

First annual report of the directors of James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics : with an abstract of the medical report, and list of office bearers.

Contributors

James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics.

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FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE DIRECTORS
OF
JAMES MURRAY'S
ROYAL
ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS.

WITH
AN ABSTRACT OF THE
MEDICAL REPORT,
AND
LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS.



PERTH.
Printed by order of the Directors.

1828.

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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DIRECTORS
OF
JAMES MURRAY'S
ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS.

THE vast importance of an Institution for affording comfort and relief to such of our fellow creatures as are afflicted with insanity, and for effecting a cure where it is practicable, has long been universally acknowledged; and it is perhaps matter of surprise that in the large and populous county of Perth, some exertion had not long ago been made to establish such an Institution.

This, however, can no longer be viewed with regret, since, by the benevolence of Mr JAMES MURRAY, a native of the parish of Perth, an Institution has been established upon a magnificent scale, combining all the beneficial arrangements which experience has suggested in similar establishments; an Institution which will not only afford a comfortable retreat to the unfortunate class of individuals for whose reception it has been erected, but the most

likely means that can be employed for restoring them to the exercise of a sound mind.

In presenting their first Report to the public, the Directors think it right to give a short account of the origin, progress, and constitution of the establishment.

It has been already mentioned, that to the benevolence of Mr James Murray the public are indebted for this splendid Institution; and it may not be uninteresting, in this introductory Report, to give a short account of the events which put it in the power of that gentleman to bequeath the funds for its establishment.

Mr William Hope, the son of Mr Murray's mother, went to India in early life, and was for many years a merchant in Madras, where he realized a very large fortune. His health had suffered so severely from the climate, that, in the year 1808, it was recommended to him, by his physicians, to return to Europe,—an advice with which he complied the more readily, as he had then realized an ample fortune, and felt the expediency of conveying his children to England for their education. He accordingly determined to leave Madras early in the year 1809; and, on the 26th January of that year, he executed his will,—in which he provided handsomely for his wife and four daughters;—nor was he unmindful of his mother and her two sons, to whom he bequeathed considerable legacies. The deed, however, contained no provision for so dreadful a calamity as afterwards hap-

pened ; but, by a peculiar interposition of Providence, after Mr Hope was about to embark with his family, he hurriedly, as appears from his will, provided, that in the event of himself and his family perishing at sea, his fortune should go to his mother and her sons Messrs John and James Murray.

Mr Hope had taken his passage to England in the *Jane Dutchess of Gordon*, East Indiaman ; and, with his wife and daughters, he embarked at Madras on the 30th January 1809. The fleet, consisting of sixteen Indiamen, sailed from Madras on that day for England. Nothing material occurred until one o'clock of the morning of the 14th of March following ; when a most violent hurricane came on, and lasted the whole of that day. The storm continued ; and, on the night of the 15th, the wind blew with redoubled fury. On the morning of the 16th, only seven ships of the fleet appeared,—most of them with the loss of masts, yards, and otherwise much damaged ; but the *Jane Dutchess of Gordon* and three others were not to be seen, and have never been heard of since.

There can now be no doubt that they all foundered in the storm ; and that the crews and passengers, including Mr Hope and his family, perished. Out of this melancholy event a succession opened up to Mr James Murray, which enabled him to endow this Institution on its present splendid scale.

In the years 1813-14, Mr Murray executed a deed

of settlement, by which he conveyed his whole property to David Beatson of Kirkpottie, and the late Robert Peddie, City Clerk of Perth, in trust for various purposes, and in particular, he directed them to invest a considerable portion of his fortune in such heritable or personal securities as they might deem proper, to accumulate for a number of years ; and thereafter “to lay out and employ the whole sum, principal and interest, in the purchase of ground for, and the building and erecting, in the city of Perth, or its neighbourhood, of an Asylum for the reception of lunatic persons, with suitable accommodations and salaries to persons proper to be employed in the management of such an Institution ; and that upon a scale suitable to the extent of the funds hereby appropriated for that purpose.” And he gave power to his Trustees “to appoint proper managers, and suitable officers and servants, for the conduct of the establishment, and to establish regulations for the proper management and government of the same.”

