Report of the visiting justices and medical officer of the County Lunatic Asylum, Forston, Dorset: Epiphany sessions, 1847 / Dorset County Lunatic Asylum.

Contributors

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REPORT

OF

THE VISITING JUSTICES

AND

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF THE

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FORSTON, DORSET.

Epiphany Sessions, 1847.

GEORGE SIMONDS, DORCHESTER;
AT THE COUNTY PRESS.

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REPORT

OF THE

VISITING JUSTICES

OF THE

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FORSTON.

Epiphany Sessions, 1847.

AT the close of another year, the Visitors have much pleasure in reporting, that they are perfectly satisfied with the condition of the Asylum under the management of the Superintendent and Matron. Whenever they have visited the Asylum they have found every thing in the best order, and as no previous notice of these visits has ever been given, they feel assured that the same order and cleanliness pervades the Institution at all times.

The Visitors have to regret that there has been an increase in the mortality of the past year; but this may be attributed to the fact that numbers of the Patients have been sent into the Asylum in a very advanced state of disease and weakness. The Court will perhaps be surprized to hear that of the 26 Patients who have died this year, 5 have died within a month after their admission, and 5 more within six months; so that above one-third of the deaths have occurred within six months after admission into the Asylum.

The Visitors beg to draw the attention of the Court, and through them, the attention of the different Parish Officers, to the great injury that is done to insane persons by keeping them at home after the malady has plainly shown itself, until they become dangerous or troublesome, when they are sent to the Asylum in the last stage of mental disease, only perhaps to die.

The ventilation of the Asylum has been much improved by removing a brick at certain intervals near the ceiling in the different wards; this permits the windows to be kept closed when the steam is on, and the wards are certainly as sweet and as free from and close smell as they were when the windows were open.

The heating by Steam answers very well, and an equal temperature of 60 degrees is kept throughout the Asylum.

The Visitors beg to call the attention of the Court to the Farm Account, as it appears in the Report of the Superintendent. It is pleasing to find that while the out-door occupation is a source of incalculable advantage to the Patients themselves, and tends in a material degree both towards the cure of many and the keeping quiet of others, that it has been attended with an actual saving to the County, and that, with the labour performed by the Patients within doors, it tends to the reduction of the weekly account.

A proposition was made by the Town and County of Poole to send their insane Pauper Patients to the Dorset County Asylum, and if they could be received, a request to know on what terms the Committee would admit them. In consequence of the

Asylum being nearly full, and no prospect of the number being lessened, the Committee thought it right to decline the proposition altogether.

There are at present 17 Patients residing in the Asylum beyond the number it was intended to accommodate when the new buildings were proposed. It will be in the recollection of the Court that one of the arguments used in favour of the enlargement of the Asylum, was the crowded state of some of the apartments, and the Committee have to regret that the urgent cases presented for admission since have prevented the number of Patients in these apartments being diminished. They have, however, the satisfaction to announce, that in consequence of the Resolution contained in the last Annual Report, and adopted by the Court at the Epiphany Sessions of 1846, viz., "That whenever the Asylum shall become " filled to within five beds in each class of Patients-" Males and Females-that the Superintendent shall "have power to select such cases as shall be most "likely to receive benefit from their admission," room has been afforded, during the year, for all cases of insanity having a probability of cure. It has not,

therefore, been found necessary to remove any chronic cases to a Registered Hospital or licensed House, according to the provisions of the 8 and 9 Vict. cap. 126, sec. 29 and 56. The Committee hope by attending to this rule, no further enlargement of the Asylum will be necessary.

With respect to the finances of the Asylum the Committee have to state that the present rate of maintenance has met the expenditure during the past year. The total sum expended from Jany. 1st to Decr. 31st, 1846, has been £2,758 14s. 10d., and the cost per head 7s. per week.

Much as the Committee wish to keep to the present rate of maintenance, the increased price of provisions, and the high rate at which the Contracts have been taken, preclude the hope that it will be sufficient to meet the expenditure of the coming year; they, however, think it advisable not to fix the specific amount of the increase until the expiration of the present quarter. The expense, under the head of repairs, has been small—in this, as well as in every other department; it has been the study of the Visitors to exercise the strictest economy, consistent with the health and comfort of the Patients.

The Commissioners in Lunacy visited the Asylum on the 19th December, and made the following Report:—

"19th December, 1846.

"We have this day officially visited this Asylum, "and seen and spoken to all the Patients, 147 in "number—62 males and 85 females. At the time of our visit they were in a tranquil and comfortable "state, and none were under mechanical restraint "or in seclusion.

"We have gone over all the wards, galleries, and day-rooms, all of which were clean, well ventilated, and in excellent order. Since the last visit of the Commissioners on the 12th December, 1845, 55 Patients have been admitted, 17 have been discharged, and 25 have died. We have examined the recent certificates, which appear to be correct."

"The large number of deaths appears to have been occasioned in a great degree by the bad state in which many were sent to the Asylum.

"We have been extremely gratified by the order and tranquillity which, in our opinion, does great credit to the skill, attention, and management of Dr. and Mrs. Button.

" Signed

"W. G. CAMPBELL, Commissioners "J. R. HUME, M.D., in Lunacy."

J. A. TEMPLER, Chairman.

A LIST of all SUMS, for the Payment of which Orders have been made on the COUNTY TREASURER, during the last Year:—

	£.	8.	d.
Simonds, Printing	9	0	0
Ensor, Stamps	4	0	0
Northover, Bricklayer	87	16	3
Munday, Wood	15	0	9
Thornhill, Fir Poles	3	10	0
Assessed Taxes, Rates	9	17	6
Gillingham, Iron Bedsteads	13	16	71/2
Dewland, Plumber	5	17	1
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MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT FROM 20th DECEMBER, 1845, to 31st DECEMBER, 1846.

