

The fifty-third annual report of the Murray Royal Asylum Perth / [James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics].

Contributors

James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics.
Urquhart, A. R.
Mitchell, Arthur.
Sibbald, John.

Publication/Creation

Perth : Printed by the J. Young & Sons, 1881.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/c489n46w>

License and attribution

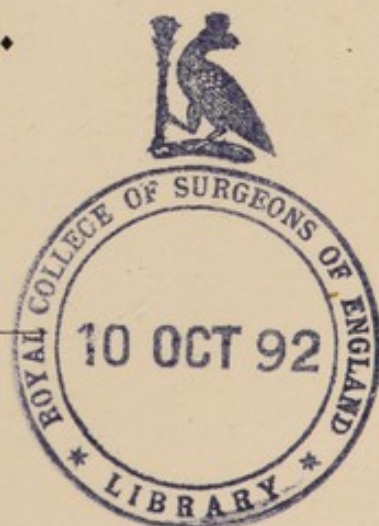
This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.




Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

THE
Fifty-Third
Annual Report
OF THE
Murray Royal Asylum
Perth.



PERTH:
PRINTED BY J. YOUNG & SONS, 1 & 3 WATERGATE.
1881.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30304635>

OFFICE-BEARERS,

1881.

Chairman.

D. L. JOLLY, Esq., Perth.

Directors Ex-Officio.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ATHOLE.

J. H. A. MACDONALD, Esq., Sheriff of the County of Perth.

HUGH BARCLAY, Esq., LL.D., Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Perth.

KIRKWOOD HEWAT, Esq., Lord Provost of Perth.

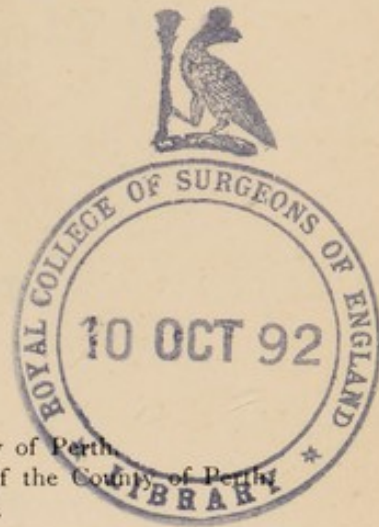
DANIEL M'KENZIE, Esq., First Bailie, Perth.

JAMES DEWAR, Esq., Dean of Guild, Perth.

WILLIAM CAMERON, Esq., Convener of Trades of Perth.

WILLIAM MACLEISH, Esq., President of the Society of Solicitors, Perth.

REV. JAMES BRUNTON, Minister of the Middle Church, Perth.



Life Directors.

WM. SMYTHE, Esq. of Methven.

H. C. R. MACDUFF-DUNCAN, Esq.
of Damside.

D. L. JOLLY, Esq., Perth.

DAVID MACKINLAY, Esq. of Cordon.

Annual Directors.

A. B. SANDEMAN, Esq. of Hunting-

WILLIAM ROSS, Esq., Perth. [tower.

F. BUCHANAN WHITE, Esq., M.D.,
Annat Lodge.

THE EARL OF MANSFIELD.

J. MURRAY DRUMMOND, Esq. of
Megginch.

J. M. MILLER, Esq., Solicitor, Perth.

GEORGE GRAY, Esq., Bowerswell.

JOHN STEEL, Esq. of Blackpark.

C. L. WOOD, Esq. of Freeland.

A. COATES, Esq. of Pitcullen.

JOHN CONNING, Esq., Solicitor, Perth.

Committee of Management.

D. L. JOLLY, Esq.

A. B. SANDEMAN, Esq.

W. ROSS, Esq.

J. M. MILLER, Esq.

G. GRAY, Esq.

J. STEEL, Esq.

A. COATES, Esq.

J. CONNING, Esq.

Joint Secretaries and Treasurers.

MESSRS. MACKENZIE & DICKSON, Solicitors, Perth.

Auditors.

MESSRS. J. & R. MORISON, Accountants, Perth.

ASYLUM STAFF.

Physician Superintendent.

