

Twentieth annual report, for 1866 : presented to the Committee of Visitors, January 18th, 1867; and to the Court of General Sessions, April 16th, 1867 / Kent County Lunatic Asylum, Barming Heath, Maidstone.

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KENT

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,
Barming Heath, Maidstone.

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT,
For 1866.

PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS,

January 18th, 1867;

AND TO

THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS,


April 16th, 1867.



MAIDSTONE:

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1867.



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The Medical Superintendent's TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Medical Officer and Superintendent submits to the Committee of Visitors the Twentieth Annual Report for the year 1866.

On the 1st of January 1866 there were in the Asylum 325 males, 430 females, total 755, which numbers include one female, Ellen Hagerty, absent on trial.

During the year 93 patients of each sex were admitted, making a total of 186, being a decrease as compared with 1865 of 30 men, and 47 women. There were discharged 81 males and 46 females, total 127, of whom 71, viz., 31 males and 40 females, were recovered; 21, viz., 17 men and 4 women, were relieved; and the remainder, 33 men and 2 women, were discharged not improved. The deaths numbered, males 33, females 23, total 56; giving again a satisfactory decrease as compared with previous years, and with those of 1865, when the mortality was very low, of 2 men and 15 women; and leaving in the Asylum, on the 1st of January, 1867, males 303, females 454, total 757, of whom 79 only, 34 men and 45 women, can be considered curable.

The mean daily population of the year was 317 men, 438 women, total 755; and the highest and lowest numbers in the Asylum were on July 5th and September 14th respectively; on the former day there were 779 patients, viz., 338 men and 441 women, and on the latter 732 patients, 290 of whom were males and 442 females.

Percentages of Recoveries and Deaths. The recoveries were 38.17 per cent. on the admissions, and the mortality has again been less this year, viz., 5.95 per cent. as compared with 7 per cent. in 1865, 10.40 per cent. 1864, and 11.96 in 1863; the per centages of deaths being taken as is usual upon the total number under treatment.

Decrease in Admissions. Refusals, &c. The great decrease in the number of admissions as compared with last year is explained by the over-crowded state of the Asylum, which has this year necessitated the refusal of a large number of applicants. Fifty-seven patients who sought admission having on this account been refused, viz., 29 men and 28 women. The last-mentioned numbers added to the admissions would raise the latter to about the average.

Accumulation of Chronic cases, &c. The refusal of so large a number of recent cases has of course caused a proportionate rise in the number of Chronic and incurable patients. Of the 757 patients in the Asylum on the 1st January 1867, 89 only, viz., 45 men and 44 women, could be considered as tranquil or convalescent; whereas the dirty, violent, refractory, suicidal or dangerous, numbered 668, in the proportion of 259 males and 409 females; and these latter numbers have been since the commencement of the year still further proportionately augmented by the draught of about two dozen tranquil patients to the Asylum for the City of London, at Stone near Dartford.

Births. The births of three male children have taken place during the year. In one case twins—one child survived its birth only a few weeks, its infant brother was taken away by its mother upon her convalescence, which followed quickly upon her confinement. The third is still in the Asylum, but will shortly be removed.

Overcrowded state of Asylum. Throughout the year the over-crowded state of the Asylum has again occupied our serious attention, and 40 male patients have been transferred to the Dartford Asylum, under a contract sanctioned by the Secretary of State; and a second, for the removal thence of females, is now lying at the Home Office for approval. The relief thus gained however will be but temporary.

On the 1st of March the Superintendent entered upon the occupation of his newly-erected residence, and his old apartments have been fitted up as a Ward for the better class of female patients who now inhabit them.

Superintendent's New Residence.

The obituary of the year calls for little comment further than to draw attention to the very small number of deaths which have taken place, many of which occurred at advanced periods of life as will be observed by Table No. 9. Three cases of sudden death however are registered; one was that of a man who died from choking; medical assistance was immediately at hand, but all attempts at restoration proved unavailing. A Coroner's Inquest was held upon the body, and a verdict in accordance with the facts of the case returned. The second was also a man who was carried off quickly in a severe Epileptic Fit; and the third was a woman whose death was the result of extensive disease of the heart. She was a general favorite alike with officers, attendants, and patients, and her sudden and unexpected decease cast a general gloom over the wards.

Obituary.

The general condition of the patients, considering the overcrowded state of the Asylum and the large accumulation of Chronic cases as above noticed, has been throughout the year very satisfactory, and their bodily health has been good.

General Condition of Patients.