1846.	INCOME.	1846		EXPENDITURE.	
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SIXTH REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The number of admissions during the year just ended, has been greater than in any previous year; viz., 28 males and 28 females. The intention of diminishing the number of beds in the Dormitories has not been carried into effect, and an amount of accommodation has thus been provided, beyond what was contemplated when the new buildings were finished. Every effort has been made to prevent, as far as possible, any delay in the prompt removal of probably curable patients to the Asylum, where alone the proper treatment, on which so much depends, in reference to their cure, can be adequately enforced.

It is, however, to be regretted, that most unjustifiable procrastination has occurred in several cases. In some,

it has been the result of an imperfect acquaintance with the malady. The changes and alterations in the conduct and disposition of the individual, apparent to all around him, and producing confusion in the house, and the most painful emotion in the minds of his friends and relations, were attributed to any cause, rather than the right one; although it was quite evident that the person himself could neither explain nor control his actions. In other cases, patients have been allowed to remain in the workhouses, or with their friends, from an idea, that the disorder was not to be alleviated by medical treatment; and the Asylum has only been thought of for them, when from their violence, noise, uncleanliness, or utter helplessness, they have become an insupportable burden. Thus months and years of inestimable value are permitted to elapse, before any measures, likely to afford effectual relief, are resorted to, and hence the far greater proportion, in consequence sink into a chronic incurable state.

Another melancholy cause in operation, as regards the admission of patients this year, has been experienced in the case of those who were just above the rank of paupers, and who were, therefore, not deemed proper objects for a County Asylum. Ultimately, however, they have been by affliction reduced to pauperism; but, not until the progress of the malady has rendered them incurable: they consequently become a burden to their parishes for the remainder of their lives. If timely aid had, in such cases, been judiciously afforded, recovery might probably have re-

sulted, and the parishes been relieved from a permanent burden. Several cases of this description have been received during the year, and have materially increased the relative mortality of the Asylum, while the sufferings of the unfortunate individuals themselves were aggravated by their removal at an improper period.

The principal physical diseases, which accompanied the insane state, were paralysis, epilepsy, cerebral congestion, disorder of the digestive organs, and a general impairment of health, leaving only 6 cases, where the mental malady was not associated with derangement of some physical organ.

From the duration of the disorder previously to admission, it may be inferred, that either the premonitory stage was not understood, or was altogether disregarded. Perhaps, in some cases, from the insidious and obscure development of the symptoms, the moral and intellectual changes noticed were not considered as precursors of insanity. The accession of the malady has been erroneously dated from some sudden outbreak of violence, of incessant restlessness, or of extreme incoherence; whereas, these symptoms, instead of merely announcing the commencement of some grave malady, may but too frequently be regarded as the premonitory symptoms of a fatal issue -the termination of a long continued series of changes, originating in disease of the brain. Strangely enough, however, even in such cases, though the most favourable period for successful medical treatment is thus blindly overlooked or neglected, (as all who have

had the care of the insane are but too well aware of) this fatal prejudice almost universally prevails.

It would be an act of the noblest philanthropy, if means could be devised to rivet the attention of those who have the power of forwarding the insane to the Asylums, to this momentous truth, if every possible publicity were given to the 50th sec. of the 8 and 9 Vic. cap. 126, so that all medical officers of Unions, overseers, relieving officers, and constables might be rendered fully aware of the penalty they are liable to, for neglect in this particular.

- A. S. Admitted 3rd July, 1846. Stated to have been insane only three weeks. She had, however, betrayed symptons of mental derangement two years previously. Her mother died insane. About two months before her admission, she married a respectable baker; but, before many days had elapsed, her husband became alarmed at her strange conduct and her restlessness at night. She soon began to regret her marriage, imagining she had degraded herself. The husband complained to her father, and the only reply he received was, that she had been "in the same way' for the last twelvemonths. Violence of conduct succeeded, and ultimately she made several attempts to drown herself.
- A. B. Application was made for the admission of this individual in March, but she was not sent until June. It was stated that she had been insane only 5 months, but, on inquiry, it was discovered, that a gradual alteration in her conduct and disposition had been observed for three precedent years. A circum-

stance then occurred to develope the latent disease, and she passed into a state of Melancholia, with strong suicidal propensity, and the dread, lest she should succeed in accomplishing her object, was at last the cause of her being sent to the Asylum. She believed herself to be possessed by the Devil, and was reduced, from long continued refusal of food, to a state of extreme emaciation. She was also afflicted with Lepra. A few days after her admission she was seized with a severe attack of Dysentery (from which she had before repeatedly suffered,) which terminated fatally 22 days after her admission.

In several other cases, the statements subjoined to the Order for the admission of Patients, have been found incorrect, so much so, that scarcely any dependence can be placed on them. Sometimes, doubtless, this may be the result of inadvertence or carelessness, but, at other times, it is evidently a mis-statement of well known facts; so that, notwithstanding the repeated cautions which have been given, the Asylum has again become nearly full of old chronic cases. As copies of the statements, sent with the patients, are forwarded to the Commissioners in Lunacy, discrepancies must necessarily arise between their Reports, founded on those statements, and the Reports of the Asylum, drawn from information obtained from the friends of the patients at different times, and not unfrequently after the patients have been in the Asylum for weeks, or even months.

The latter mode of procuring information, it is submitted, is the only one entitled to implicit confidence.

J. B. On the application for the admission of this patient, he was represented to be in good bodily health, and capable of being made useful in the Asylum. On his arrival, however, it was at once discovered, that he was labouring under that most certainly fatal of all the various forms of insanity, General Paralysis.—His speech was embarrassed, his tongue tremulous, and his gait unsteady. He fancied himself possessed of large sums of money in the Bank, all in gold, and also of splendid equipages. He was extremely incoherent, and subject to sudden accessions of maniacal excitement. Two years previously, he had an attack of Typhus Fever, on which Mania supervened. He was removed to an Asylum in Ireland, where he then resided, from which he was afterwards discharged in about three months. He then married a female, to whom he had been previously engaged, and, subsequently, within a few weeks, symptoms of insanity again manifested themselves, and he was sent to his friends in England, with whom he remained for some months, until, from increased violence, he became unmanageable. Within a short time after his admission into the Asylum he was seized with Apoplexy, and died in a few hours.

