

[Report of the visiting justices and medical officer of the County Lunatic Asylum, Forston, Dorset : Epiphany sessions, 1848] / Dorset County Lunatic Asylum.

Contributors

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REPORT
OF THE
VISITING JUSTICES
OF THE
COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,
FORSTON.

Epiphany Sessions, 1848.

IN presenting to the Court their Annual Report, the Visiting Justices beg to observe, that since the commencement of the year 1847, they have held their Quarterly Meetings at Forston. They have, on those occasions, as also individually at other times, examined the institution, and have enquired into the condition of the patients and the general management, and they have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the Asylum has been conducted.

The expenditure for maintenance and salaries during the year has been £3,271 8s. 7d.; for various repairs £168 5s. 8d.; and the Visitors trust that a due regard to economy, consistently with the absolute requirements of the Asylum, has been observed.

The Visitors refer to the Annual Report of Dr. BUTTON, for a particular statement of the management of the Asylum during the past year, from which it will be seen, that 44 Patients have been admitted and 23 discharged cured. In looking at these results it must not be forgotten, that many patients were received of whose recovery, from the long continuance of the disease previous to admission, and their advanced age, there existed very little hope.

Several new works have been completed since the last Annual Report, and others are now in progress. Amongst these the following may be mentioned—

A general improvement in the ventilation of the upper female ward.

The erection of a shed on the hill for the convenience of the Patients employed in cultivating the field, and as a place in which to keep the tools and implements.

The Vegetable house, part of the old buildings, being in a dilapidated and insecure state, has been repaired and enlarged, and is now sufficiently large to hold the produce of the land necessary for the increased number of Patients.

Plans and Estimates have been laid before the Visitors, for the enlargement of the drying yard, which had become far too small for the requirements of the institution.

The contracts for the work, including raising the wall of the outer enclosure, have been entered into, and amount to £241 0s. 6d. The necessary alterations

will be commenced early in the Spring. The contractors are collecting the materials, to enable them to proceed with the work as soon as the weather will permit.

The field, rented of Mr. Sheridan, has proved of the greatest benefit to the institution; and as the cultivation of it is further improved, it is hoped that it will not only afford useful employment for the Patients, but also in some degree tend to lessen the expences of the establishment.

The contract for bread, which was taken at Midsummer at the high price of 9½d. per 4lb. loaf, did not cease until Christmas, the maintenance for the last quarter is, therefore, ordered to remain at 8s. 2d. each Patient, per week. In consequence of the fall in the price of provisions, especially in bread, in the new contracts, the Visitors hope that a reduction will take place in the expences of the quarter now begun, so as to enable them at the next Sessions to reduce the weekly rate to the Parishes.

J. A. TEMPLER, Chairman.

The Commissioners in Lunacy visited the Asylum in October last and made the following record of their inspection :

“ FORSTON ASYLUM,

“ Oct. 8, 1847.

“ We have this day officially inspected the Dorset
 “ County Lunatic Asylum, and having seen all the
 “ Patients and made all the inquiries which the statute
 “ directs the Commissioners in Lunacy to make upon

“ such an inspection, we have to record the great satisfaction which we have derived from the visit.

“ The Patients are now 161 in number, of whom 71 are males and 90 are females. None of them at the time of our visit were under instrumental restraint, and the use of such restraint either by day or by night appears to be almost unknown.

“ The house is generally healthy, but a few of the Patients who are advanced in years, or whose malady has been of long standing, were confined to their beds. The names of 26 are entered in the weekly journal as being under medical treatment, and a large number of others who are feeble and require support, are on sick diet or receiving extra allowances.

“ The Patients when we saw them were with hardly an exception remarkably tranquil and comfortable. They were also clean in their persons, and their dress, especially that of the women was neat and tidy. An unusually large proportion of them were engaged in different kinds of work suited to their sex, strength and previous habits of life—many of the men in garden and field labour—and a few of them at their particular trades, as shoemakers, joiners, &c.—The women principally at their needle and in the wash-house.

“ The galleries, day rooms, dormitories and single sleeping rooms were all perfectly clean and sweet, and were also in the best order.

“ The acquisition of the field immediately above

“ the house (containing about 12 acres) forms a very
 “ important addition which has been recently made to
 “ the means of healthful employment for the males—
 “ by whose labour indeed it has already been brought
 “ into a productive and remunerative state of culti-
 “ vation.

“ It seems to us exceedingly desirable that a
 “ sufficient boundary fence should be erected on the
 “ side of the Asylum next the public road, not only
 “ to protect the Patients from having their privacy
 “ intruded upon and disturbed, but also to prevent the
 “ danger of escapes, several of which has lately taken
 “ place.

“ We have only further to remark that the general
 “ condition of the establishment is perfectly satisfactory
 “ and reflects great credit on the zeal, activity and
 “ judgment of the medical Superintendent and Matron,
 “ to whom more immediately the management of the
 “ Institution is entrusted.

“ (Signed)

“ J. W. MYLNE, } Commissioners
 “ T. TURNER, } in Lunacy.’

A LIST of all SUMS, for the Payment of which orders have been made on the COUNTY TREASURER during the last year.

	£.	s.	d.
Simonds, Printing	9	4	2
Ensor, Stamps	4	0	0
Hayes, Brasses.....	34	16	4
Northover, Bricklayer....	139	10	0
Shaw, Lunatic Forms	5	5	0
Spencer, Iron Work	15	14	0
Gas Company, Iron Tubing	1	12	7
Obbard, Glass	22	7	1
Assessed Taxes, Rates....	9	2	6
Mundey, Wood.....	9	6	10½
Groves, Carpentry	82	6	0
Rent of Field	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£353	4	6½
	<hr/> <hr/>		

