

GLASGOW:

M'CORQUODALE & CO., PRINTERS, 89 MAXWELL STREET.

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INNUAL REPORT

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PROPERTY A CO. PRINCES OF PARTY STREET

REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD

TO THE

COMMISSIONERS OF SUPPLY

FOR THE COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

The District Board has much pleasure in again recording its satisfaction with the condition and management of the Asylum. The Board is also glad to be able to refer the County to the very satisfactory entries made by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, on the occasion of their official inspections of the Asylum.

The weekly charge to Parishes for the year 1867-68, will be nine shillings and eight pence a week for each patient.

The Board recommends that, for the ensuing year, an assessment yielding £2000 should be made, apportioned on the County and Burghs.

COLIN G. CAMPBELL, C.

Максн, 1867.

ABSTRACT OF THE ACCOUNTS

OF THE

ARGYLL DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 15TH MARCH, 1867.

I -MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AND SALARIES.

73990	8 10	0114	D	-			0			
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF		CHA	n c	a E.						
MAINTENANCE, 31st		1866,			£672	6	81			
BOARD OF PATIENTS FO.	married .				2,877		2			
ADVANCES RE-PAID,					6	8	6			
RECEIVED FOR SUNDRIE	is,			***	8	2	9	00 -01	10	41
							_	£3,564	13	11/2
Province	DI	SCH	IAI	RGE.					0.500	William C
Provisions— Butcher Meat,					£357	0	10			
Fish,					42		11			
Flour and Oatmeal,					118	0	8			
Barley and Rice,					39	5	0			
Tea, Coffee, &c.,					49	10	0			
Sugar and Treacle,		***			45	8	9			
Cheese, Eggs, &c.,				•••	13	2	111			
Butter,			•••	•••		14	7			
Sundry Groceries, Potatoes and other	Veretable	•••	•••		10 176	11	2 41			
Bread,					292	6	6	C10701		
Milk,					127		2			
and the state of the state of	-					-	7	£1,369	8	6
MEDICINES, &c.—								,		
Medicine,				***	£28		11			
Malt and Spirituous	Liquors,	***				16	9			
Tobacco and Snuff,		•••			24	13	6	100	0	0
HOUSE AND OTHER EXI	PENSES				della		1 100	109	2	2
Fuel,					£192	0	7			
Light,						13	10			
Soap, Soda, &c.,					38	12	9			
Earthenware and Gl	lass,			***	0	8	8			
Stationery, Printing	, Postage	s, &c.,		***	34	16	6			
Books and Amuseme				***		19	51			
Freight and Cartage	,				20	9	0			
Incidental Expenses General Furnishings	,		•••	***	194	7	7			
Re-taking Patients,	,				134	14	1½ 8			
and thining I describe,					13	TI	0	524	14	2
CLOTHING,								249	-	111
SALARIES AND WAGES,								700	16	9
ADVANCES FOR FUNERAL	. EXPENS	ES, &C.,						10	12	6
ARREARS OF BOARD UNP	AID,	***			117			208	2	4
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF	MAINTEN	ANCE,						392	1	9
								£3,564	13	11

II.—ERECTING, FITTING-UP, &c.

CHARGE.

Assessment imposed on Landward par County and Burghs, Farm produce sold, Sundries Received, Farm produce charged against Mainter Balance against Erecting, &c.,		::	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
DISC	HAR	GE.	
Balance against Erecting, &c., 31st Ma	rch. 186	66.	£651 19 6
Repairs of Building,			276 19 111
Erection of Farm Buildings,			135 8 8
Drainage,			53 9 6
Outlay on Farm and Garden,			294 7 111
Feu Duty and Taxes,	***		230 17 8
Instalment on Loans,			533 6 8
Interest on Loans and Bank Account,			668 5 6
			£2,844 15 41

III.—LOANS FROM SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Balance at 31st March, 1866, Instalment paid, 11th November, 1866,	 	:::	 £14,233 533		
			£13,700	0	0

STATE OF THE FUNDS.

Balance against Erecting, &c., 15th March, 1867, Balance in favour of Maintenance, 15th March, 1867,	£562 392	16 1	1	
			- 170 14	11/2
Due to Union Bank of Scotland, 15th March, 1867,		***	£170 14	11/3

COST OF MAINTENANCE OF EACH PATIENT PER WEEK.