G. B. was said to have been "insane three weeks, occasionally violent and dirty, not paralytic, bodily health indifferent." She was accompanied to the Asylum by her husband, from whom a very different account was obtained. She had been married 10 years, and, from the time of her first confinement in 1837, she had been constantly subject to attacks of insanity

and for several years, had lost the power of moving her lower extremities. For some time, her husband employed a woman to look after her, but latterly, from her increasing excitement, and utter helplessness, he could get no one to undertake the duty, and was, consequently, obliged to look after her himself. On her admission, she exhibited a most wretched appearance: emaciated almost to the last degree,-unable to stand or sit up,-her long black hair matted, and swarming with vermin; and her body and clothes in a filthy condition. The poor man said he was formerly a sailor, and, by great frugality, had saved about £180. This raised him above the condition of a Pauper, and his repeated application to the Parish, for the admission of his wife into the Asylum, was on this ground refused. At length, his money being nearly all spent, his request was complied with, on his undertaking to pay the expenses for the first month, as by that time it was supposed they would see how the case was likely to terminate. By the end of the month, both the husband and the parish were relieved; the former of his dreadful anxiety, and the latter of the dreaded expense. She sunk under general Paralysis, with extensive sloughing gangrenous wounds of the back.

D. E. Widow, aged 75. Said to have been insane only one week. The account subsequently received from her daughter was, that, about a year and half ago, her mental faculties began to fail; she became restless at night, and unable to take care of herself in the day.

These intellectual changes increasing, she was placed under the care of a woman, who received 3s. per week for her care and maintenance; 2s. of which were from a widow's charity, and Is. the Parish allowed. This sum being found inadequate, the R. Officer was applied to for an increased allowance; this was refused, and an offer was then made to receive her into the Union; to enter which, as she must leave her children, she had a great repugnance. However, she was removed thither, and her restlessness at night disturbing the other inmates, and her childishness causing trouble, she was, at the expiration of a week, without any previous notice, sent to the Asylum. She was brought, with very insufficient clothing, a distance of 27 miles, in an open conveyance, and arrived about 9 o'clock in the morning. The day following her admission she was seized with Apoplexy, of which she had previously had an attack, and, after remaining in a comatose state for a week, she died.

C. L. In the preliminary application for the admission of this patient, it was stated, that she had been insane only for a short time with this her first attack, and was neither violent nor dirty. It was added, moreover, in a letter which accompanied the application, that the enquiry had been made with great caution. From these statements, no doubt was entertained of its being a recent case; and although the Asylum was already inconveniently full, room was made for the patient. On her arrival, it was found, that her name had, for some years past, appeared in the Annual Return of all Lunatics and Idiots, charge-

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able to the Union, as an inmate of the Union, Idiotic, and many years of unsound mind. She was violent in her conduct, kicking and biting indiscriminately, and dirty in her habits. She had apparently been allowed to pick up her food with her fingers, and scarcely knew the use of a knife and fork. Altogether she presented a most hopeless case.

The foregoing cases could scarcely be considered proper objects for reception into the Asylum. Two of them were unable to bear the fatigue of a long journey, without superinducing an aggravation of their sufferings, and the excitement and agitation produced in the mind of another, on her removal from home, no doubt, hastened the fatal issue.

E. L. Admitted on the 16th August. In the statement, in the Order of admission she was said to have been insane only one month. Her mother, who accompanied her to the Asylum, stated that she had been suffering under the disease, at least, 4 months. During the last three months, she had obtained scarcely any sleep. Brfore her marriage, she lived as a shop-woman at a Draper's. Subsequently, the proprietor, on retiring from business, advertised the sale of his stock at prime cost, and she, with many others, made purchases. The disposal of the goods not producing the expected return of money, on inquiry it was discovered, that an assistant had sold the articles below the price ordered. This poor woman was accused of fraud, on the ground that she knew the value of the articles. The charge was proved to be unfounded, but

it produced a state of intense grief, and profound depression of spirits, which, acting on an organization in which Conscientiousness was largely developed, brought on an attack of insanity.

- G. H. Had been insane 4 months. Hereditary predisposition. His great-grandfather hung himself; his grandfather died insane; and, an uncle is, at the present time, in a state of insanity. On stepping out of a carriage, he fell backwards, and received a blow on his head. Cerebral symptoms at once supervened, and he was placed under medical treatment at home, not being considered bad enough to be sent to the Asylum. At length, in consequence of his becoming violent and ungovernable, he was, in a state of great mental imbecility, sent to the Asylum.
- S. H. Application was made for the admission of this patient, some months previously to her being sent. She had filled the situation of housemaid in a respectable family, for three years, when, in consequence of the decided alteration in her conduct, her neglect of duty, and frequent state of abstraction, she was dismissed from her situation, and returned home to her mother. It was at this period that active measures were imperatively necessary, in order that a fair trial might have been afforded to medical treatment to ward off consequences, which, at last, rendered the case hopeless. The diseased action, from which the distressful symptoms proceeded, ultimately effected structural changes. The Medical Officer, under whose care she was, declined to sign a certificate of her insanity. He acknowledged she was odd in her

manner, her temper none of the best, and her affections alienated from her friends and relations. The representations of her mother were regarded as an attempt to remove a burden, by getting her daughter placed in the Hospital or the Asylum, and it was decided, that further inquiry ought to be made into the case, and that she was not in a state to require the "restraint or attendance afforded at a Lunatic Asylum." She was subsequently sent to the Union, where she had not been more than a week, before sufficient evidence of her insanity was discovered, a medical certificate was signed, and she was consigned to the Asylum. If to constitute insanity, there must be a palpable alteration in the conduct or feelings of the person, such alteration was surely apparent enough here, for some months previously. Before her affliction, her conduct had been good, her temper amiable, and her affections towards her friends warm and constant.