FARM AND GARDEN ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.			RECEIPT.				
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
To Hay, Grains, &c.....	66	6	6	By 1091 Lbs. of Butter.....at	0	1	1
— Barley Meal, Pollard	48	10	0	— 3502 Gallons of Milk	0	0	7
— Garden Seeds, Lucerne, Vetches...	22	19	7	— 403 Lbs. of Veal	0	0	7
— Manure from 16 Loads of Straw ...	32	0	0	— 107½ Score of Pork	0	12	0
— Forty-eight Quarters of Grains } at 3s. 4d. per Quarter	8	0	0	— 127 Sacks of Potatoes	0	16	0
— Potatoe Seed	22	6	0	— 13 Ton of Carrots	2	0	0
— Manure, Bone Dust, Sulphuric } Acid, Ensor's Compost, &c... }	49	13	6	— 6 Ton of Parsnips... ..	4	0	0
— Gardener.....	30	0	0	— 252 Bushels of Cabbage	0	1	6
— Rent of Field	20	0	0	— 8T. 6C. 2Q. of early Turnips	3	0	0
				— 30 Ton of Sweet Turnips...	4	0	0
				— 12 Bushels of Onions.....	0	3	0
				— 24 Bushels of Peas.....	0	3	0
				— 43 Bushels of Beans	0	1	4
				— 16 Ton of Mangel Wurtzel	1	0	0
				— 1 Acre of Lucerne.....	10	0	0
				— 2 Acres of Vetches	10	0	0
				— 40 Bushels of Lettuce	0	1	3
				— 3 Quarters of Bones	1	4	0
					9	12	0
					£626	1	0½
					£299	15	7

BOOT AND SHOE ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
To Leather, &c.....	31	19	3

£31 19 3

RECEIPT.

	£.	s.	d.
By 22 Pairs of Men's Stout Leather Garden Boots, } at 12s. per pair	13	4	0
— 28 Pairs of Men's Stout Leather Shoes, at 6s. 6d. } per pair	9	2	0
— 108 Pairs of Men's and Women's Leather Shoes } and Boots, at 5s. 6d. per pair	29	14	3
— 424 Pairs of Shoes and Boots repaired, at 1s. 6d. } per pair	31	16	0

£33 16 3

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT FROM 31ST DECEMBER, 1846, to 31ST DECEMBER, 1847.

1847.

INCOME.

1847.

EXPENDITURE.

Heads of Income.	Quarters ending					Total of the Year's Receipts.	Heads of Expenditure.	Quarters ending					Total Heads of Expenditure.
	1st April.	1st July.	30th Sept.	31st Dec.	Totals.			1st April.	1st July.	30th Sept.	31st Dec.	Totals.	
To Cash received from Parishes.....	£. s. d. 774 19 2	£. s. d. 770 5 10	£. s. d. 799 2 2	£. s. d. 799 4 6	£. s. d. 3143 11 8	£. s. d.	PROVISIONS.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
To Ditto from County Treasurer	42 9 4	42 9 4	42 9 4	42 18 8	170 6 8		Meat, Suet, &c.....	132 10 3	136 - 3	150 12 6	157 10 -	676 13 -	
To Ditto from Mr. Browne's Benefaction Fund.....	33 15 -	33 15 -	33 15 -	33 15 -	135 - -		Bread	113 16 -	125 4 -	134 2 6	132 5 6	505 8 -	
							Flour	114 3 6	16 4 -	15 - -	15 3 -	60 10 6	
							Milk	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
							Butter.....	3 6 6	- - -	- - -	- - -	3 6 6	
							Eggs	- - -	- - -	6 5 -	- - -	6 5 -	
							Oatmeal, Rice, and Peas.....	14 - 3	15 12 7	21 2 3	21 10 9	72 5 10	
							Cheese.....	22 17 9	22 13 -	27 15 10	27 19 -	101 5 7	
							Groceries	20 2 3	20 5 1	21 6 10	22 - 1	83 15 1	
							Potatoes and Garden Seeds ..	46 17 5	36 11 8	15 14 7	- - -	98 13 8	
							Malt and Hops.....	50 17 -	50 17 -	61 - 10	56 17 -	219 11 10	
								418 - 11	423 8 5	447 1 9	433 5 4	- - -	1721 16 5
							HOUSE EXPENSES.						
							Soap and Soda	8 - -	8 - -	10 1 -	10 1 -	36 2 -	
							Candles	5 16 9	1 1 3	2 2 -	6 1 6	15 1 6	
							Straw, Hay, Corn, Pollard ..	105 17 10	73 14 6	61 11 6	78 12 8	319 16 6	
							Brooms, Brushes, Cooperage, &c.	43 3 6	54 4 10	57 14 -	52 15 6	212 17 10	
							Tin, Earthenware, Ironmongery, &c.	3 14 9	6 13 -	6 13 6	4 15 8	21 16 11	
							Stationary, Postage, & Parcels	12 3 2	23 9 2	33 1 7	41 4 8	109 18 7	
								6 11 8	5 7 10	7 2 11	5 2 9	24 5 2	
								190 7 8	172 10 7	178 6 6	198 13 9	- - -	739 18 6
							MEDICINE.						
							Drugs, Surgery, &c.....	29 8 2	27 1 7	28 16 9	26 5 10	111 12 4	
							Wine and Spirits	21 - -	18 - -	27 15 -	17 - -	83 15 -	
								50 8 2	45 1 7	56 11 9	43 5 10	- - -	195 7 4
							CLOTHING.						
							Linen, Clothing, and Bedding	48 3 5	35 7 4	40 17 10	48 2 3	- - -	172 10 10
							INCIDENTALS.						
							Salaries and Wages.....	3 11 7	3 7 9	1 18 6	3 5 4	- - -	12 3 2
							Total Expenditure	137 - -	139 10 -	144 10 -	143 12 5	- - -	564 12 -
							Balance paid to Contingent Fund	847 11 9	819 5 8	869 6 4	870 4 6	- - -	3406 8 3
													42 10 1
													£ 3448 18 4
							AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENDITURE FOR EACH PATIENT.						
							Provisions	- 4 2½	- 4 3½	- 4 4	- 4 2½	- 4 3	
							House Expenses	- 1 10½	- 1 8½	- 1 8½	- 1 11	- 1 9½	
							Clothing.....	- - 5½	- - 4½	- - 4½	- - 5½	- - 5	
							Salaries and Wages.....	- 1 4½	- 1 4½	- 1 4½	- 1 4½	- 1 4½	
							Medicine and Incidentals	- - 6½	- - 5½	- - 6½	- - 5½	- - 6	
							Totals.....	- 8 5½	- 8 2½	- 8 5	- 8 5	- 8 4½	
							Weekly rate as charged to Parishes.....	- 8 2	- 8 2	- 8 2	- 8 2	- 8 2	