Messrs Beatson and Peddie undertook the management under the trust ; and having invested the funds from time to time as was thought prudent, they, in the year 1821, found that they had accumulated such a sum as warranted them in proceeding with the building. In the first place, they directed their attention to the selection of a proper situation ; and, after much deliberation, they preferred the field,

consisting of about twelve acres, upon which the Asylum has since been erected, and concluded a bargain with Dr Wood, the proprietor.

The next object which occupied the attention of the Trustees, was the erection of a suitable building; and, from the well-known talents and professional eminence of William Burn, Esq., architect, that gentleman was consulted. In the year 1821 Mr Burn furnished the plans of the building, having previously visited the principal Asylums both in England and Scotland, and devoted the greatest attention to the subject. These plans were carefully examined by the Trustees; and while, as might have been expected, they entertained the highest opinion of them, as being well suited to the proposed object, they delayed finally approving of them till they had an opportunity of personally visiting similar Institutions, and of taking the opinions of a number of noblemen and gentlemen and various official characters in the neighbourhood.

Early in the year 1822, the Trustees visited different Institutions for the reception of lunatics, and submitted the plans to their respective physicians and superintendents. The plans were also submitted to various noblemen and official gentlemen in the city and county of Perth; and, from the opinions given, and their own observations, the Trustees had every reason to give these plans their decided approval; and the present building was completed, towards the end of the year 1826, in conformity with them, at the

expense of about 20,000*l.* Sterling, including the price of the grounds.

In the month of July 1826, the Institution suffered the loss of an able trustee, in the death of Mr Peddie; and thereafter the sole management devolved on Mr Beatson, who bestowed upon it the most anxious and unwearied exertion. His attention was first directed to the formation of a proper constitution for the Asylum; and, as this was a subject of the greatest importance, he lost no time in taking the assistance of counsel of the first eminence. After much labour and attention, a deed establishing fundamental Rules and Regulations was executed, under the direction of these advisers; and as all of them were decidedly of opinion that much trouble and expense would ultimately be saved, and additional permanency secured, by erecting the Directors of the Institution into a body corporate and politic, it was thought prudent immediately to apply for a charter from the Crown to that effect. A royal charter has accordingly been obtained, and the Directors are now a body corporate and politic, under the name of **JAMES MURRAY'S ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS**. The charter is dated 5th March, and was written to the seal, registered and sealed 13th April 1827.

This charter contains the usual clauses for facilitating the management of such an Institution, and for enabling the body corporate to hold heritable and personal property. It places the management in the hands of a Board of Directors, consisting of twenty-

five persons. These Directors consist of three classes. The first are named "Ex officio Directors," and consist of nine persons; the second are called "Life Directors," and consist of four persons,—who continue in office for life; and the third class are called "Annual Directors," and consist of twelve persons, four of whom retire annually. The following official persons, and their successors in office, are to be Directors of the first class, or the Directors *ex officiis*, in all time coming,—viz. The Lord Lieutenant of the county of Perth; the Sheriff-Depute of the said county; the Sheriff-Substitute of the said county, residing at Perth; the Lord Provost of the city of Perth; the Dean of Guild of the said city; the first Merchant Bailie of the said city; the President for the time of the Society of Procurators practising before the Courts of Law in Perthshire; the Convener of the Trades of the said city; and each of the four Established Ministers of the said city of Perth, in succession,—one of them only acting at the same time, and continuing to act for four years at a time. The following persons are the first or original members of the second class of Directors, or "Life Directors,"—viz. The said David Beatson, as the sole surviving trustee of the Founder; Thomas Beatson of Mawhill, his brother; William Peddie, writer in Perth, the son and representative of the late Mr Robert Peddie; and John Murray of Cordon, the brother of the Founder of the said Institution; and it is declared, that each of the said four Life Directors, and