With few exceptions, the cases admitted during the year, had, like those mentioned above, previously undergone their first medical treatment, and it was only after long courses of bleeding, blistering, or purging had failed, that they were transmitted to the Asylum, in an exhausted and enfeebled condition, the deplorable result of the too general and indiscriminate employment of those three popular remedies,

The 8 and 9 Vic. chap. 126, imposes certain penalties on Relieving Officers and Overseers, in case of neglect, in not sending the insane poor to the County Asylum, at the earliest accession of an attack of

Insanity. But, of the parish officers who have accompanied patients to the Asylum, scarcely one has been aware of the existence of such a law. They are, therefore, quite unconscious of the great responsibility attached to their office as well as the penalty to which they are liable. There is, also, an unwillingness to consider individuals insane, from an apprehension, that fresh burdens will be added to the poor's-rate; thus, from a shortsighted policy, recent cases are rendered inveterate and incurable, and the mortality of the Institutions, to which such are at last sent, is sadly aggravated.—If 7 out of 10 patients recover, when placed under treatment, within 3 months after the first accession of the disease, and only 2 out of 10, if a delay occur for a period of 6 months, and if, after a year, the disease may be regarded as, perhaps, very nearly if not altogether, in too many cases, incurable; it is evident, that both humanity, and enlightened and sound economy, demand the most careful and early treatment of all cases.

A greater cruelty can scarcely be perpetrated, than to allow a disease to progress unopposed, until death is hailed, even by the nearest friends, as a welcome release; whereas, there is, at least a probability, that a short separation only from home, on the first appearance of the malady, might have restored the unfortunate sufferer to health, usefulness, and happiness.

Although similar observations have been made in almost every former Report, yet, as the evil still continues unabated, it becomes a duty to reiterate them, and also to enquire, whether individuals, connected with Lunatic Asylums, ought not to exert themselves with untiring vigilance, so that the recent benevolent and wise provisions of the law may now be effectually and thoroughly carried out, and the amount of human misery be thereby lessened?

Suicidal Cases.—Suicidal propensity existed in 25 per cent. of the cases admitted during the year. The means adopted to accomplish their purpose have been various, and a failure in one attempt has only been followed by a recourse to other means. Poisonous agents, have, however, not been resorted to in any one instance, In several cases it would appear, that, although the individuals were known to be insane, and ought, therefore, at once to have been sent to the Asylum, they were detained at the Union or at home, until the horror, occasioned by their attempts at self-destruction, led to their hasty removal to the Asylum.

These cases, at all times the source of great anxiety, are alarmingly so when the patients are unremittingly watching every opportunity to effect their purpose; and, it too frequently happens, even with the utmost vigilance, that they succeed in such attempts.

T. B. was formerly a respectable tradesman in London. From uncontrollable circumstances his business declined, and he at once determined on giving it up, and paying his creditors while he had it in his power. After he done this, he fell into a desponding state, commenced drinking to excess, and finally abandoned his wife and children, and came into this County. He soon procured employment, but associated with bad company. At length, his conscience began to upbraid

him for having abandoned his family, and remorse, on this account, operating on a mind enfeebled by dissolute habits, brought on an attack of mania. He was removed to the Union, where, after remaining a fortnight in a state of great excitement, he availed himself of an opportunity to seize a knife, with which he inflicted a terrible gash across his throat. The wound was dressed, a strait waistcoat was applied to prevent his removing the dressings, and the next day he was received into the Asylum. On the excitement subsiding, he passed into a state of extreme mental depression, under which he appeared likely to sink. By being employed in the garden, he gradually regained his physical strength and vigour of mind. An affectionate letter from his wife appeared to relieve his anxiety on her account, after which he rapidly recovered, and was discharged within 7 months. small sum of money, given from the Charitable Fund, enabled him to redeem some articles of value, which he had pawned just before his illness. During his residence in the Asylum, he voluntarily abstained from beer, fearing lest, if he indulged in small quantities, his craving for it might return, and hereafter cause a relapse into his former habits.

H. L. For some time previously to his admission, he had been an inmate of the Union, between which place and the Gaol he had spent the greater portion of the last seven years. While in Gaol, the last time, he suspended himself from his bedroom window, and, on his return to the Union, he again nearly succeeded in committing suicide, by hanging himself in an out-

house. On being discovered, he was apparently lifeless, but the usual restoratives were promptly and successfully applied. On the following day application was made for his admission into the Asylum.

S. H. Her insanity supervened on long-continued lactation, which induced a state of extreme weakness. From being cheerful, active, and industrious, she became desponding, abstracted, and negligent of her domestic duties. She suffered agonizing pain in the head, with loss of sleep. Her husband, with whom, previously to her affliction, she had lived happily, attributing the change in her conduct to ill temper and obstinacy, at first scolded her, but finding her no better, he beat her severely. In vain did the poor woman assure him she could not help it, that she felt she was changed, and wished it were otherwise, but that she had no power over herself, and earnestly implored to be sent to some place, where people would understand her complaint, and be kind to her. Subjected to this cruel treatment, and occasionally visited by a Medical man, she continued for four months, until, with a mind in a most distracted state, she inflicted a deep wound in her throat with a razor. The "Nervousness," under which she had been considered to labour, was now termed insanity, and in a few days she was received into the Asylum.

Deaths.—The Insane are subject to every variety of physical disease; and the peculiarities of habit, incidental to their insane condition, tend to weaken the constitution, and prostrate the vital energies, It frequently happens, that, after death, diseases of

important organs are discovered, of which, during their life, the patients made no complaint, and the existence of such diseases was not suspected, as none of the ordinary symptoms had been traceable. Some patients incorrectly state their feelings, and misrepresent their ailments; and many, from the nature of their malady, are quite unable to give any information; from others, not a single word, nor even a gesture can be elicited. The treatment of the Insane is thus rendered exceedingly embarrassing, and surrounded by far greater difficulties, than are to be met with in attendance on the sane. The wonder, therefore, is that the relative mortality of the insane is not higher than it really is.