On the 6th and 7th of December the Asylum was visited by two of the Commissioners in Lunacy, who reported favorably of the general condition of the Wards and Patients, and of "the various changes and improvements which have been made since their last visit." They conclude their report in the following words: "We are glad to be able again to report a marked improvement in the general condition of this Asylum, and we think that considering the great disadvantages under which they labor, owing to the overcrowded state of the building, much credit is due to the Superintendent and Medical Officers."

Commissioners in Lunacy.

One male attendant, after sixteen years service, was compelled through ill health to resign his situation. During his

Superannuation of Attendant.

employment in the Asylum he had received serious injuries from dangerous patients, which had doubtless accelerated his resignation. He was considered a deserving man, and the Committee shewed their appreciation of his services by granting him a superannuation allowance of £24 a year.

Death of
Upholsterer.

It is with regret that I have to notice the death, from Pulmonary Consumption, of James Pledge the Upholsterer, which took place early in May.

Earth
Closets, &c.

Attempts have been made, by the introduction of Earth Closets, to utilize a portion of the Asylum sewage; we have not however been successful in preventing the exhalation of offensive smells from them. An ingenious apparatus, the invention of Mr. Edward Hoar, called a "Water-Trap Closet," having the same object in view, will shortly be introduced for trial.

Increase in
Attendants.

An increase in the number of attendants has taken place, to meet the requirements of the increase in the number of patients, and a second night nurse has been appointed on the female side of the main building.

Amuse-
ments, &c.

The exertions of the Officers have been continued throughout the past year to afford the patients all the recreation possible. The Theatrical Entertainments are kept up with much animation by Mr. Stevens, who is ably assisted by the Medical Officers, Messrs. Spencer and Hughes; as well as by Mrs. Stevens and other friends, and on the last occasion some of the patients took part in the performance. Weekly Readings have been commenced in the Concert Room, similar to the Penny Readings, which are calculated greatly to instruct as well as amuse the patients. A handsome Christmas tree adorns the Wards, and the distribution of the prizes from it is looked forward to with much pleasure, and it is in contemplation, as soon as the additional work common to this period of the year has been got over, to give occasional lectures of a Philosophical nature.

Gas in
Chapel.

Gas is being laid on to the Chapel, which will enable a Week-day Evening Service to be held here instead of in the Wards as formerly, an arrangement not found to be satisfactory.

Further enlargement of the present additional Building is now going on. The Contract of Messrs. Clements & Wallis, for £5565, was accepted by the Committee on the 18th August, and the works were commenced the following month. It is hoped that these buildings will be ready for occupation in the Autumn of 1867. The accommodation is for 43 patients of each sex. The other buildings to wit, the new offices and further accommodation for about 400 patients, will be commenced early in the Spring.

Enlarge-
ment of the
Asylum.

The purchase of about 103 acres of land has been effected as follows, making the entire breadth at present in the occupation of the Asylum 177a. 2r. 27p. *3.17*

Purchase of
Land.

	A.	R.	P.
Lately purchased of the Right Honble. the Earl of Romney, wood including timber and underwood	8	2	0
Ditto and his Trustees, arable, and wood including timber and underwood, and including 11a. 1r. 11p. previously hired by the Asylum	69	0	18
Mr. Ellis, part of Barming Heath	21	3	5
Mr. Fremlin ditto	1	0	5
Mr. Featherstone, including house	0	0	19
Mr. Day, arable land	3	1	6
	<hr/>		
	103	3	13
Exchange with Water Company :			
	A.	R.	P.
Give	1	2	6
Take	1	1	15
	<hr/>		
Deduct	0	0	31
	<hr/>		
	103	2	22
Add land previously in the occupation of the Asylum	85	2	6
	<hr/>		
	189	0	28
Deduct land lately hired of Lord Romney and Trustees	11	1	11
	<hr/>		
Leaving now in occupation of the Asylum	177	3	17
	<hr/>		

Conduct of Officers, &c. The conduct of the Officers, Attendants, and Servants, has been satisfactory.

Tables. The usual Statistical Tables, with some few additions, are appended, the perusal of which gives a fair insight into the condition of the patients resident during the year 1866.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. P. KIRKMAN, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

Barming Heath,
January 18, 1867.

TABLE No. 1.

Shewing Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, &c., during 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Asylum, January 1st, 1866	325	430*	755
Admitted during 1866	93	93	186
Discharged „	81	46	127
Of whom { Recovered	31	40	71
{ Relieved	17	4	21
{ Not improved	33	2	35
Of the above removed to other Asylums .	45	—	45
Deaths in 1866	33†	23	56
Remaining January 1st, 1867	304‡	454	758
Of whom deemed curable	34	45	79
Found Lunatic by Inquisition	1	—	1
Criminals §	14	3	17
County and Borough Patients ¶	6	1	7
Average daily number, 1866	317	438	755
Highest number during the year	338	441	779
Lowest „ „	290	442	732
Nominal accommodation in the two buildings, or beds made up	323	456	779
Proper accommodation in the two buildings	260	400	660
Vacancies**	19	2	21

* Includes one Female absent on trial.