each of those who shall be appointed their respective successors, as Life Directors, in manner therein mentioned, shall continue in office, as a Life Director, during his lifetime, or until such Life Director shall resign his office: And the following persons were the first or original members of the third class of Directors, or "Annual Directors,"—viz. The Right Honourable the Earl of Kinnoull; the Right Honourable Lord Gray; Sir David Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe, Baronet; Alexander Hepburn Murray Belshes of Invermay; John Richardson of Pitfour; Robert Ross of Oakbank; Francis Robertson of Potterhill; James Murray Patton, Sheriff-Clerk of Perthshire; Dr Alexander Stewart of Bonskeid; Dr Alexander Robertson of Alexandria; Henry Lindsay, Cashier of the Perth Bank; and Dr Adam Anderson, Rector of the Perth Academy.

In order to regulate the election of Annual Directors, a list is prepared at the first annual meeting, containing the names of that class of the Directors, in the order in which they are drawn from a ballot-box; and thereafter, in all time coming, the four Directors next the top of the list retire from office, and their places are supplied by other four whose names are placed at the foot of the list.

These are a few of the leading principles which regulate the election of the general body of Directors; but the more active management of the internal concerns and particular interests of the Institution is vested in the Weekly Committee, consisting of eight

Directors, chosen annually at the general meeting in June ; and, in the event of any vacancy occurring in the Committee during the year, it is to be filled up at the first quarterly meeting after such vacancy occurs. The Committee meet once a week at the Asylum,—on such day and at such hour as the majority of themselves may appoint. One member forms a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business ; but three are required for extraordinary. They regulate the admission of patients, the economy of the house, the conduct of the officers and servants, and all other details which occur in the usual course of business ; and they have power to appoint three of their number as House Visitors.

So soon as the royal charter had passed the Great Seal, Mr Beatson the trustee called a general meeting of the Directors. It was held within the Asylum, on the 28th May 1827 ; and, on the motion of Lord Gray, seconded by Sir David Moncreiffe, Mr Beatson was unanimously elected Chairman of the Institution, to continue in office till the annual meeting in June 1828. Mr Beatson having accordingly taken the chair, every requisite information as to the state of the Institution and the various proceedings of the former Trustees was fully communicated to the Directors, who felt much gratified by the extreme vigilance and attention which these gentlemen had bestowed upon the management of the Institution. The sentiments of the Directors upon this subject may perhaps be as

well described by an extract from the minutes of the Meeting alluded to, and which is in these terms,—

“The Meeting having deliberated on these various matters, and received other necessary information upon the subject of the trust, the Reverend Mr Esdaile expressed in the warmest terms the gratitude due to the late Mr James Murray, the Founder of the Institution, for the benevolent and humane bequest which has erected and endowed this splendid building; as well as to the late Mr Peddie, and to Mr David Beatson, for the anxious attention, faithfulness, and strict integrity with which they had fulfilled the trust committed to them by Mr Murray, and carried his benevolent intentions into effect; and he moved, that, as a mark of respect and approbation, a tablet of marble should be placed on some conspicuous part of the building, with a suitable inscription, containing the names of the Founder, and of Messrs Beatson and Peddie, his trustees, with the date of founding, and such other expressions as might appear proper. Which motion having been seconded, and the Meeting having cordially concurred in the sentiments so well expressed by Mr Esdaile, they unanimously resolved to carry Mr Esdaile’s motion into effect; for which purpose, they remit to Mr Belshes, Mr James Murray Patton, Mr Lindsay, Mr Esdaile, and Mr Anderson, as a Committee—Mr Patton to be Convener—to devise a suitable inscription, and see the same placed in manner above mentioned.”

The tablet of marble has accordingly been placed in a conspicuous situation in the entrance-hall of the Asylum, and contains the following inscription.

“ THIS ASYLUM

WAS ENDOWED BY JAMES MURRAY, A NATIVE OF THE PARISH OF PERTH,

In the year 1814:

**ERECTED UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERINTENDENCE OF
DAVID BEATSON OF KIRKPOTTIE, AND ROBERT PEDDIE, CITY
CLERK OF PERTH, HIS EXECUTORS;**

AND OPENED BY ROYAL CHARTER,

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF MR BEATSON,

The surviving Executor,

ON THE 28TH MAY 1827.