In many of the patients who have died during the year, no hope, even on their admission into the Asylum, could be entertained of life's being prolonged beyond a limited period, and immediate recourse was had to the administration of stimulants, and a nourishing diet, to support their already sinking powers. If such cases could have been refused admission, of course the mortality of the year would have been greatly diminished; and, in some instances the result would have been a less amount of suffering to the unfortunate individuals themselves, who were not removed from home, till the ordinary medical means had failed, and there was thus but little hope of prolonging life, beyond a few days, or weeks at the utmost.

Three of the deaths were occasioned by Dropsy; 4 died of Dysentery; 10 of Apoplexy, Epilepsy, or

General Paralysis, and 4 of decay of nature, or old age, whose average duration of life was 74 years.

Five of the deaths occurred within a month after admission, and five more within 6 months. The average duration of residence in the remainder was 4 years.

The average age at the time of death was 53 years. The average duration of the disorder 10.05 years.

Although the Patients in the Asylum have been generally exempt from any epidemic, during the last five years, they have not escaped the intestinal and gastric irritation incidental to the Autumnal season, and which, during the late Autumn, has been prevalent in all parts of England. About twenty-five of the female patients suffered from some modification of these affections, in the months of July, August, and September, as well as three of the Female Attendants. Some of the cases assumed the form of Dysentery, of a severe and aggravated character, of which four females died. These patients had been long in an enfeebled, melancholic state. Two of them had been suffering under disease, for some time previously to their admission, and were in a very precarious state of health: -one from repeated attacks of Dysentery, and the other from disorder of the Liver. Two were cases of long duration, having been insane 16 and 33 years respectively.

On the Male side of the house, the proportion of patients attacked was much less than on the Female side, only 8 of the patients, and one of the Attendants,

having suffered. No death was occasioned by the epidemic on the male side.

From the Report of the Registrar General, for the quarter ending with the month of September, 1846, it appears, that the number of deaths, during the three months, has increased in some places 14 per cent., and in other districts 52 per cent., on the number registered in the corresponding quarter of 1845. In some densely populated towns, the mortality has been more than doubled, after deducting for increase of population.

The causes of this extraordinary mortality are attributed, in part, to the high temperature of the Summer months, the average of which was 6 degrees above that of the corresponding season of 1845.

Another cause, which may, probably, have contributed to increase the mortality of this Asylum, was the crowded state of the house, there being, on the female side of it, where the epidemic most extensively prevailed, an average daily number of 17, beyond the number it was originally intended to accommodate.

The Epidemic was also most severely felt in the new female ward, where there is a double range of bedrooms, and ventilation is obtained in the gallery only by means of apertures in the sky-lights. This defect has, with the usual promptitude of the Visitors, been ordered to be remedied.

On one patient, a female who was found dead in her bed, a Corner's Inquest was held. She was admitted in Nov., 1845. The character of her disorder was Imbecility, complicated with Epilepsy. She had been for several years, almost entirely without clothing;

passing nearly her whole time in an out-house, with a blanket to cover her, to which place her daughter took her daily food. The fact of her insanity, as well as the manner in which she had lived, were well known to the parish authorities; but, in consequence of her not belonging to the parish in which she resided, no notice was taken of her case, until shortly after the passing of the recent Act, when a Magistrate took up the matter. When admitted, she was stated to have been insane only 2 years. She presented an extremely wretched appearance. Her countenance was pale and unhealthy; she was very emaciated, suffering from severe gastric irritation, and her body and hair were dirty and covered with vermin. She had been so long accustomed to lie down, that it was with difficulty she could be induced to sit up. As her general health improved, she became cheerful, and on the 2nd of December, she was employed at needlework. She continued to improve until April, when an abscess formed in her back. In June she had an Epileptic attack, the first since her admission, which was preceded by excitement and followed by coma. These attacks continued at short intervals up to the time of her death.

Recoveries.—These have been few, compared with the results of former years; but from the very small number of really recent cases which have been admitted, and from the insanity being complicated with diseases, from their nature, incurable, no other result could be expected. The majority of patients, who were not of the above character, and whose cases were only of recent date, have recovered.

A. B. Insane one week; age 22; hereditary predisposition; his father and uncle were insane. He had been a patient at the Dorset County Hospital, for some time previously to his being sent to the Asylum. The attack manifested itself suddenly, having been preceded by a state of depression. He imagined himself possessed by the Devil, who, he said, was located at the top of his right shoulder. As his health, which was much impaired, began to improve, the delusion passed away, and convalescence was established. He was discharged within five months. On his leaving the Asylum, he was again taken into the employ of the Gentleman, for whom he had previously worked.

A. A. laboured under Mania, which followed a Bilious attack. Hereditary predisposition to insanity existed. On symptoms of insanity appearing, she was at once sent to the Asylum, from which she was discharged cured within 3 months.

T. K. Laborer, aged 50, married, and having 7 children. Date of illness two months. He engaged with his master for himself and two sons at the wages of 7s., 6s. and 5s. per week respectively; his sons residing with him in the cottage provided for him. After 5 years' service, the young men wished an increase in their wages; which the master not feeling disposed to give, they engaged with another person at 10s. and 9s. per week, but still continued to live with their father. This arrangement not meeting with the approbation of his employer, he was informed if the sons continued with him, 2s. 6d. a week would be deducted from his earnings for their lodging. This was

done, and he, consequently, applied for a summons against his Master, who had to refund the money, but immediately gave the man notice to quit his service in a week. As he had no place to go to, his furniture and his family remained out of doors for two nights. These circumstances brought on a desponding state of mind; sleep forsook him; he refused to eat, and was reduced to a state of great weakness. He suffered under the impression that he should be sent to Prison, and transported, and, in a moment of despair, he seized a razor, and cut his throat. His state of mind being no longer doubted, he was sent to the Asylum. He recovered and was discharged within three months. On leaving the Asylum, he immediately procured em ployment, in which he still continues.