Total Receipts£. 851 3 6 | 846 10 2 | 875 6 6 | 875 18 2 | - - - | 3448 18 4

INCOME

1917

Description of Income	1917			1916		
	Amount	Percentage	Number of Taxpayers	Amount	Percentage	Number of Taxpayers
From salaries and wages	1,234,567	45.2	12,345	1,123,456	43.8	11,234
From dividends and interest	567,890	20.5	5,678	543,210	20.1	5,432
From rents and profits	345,678	12.8	3,456	321,098	12.4	3,210
From other sources	212,345	7.9	2,123	198,765	7.6	2,123
Total	2,740,480	100.0	33,602	2,686,529	100.0	31,999

INCOME TAX

STATE OF NEW YORK

1917

SEVENTH REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

IN laying before you the seventh annual report of the Forston Asylum, I beg leave respectfully to observe that during the year just closed there have been admitted 44 patients, of whom 24 were males and 20 were females.

The largest number of admissions took place during the summer quarter.

The average daily number resident has been 155, being a larger number than during any previous year. The Asylum has been fully occupied, and accommodation has been afforded to all applicants, with the exception of two males, both of whom were idiots from birth.

The female department has been at all times crowded, perhaps to a greater degree than a due regard for convenience might have justified. This excess would not have happened, if certain cases, which were found on admission to be of long standing, had not been represented as of recent occurrence.

The admissions have been regulated, as far as possible, so as to confer the greatest amount of good with the means at disposal.

Many were received in a state of suffering and misery, for whom there was no hope of relief but in death, and all that could be done for them, was to render their few remaining days as comfortable as the nature of their complaints would allow.

In the greater number of the patients admitted the malady had become formidable, and could be regarded only as incurable, either from its duration, or from its being complicated with Paralysis, Epilepsy, or old age.

It frequently happens when the head of a family becomes insane, that he is detained at home until all the means at hand for managing him are exhausted, the peace of the neighbourhood interrupted, and the health of the family, from prolonged anxiety and watching, considerably affected. Then, as a last resource, it is resolved to send him to an Asylum ; and the family are not unfrequently obliged to seek shelter in the Union. Timely assistance and the early removal of the patient would, probably, in many cases, have prevented the one from sinking into confirmed insanity, and the other from becoming a permanent burden on the rates. In a majority of cases destitution follows insanity ; and the parish authorities, could they be made acquainted with the real state of the case, would doubtless feel the justice, as well as the humanity, of rendering immediate assistance in the time of need.

Character of Cases admitted.—On the whole, the cases admitted during the past year have been of as unfavorable a character, as those in any previous year; as will be seen by the following cases, selected from among many of a similar kind.

R. B., aged 45, married. He had from childhood manifested a wayward disposition, and was subject to sudden and dangerous impulses. He was brought up to his father's business, that of a mason, which he subsequently relinquished, and became in turn a dairyman, a butcher, a publican, and a drover and dealer. In pursuing the last mentioned occupation, he made large purchases of cattle and sold them on trust to strangers. These speculations soon proved a source of pecuniary embarrassment, and he was unable to meet his liabilities. His spirits became depressed; he lost his energy, and would sit for hours together in a state of abstraction. His nights were restless and sleepless. He would leave his home, and wander about the country for weeks together. On the last occasion, after an absence of some weeks, he was found standing in a river, with the water nearly up to his neck. On being taken out he was speechless and almost lifeless. The usual means of resuscitation having been perseveringly used for some hours, he gradually revived. A state of Mania supervened, and on the paroxysm subsiding, his general health gave way, and paraplegia, accompanied with profuse diarrhœa, succeeded. He now passed into a state of Melancholia; and, paralytic, uncleanly, and failing in health, he was at last sent to the Asylum.

On awaking one morning, he suddenly announced himself the possessor of immense estates in America and India; of gold to an amount which was incalculable, and of an inheritance in the third heavens. He retained his delusions to the last hour of his life. A few hours prior to his death, he said, he should never die—he had been twice killed, once during the night by a cannon ball shot through his body, but that the Spirit had put new life into him. He sank under General Paralysis of the insane, within four months.

R. S. Application for the admission of this patient was made on the 23rd of May, 1847, "as it was necessary to place him in an Asylum." On the 28th, instead of the patient a letter was received, stating that as he was better, they should delay sending him for the present. July the 27th another application was received in which he was reported as in good bodily health; a decided lunatic and not fit to be left alone, and that as soon as possible he should be placed in an Asylum. When admitted he was in a state of profound abstraction, with a vacant idiotic expression of countenance, pale and emaciated. On the 3rd of August he was suddenly seized with profound sopor, lividity of countenance, stertorous breathing, complete relaxation, and immobility of the voluntary muscles and the limbs. Remedial measures were promptly applied, but he died within an hour.

On the friend, who removed his corpse, being informed that he died of Apoplexy, he observed that he expected he would die in a fit, as he had had one

before he left home, and his medical attendant said he could not long survive.

R. T., aged 45. While employed in excavating some earth-works, part of the mould fell in and buried him. On his being rescued he was found to have sustained an injury of the spine. Shortly after he lost the use of his lower extremities and became violent, destructive, and uncleanly. After continuing in this state a year and half he was sent to the Asylum. When admitted he was suffering from General Paralysis.

R. W., aged 77. He had been, for some months prior to his admission, an inmate of an Union, until his restlessness at night disturbing the others, he was removed to the Asylum. He presented a most miserable spectacle, being in a state of dementia from old age, emaciated to the last degree, and his vision and hearing nearly gone. His appetite was voracious and his habits were uncleanly. The only thing that could be done for him was to administer nutritious diet. He did not survive more than a month.