This Tablet

Has been placed by the DIRECTORS, to record the gratitude due to the Founder, for his benevolent and humane bequest; and to his Executors, for the anxious attention, faithfulness, and strict integrity with which they have fulfilled the trust committed to them.

WILLIAM BURN, Architect.”

A Committee having been appointed to frame the necessary Rules and Regulations for the Institution, these were prepared, printed, and circulated among the Directors; and, having been brought before a General Meeting on the 10th of June 1827, they underwent a careful revisal and correction, and were unanimously approved and adopted, in the form in which they now stand.

By these Regulations, the greatest attention is observed as to the treatment of patients, by inculcat-

ing on the keepers and servants every possible forbearance towards them, and every attention to their comfort, under pain of instant dismissal.

No keeper is permitted to strike or strive with any patient, except in self defence. The possibility of such an occurrence must be guarded against by every precaution which prudence or experience can suggest. Nor dare a keeper subject any patient to confinement, to privation, or punishment of any kind, without express authority and specific instructions from the Physician or Superintendent.

No keeper is allowed at any time to deceive, terrify, or irritate, by mockery, by mimicry, or by allusions to anything ludicrous in the present appearance or past conduct of any of the patients. They must not indulge or express vindictive feelings; but, considering the patients as utterly incapable to restrain themselves, must forgive all petulance or sarcasms, and treat with equal tenderness those who give the most and the least trouble. They must exercise the greatest vigilance; and, while the patients consider themselves at perfect liberty, they are continually under the keeper's eye, in the day-room, galleries, and exercising-ground.

Whatever peculiarity the keepers observe in any patient, they are bound to mention to the Physician or Superintendent; and every instance of neglect or concealment is held as a decisive proof of incapacity and unfaithfulness.

Patients are admitted on the following terms.

	Per Week.
First rate of board,	L.0 7 0
Second rate of board,	0 10 6
Third rate of board,	0 15 0
Fourth rate of board,	1 1 0
Fifth rate of board,	1 11 6
Sixth rate of board,	2 2 0
Seventh rate of board,	3 3 0

According to the rate of board, a difference is observed in several particulars,—viz. in the number of apartments ; in the quality of furniture and of diet ; in the rank of associates ; and in the proportion of keepers or servants appointed to a given number of patients. If a keeper or servant be provided solely to attend a single patient, or if the exclusive use of a suite of apartments be required for a patient of the highest class, a charge is made in addition to the rate of board.

These are a few of the leading Regulations for this Institution. They have been framed after great consideration and an attentive perusal of the Regulations of various other similar Institutions ; and, so far as the experience of the past year has enabled the Directors to judge, they seem well calculated to promote the welfare of the Institution and insure the comfort of the patients.

As this Report may meet the perusal of persons at a distance from the Asylum, it may not be out of place to give a short description of the accommoda-

tion it contains. It is situated in a park containing twelve acres, on the acclivity of Kinnoull Hill—is perfectly free from damp—and has a delightful view of the Grampian Mountains, the River Tay, and the surrounding country. The grounds are walled, for the purposes of security, privacy, and restraint ; and within these enclosures convalescent patients are allowed to amuse and exercise themselves. There are smaller yards attached to the building, for the use of patients whose state requires more careful surveillance. The house consists of three floors. In the centre are the apartments of the Superintendent and Matron, by which those of the males and females are separated from each other ; and the different individuals are classified, so as to prevent any unpleasant association. The building has four verandahs, by means of which patients can enjoy exercise in the open air during the greatest heat of summer or the most inclement weather of winter. The galleries are ninety-eight feet long and eleven wide. The dining and bed rooms are large, commodious, and cheerful—sufficiently secure to prevent escape, and free from the gloomy appearance of confinement. Apartments for those in the higher classes of life are furnished in the most handsome style, affording every accommodation and conveniency for themselves and their attendants. Rooms are appropriated for sick patients ; and while the establishment possesses all the advantages of a public institution richly endowed, it at the same time is

conducted on principles of the greatest privacy and comfort. The house is heated on a plan furnished by Mr Sylvester of London; and there are baths of every description, on the most approved principles, with a most plentiful supply of excellent water.