A. R. URQUHART, M.D.

Chaplain.

REV. W. D. KNOWLES, B.A., Perth.

Matron.

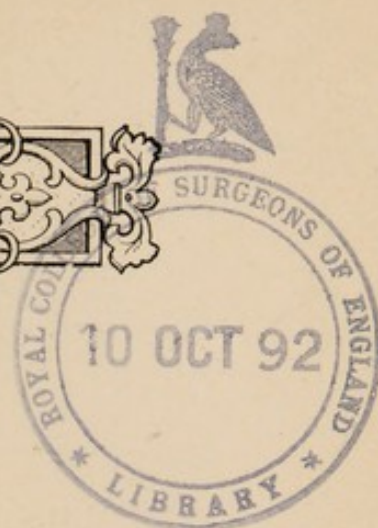
MISS GIDDINGS.

Assistant Matron.

MISS CRICHTON.

NOTE.

The Directors do not consider it necessary to publish a separate Report, in addition to that by the Physician, as this would only lead to needless repetition.



REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 12TH JUNE, 1881.

I have the honour to submit the Fifty-third *General Statistics.*
Annual Report of Murray's Royal Asylum for the
year ending 12th June, 1881.

On the 13th June, 1880, there were 75 patients
in the Asylum, and on the 12th June, 1881, there
were 84, showing an increase of 9.

There were 27 admitted during the year, of
whom 11 were males and 16 females.

The total number under treatment was 102.

Thirteen were discharged during the year—3
males and 10 females.

There were 5 deaths—4 males and 1 female.

The average number resident was 81.1.

The lowest number, 76, occurred on the 14th
June, 1880, and the highest, 86, on 19th December
last.

The discharge of a gentleman, and his im-
mediate re-admission as a voluntary boarder, is
not taken into account in the foregoing statement
of changes. There are at present one gentlemen
and two lady patients of this class.

The Admissions.

The admissions for the year continue relatively high—one more than last year, and about double the average numbers that have occurred since the minimum board rate was raised to £50 per annum in 1875. Since that time the carrying out of the extensive structural alterations that were found necessary to modernize and improve the Asylum necessitated the refusal of many applications, and kept the number under treatment low; but, now that these have been completed in the main building, it may be expected that the population will steadily increase to the full capacity of the house.

The history of these admissions is as follows:— Two were re-admitted—a gentleman for the third time in a long life, and a lady for the second time. The latter has been discharged recovered. Four ladies were sent home recovered and four relieved. Two of these last, however, were discharged in the hope that such a step would be more conducive to their full recovery, and both are now well in body and mind. I think that every facility should be given in the discharge of certain cases, for a return home may more speedily complete what would otherwise be a tardy recovery. Three were removed to pauper asylums in consequence of the inability of their friends to maintain them here, all of them being drawn from the working class. Two died. Nine males and seven females remain in the Asylum; but two of the former will shortly be discharged. A fair proportion of those admitted were deemed curable, and were received at an early

period of their disease, and most laboured under some concomitant bodily ailment.

The percentage of recoveries does not at first sight seem so high as could be wished; but dealing with small numbers in this way is always fallacious. For instance, were those patients entered above as "discharged relieved," and who have since recovered, added, the result would be a percentage of 37.0, instead of 25.9. *The Recoveries.*

Four of the five deaths took place during the winter months. With one exception they were cases of recent admission, and all were received here labouring under the diseases of which they eventually died. The average age at death was 47 years. *The Deaths.*

The general health of the Asylum has been good. *General Health.*

It is with hearty thankfulness that I have to record that the year has passed without serious accident, although there has been an unusually large proportion of suicidal and dangerously violent patients.

There is now a large number of patients allowed to go about unattended within the grounds. Such a privilege is highly prized, and productive of most beneficial results. Six gentlemen and five ladies are also on parole beyond the grounds. *Extended Liberty.*

Several go to church in Perth along with

attendants or nurses. Holy Communion was administered in the Asylum Chapel to eleven patients and three officers last month for the first time since the opening of the Institution.

The friends of the patients are encouraged to visit them, and, as heretofore, every means are adopted to render the Asylum as home-like and comfortable as may be, at the same time having due regard to its necessities as a Hospital for the cure of Insanity.