A. G. The first application for the admission of this patient was made on the 7th of April, she was then stated by the medical officer of the parish, to be of unsound mind. The Magistrate before whom she was subsequently examined, not being satisfied of her insanity, declined making an order, and recommended that she should remain a fortnight longer to see how she might be. At the expiration of this time a second application was made, stating that she was no better

and requesting an answer by return of post, as to whether she could be admitted. An answer was returned in the affirmative. A further delay took place, and another letter was received from the parish officer, stating that it was thought fit she should remain a little time longer with her parents, when probably she would get better. At length, on the 8th June, another medical certificate of her insanity was forwarded. Her violence had become ungovernable, and in the night she had suddenly attacked her father, who was nearly strangled before he could extricate himself from her grasp. She was sent to the Asylum, but the strength which the disease had gained by delay, rendered her recovery extremely doubtful.

P. B. The parish officer applied for the admission of this woman in September. He stated she had shewn symptoms of insanity, and had been obliged to be put under restraint. In a few days a letter was received with the information, that the medical attendants were of opinion, she was so far recovered as to render her removal unnecessary at present. After a lapse of two months the application was renewed, as she had attempted self-destruction. When admitted, she was in a wild excited state. Her countenance indicated imbecility with epilepsy. Her digestive organs were excessively disordered. She had stabbed herself in the side and cut her throat. It was stated in the order for her reception, that she was not epileptic; this however was contradicted by her own statement, and proved beyond dispute to be

incorrect, by her having, on the day after her admission, four epileptic seizures. Of her recovery there is scarcely a reasonable hope.

M. W., Factory woman. Said to have been insane 6 weeks. She had been seduced, and pregnancy being suspected, her seducer compelled her to swallow a drug to procure abortion. He afterwards deserted her, and she fell into a desponding state. When admitted, she was suffering under an almost overwhelming depression of her mental faculties. Her countenance was pale and unhealthy, and her frame emaciated. She complained of pain in her head and could not sleep at night. She had been known by the relieving officer to have been in this state six weeks but he did not consider her bad enough for the Asylum until three days previously, when on being left alone for a few moments, she seized a knife and inflicted a gash across her throat. She sank under consumption within six months after her admission.

W. D., aged 60. Not having been sent at the time appointed, it was supposed that he had either recovered or had died. Some time subsequently, however, he arrived. It was found he had for three years been in a low desponding state, and unable to follow any occupation. His general health was very bad; his frame attenuated, with a failure of all the functions. His habits had been intemperate, and it was evident he could not long survive. He has since had two apoplectic seizures.

E. J. was said to have suffered from repeated attacks of insanity for the last three years. She had become reduced in circumstances, which, with prolonged lactation and the unkindness of her husband, had induced mental derangement. A more truly wretched object has scarcely ever been admitted. She was emaciated to a mere skeleton; filthy—swarming with vermin, and her skin almost black with dirt; and she had scarcely any clothing. Her countenance was pale and anxious, manner wild and excited, ideas incoherent, Her health was greatly impaired, appetite bad, secretions vitiated. She had evidently been for a long period shamefully neglected by her husband.

The delay which had been allowed to take place in the above mentioned cases, before the patients were sent to the Asylum, affords additional proof, if such were wanting, that prejudice and ignorance yet prevail, as to the urgent necessity of proper treatment in the incipient stages of insanity. The consequence of this delay is, that many valuable lives are condemned to suffer under the direst calamity of our nature,—permanent mental derangement—while the different parishes are subject to the expence of providing for their protracted and sometimes miserable existence. Considered therefore, in a pecuniary point of view merely, the advantages of removing the unfortunate lunatic to an Asylum, with the utmost practicable dispatch, must be obvious.

One patient has been received from the Gaol. A young female aged 16. She became pregnant, and

went into the Union to be confined. Twelve days after, her infant was found dead by her side, and by the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury she was found guilty of its murder, and committed to Gaol. While there, she exhibited symptoms of insanity. Her countenance had that peculiar and indescribable expression which no art can counterfeit, but which is sufficiently familiar to the practised physician. Her memory was impaired, she unconsciously repeated the same sentences over and over again. She said that after the birth of her child she heard two voices, one that of the Devil, tempting her to kill it—and the other, the voice of God Almighty, telling her He would put new life into it. She was "mazed" and did not know what she said or did. She put a handkerchief over the face of the child to make it warm and comfortable, but did not kill it—if she did she was very sorry for it, she would not have done it for a thousand guineas, it was so wicked to kill the child. After her committal, her violence increased, and three nurses in the Gaol being unable by manual force to restrain her, a straight-waistcoat was applied. During the paroxysms, she imagined she saw the devil, whose grasp she endeavoured to elude. She continued in the Gaol in this state for three weeks. This delay was occasioned by the warrant for her removal to the Asylum not being sent, until some time after the medical officers of the Gaol had certified as to her insanity. When admitted, her countenance was pale and exsanguineous, with a vacant, silly expression, and she had extensive ulceration of the nates. Her

ownaccount is, that for five or six weeks prior to the birth of the child, she had suffered from agonizing pain in the head, which deprived her of sleep.

Relapses.—Of the Patients admitted during the year 7 had been previously inmates of the Asylum. The average period which elapsed between their discharge and re-admission, was $4\frac{1}{4}$ years.

It not unfrequently happens that on the first gleam of returning reason, attempts are made by parish officers, and the friends of patients, to procure their discharge, before the establishment of their physical health, and in opposition to the opinion of the Superintendent. Were they to succeed in their endeavours, the number of relapses would doubtless be considerably augmented. A patient is not generally considered fit to be discharged, until convalescence has been established for some months. To this precaution may, perhaps, be attributed the comparatively few relapses, and the length of time during which the majority of those who have been re-admitted have remained well. The danger consequent on too early an exposure to the circumstances and associations productive of the malady, is hereby avoided; the mind is allowed to regain its equilibrium, and the patient is restored to his friends and to society, prepared for the discharge of his ordinary avocations, and enabled to cope with events beyond his control.

An attack of mental disease, like many other afflictions to which the human being is subject, renders the individual liable to a recurrence of the malady

from apparently trivial exciting causes, and each succeeding attack renders the system more susceptible

Several of those who have been re-admitted during the year, had enjoyed good health, and pursued their business uninterruptedly, for many years subsequently to their last discharge. Some of these are again convalescent, with every probability of their being once, more restored to society.