During the past year, the Directors have proceeded progressively with the furnishing of the house, which had been but partially accomplished at the commencement of their management. Every article of furniture has been studiously adapted to the objects of the Institution; and, while the Directors have paid due regard to economy, they have at the same time thought it right that the whole should be of substantial materials, and that the apartments appropriated for patients of the higher classes should be fitted up in a style of elegance corresponding to the magnificence of the building and the respectability of the Institution.

The Directors had repeatedly under their consideration the propriety of lighting the building with gas; and having every reason to believe that if the Perth Gas-Light Company would undertake to lay pipes to the Asylum, it would be decidedly preferable to any other method of lighting, a correspondence was entered into with them; the result of which was, that they agreed to the proposal of the Directors; and the house is accordingly now lighted with gas. The pipes and lustres have been fitted up by contract, according to a plan which was kindly

furnished by Dr Adam Anderson ; and, from all that the Directors have been able to observe, they have reason to think that this mode of lighting will be highly beneficial.

In the course of the year, it came under the notice of the Physician and Superintendent that the slope around the airing-yard, appropriated for the lower classes of patients, was not sufficiently gentle, and that it would be an improvement if the yard were lowered to the extent of eighteen inches or two feet. Previously to entering upon this alteration, the Directors consulted Mr Burn, the architect, who approved of what was proposed, and they proceeded with the work, which is nearly completed. It is gratifying to the Directors to be able to state, that, from the remarkable docility and habits of industry to which not a few of the patients have been brought, this work was performed almost entirely by their assistance, and consequently at a very trifling expense. This slight inconvenience being removed, the Directors have the greatest pleasure in stating, that the building and grounds have been hitherto found in every respect admirably adapted to the objects of the Institution, and calculated in an eminent degree to realize the high expectations which the skill, zeal, and attention of the architect, led them to entertain.

The Directors have not been inattentive to the improvement and ornament of the grounds surrounding the Asylum. A considerable number of the patients

render daily and effectual assistance in placing these in proper order ; and it has been lately thought right to ornament the lawn in the front of the building by transplanting a few well-advanced trees and shrubs.

The Directors have also had the greatest pleasure in acceding to the able suggestions of the Physician, by the introduction of such articles as are likely to prove beneficial to the patients ; and in particular, they have thought it right, at his desire, to introduce a Douche bath, in addition to those of other descriptions ; the use of which they are happy to learn has been attended with great success in the cure and recovery of several patients.

The Directors consider it unnecessary to enter upon any farther detail ; and it may perhaps be imagined by some that they have already been unnecessarily tedious and minute : This, however, they trust, will be attributed to its true cause,—a desire to furnish in this introductory Report as complete information as possible on every subject connected with the Institution. They cannot conclude without congratulating the public, and particularly the County of Perth, on now possessing within its bounds an Institution which had been so much wanted, and which is likely to be attended with so many advantages. To persons whose unhappy state of mind renders confinement necessary, this Asylum affords a suitable and convenient retreat, where every possible attention is paid to their comfort and every method em-

ployed to effect their recovery. Those unaccustomed to visit lunatic asylums would probably approach even this noble edifice for the first time with feelings far from pleasant; but, when once fairly within its walls, these feelings would speedily vanish, and be succeeded by others of a more agreeable nature. There is to be seen no harsh system of discipline—no cruel or tyrannical species of restraint; and no feeling of terror towards the Superintendent or Keepers, or the Matron and those under her, is ever to be gathered from a solitary look or gesture of the patients: On the contrary, there prevails throughout the whole an inconceivable degree of comfort, cleanliness, good order, and tranquillity, without the slightest appearance of harshness or restraint. At this moment none of the patients are confined to their rooms: In good weather, a considerable number of them are employed in the garden; while others of the lower classes of society assist the Keepers in cleaning the wards and performing other domestic duties. To the male patients it is held out to be a privilege to be allowed to work in the garden, as a reward for their good and peaceable behaviour; and it is always strongly impressed upon them that the treatment they may receive must depend in a great measure on their own behaviour. Such patients as are either not able or not inclined to employ themselves out of doors, are supplied with books, draft-boards, violins, flutes, &c., with which