Visit to Seaside. A house has again been rented at Carnoustie, twelve patients having had the benefit of the change. The pleasure and good derived from this arrangement is incalculable. Six gentlemen still remain there.

Structural Alterations. The improvements in the structural arrangements that have been carried out during the year consist in several minor alterations in Day-rooms and Dormitories, and the re-fitting of the Dispensary and Stage for theatrical and musical performances.

The Perth Water supply has been in use throughout the year, and has proved satisfactory. The Telephone between the Asylum and Physician's House works admirably, and is in daily use.

The unsightly and prison-like Airing Courts on the west side have been converted into a spacious terrace, which gives an air of freedom to the house, and commands a splendid prospect to the north. It yet remains to surround it with a low ornamental fence, and to screen it off from

the approach to the Asylum with shrubbery. This improvement necessitated the building of a new Tool-house near the Conservatory, and it was thought a convenient time to have a thorough inspection of the drainage system while the ground was disturbed.

The boiler has been insured; but as it is now 17 years old, it will become necessary shortly to add a second and larger one, in view of the alterations in the Back Galleries.

I am glad to be able to state that the financial prospects of the Institution continue steadily to improve. *Financial Prospects.*

The increase in our number is steady, and, I trust, permanent. Never, since the discharge of the pauper patients to the District Asylum in 1864, have affairs appeared so prosperous. I look forward with hopefulness to the possibility of carrying out the alterations and improvements that still remain to be done within a few years; to the extinction of the debt; to the formation of a charitable fund to assist in the maintenance of indigent patients of the middle class; and a sinking fund for providing pensions for officers and servants after long and faithful service.

At present 18 patients are maintained for payments below the minimum rate, and the board of three patients belonging to Perth was reduced in the course of the past year.

The statutory visits of the Commissioners in *Visitors.*

Lunacy were made, and their Reports are printed with this.

My best thanks are due to those friends who so kindly assist us in our social life, to Mrs. Hempel especially for the pains she takes with her glee class of patients and attendants; to the ladies and gentlemen from Perth who came forward and gave us a theatrical representation; and to those of our own numbers, who are unwearied in their helpful efforts.

Conduct of Staff.

It is with much pleasure that I have to report that during the year I have been ably and willingly assisted by the staff of officers. The conduct of the attendants and nurses has been satisfactory, and changes have been fewer of late. The difficulty of getting suitable persons, however, does not decrease.

In conclusion, I desire to express my grateful sense of the great personal kindness and support which I continue to receive from the Committee and the Secretaries.

A. R. URQUHART, M.D.



TABLE showing Changes in the Population of the Asylum during the Year.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylum, 13th June, 1880,	37	38	75
	M.	F.	T.			
Admitted for the first time, ...	10	15	25			
Re-admitted,	1	1	2			
Total number admitted during the year, ...				11	16	27
Total number under care,				48	54	102
Discharged and Died—	M.	F.	T.			
Recovered,	1	6	7			
Relieved,	1	4	5			
Not Improved,	1	0	1			
Died,	4	1	5			
Total Discharged and Died,				7	11	18
Remaining in the Asylum, 12th June, 1881, ...				41	43	84
Average numbers resident,				38.8	42.3	81.1
Lowest numbers, 14th June, 1880,				37	39	76
Highest numbers, 19th December, 1880, ...				39	47	86
Percentage of Recoveries on numbers admitted,				9.0	37.5	25.9
Percentage of Deaths on average numbers resident,				10.2	2.3	6.1



REPORTS
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY
FOR THE YEAR.

DR. MITCHELL'S REPORT.

PERTH ROYAL ASYLUM,
9th July, 1880.

There are 38 gentlemen and 39 ladies resident in the Asylum, and one lady is absent on probation.

The changes since the date of last visit consist of 11 admissions, 6 discharges, and 2 deaths.

No accident is recorded during that period, and there is only one entry in the Register of Restraint and Seclusion; but the box-bed, with the lid, is in regular use in the case of one lady.