Provisions,	 	 			 8.	D. 47
Medicines, &c.,	 	 1.0			 0	42
House Expenses,	 	 		J	 1	82
Clothing,	 	 	544		 0	95
Salaries and Wages,		 			 2	3
					Title	-
		1994			9	6

ARCHD. MACEWAN,

Clerk to the District Lunacy Board of Argyllshire.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT,

FOR THE YEAR 1866,

PRESENTED TO THE ARGYLL DISTRICT BOARD OF LUNACY.

THE Medical Superintendent has the honour of submitting to the District Board his Report for the past year.

The number of patients on the Asylum Register on 1st January, 1866, was 61 males and 61 females—total, 122; but of these there were 6 males and 1 female boarded in private houses, so that the number actually resident was 55 males and There were admitted during the year 17 males General 60 females. and 14 females—total, 31, of whom 1 male was a re-admission.

There were 21 removals of patients, of whom 5 males and 5 females had recovered, and 7 males and 1 female were so much improved as to be considered no longer in need of Asylum treatment. Three patients were discharged unimproved, 2 of whom had been only temporarily placed in this Asylum previous to their being sent to other counties, and I female was removed by her husband contrary to the advice of the Medical Superintendent.

The deaths were only 5 in number, 3 males and 2 females.

The number on the Asylum Register on 31st December was 62 males and 65 females—total, 127; but of these 2 males were boarded on trial in private houses.

The average number resident during the year was 55 males

and 63 females—total, 118. The highest numbers actually resident in the male and female sides of the Asylum were, respectively, 61 and 65.

Boarding in private houses,

Of the 6 males and 1 female who were boarded out on probation at the date of last Report, all have now been permanently discharged from the Asylum; and though only 2 men were out on probation on 31st December, 3 women were removed on trial during January, so that at present there are 5 provisionally placed in private houses. The effect which these occasional removals to cottage accommodation has had on the number of Asylum inmates will appear from the following statement. From the opening of the Asylum to 31st December, 1865, 9 males and 2 females had been thus sent out, and of these 6 males and 2 females have been permanently discharged, 3 males having been replaced in the Asylum as unsuitable for treatment under From 31st December, 1865, to the less strict supervision. present date 2 males and 3 females have been sent out and are still on probation. There are thus 8 males and 5 females who have, by the operation of this system, been provided with other than Asylum accommodation. These numbers are not large, but it is evident that if such cases were allowed to accumulate during a number of years a very considerable increase to the Asylum accommodation would be required. Great care is required in the selection, not only of the patients who are likely to be satisfactorily provided for in private houses, but also of the persons to whose care they are entrusted. There is consequently considerable difficulty in pursuing the system to any great extent; but it appears probable that a few chronic cases may every year be suitably disposed of in this manner.

Overcrowding. in the Asylum. It will be seen by the statistical tables that notwithstanding the relief obtained by the discharge of chronic cases, the number of inmates has for the last year been rather in excess of the accommodation properly to be obtained in the Asylum. The necessity of some arrangement to obviate this unsatisfactory condition was pointed out to the District Board in the letter from the General Board of Lunacy, of 9th November, 1866; and as it does not appear likely that the expected accommodation in

the Lorn Combination Poorhouse will be obtained, it will be for the Board to consider what further steps should be taken.

During the past year the working of the Asylum has on the whole been carried on satisfactorily. The expense of maintenance has however been slightly in excess of the charge to parishes. The average cost for each patient per week has been Weekly nine shillings and sixpence, while the board charged has been only nine shillings and fourpence. It would therefore be desirable to increase the charge for next year so as to cover this additional expense.

The chief cause of this increased expense has been the higher price of provisions during the year. Among other causes may be mentioned the case of a very dangerous and suicidal patient who for many months required the services of one or more attendants specially for herself. The attacks of mania from which she suffered were very violent in character, and very sudden in their onset. When brought to the Asylum she was confined in a strong canvas jacket, which in accordance with Use of invariable rule was at once removed when she was admitted. restraint. During the maniacal paroxysms she would destroy anything that was within her reach; she would bite herself or others, or attempt to commit suicide by strangling or by beating her head against the floor or wall. For some time after her admission it required the constant attention of two or three attendants both day and night to prevent her from injuring herself; and on one occasion she managed to thrust her hand so far down her throat as nearly to effect her object. The case is particularly worthy of notice, however, as being one in which the Medical Superintendent did not consider himself justified in refraining from the use of mechanical restraint. During the intervals of comparative sanity the patient begged that when she became excited the canvas jacket should be put on, as she felt more secure in it; and the fear that from the want of it she would do some injury made her more excited than she would otherwise be. Superintendent, while cordially recognising the advantage of the general abolition of such restraints, considers that in such exceptional cases as this it would be the pedantic adherence to

a rule and not the preservation of a principle which would dictate the refusal to employ them. He is glad to say that their use in the case under consideration appeared to be productive of beneficial results.