Discharges.—23 cases have been discharged recovered during the year. From the Table of discharges it will appear that nearly 70 per cent (69.13) of the patients who have recovered were received within 3 months of the accession of the malady; and in the remaining 30 per cent. the disease had existed for a less period than a year.

Of the females who have recovered, by far the greater number were mothers, who had left families at home; and had they not been subjected to treatment in the early stage of the disorder, their children would probably have been deprived of, to them, the most valuable of earthly blessings—a mother's care.

Should any be disposed to object to the discrimination exercised in the admission of cases in the early stage of the disease, in preference to those who, from protracted suffering, had passed into confirmed insanity, or such as had from birth been the subjects of imbecility or idiotcy, and consequently could derive, comparatively, little benefit, they will doubtless, on mature consideration of the results laid before the Visitors, and in the exercise of a dispassionate judgment thereon.

acknowledge their views to be erroneous, although doubtless based on the purest philanthropy; and will approve the wise and humane policy pursued, which has been the means of rescuing these females from the horrors of permanent insanity, and their families from a fate scarcely less deplorable.

Daily experience confirms a fact, now almost universally admitted, that the probability of cure is inversely in proportion to the duration of the disorder; and although recoveries do occasionally take place when the mental alienation has been of long continuance, (one instance of which appears in the discharges of this year) yet it must be admitted that such cases are the exception, and not the rule.

It is therefore obvious, that those parishes, where the authorities are fully alive to the vast importance of immediate remedial measures, and act on this impression, enjoy the advantage of a considerable saving of expence; while those incur a permanent charge who consider insanity to be incurable, and that an individual once insane never will become sane, and consequently, send their patients to an Asylum only when circumstances render it utterly impossible for them any longer to be detained elsewhere. From the accumulation of such cases, also, the Asylum becomes crowded with incurables, who are removed only by death.

Of those remaining in the house, the great majority are beyond reasonable hope of recovery, and this may probably, in most instances, be attributed to their having been wretchedly neglected in the commencement of the disorder.

But although cure is almost hopeless in chronic cases of this description, much may doubtless be effected in alleviating their sufferings, and rendering them, in some degree, happy and useful, by protecting their health, promoting their comfort, and affording them employment in every possible variety. Some are liable to paroxysms of mania, which require to be subdued; others are sinking under despondency, and need to be inspired with hope, and excited to cheerfulness. The mischievous must be occupied, and the uncleanly brought back to habits of decency and order. To accomplish these objects, unremitting zeal, energy, and perseverance, with unwearied benevolence and discriminating judgment, are indispensably requisite.

Causes of Disorder.—The several causes assigned in the Table of admissions, are those stated by the friends of the patient as the most prominent in developing the malady. In some cases, however, this must be considered more as the *exciting* cause; for in those instances where the mental disease had not been suddenly developed, it was frequently ascertained that the patients had been subjects of a deranged state of health, for a longer or shorter period; they had suffered from anxiety and depression, or an unusual elevation of spirits, neglecting some of the ordinary duties of life, or making extravagant purchases. Such alterations in manners and character are frequently associated with a disordered state of the chylopoietic viscera, impairment of appetite, transient or permanent pain in the head, and loss of sleep. These

are some of the premonitory symptoms of this most dreaded malady. It sometimes happens that a violent paroxysm is the immediate cause of a patient's being sent to the Asylum, and this outbreak is supposed to be the commencement of the insanity. Mental alienation is perhaps rarely the result of a single cause; it being generally produced by a combination of causes both moral and physical.

Intemperance appears as the cause in five of the cases admitted during the year. This number is larger than in any previous year.

One case, that of a highly educated female, is peculiarly distressing. Her husband was for 12 years a Medical Practitioner in F. Unhappily he became addicted to intemperance, which proved his ruin. She then endeavoured to support her three children by giving lessons in music and the languages, in which her efforts were successful; but her unhappy husband induced her to give up her engagements, and again live with him. In a short time he deserted her, and she found an asylum in the cottage of an old and faithful servant. The Clergyman of the village kindly engaged her to teach the village school children to sing, for which she received some remuneration. It is not known at what period she first had recourse to stimulants, which were doubtless taken to relieve her distressing anxiety; but having, subsequently to her return to her husband, obtained a situation as Governess in a Gentleman's family in Yorkshire, on arriving at the house she was found to be suffering

from delirium tremens, and was laid up for three weeks. She very soon left this situation, having however previously obtained another in a highly respectable family in Dorsetshire. On her way down from Yorkshire, she was attacked in London with another fit of delirium tremens, of so aggravated a character, that her life was despaired of. It was found that in one night she had drunk 10 shillings' worth of brandy. On recovering, she proceeded to her situation, where she had not long resided before symptoms of delirium again showed themselves. She was obliged to leave this place also; and after wandering about for a short time, she was taken up as a lunatic, and sent to the Asylum as a County patient. How she procured the high testimonials which she possessed, is not easily to be accounted for, as some of the parties who gave them could not possibly have been ignorant of her sad propensity.

Her insanity appears now to be confirmed, and the delusions which she entertains to be fixed and permanent. She manifests a proud, haughty, violent demeanour, and a most imperious will. She can tell a distressing tale of her sufferings and the treatment to which she has been subjected at the hands of her husband, and which it is to be feared is, in many respects, too true, though she blends falsehood with truth in a most plausible manner. She is inordinately fond of dress and jewellery, extremely irritable, and gives expression to her feelings in language the most offensive. Her morbid craving for liquor is insatiable, and if she possibly can, she will seize the beer allowed

to the other patients at their meals. She entertains ideas of wealth and grandeur — proclaims herself Queen Editha Plantagenet, the rightful Sovereign of England, and threatens with an immediate prosecution, by her Attorney General, all persons who are conspiring against her liberty. If supplied with pen, ink, and paper, she will draw a cheque on her banker to a large amount. She daily announces her intention of leaving the Asylum, and she is only waiting the arrival of her carriage and four, to convey her from the “infernial place of incarnation” to her rightful throne.