Dr. Urquhart was absent; but the Asylum was in excellent order, and presented an aspect of great cheerfulness and comfort. The condition of the patients was in all respects satisfactory. An excellent dinner was served to them during the visit in a neat and orderly manner. The general state of the establishment and of the patients reflected credit on Dr. Stirling and the resident officials,

who conduct the management in Dr. Urquhart's absence.

The Registers were examined, and found written up to date, and correctly and carefully kept.

ARTHUR MITCHELL,

Commissioner in Lunacy.

DR. SIBBALD'S REPORT.

PERTH ROYAL ASYLUM,
24th February, 1881.

There are at present 39 gentlemen and 40 ladies resident in the Asylum. Of these one gentleman and one lady are voluntary inmates.

Since last visit five gentlemen and eleven ladies have been admitted; one gentleman and five ladies have been discharged recovered; one gentleman and three ladies have been discharged unrecovered; and three gentlemen and one lady have died.

The deaths resulted from brain disease, peritonitis, general marasmus, and phthisis pulmonalis. Three of the patients who died had been admitted during 1880, and one in 1879.

The Asylum was found in excellent order, and the patients appeared to be comfortably and suitably cared for.

No changes have been made in the arrangements of the Institution since it was placed under the superintendence of Dr. Urquhart. It is in contemplation, however, to introduce several improvements in the course of the present year. The Billiard-room, which is at present bare and unfurnished, is to be supplied with cushioned

seats, and in other ways made more comfortable. A *table d'hôte* is to be established, at which it is expected a large proportion of the patients will be able to join. It is also intended to remove the prison-like features of the Airing Courts by the removal of several of the walls. All these proposals are to be commended, and it is hoped that they will be carried out in a thorough and complete manner.

The books and registers were examined and found carefully kept. The number of entries in the register of restraint and seclusion since last visit has been 17, and those refer to the use of seclusion in the treatment of four patients. The number of attendants and servants engaged is nine; eight have resigned, and one was discharged as unsuitable. Two accidents are recorded in the register, but neither of them was of a serious character.

JOHN SIBBALD,

Commissioner in Lunacy.



GENERAL REGULATIONS.

Applications for the admission of Patients should be addressed to the Physician Superintendent, from whom may be obtained the statutory forms to be completed before Patients can be received.

These are indispensable in every case :—

- a.* Petition to the Sheriff of the County, and accompanying Statement by a Relative or Guardian of the Patient.
- b.* Two Medical Certificates by duly qualified practitioners.
- c.* Order granted by the Sheriff of the County in which the Patient resides, or in which the Asylum is situated.
- d.* Letter of Obligation for Payment of Board, etc., to be signed by a responsible male person.

In a case of Urgency, however, the Certificate of Emergency (in proper legal form), granted by any Medical Man, is sufficient for the detention of a Patient for three days, during which time the ordinary papers can be filled up.

When the other documents are complete, Dr. Urquhart will obtain the Sheriff's Order, if so desired. These papers are private and confidential, and no publicity is implied in getting the Sheriff's Order.

Epileptic and Paralytic Patients are received only on special terms; and the admissibility of, and rates of Board for, all Patients are determined by Dr. Urquhart.

The Board is payable Quarterly, and in Advance, to the Secretaries and Treasurers, Messrs. Mackenzie & Dickson, 61 George Street, Perth.

Every Patient must be provided with suitable and sufficient Clothing. An accurate list of every article brought with the

Patient must, on admission, be delivered to the Asylum Official in charge, and the name fully marked on each garment. If any necessary part of Dress should not be supplied after eight days' intimation has been given that it is wanted, it will be furnished by the Institution, and the cost of it charged against the Patient.

Patients may be visited at suitable hours every lawful day. Only those who are authorized can be permitted to visit Patients.

All communications regarding Patients must, in every case, be sent to Dr. Urquhart; and it is requested that due notice be given to him before a Patient is removed.

All necessary information regarding the admission of Voluntary Boarders can be obtained from Dr. Urquhart.

RATES OF BOARD

Vary from £50 to £350 per annum and upwards, according to Accommodation, Dietary, Attendance, &c., required. They are the subject of special arrangement in each case.