they amuse themselves ; while others prefer recreation in the airing-yards. No patient is ever constrained to join in any thing to which he is averse, but all of them are allowed to consult their own wishes, hence discontent or irritability is seldom to be observed, and, when discovered, every soothing remedy is applied to remove them. A more interesting scene than is presented within this Institution, can scarcely be imagined ; and while it is of course impossible altogether to banish that emotion of pity which all must experience on beholding a portion of our fellow creatures bereft of reason, yet when we see the ingenuity of the most eminent architect displayed—every improvement employed which experience has suggested—the skill of an eminent Physician exerted, and the unremitting attention of a Superintendent and Matron of experience equal to their sympathy and kindness,—all directed to accomplish the grand object in view (the comfort and recovery of the patients)—it is impossible not to feel the utmost satisfaction from reflecting that thus all that can be done has been done towards the relief of the most hapless of the human race, while at the same time all the consolation, of which the circumstances of the case admit, has been afforded to their relatives and friends.

In conclusion, the Directors have to express their warmest thanks to their able Physician, for the great zeal and attention displayed by him, both before and

since the Institution was opened, as well as their unqualified approbation of the management of the Superintendent and Matron, for the admirable manner in which every thing under their charge has been conducted.

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ABSTRACT

OF THE

MEDICAL REPORT

TO THE

DIRECTORS OF JAMES MURRAY'S

ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS.

THIS Asylum was opened for the reception of patients, on the 1st July 1827; and, from that period to the 9th June 1828, forty patients have been admitted. Of these, thirty cases were of old standing, and ten of them recent; five patients have been dismissed cured; three have been removed by their friends considerably improved; and thirty-two remain in the Asylum.

The experience derived from this and every other Institution for the recovery of insane persons, proves that recent cases are more susceptible of cure than those of long standing,—a fact which cannot be too often repeated, as the knowledge of it may induce those having the charge of, or interest in, those unfortunate individuals, to make application in proper time to have them received into an asylum. The greater degree of harshness and constraint necessarily used in a private house, and more especially where the person so treated has

formerly been accustomed to the respectful attentions of the inmates and domestics who now control him, heedless of what he says or commands, aggravates the disease; and, by the continuance of the same measures, indelibly fixes the mania, or reduces the unhappy patient to a state of idiocy. In almost all the cases where a recovery has taken place in our Asylum, it has been in the recent cases. I have great pleasure in mentioning, that all our patients who have recovered have expressed their gratitude in warm terms, for the kindness they have experienced while in the Asylum.

The number of cures has been small, compared with the numbers received into the house; but by far the greater number of cases which we have had to treat were old cases, and many of the individuals have been four and five years inhabitants of other asylums. Two of the patients removed by their friends were much improved before removal; and I regret they should have been taken away so soon, as I have little doubt but that a complete cure would have been effected had they been allowed to remain.

In every case in the Asylum, the general bodily health of the patient has been much improved since their first admission. This I attribute to the perfect regularity of the hours of sleep, diet, and exercise; together with the state of cleanliness in which they are kept: Having a large space of ground (twelve imperial acres), the greater part of which is under cultivation, we employ those patients whose general state will admit of it, in trenching and labouring in the garden and fields. Permission to work is granted as a reward for good behaviour, and some trifling indulgences, such as tobacco, snuff, or tea, are allowed to those who conduct themselves well at labour. The women assist in the laundry and kitchen. To patients whose rank in life renders manual labour irksome or disagreeable, amusements, such as reading, writing, or

music, are allowed, with regular walking exercise, which they are enabled to take at all seasons of the year and in almost every variety of weather, either in the airing-yards or verandahs. Permission to go with the regular servants of the house to bring home things from the market, or any part of the country, is highly esteemed, and makes the individual so indulged good-humoured and tractable for some time thereafter. In cases where a recovery has taken place, we allow them to go out in this way for some weeks prior to their being sent away, in order to avoid the sudden transition from the quiet and confinement of the Asylum to the bustle and full enjoyment of liberty, which would endanger a relapse.