Remarkable instance of loss of memory. Among the peculiar manifestations of mental disturbance exhibited during the year, was the case of a woman who has been insane for many years, and has been an inmate of the Asylum since its opening. Though able to knit and do plain needlework, she has, for a long time, been unable to converse in coherent language; and the extent to which her mind has been weakened was lately shown in a remarkable manner, when her daughter, who has also become insane, was admitted to the Asylum. So completely has the memory of the mother been destroyed, that she did not recognise her own daughter; and she has ever since persisted in refusing to acknowledge her, though she is daily for hours in her company.

Occupations and amusements.

The usual occupations and amusements have been engaged in by the patients. Besides the dances, one night in each week has been devoted to readings, somewhat of the nature of the Penny Readings now so popular over the country. When the subjects selected are of a light and interesting nature, such entertainments are productive of more good in a community such as ours than the more ambitious scientific lecture, which is found suitable in some institutions. The kind assistance, especially in reading selections in the Gaelic language, which has been rendered on several occasions by the Rev. Peter N. Mackichan, deserves our warmest thanks. We are also under great obligation to Mr. John Alexander, schoolmaster in Lochgilphead, who has conducted, every Tuesday evening, a large class for the practice of psalmody and other music. Our thanks are also due to several ladies and gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who have rendered welcome assistance in providing music for our evening dances.

Progress has been made in several improvements in the interior of the Asylum, as well as in the grounds.

The classified details of income and expenditure are given as usual along with this Report, and the statistical tables have been prepared according to the usual form.

The Medical Superintendent has again pleasure in referring the Board to the entries made by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy.

JOHN SIBBALD, M.D.,

Medical Superintendent.

March, 1867.

In the Asylven, Janie 7, 1865, (inches d) 61 01 192

Admitted for the first) 16 16 50

Be-admined during the year, 17 16 31

Total ander care during the year, 18 16 16 31

Recovered to Removed: M. w. w. T. B. 16 10 36

Remaining in the Asylven, Dec. 31.)

TABLE I.

Showing the Admissions, Re-Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylum, Jan. 1, 1866, (inclusive of) absent on trial, 6 males and 1 female,) M. F. T.	61	61	122
Admitted for the first time during the year, 16 14 30			
Re-admitted during the year, 1 0 1	17	14	31
Total under care during the year,	78	75	153
Discharged or Removed: M, F. T. Recovered, 5 5 10 Relieved, 7 1 8 Unimproved, 1 2 3 Died, 3 2 5			
Died, 3 2 5	16	10	26
Remaining in the Asylum, Dec. 31, 1866, (inclusive of absent on trial, 2 males,) -}	62	65	127
Average numbers resident during the year,	55.4	62.8	118-2

TABLE II.

Showing Admissions, Re-Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, from the Opening of the Asylum to the Present Date,

December 31, 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Persons admitted during the period, \\ \\ \frac{3\frac{1}{2}}{2}\ years,	102	88	190
Re-admissions,	2	4	6
Total of Cases admitted,	104	92	196
Discharged or Removed: M. F. T.			
Recovered, 14 12 26 Relieved, 11 4 15		79148	
Unimproved, 1 4 5		1 1 3	
Died, 16 7 23	Ta a		
Total Discharged and Died during the }	42	27	69
Remaining, Dec. 31, 1866,	62	65	127
Average numbers Resident during the 3½ years,	52	51	103

TABLE III.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges and Deaths; with the Mean Annual Mortality and proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions, for each year since the opening of the Asylum.