Deaths.—Of the deaths which have taken place this year 2 were from Consumption, 2 from Dropsy, 1 from Diarrhœa, 2 died of disease of the Heart, 10 of Apoplexy and General Paralysis and 4 of decay of nature. One committed suicide by hanging.

From the above statement it will appear, that the Asylum has not been visited by any fatal epidemic during the year, and that a large proportion of the deaths were occasioned by General Paralysis, Apoplexy, and decay of nature; three causes of death well known in every Lunatic Asylum, and by which, in a majority of cases, the lives of the insane are terminated. Every year's experience tends to confirm the painful fact, that in the first named disease, General Paralysis, although a generous diet of animal food with wine, and attention to the general health, may retard the progress of the disorder, remedial agents have no influence over the fatal issue. It is perhaps right to mention here that the daily admi-

nistration of wine has been resorted to in cases of General Paralysis, and it appears, that the vital energy has been thereby supported, and the extensive sloughing, which formerly almost invariably accompanied this disease, has been prevented; thus in this way two important objects have been accomplished—the patient has been preserved from the suffering which must accompany such a state, and which was sometimes protracted for many weeks; and the attendants have been relieved from the most unpleasant duty of attending on them.

The attacks of Apoplexy, from which death resulted, were of an aggravated character; and life was extinguished within a very short period, the patients lying in a state of profound sopor, from the commencement of the attack until the close of life.

The average age at the time of death was $53\frac{1}{4}$ years.

The average duration of the disorder was 11 years.

At the commencement of the year, several of the patients suffered from influenza, but happily no death occurred. In the month of June, one female had a severe attack of scurvy, probably occasioned by her refusing to take any vegetables, when she could not have potatoes.

Suicidal Cases.—12 cases have been admitted during the year, in which a decided suicidal propensity was known to exist; and by some of them several distinct attempts to accomplish their object had been made.

The admission of these cases is at all times a source

of painful apprehension. They are carefully watched during the day and placed in a dormitory at night. Every effort is made to soothe and comfort them, and occupation, suited to their ability and previous habits, is provided. The physical health is generally found much impaired, and on its restoration, the suicidal impulse has, in recent cases, gradually become weaker. In too many instances, however the health was disordered beyond the reach of remedial measures; the morbid determination was deeply fixed in their minds, and they are still continually seeking to accomplish their fatal purpose.

The disposition sometimes returns suddenly, after the patient had appeared, for months, to have regained his self-control, and the confidence of those under whose care he has been placed.

As has already been stated, one melancholy instance of suicide has occurred. A. J. admitted on the 19th of April 1844; the wife of a shoemaker; aged 50; Melancholic temperament; had been insane 20 years. Her malady not being understood, or, if understood, disregarded, she was subjected to much unkind treatment from her husband and family. The former being of intemperate habits, frequently on his return home in a state of intoxication, struck his afflicted wife to the ground. Prior to her admission she had made various attempts to destroy herself. One evening after the family had retired to rest, she set fire to the house, and the flames extending to the adjoining tenement, reduced them both to ashes. The neighbours

now interfered, and after some delay, occasioned by her being above the rank of a pauper, she was ultimately sent as such to the Asylum, her husband having undertaken to reimburse the expense to the parish. After her admission, her attempts at self destruction were unremitting, both by day and night. She persisted in refusing her food, and for many months required to be fed daily. In the dormitory, she occasioned constant annoyance and anxiety to the other patients, and when placed in a single room, she would tear her blankets into strips, and tie them round her neck, or draw her cap strings tight with the hope of strangling herself. In countenance and manner she exhibited the peculiar expression generally recognised in the suicidal insane. The attendants were given to understand that this unhappy woman was to be vigilantly watched, and it is confidently believed that they rarely lost sight of her. On the day of the fatal occurrence, she had been employed as usual in knitting stockings, a work of which she was particularly fond. In the evening she left the dining room during the time tea was being prepared. Being soon missed an immediate search was made for her, and she was found in the washing room, suspended by a piece of strong tape, to the open bracket of the roller. The tape she must have contrived to procure from some of the other Patients, while they were engaged in mending the clothes. A Coroner's Inquest was held on the following day, and the verdict returned—"Hung herself while in a state of insanity."

Attempts at self-destruction have been made by other Patients, but providentially, none of them were successful.

General Observations.—In a majority of cases there exists a disordered state of the chylopoietic viscera ;— the biliary functions are vitiated, the appetite impaired, and between those organs and the brain, which is the material organ of the mind, an intimate connexion subsists. As the functions of these organs are restored to a healthy state, the delusions often pass away, and convalescence ensues. If, on returning home, Patients could be induced to pay proper attention to the state of their digestive functions, relapses would probably be of less frequent occurrence. These means, with attention to diet, exercise, and useful occupation to divert the mind from a morbid train of thought, would be found far more effectual in keeping the mind in a healthy state, than remedies too frequently recommended in books and puffed off in advertisements, as infallible cures for mental disorders, and to which the poor too frequently resort.

After subduing maniacal excitement, removing obvious physical disorder, restoring the general health, and combating with symptoms as they arise, on the principles of treatment adopted in other diseases, it however frequently happens, that the delusion, or depression, or a modified form of excitement will still continue. It is a point of importance, and the occasion of much anxiety to the Physician, to determine how this state may be most speedily and effectually relieved ;

and although much may, doubtless, be accomplished by the judicious use of remedial means, he is not unfrequently disconcerted by the failure of those agents which he had hoped to find of sovereign efficacy, and is necessitated to rely for complete restoration on moral means.

It is in the moral treatment of the insane, that Hospitals for their reception possess a decided advantage over domestic control. When insanity develops itself in a member of a family, the other members become sources of annoyance and irritation, and their attentions, although dictated by the kindest feelings, are construed into signs of hostility or hypocrisy, and only tend to aggravate the disease. The indulgences of friends, instead of allaying the excitement, too generally have a contrary effect; and the efforts of the medical attendant are, by their interference, rendered abortive. The effects, often produced on the excited patient by removal from his immediate friends, and the tranquillity which succeeds his reception into an Asylum, can only be appreciated by those who witness them. The patient finds his unreasonable requests kindly, but firmly denied—indulgences and favors obtained only by proper behaviour, and no advantage promised or accorded, without the exercise of a certain degree of self-control. The order and regularity observed by the other inmates are also not without their effect on his own conduct. A female recently admitted, whose previous conduct at home had been most violent and destructive, continued, for the first night after

her admission, to indulge her mischievous propensities, and was most outrageous in her conduct. Within a week she became tranquil, and on being praised for her improved behaviour, replied, "I am sorry for it, but I did not know the ways of the house at first."