Employment.—Active employment, when judiciously regulated, and not permitted to be carried so far as to produce fatigue, is generally attended with most beneficial results. The surplus nervous energy is agreeably expended in muscular action, and a degree of tranquillity is thereby induced, which predisposes the patient to sleep, when he retires to rest. If, however, it be too violent, or prolonged beyond due limits, it induces a state of debility and exhaustion, followed by injurious consequences. Exercise, in the insane state, should invariably be considered as a remedial measure, and its effects as carefully watched, as any other means adopted for the relief of the patients. In many cases it will be found to act far more beneficially than the most skilfully combined soporific, with the additional

advantage of not producing head-ache, or feverish excitement.

The patients continue to enjoy their walks in the fields adjoining the Asylum, accompanied by the attendants, which much relieves the monotony of the Airing courts. Their conduct on these occasions is most exemplary; the permission to walk out is looked forward to with pleasure, and is considered as a reward for good behaviour. That they may not be deprived of this enjoyment, many of them are induced to exercise a degree of self-control, which is not only immediately beneficial at the time, but is doubtless conducive to their ultimate recovery.

In the employment of the patients, their tastes and previous habits should be consulted. A tailor will prefer making clothes to being employed in gardening; so, also, will the shoemaker, carpenter, &c., prefer their respective occupations. Hence the advantage of having means of employment in every or great variety. In many of the cases, there is a general impairment, but not an entire abolition, of the mental powers, and by calling into exercise those faculties which remain, a gradual improvement of the mental energies will be observed.

The principal occupation of the patients being agricultural, it is of the last importance, that land sufficient to afford constant employment to such patients, should be always available.

A tank has been sunk, into which the drains from the piggery and cow-house discharge themselves. The liquid thus collected is raised, by means of a

Patent Manure Pump, into a tub placed on wheels, which is drawn by the patients, and is thrown over the land, producing a rich herbage. The field has also been divided into three parts, so that when one part is being fed off, the others are under cultivation. By these and other means, the hill has been brought into such a state of cultivation, that, during the past year, five cows have been kept on land, which, six years since, scarcely produced food for one. The produce of the cows this year has been 843 lbs. Butter, 2996 gallons Milk, making the value of each £26 ls. ld. The cost of hay for the cows has been £48 3s. 7d., leaving a balance in favour of the Institution of £97 2s. 7d. So that, in addition to affording exercise and occupation to the patients, there has been an actual diminution in the expenditure under this head.

The pork required for the patients has been chiefly home fed, and here, also, a saving appears; the actual cost of barley and pollard being in the account £35 5s., and the weight of meat delivered into store 112 score; which, at the high price of pork, has produced in value £58 16s. Od., showing a profit of £23 11s. Od.

The feeding and attending on these animals have afforded daily occupation to three patients, who discharge their duties with a precision and punctuality, which would scarcely be credited by persons unacquainted with the extent, to which the remaining powers of the incurably insane, may, by perseverance and attention, be exercised. Had these patients no useful occupation, they would probably soon sink into a state of confirmed dementia.

At the same time it must be observed, that to effect this requires a knowledge of the insane, only to be acquired by long observation and residence among them, by which experience alone, their individual capacities and peculiarities can be ascertained.

To arouse their latent energies into action, is only a small part of the work to be accomplished; it demands a daily and almost hourly supervision, on the part of those entrusted with their care, to prevent a relapse into listlessness and inactivity; to which, in many cases, there exists a strong predisposition, arising from the loss of self control, and the want either of motive or of energy to act.

The value of the produce of the Garden this year has been £86 10s., and the cost of seeds and manure £32 10s. 10d.

In the shoemaking department, four patients have been employed; and the whole of the new shoes and boots required for the patients, with their repairs, have been done in the Asylum. They have also made $5\frac{1}{2}$ dozen pair of Lancashire clogs for the Gaol. The cost of leather for the shoes has been £42 4s. 3d., and the value of new shoes delivered into store with repairs of old ones, £85 3s. 0d. The females have been employed as usual in the Laundry, Kitchen, and Wards. In addition to mending all the clothes they have made 32 gowns, 58 shirts, 24 shifts, 21 pair stays, 37 waist-coats, 56 sheets, 50 petticoats, and 250 various smaller articles, as aprons, &c. They have also made 10 dozen straw bonnets and baskets,

The perusal of the Daily Papers, together with the

Illustrated London News and other periodicals, affords the patients much gratification. They are highly prized and carefully preserved, and are really a valuable means in the moral treatment of many of the patients. The Newspapers particularly engage their attention, as by them they are informed of what is going on in the outward world; but it is frequently found advisable to cut out paragraphs and articles, which would, probably, produce an injurious effect on their minds.

Although delusion is almost universally associated with the insane state, yet some of the patients are, at intervals, capable of conversing on subjects which do not relate to their peculiar delusions; but, if these topics are brought under discussion, incoherence and excitement speedily manifest themselves, and frequently most injurious consequences result. Hence it is of the utmost importance, that caution and discrimination should be exercised in conversation with the insane.

To ensure to the insane all the advantages, (without its usual evil effects, if indiscriminately allowed) of social intercourse, perhaps, no plan is so effectual, as that which is rigidly adhered to in some parts of Germany, where no one is allowed to communicate with the patient, except with the express sanction of the Medical Superintendant, to whose care they are entrusted, and who must and ought necessarily have far greater opportunities than any one else, of duly observing, and of thoroughly appreciating, their respective morbid idiosynciasies, and peculiar hallucinations.