peoples	CARLES SHAPES	-		-		-	
ge of	on um dent	Mean.	10	9	6	4	9
enta	Deaths on er'ge Num rs Residen	Females.	0	00	00	00	00
Percentage	Deaths on Aver'ge Num bers Residen	Males.	10	6	10	10	00
4	S. S.	Mean.	00	12	83	35	100
ntae	decoveries or	Females.	9	13	15	98	13
Porcontaga	Recoveries on Admissions.	Males.	61	10	43	29	133
-		Total.	55	66	112	118	103
70700	Numbers Resident.	Females.	65	47	99	83	51
1	REN	Males.	04	52	99	55	52
64	er. of	Total.	88	115	122	127	113
Remaining	31st Dec. of each year.	Females.	9	55	19	65	55
Roy	31st eac	Males.	48	99	19	62	58
	. MUT	Total.	24	9	10	10	83
	Died.	Remales	0	-	4	C.1	1-
	A	Males.	67	50	9	00	16
-		Total.	0		1	00	10
1	Unim- proved	Lemajes.	0	7	-	23	4
	Dro	Males.	0	0	0	1	-
SCHARGED.	7	Total.	61	4		00	15
IAB	ieve	Lemales	0	00	0	-	41
ESCH	Relieved	Males.	61	-	_	1-	=
P	-	Total.	- '00	5	00	10	26
-	ver	Females.		00	73	10	
	Recovered	Males.	-	63	9	2	14 12
-		Total.	35	43	27	31	196
	Армиттер.	Females.	42	23	18	14	95
	AD	Males.	23	20	14	17	104
			From the Opening of the Asylum, 9th June, to 31st December, 1863	1864,	1865,	1866,	Totals and Averages for the 8½ years,

TABLE IV.—Showing the History of the Annual Admissions since the opening of the Asylum, with the Discharges and Deaths, and the Numbers of each year remaining on 31st December, 1866.

	-			-				-				
	ng ar s	ons,	Total.	69	87	16	24	127				
	Remaining Feach Year	Admissions, 31st Dec. 1866.	Females.	23	17	6	10	65				
	Remaining of each Year's	Adn 318 1	Males.	80	11	7	14	62	STATE OF			
		-	Total.	14	1-		-	83				
	TOTAL DISCHARGED AND DIED OF EACH YEAR'S ADMISSIONS.	Died.	Females.	00	00	0	-	1-				
	OF 1	A	Males.	11	4	-	0	16	eabs()			
	IED	ı ei	Total.	23	0	-	6.1	10				
1000	ISCHARGED AND DIE YEAR'S ADMISSIONS	Unim- proved.	Females.	63	0	Н	-	4		al.	44664	
	AN	nd	Males.	0	0	0	-		anoun	Total.	18-2 7-4 2-6 111-6 65-2	100
December,	GED	Ţ,	Total.	H	00	0	-	15	84321	60	CASTOR	
1000	HAR'S	Relieved	Females.	00	Н	0	0	+	Con	Females.	18-1 4-8 4-8 70-7	100
	YE	Rel	Males.	00	52	0	1	11	.9	Fe		
131	L D	red	Total.	6	20	6	00	26	ADMISSIONS, 1863-66.	les.	13.4 10.6 1.0 15.4 59.6	0
0 11	OT	Recovered	Females.	10	61	99	63	12	18	Males.	10 10 15 15 59	100
0.00	-	Rec	Males.	4	00	9	-	14	NS,			-
	e		Total.	90	-	0	-	10	SIO			
1121	DIE	Died.	Females.	0	-	0	-	0.1	IIIS			
Tel	QN	. A	Males.	00	0	0	0	00	19			
ear	V QI	173	Total.	0	0	-	67	00	T			
2	ROE	Unim- proved.	Females.	0	0	-	-	67	TOTAL			
cac	CHA 866.	n ad	Males.	0	0	0	-	-	To			
10	DISCHARGED AND DIED IN 1866.	ed.	Total.	9	-	0	-	00	THE	Las		
SI S	EAR,	Relieved	Females,	1	0	0	0	-		1	d, ved,	
110	YE	Rel	Males.	5	Н	0	-	1	OF		Recovered, Relieved, Unimproved, Dead, Remaining,	
	ТОК	red	Total.	0	0	7	00	10	LEY		Recover Relieved Unimpr Dead,	
a	OF EACH Y	Recovered	Females.	0	0	90	23	10	SUMMARY		E P C E	
2	0	Rec	Males.	0	0	4	-	10	Sus		Jase	
and Dearns, and the runneers of each year remaining on otse	H	.la	toT	20	48	27	81	196			Percentage of Cases Recovered, " " Unimproved " " Dead, " Remaining,	
arms		from other Asylums.	Females.	900	6	00	65	48			ntage	
The	0	stolenaT	M.les.	42	1-	00	2	75	gidte	1016	ercel	
TING.	TONS	tal Cases.	Females.	21	0	0	0	23			Atama	
	USS	-inagnoo	Males.	0	0	0	0	0	TE	-		
	Armissions	Cases.	Females.	-	5	00	0	0	1 18			
		Relapsed	Males.	00	00	7	-	00				
	ō	es.	Females.	9	6	1-	H	888	-			
		New Cases.	Males.	00	10	10	14	42				
			EAR	1868	1864	1865	1866					
	'			-		-		1	1			