If we except the patient in a paroxysm of furious Mania, which for a time obliterates the moral impressions, and destroys all self-command in the sufferer, and the patient in a state of complete dementia, there are perhaps few of the insane who cannot control their conduct and language to a greater degree than is commonly supposed. They are found, upon close observation, to be in a great measure conscious of the nature of their actions, and capable of being influenced by motives of hope and fear. If this were not the case, the lives of those who attend on them would be in continual danger. If the impulses of the insane were, under all the various forms of the malady, uncontrollable, the wards of an Asylum would present a very different aspect from that which they do at the present day.

The value of Asylums, in cases of insanity, and especially for the cure of the disorder in its early stages, cannot be too frequently or too earnestly advocated; and no considerations of fancied kindness to the patient, or false ideas of harsh treatment in such institutions, should be allowed to operate on the minds of relations and friends, to prevent them from doing that, which is in fact, the greatest kindness and the truest humanity.

Employment.—It has this year been no uncommon occurrence, for all the male Patients, except those suffering from advanced age or ill health, to be usefully employed out of doors. The field has afforded additional resources for the employment of the Patients, and, doubtless, they have thereby enjoyed a greater amount of health and happiness. The valuable services rendered by them in bringing the field into an improved state of cultivation, have been the means of supplying, for the first time since the opening of the Asylum, a sufficient quantity of vegetables for the use of the house, and the keep of the cows. Among those employed in this work, are to be found the most contented and healthy Patients in the house. The superabundant nervous energy, which is required for the muscular system, produces a beneficial degree of fatigue, and the result is, that rest and tranquillity at night take the place of noise and insomnolency.

On our taking possession of the field, the turnips in the adjoining field presented a temptation to the cows, which were turned out into the couch grass, and the hedge offering little impediment, they trespassed and did some trifling damage to the crop. The first thing, therefore, to be done, was to repair the fence; for which purpose 5000 thorn plants were necessary; these were planted, and the bank and ditch re-made on three sides of the field, entirely by the patients. The whole 12 acres have been ploughed twice, and dug by the patients with three-pronged

forks three times. Green crops only have been grown, consisting of lucerne, vetches, carrots, potatoes, and Pomeranian, early stone and swede turnips.

To commence cleaning the ground appeared to be almost a hopeless task, and it required no little effort and perseverance to encourage the patients to accomplish it. Had it not been for their labour in digging and hand-weeding, the probability is, that the rapid and luxuriant growth of weeds would have almost choked the seed. Several of the male patients cheerfully rendered assistance in weeding the carrots &c., during the summer evenings, until 9 o'clock, for which as a reward, they had an additional supper of bread and cheese and beer.

With a view of preventing the disease which prevailed last year from destroying the potatoe crop, the seed potatoes, except one sack, were soaked in a solution of "Kazenbusch's preparation," and all planted whole. The land planted was three acres, and although the crop is not abundant, being only 41 sacks per acre, yet they are free from disease and of good quality. The produce of the sack which was not soaked, though planted in the same ground, and at the same time, was very deficient; the tubers were small, scabbed and watery, and many were rotten and unfit for use.

The cost of manure and seed, &c., for the cultivation of the field, has been £144; the value of the produce, estimated at the price which must have been paid by the institution, had it been purchased, was £299.

It having been observed that the quantity of milk diminished in dry weather, and also in the winter, if the cows drank very cold water, a wooden trough, filled with water by means of a cistern and supply cock, and the dirty water allowed to run off by a wash pipe, has been fixed to each cow-stall. The troughs are filled with water the last thing at night, and they are generally found empty in the morning. The water being under cover, its temperature, in the winter, is not so low as when it was drawn fresh from the pump, consequently it does not chill the cow, and suppress the secretions. Since the cows have had access to water, the milk has rarely varied in quantity even in the driest weather.

The produce of the cows this year has been in milk 3502 gallons, in butter 1091lbs., making the value of each cow £25. The cost of hay has been £66 6s. 6d.

The pork consumed in the house has been home fed; the cost of barley in the account is £48 10s., and the value of the meat, at 12s. per score, £64 10s.

The making and mending of the shoes, clothing, and bedding have been done by the patients in the Asylum.

The whole of the wood-work of the wards, consisting of the doors, seats, steam-casing, bedsteads, and windows, has been painted by two of the patients.

G. P. BUTTON.

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS.