Persons visiting their friends or relations in the Asylum are shown into a parlour appropriated for this purpose, and to this the patients are brought, when they can freely converse, and the friends can form an idea of the state in which the patient may be. Should sickness or any other cause prevent the removal of the individual from his ward, and it is judged prudent that they should see their friends, the rest of the patients are sent into the airing-ground, or otherwise disposed of, and the friend is brought into the apartment of the person whom they come to visit. By this arrangement all unnecessary exposure of the patients is prevented, and no person visiting can carry away a tale, which, being repeated, might hurt the feelings of the relatives of the unhappy individuals, or of these individuals themselves, should they ever return to society. From the Weekly Committee, a Sub-Visiting Committee is appointed, consisting of the Chairman and two Physicians. These latter having belonged to the army, and being well acquainted with the arrangement and management of large hospitals, are particularly fitted to superintend the Asylum and see that no carelessness or abuse creep in; whilst the Chairman, from the warmth of his feelings in regard to the

success of an Institution which he has, from the laying of the foundation-stone to the present moment, watched over with a care and solicitude which reflects the highest honour on him, may be supposed to be particularly alive to every thing done in regard to the Institution. These gentlemen visit the whole house and patients at least once every week.

Since the opening of the house, there have been no deaths,—no readmissions. No accident of any kind has happened; nor has there been one case of mortification of the extremities from cold,—only one bad ulcer has occurred during the whole eleven months, and this arose from the unfortunate man having a bad custom of knocking his elbow against the walls of the gallery and airing-yards. A female patient who had been insane from her infancy, and occasionally dangerous to herself and others, had been confined by her mother, with whom she resided, in a sort of crib, or place railed off from the rest of the house in which they lived,—and where she could only be fed or cleaned like a wild animal in a cage,—is now, since her admission here, comfortable, and kept clean, and daily gets exercise in the open air. She is an incurable and complete idiot; but it is gratifying to see that, even in those cases when recovery is hopeless, the person is rendered comfortable, and the general health so much improved, that the same individuals who would excite disgust by their appearances when at home, are now so changed that the most fastidious could feel no pain in seeing them.

The admirable construction of the building enables us to form a distinct classification of the patients, in so far as this is necessary.

The furious are separated from the quiet,—the dirty from the cleanly; and the different classes of society are kept entirely free from each other.

From the perfect system adopted in ventilating and heat-

ing the house, the temperature in it can be so regulated that weakly and inactive patients are kept in the warmer rooms. To this arrangement, to regular exercise, and constant attention to the state of the feet, I attribute the exemption of the patients from that most dreadful complaint to which insane people are so liable,—mortification of the extremities; and, as I have mentioned above, no case of this disease has occurred in the Asylum. The architect has paid great attention to the establishing a complete set of baths,—and certainly there is nothing which more contributes to the general comfort, health, or cleanliness of the patient.

No harshness is allowed to be exercised on the patients: The restraint used is as gentle as is consistent with safety, and only employed where absolutely necessary, as in a violent state of the insanity, or where they are prone to tear clothes and break windows. We have no strait-waistcoat, nor do we find any want from the absence of it; the gloves and belts being perfectly sufficient, they are neater and cooler than the waistcoat, and there is no chance of any accident from the use of them.

TABLE FIRST.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted from 1st July 1827 to 9th June 1828,..	29	11	40

TABLE SECOND.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Dismissed cured,.....	3	2	5
Removed by friends, much improved,	2	1	3
Died,	0	0	0
Remaining, 9th June 1828,.....	24	8	32