TABLE. V.
SHOWING THE CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
CEREBRAL OR SPINAL DISEASE: Epilepsy,	1 1	0 0	1 1
THORACIC DISEASE: Pulmonary Consumption,	1	1	2
Abdominal Disease: Morbus Brightii,	0	1	1
Total,	3	2	5

TABLE VI.

Showing the Length of Residence in those Discharged Recovered, and in those who have Died During the Year.

	1	Recovere	d.	Died.			
Length of Residence.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Under 3 Months,	1	2	3	0	0	0	
From 3 to 6 Months,	0	1	1	0	0	0	
" 6 to 12 "	3	2	5	0	1	1	
" 1 to 2 Years,	1	0	1	0	1	1	
" 2 to 3 "	0	0	0	3	0	3	
Total,	5	5	10	3	2	5	

FARM AND GARDEN ACCOUNT.

1867.
MARCH,
15тн
TO
1866,
MARCH,
31sr
FROM
PAYMENTS
AND
RECEIPTS
OF
ABSTRACT

By Paid for—		less, &c., 58 17 1 24 19 8\frac{3}{2}	Turnips and Sundries, 121 6	: 3	Dy Dallamee, 4		£325 0 7
To Sale of-	1 Quey, £7 0 0 6 Calves, 7 13 0 £14 13 0	Increase in value of Stock, 33 0 8	To Charge against Maintenance Account, viz.:	Potatoes and other Vegetables, £118 18 $7\frac{1}{2}$ Flour and Oatmeal, 8 0 0	Meat, 14 6 Milk, 127 19 2	Eggs, 2 19 0 262 6 11	£325 0 7

VALUE OF STOCK ON FARM.

						10							
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									£189 2				
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									813				
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-	7 Cows, at £12 15/ each,	4 Two-year old Highland Cattle, at £6,	Ayrshire do.	do. Stirks, at £4,	1 Calf,		ed	oî.					
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0.0.72	0 0 823	0 0 9	0 0 9	1 10 0	25 0 0	2 0 0	7 12 0	30 0 0		156 2 0	83 0 8	£189 2 8	
6.	£78 0 0	0 0 9	0 0 9	1 10 0	25 0 0	2 0 0	7 12 0			£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
866.	0 0 823	0 0 9						80 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
1866.	£78 0 0	0 0 9	0 0 9	1 10 0	25 0 0	2 0 0	7 12 0			£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
Н, 1866.	£78 0 0	0 0 9						80 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
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IARCH, 1866.	£78 0 0	0 0 9						80 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
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гн МАВСН, 1866.	:		H		:	ate passona "Con		30 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
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16тн МАВСН, 1866.	:		H			ate passona "Con		30 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
16тн МАВСН, 1866.	:		H			ate passona "Con		0 0 0 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
16тн МАВСН, 1866.	:		H			ate passona "Con		0 0 0 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
16тн МАВСН, 1866.	:		H			ate passona "Con		0 0 0 0 0		£156 2 0		£189 2 8	
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ENTRIES

BY THE

COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

May 10, 1866.

The patients at present in the Asylum, exclusive of those on probation, are 51 males and 62 females, being several males below, and 2 females above the numbers which can be properly accommodated. At last visit, the patients on probation were 6 males and 1 female. Of these one or two have returned to the Asylum, and the others have for the most part been permanently discharged. It will now be for the Medical Superintendent to consider, in conjunction with the Deputy Commissioner who inspects the district, whether accommodation of a suitable character can be procured in private dwellings, for any of the patients at present in the Asylum, so as to continue the discharges on probation; otherwise it will probably soon be necessary to adopt some other expedient for relieving the pressure on the female department.