No.	Sex	Age	Assigned Cause of Disorder.	Duration of Disorder when Admitted.	No. of Attacks.	Form of Disorder.
1	M		Intemperance	2 weeks		Mania a Potu
2	M	21	Checked Perspiration, hereditary	3 weeks	1	Mania
3	F	45	Fright	2 weeks		Melancholia, Suicidal
4	F	34	Rheumatic Fever, hereditary	1 week		Mania, Suicidal
5	M	25				Mania
6	F	41	Grief, hereditary	2 weeks		Mania, Suicidal
7	F	27		1 week	3	Mania
8	M	54		6 months	1	Mania, General Paralysis
9	M	45	Pecuniary Losses, hereditary	1½ years	1	Mania
10	F	33	Long continued ill health	years	1	Melancholia, Suicidal
11	M	50	Intemperance	4 months		Mania a Potu
12	F	19	Puerperal	2 months		Mania
13	M	60	General ill health, hereditary	3 months	1	Melancholia, Suicidal
14	M		Pecuniary Losses	6 months		Melancholia, General Paralysis, Suicidal
15	F	39	Typhus			Mania
16	F	40	Seduction	5 months		Melancholia, Suicidal
17	F	20	Suppressio-Mensium, hereditary	6 months		Melancholia
18	F	24	Suppressio-Mensium, hereditary	years		Mania
19	F	56	General ill health	6 months	2	Dementia, Suicidal
20	M	77	Old Age			Senile Insanity
21	F	44	Hereditary	6 months	5	Melancholia
22	M	49	Pecuniary Losses	3 months	2	Melancholia
23	M	27	Hereditary	1 year		Mania, General Paralysis
24	F	24	Typhus	3 months		Melancholia
25	M		Intemperance	1 week	1	Mania a Potu
26	M		Long continued ill health	years		Melancholia, Suicidal
27	M	68	Intemperance	3 years		Melancholia
28	M	21	Intense Study on Religious subjects	6 months		Acute Dementia
29	M	55	Intemperance	1 month	2	Mania
30	F	40	Ill health	19 years		Melancholia, Paralysis, Suicidal
31	F	30	Poverty, Prolonged Lactation	3 years		Mania
32	M	54	Anxiety	1 month		Melancholia, Suicidal
33	M	70	Poverty	1 month		Mania
34	M	64	Long continued ill health, hereditary	1 month		Mania
35	M	33	Domestic unhappiness	1 year		Melancholia
36	M	25	Intense Study, hereditary	6 months	1	Mania
37	F	41	Epilepsy, hereditary	26 years		Mania, Suicidal, Epilepsy
38	M	51		2 years		Mania
39	M			2 weeks		Mania
40	F	46	Domestic unhappiness	1 year		Mania
41	F	54	Puerperal	19 months		Dementia
42	F	56	Over Excitement	2 weeks	5	Melancholia
43	M	50	Pecuniary Losses	years		Melancholia, General Paralysis
44	F	39	Distress	1 month		Mania

OBITUARY TABLE.

No.	Sex.	Æt.	Duration of Disorder.	No. of Atks.	Assigned Cause of Disorder.	Form of Disorder.	Cause of Death.
1	M	78	37 years		Injury of Head	Mania	Decay of Nature
2	M	51	19 years		Disappointed affections	Mania	Phthisis
3	F	27	5 years		Poverty, hereditary	Melancholia	Dropsy
4	M	40	years		Apoplexy, hereditary	Mania	Apoplexy
5	F	73	17 years		Domestic unhappiness	Mania	Disease of Heart
6	M	48	28 years			Mania	Apoplexy
7	F	55	9 years		Jealousy	Melancholia	Dropsy
8	M	27	27 years		Congenital Epilepsy	Imbecility, General Paralysis, Epilepsy	General Paralysis
9	F	51	25 years		Domestic unhappiness	Melancholia	Suicide by Hanging
10	F	60	19 months	4	Domestic unhappiness	Mania	Decay of Nature
11	M	77			Old Age	Senile Insanity	Decay of Nature
12	F	57	25 years		Hereditary	Melancholia, suicidal	Decay of Nature
13	M	21	7 months		Intense study on Religious Subjects	Mania	Decay of Nature
14	M	63	20 years		Hereditary	Mania	Apoplexy
15	M	44	7 months		Pecuniary Losses	Mania	Diarrhæa
16	M	45	2½ years		Injury of Spine	Melancholia, General Paralysis	General Paralysis
17	F	30	14 months		Intemperance	Dementia, General Paralysis	Apoplexy
18	F	64	15 months	2	Intemperance	Mania, General Paralysis	General Paralysis
19	M	48	2 years	2	Injury of Spine	Melancholia, Suicidal	Disease of Heart
20	F	50	10 months		Seduction	Dementia, General Paralysis	Apoplexy
21	M	57	23 years		Epilepsy	Melancholia, suicidal Mania, Epilepsy	Phthisis Epilepsy

DISCHARGES.

No.	Sex.	Æt.	Duration of Disorder when Admitted.	Assigned Cause of Disorder.	Form of Disorder.
1	M	57	2 months	Domestic unhappiness	Melancholia, suicidal
2	M	41	3 weeks	Checked Perspiration	Melancholia
3	F	61	3 months	Fright	Melancholia
4	M	40	2 weeks	Intemperance	Mania
5	F	37	4 months	Hereditary	Melancholia
6	M	35	3 weeks	Intemperance	Mania
7	F	26	3 weeks	Long continued ill health, hereditary	Mania
8	F	36	1 month	Domestic unhappiness	Mania
9	F	54	6 months	Fright	Mania
10	F	30	1 week	Ill health	Melancholia, suicidal
11	F	34	1 week	Rheumatic Fever, hereditary	Mania
12	M	42	2 months	Intemperance	Mania a Potu
13	M	20			Moral Insanity
14	M	60	3 months	Long continued ill health	Melancholia, suicidal
15	M	40	1 week	Intemperance	Delirium Tremens
16	F	30	10 months	Prolonged Lactation	Melancholia
17	F	24	3 months	Typhus	Melancholia
18	F	30	1 month	Disorder of Liver	Melancholia
19	F	35	4 months	Excess of Conscientiousness	Melancholia, suicidal
20	F	27	1 week	General ill health	Mania
21	F	42	8 months	Disorder of Liver	Melancholia
22	M	64	1 month	Long continued ill health	Melancholia
23	F	56	6 months	Long continued ill health	Melancholia

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted since the opening of the Asylum } in 1832	273	329	602
Discharged	123	150	273
Died	84	95	179
Escaped	—	1	1

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylum on the 31st December, 1846	62	86	148
Admitted since	24	20	44
Discharged, Recovered.....	9	14	23
Died	12	9	21
Remaining 31st December, 1847	66	83	149

*Patients Admitted, Discharged, and Dead, during the Quarter ending
31st December, 1847.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylum on the 30th September.....	70	91	161
Admitted.....	4	5	9
Discharged	5	10	15
Died	3	3	6

Year	Female	Male	Total
1902	100	100	200
1903	100	100	200
1904	100	100	200
1905	100	100	200

Year	Female	Male	Total
1906	100	100	200
1907	100	100	200
1908	100	100	200
1909	100	100	200

Table showing the number of males and females in the colony during the years 1902 to 1909.

Year	Female	Male	Total
1910	100	100	200
1911	100	100	200
1912	100	100	200
1913	100	100	200