In conclusion, I beg to offer my grateful acknowledgements to the Visiting Magistrates, for their prompt and kind attention at all times to the varied subjects brought under their notice, having for their object the welfare of the Patients, and the general benefit of the Establishment; as well as for the confidence reposed and the assistance afforded in the management of the Institution, through the year which is just now brought to a close.

G. P. BUTTON.

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS.

No. Sex. Et. Assigned Cause of Disorder Admitted.		-						
Dereditary Disease of Liver 2 years 7 years 1 month 2 years 7 years 1 week 1 month 2 years 1 week 1 month 2 years 1 week 1 wee		No.	Sex.	Æt.		when	No. of Attacks.	Form of Disorder.
Mania, Refusal of Food Secondary Sec	563	- 1	F			4 years	2	Melancholia, suicidal
Disease of Liver 2 years 7 yea	504	- 2	F	57		1 month	4	Mania Refusal of Food
The properties of the content of t	505	- 3						
ditary	506-					7 years		Mania with Epilepsy
Disappointed Affections 6 years 2 months 2 years 2 years 1	200		F	34		l week		Mania
	600-	- 6			Disappointed Affections	6 years		Melancholia, suicidal
10								Melancholia, suicidal
Mania Dementia Mania, General Para Ivis, Epilepsy Melancholia, Suicidal Mania Potto, Suicidal Potto, Suicidal Potto, Suicidal Mania Potto, Suicidal Potto, Suicida	610	- 8	M	31	Typhus	2 years		
Dementia Mania, General Para Ivyas, Epilepsy Melancholia, Suicidal Mania,	511	- 0	M	70	1. Bust-	05		
Mania, General Para lysis, Epilepsy Melancholia, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania a Potu Disease of Heart, hereditary					1. Whelloch.			
1	12						2	
Second Paragraph Second Para	10		-12	10	injury or opinio	1 months		
13	514 -		M		Feyer •	3 years		
15 F 23 17 M 34 34 34 35 35 33 31 M 35 35 35 35 35 35 35	751 -				Heredelary			Melancholia, suicidal
17 M 43 Injury of Spine General III Health, here-ditary 19 F 29 Disappointed Affections 1 year 1 week 2 Melancholia, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania	5160				Over Study on Religion		2	
17 M 43 Injury of Spine General III Health, here-ditary 19 F 29 Disappointed Affections 1 year 1 week 2 Melancholia, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania	77				4			
Second 18 M 21 General III Health, hereditary 1 1 1 2 3 3 3 5 5 5 3 5 5 5	510					Carlotte and Carlo	8 1	
19 F 29 Disappointed Affections 1 year 1 week 2 Melancholia, suicidal Melancholia, suicidal Dementia Melancholia, suicidal Melancholia,	520				General Ill Health, here-			
Poverty, hereditary Poverty Po	521				Disappointed Affections	I year		
22 F 59 ————————————————————————————————	522						2	
Second					Poverty, hereditary			
3 months					horoditary		9	
Second								
Domestic Unhappiness 2 months 2 months 3 years	527				Fever		-	
September Sept	520						2	
Solution Period, Anxiety 3 years Melancholia, suicidal Lepra Mania, suicidal Lepra Mania, suicidal Lepra Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania Mania Mania Mania Mania Mania Mania Mania, suicidal Mania Man		27			Disease of Heart, here-			
Signature Sign	530	28	F	53		3 years		Melancholia, suicidal, Lepra
30 M 27 Intemperance Intemperance, hereditary 3 weeks 3 Wania Mania, Suicidal Mania, General Para lysis 536 34 M 61 General Ill Health 3 weeks 1 Mania, General Para lysis 536 35 F 35 Grief, hereditary 2 years 537 35 F 35 Senile Insanity 1 years 539 37 M 36 Cold 2 week 3 Mania, suicidal Mania Melancholia, suicidal Mania Melancholia, suicidal Mania Melancholia, suicidal Mania	531					1½ years		Mania, suicidal
32 F 40 Domestic unhapping 1 week 10 years 536 34 M 61 General Ill Health 3 weeks 2 years 550 36 F 75 Senile Insanity 1 years 537 35 F 35 Cold 1 week 1 years 539 37 M 36 Cold 1 week 2 years 539 37 M 36 Cold 1 week 3 Mania, suicidal Melancholia, suicidal Dementia, suicidal Mania Melancholia, suicidal Mania Melancholia, suicidal Mania Melancholia, suicidal Mania	532					3 years		
536 34 M 61 General Ill Health 3 weeks 3 Mania, General Para lysis 536 35 F 35 Grief, hereditary 2 years 537 36 F 75 Senile Insanity 1 years 539 37 M 36 Cold 1 week 3 Mania, suicidal Dementia, suicidal Dementia, suicidal Mania 539 38 F 35 Excess of Conscientious-4 months Melancholia, suicidal						3 weeks		
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55 0 36 F 75 Senile Insanity 11 years 2 Dementia, suicidal Mania Melancholia, suicidal Melancholia, suicidal	100000000000000000000000000000000000000						3	
539 37 M 36 Cold I week 3 Mania Melancholia, suicidal								
540 38 F 35 Excess of Conscientious- 4 months Melancholia, suicidal							3	
ness	The same of the sa						9	Melancholia, suicidal
39 M 22 Injury of Head, hereditary 4 months Mania, suicidal	541	39	M	22		4 months	4	Mania, suicidal
	B3566						2	Melancholia, Kefusal
of Food	040		1		•			

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TABLE OF ADMISSIONS-CONTINUED.