The changes since last visit have been 9 admissions, 9 discharges, and 5 deaths. The patients admitted were generally in a weak bodily condition; 5 were affected with mania, 3 with melancholia, and 1 with dementia. Of the patients discharged, 4 had recovered, 1 was removed by friends and 4 became single patients after probation. Two of the deaths were caused by phthisis, 1 by epilepsy and paralysis and two by organic disease of the brain and blood vessels.

The Asylum was found in a very satisfactory state; the various apartments were clean and well ventilated, and presented an aspect of considerable comfort, which will be increased and acquire more of a domestic character, with the addition of more objects calculated to amuse and interest the patients, such as birds, prints, &c.

The bedding was clean, comfortable, in sufficient quantity, and in excellent condition. For the beds of wet patients,

cushions protected by paint are at present being tried, a difficulty having been experienced in properly cleaning the hair which was formerly in use. The experiment, so far as it has gone, has given satisfaction.

The patients of both sexes were clean in person, and comfortably and suitably clothed; but a little more taste might be fitly displayed in mending the coats and trousers of the men.

The sanitary condition of the establishment is good, and the general appearance of the patients denotes an adequate diet. Dinner was served during the visit, in a very neat and orderly manner, in the hall, to 43 men and 39 women. Of those not present some dine in the kitchen, and others in the sick wards; a small proportion only do not dine in association from being refractory. The food was abundant, well cooked and of excellent quality.

In both departments the patients were quiet and free from excitement, with the exception of one woman, whose incessant incoherent speaking it has been found impossible by any means to check. No one was in seclusion, and the entries in the Register of this mode of repression since last inspection, are only 5 in number for periods never exceeding a day. There are besides two entries of the use of the camisole, which was resorted to at the earnest entreaty of the patient, who was highly suicidal, and who felt more protected by its employment. No strong dresses are required; locked boots are worn by 4 females.

Industrial occupation of a useful and practical character, is engaged in by about 30 men and 27 women; about 20 men being employed in the grounds.

The land under cultivation now amounts to about eight acres, and more can be readily used in this manner should occasion require. But in the mean time, what with the making of roads and walks, the filling up of drains, the levelling of the airing courts, &c., there is work enough on hand for a considerable period.

The non-working male patients, with the exception of those physically unable, take extended exercise in and beyond the grounds of the Asylum every day, unless prevented by the weather. The exercise of the females is necessarily more inter-

fered with by this cause, and during the winter extended walks are comparatively rare. Their power of being in the open air will be greatly increased when their airing court is put in order, and this is at present being rapidly accomplished by the men. A few patients of both sexes have the liberty of the grounds on parole.

Various minor structural changes, calculated to improve the comfort of the patients, and facilitate the working of the house, are from time to time undertaken. The principal of these, since last visit, is the conversion of a bathroom which was found to be superfluous into a scullery. Out of doors, the workshops alluded to in last report are all but completed, and the byre and other offices are also nearly finished.

Adequate attention continues to be given to amusement and recreation, and books and periodicals are liberally supplied.

The numbers attending chapel are 29 males and 23 females. The clergymen of the Established and Free Churches continue to attend on alternate months.

There has been no change among the attendants since last inspection, but arrangements have been made for adding one to the female staff, which is found insufficient for persistent supervision in suicidal and dangerous cases. The present staff comprises 6 male attendants, of whom 1 is the gardener; and 5 female attendants, of whom 1 is supplementary and temporary, and whose place is to be permanently filled, as just mentioned.

No accident is recorded since last visit.

Additional precautions are being taken for the proper care of the furniture, clothing, bedding, and other articles belonging to the Asylum, by inventory lists, for which the attendants will be responsible.

The practice of the Asylum with regard to the clothing of patients, is to allow what is brought in to be worn out, and then to supply what is wanted; a supplementary charge being made on the parish when the patient leaves with a stock in any very great degree better than what he entered with. The rate of maintenance is at present 9s. 4d. a week, which is considered sufficient to maintain the stores bedding, and clothing in proper quantity without deterioration.

The various Registers are carefully and accurately kept. The temperature of the wards is regularly noted throughout the winter by the thermometer, and is considered to be sufficient for health and comfort.

JAMES COXE,

Commissioner in Lunacy.

18th and 19th October, 1866.

There are at present no patients on probation, and the numbers in the Asylum amount to 59 males and 62 females. In order to accommodate these properly, and so as to avoid crowding the dormitories, the beds of 3 female patients are placed in the amusement hall. There are a few of those under treatment, who might with safety be removed to private houses; but the accommodation as yet proposed, is not of such a kind as to justify the Medical Superintendent in sanctioning such an arrangement.