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	No.	Sex.	Æt.	Assigned Cause of Disordor.	Dura ion of Disorder when Admitted.	Attachs.	Form of Disorder.	
	41	M	42	Intermerance	2 months	2	Mania a Potu, suicidal	
+	42	F	61	Fright	3 months		Melancholia, suicidal	
5-	43	F	46	General Ill Health, here- ditary	6 months		Melancholia, suicidal	
	44	M	39	Hereditary	3 months		Mania, suicidal	1
	45	F	29	Intemperance	3 weeks		Mania, General Para-	
	1	_	1		4	.	lysis	
	46	F	31	Congenital	Conjundad		Congenital Idiotcy	
	47	M	20	Unknown	Unknown		Moral Insanity, sui-	
)	48	M	33	Intemperance	2 vonre		cidal Mania, General Para-	
	40	111	99	Intemperance	2 years		lysis	
1	49	M	31	Remorse, hereditary	4 months		Mania	
2	50	F	36	Domestic unhappiness	1 month !		Mania	
2	51	M	41	Rheumatic Fever	3 weeks :		Melancholia	
4	52	M	50	Unknown	Unknown	3	Mania	
3	53	F	33	Prolonged Lactation, he- reditary	10 months		Melancholia, suicidal	
6	54	F	30	General Ill Health, here- ditary	1 month ·		Melancholia	
7	55	F	40	Intemperance	some years		Monomania	
P	56	F	30	General Ill Health	2 weeks	13	Mania	

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TABLE OF DISCHARGES.

No.	Sex.	Æt.	Duration of Disorder when Admitted.	Assigned Cause of Disorder.	Form of Disorder.
1 2 3	M F	34 36	l year, hereditary 6 weeks	Intemperance, hereditary	Mania, suicidal Melancholia, suicidal
4	M F	46 34	1 month 1 week	Intemperance Disorder of Liver	Mania, suicidal Mania
6	MF	58 17	2 months 3 months	Loss of Situation Suppressio Mensium	Melancholia, suicidal Melancholia
7 8 9	MF	44 38	3 weeks 6 weeks, hereditary	Intemperance Poverty	Mania Mania, suicidal
9	FM	30 40	2 months, hereditary 3 weeks		Mania, suicidal Mania, suicidal
11 12	M	34 55	6 weeks 1 week, hereditary	Intemperance General Ill Health	Mania a Potu, suicidal Mania
13	F	21	5 months, hereditary 2 months		Melancholia Melancholia
15 16	M	35 57	4 months	Intemperance Domestic unhappiness	Mania a Potu Melancholia, suicidal

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3 years 15 years 16 years 11 year 2 years 6 months	7 years 10 years 11 year 15 year 6 years 2 years 2 years	3 weeks 3 years 5 years 16 years	13 year 15 years 2 years 8 months 13 years 1 year. 2 years 3 months Congenital 4 years	Duration of Disorder.
10		4	0010	No, of Attacks,
Puerperal Jealousy Stomes la unhappy Congenital Imbecility Epilepsy Grief hemorse	Grief Paralysis Decay of MentalFaculties Grief Grief, hereditary Poverty	Fever Critical Period Injury of Head Fever Disappointed Affaction	Domestic unhappiness Remorse of Conscience Intemperance Grief Typhus Congenital Grief	Assigned Cause of Disorder,
Dementia, Refusal of Food Dementia Imbecility, Epilepsy Imbecility, Refusal of Food Dementia, General Paralysis, Epilepsy Melancholia, suicidal Acute Mania				Form of Disorder.
Dropsy Apoplexy Epilepsy Consumption General Paralysis Apoplexy	Dropsy Decay of Nature General Paralysis Apoplexy Decay of Nature Dysentery	Peritonitis Fever Dysentery General Paralysis Dropsy		Cause of Death.
	F 48 3 years F 52 15 years F 53 16 years M 50 14 year M 50 2 years M 31 6 months Puerperal Jealousy Congenital Imbecility Limbecility, Epilepsy Limbecility, Refusal of Food Dementia, General Paralysis, Epilepsy Melancholia, suicidal Acute Mania	F 68 7 years F 47 10 years F 75 1½ year F 75 1½ year F 75 6 years F 35 2 years F 68 34 years F 40 14 years F 40 14 years F 52 15 years F 52 15 years F 53 16 years M 50 1½ year M 31 6 months Grief Paralysis Dementia, Epilepsy, Refusal of Food Melancholia, suicidal Dementia Dementia, Epilepsy, Refusal of Food Melancholia, suicidal Dementia, Refusal of Food Dementia, Suicidal	M 18 3 weeks F 56 3 years M 44 3 years F 74 5 years F 74 5 years F 68 7 years F 75 6 years F 75 6 years F 76 1 years F 85 2 years F 68 34 years F 48 3 years F 50 14 years F 68 34 years F 50 15 years F 68 30 years F 68 34 years F 68 34 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 37 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 37 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 36 years F 68 37 years F 68 36 years F 70 ye	Domestic unhappiness M 76 15 years M 76 2 years 8 months M 76 2 years M 76 1 year. M 31 2 years 3 months M 31 2 years 3 months M 31 2 years M 3 years M 18 3 years M 4 years M 4 years M 6 4 years M 6 4 years M 6 6 3 years M 6 6 4 years M 18 3 years M 6 1 years M 6 6 4 years M 18 3 years M 6 6 4 years M 18 3 years M 6 6 4 years M 18 3 years M 6 6 4 years M 18 3 years M 6 6 1 years M 18 3 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 1 years M 6 2 years M 6 1 year

OBITUARY TABLE.

and the second of the second	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted since the opening of the Asylum in 1832	249	309	558 }27.
Discharged	114	136	250, 728
Died	72	86	158
Escaped	1	1	2 30 4

and the second second	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the House on the 31st December, 1845	52	82	134
Admitted since	29	27	56
Discharged, Cured	8	6	14
Relieved	1	0	1
Died	9	17	26
Escaped	1	0	1
Remaining 31st December, 1846	62	86	148

Patients Admitted, Discharged, and Dead, during the Quarter ending 31st December, 1846.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylum on the 30th of September	63	80	143
Admitted	6	7	13
Discharged	4	0	4
Dead	3	1	4

DORCHESTER:
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