The changes in the community since 10th May, consist of 16 admissions and 10 discharges. Of those admitted, 10 were males; 11 were in weak, 4 in average, and only one in good health. Of this number, 8 are described as labouring under mania, 4 under melancholia, 2 under dementia and 2 under delusional insanity.

It is worthy of special note, that no death or accident has occurred; that although five females and eight men were found in the Infirmaries, many of these were cases of mere debility or infirmity; and that the aspect and bearing of the great majority of the inmates, afforded evidence of good health, and that the requirements of dietetic and hygienic management were faithfully carried out.

Of those discharged, 5 had recovered, 8 had improved, 2 were discharged without improvement; one of the latter was transferred to Longdales Asylum.

Thirty-four men and twenty-eight women, are described as engaged in useful industry. Five of the former were at the time of the visit, actively engaged in threshing out the grain raised within the grounds; and the state of the garden, approach,

&c., as well as the fact that $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres have been, and 3 acres are in process of being drained with their assistance, bear testimony to the activity with which this department is prosecuted. Through the same instrumentality, the substitution of terraces for abrupt slopes in the airing yards, as suggested in last Report has been commenced, and considerably advanced upon one side; but the state of these is not yet such as to encourage exercise, or to enable it to be taken with perfect safety. Five females were found in the laundry, four in the kitchen and scullery, four engaged in spinning, and several in the performance of various domestic services. Systematic in-door occupation is still a desideratum, especially for the men; but the joiners' and upholsterers' shop is now in operation.

Dinner was served in the presence of the reporter. It was partaken of by 49 men and 40 women; but in addition to these, 7 female patients were present as servitors. The meal consisted of broth, fresh herrings and potatoes, in abundant quantities, but the quality of the latter, which were grown in the grounds, was not commendable. The quiet and decorum of the assemblage were all that could be desired. There was, besides, perfect tranquillity throughout the establishment. Eighteen females and 19 males belong to the excitable class; but even among them there was little or no noise or disturbance. Connected with this, it is worthy of observation that, practically, seclusion as well as restraint has been disused. Twelve individuals are of dirty tendencies, but last night only three beds were soiled. The size of the institution perhaps precludes the establishment of a regular system of night watching, which is the chief means by which this number could be still further reduced; but on the male side the attendants watch in turn, and on the female side the same plan is resorted to when illness or other causes render such a course necessary.

The public rooms and dormitories were clean, sweet, and in the most perfect order. There are certain parts, such as the scullery, some of the water-closets, &c., which should be excepted, but the defects are beyond the control of management, and without considerable outlay irremediable. A considerable number of pictures, &c., have now been introduced; and perhaps the period has arrived when simple ornamentation and a greater variety of furniture may be recommended as means of increasing cheerfulness, if not directly tending to the amelioration of disease. Amusements are not neglected. Music, legerdemain, and weekly dances constitute the chief of these, and occasionally the addition of the bagpipes to the latter is found to be very acceptable. Twenty-one males and twenty-seven females attend these reunions. Large parties (28) of men are taken beyond the precincts, but the women neither go so frequently nor so far-

The dress of the patients was substantial and suitable, and with a very few exceptions in good repair; the bedclothes were scrupulously clean, and appeared sufficient. A fire is lit in every dormitory a few hours before the patients go to bed, so that the apartment will be ventilated and genial; but it is probable, from the structure of certain of the sleeping places, that the temperature will fall considerably during the night, and means should be taken to prevent this.

No change has taken place in the staff since last statutory inspection, except by the engagement of a female of some experience, to whom it is proposed to confide the more intractable and difficult cases. She is to receive £16 per annum; but the remuneration of the ordinary attendants ranges, for men, from £25 to £27, and for women, from £9 to £12 per annum. All of both sexes speak Gaelic. An anomaly exists in the combination of the offices of laundrymaid and dairymaid, and it is somewhat difficult to understand how due supervision of the patients in the laundry is reconcilable with other duties. Five cows in milk are kept, and the supply is sufficient.

The books, registers, and orders were found correct, and kept in a clear manner. While it is quite obvious that the exertions of the Medical Superintendent are, to a certain extent, cramped and confined, the reporter has to record his unqualified approbation of the state of the house and the management of the patients.

W. A. F. BROWNE,

Commissioner in Lunacy.