† Does not include the death of Harriet Pointer's male child, aged 8 weeks.

‡ Includes a male patient who escaped on the 31st December, 1866.

§ Patients confined under Secretary of State's warrants.

¶ Patients whose settlements cannot be ascertained.

** *i. e.* difference between *Nominal Accommodation* and *No. of Patients*, Jan. 1, 1867.

TABLE No. 2.

Occupations of the 186 Patients admitted in 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Agricultural Laborers	17	..	17
" " Wives . . . . .	..	12	12
" " Widows . . . . .	..	4	4
" " Daughters . . . . .	..	5	5
Blacksmiths	2	..	2
" Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Butcher	1	..	1
Bricklayers	2	..	2
Brickmakers' Wives . . . . .	..	2	2
Carpenters	7	..	7
" Wives . . . . .	..	2	2
Clerks	2	..	2
Cab Proprietor	1	..	1
Cab Driver	1	..	1
Coachman	2	..	2
Carrier's Widow . . . . .	..	1	1
Charwomen . . . . .	..	3	3
Coal Porter's Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Draper's Assistant	1	..	1
Domestic Servants . . . . .	..	18	18
Dressmaker . . . . .	..	1	1
Engine Fitter	1	..	1
Engineer's Widow . . . . .	..	1	1
Farmer	1	..	1
" Daughter . . . . .	..	1	1
Groom	1	..	1
Grocers	4	..	4
Gardener	1	..	1
" Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Garden Workers . . . . .	..	2	2
Housekeepers . . . . .	..	2	2
Hawker's Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Innkeepers	4	..	4
Ironmoulder	1	..	1
Laborers	16	..	16
" Wives . . . . .	..	9	9
" Widow . . . . .	..	1	1
Laundresses . . . . .	..	2	2
Carried forward	65	70	135

TABLE No. 2 (continued.)

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Brought forward	65	70	135
Lady's Maid . . . . .	..	1	1
Mathematical Instrument Maker	1	..	1
Master Mariners	2	..	2
No occupation	5	4	9
Needlewomen . . . . .	..	2	2
Printers	2	..	2
" Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Pensioner from Marines	1	..	1
Potman	2	..	2
Paper Maker's Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Petty Officer, Wife of . . . . .	..	1	1
Rigger	1	..	1
Rag and Bone dealer	1	..	1
Sawyer	1	..	1
" Wife of . . . . .	..	1	1
Saddler	1	..	1
Soldier	1	..	1
" Wives . . . . .	..	4	4
Sailor	1	..	1
Scholar	1	..	1
Shoemaker	1	..	1
" Wife of . . . . .	..	1	1
Shoebinders . . . . .	..	2	2
Schoolmistress . . . . .	..	1	1
Shopman	1	..	1
Shopkeeper . . . . .	..	1	1
Shipwright	1	..	1
" Wife of . . . . .	..	1	1
Tailor	1	..	1
" Wife of . . . . .	..	1	1
Tutor	1	..	1
Warehousemen	2	..	2
" Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Waterman	1	..	1
	93	93	186

TABLE No. 3.

Religious denominations of the 186 Patients admitted in 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England - - - -	79	77	156
Roman Catholics - - - -	1	3	4
Wesleyans - - - - -	3	4	7
Independents - - - - -	4	5	9
Baptists - - - - -	4	2	6
Plymouth Brethren - - -	..	1	1
Hebrew - - - - -	..	1	1
None - - - - -	2	..	2
	93	93	186

TABLE No. 4.

Degrees of Education of the 186 Patients admitted in the year 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well educated - - - - -	11	2	13
Able to read and write - - -	61	58	119
Able to read - - - - -	6	20	26
No education - - - - -	15	13	28
	93	93	186

TABLE No. 5.

Ascertained and Supposed Causes of Insanity in the 186
Patients admitted in the Year 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hereditary Predisposition, (sole cause*)	7	8	15
Puerperal State - - - -	..	4	4
Domestic Affliction - - - -	5	9	14
Intemperance - - - -	12	4	16
Masturbation - - - -	1	..	1
Epilepsy - - - -	8	5	13
Disease of Brain - - - -	2	2	4
Religious Fanaticism - - - -	1	4	5
Injuries to Head - - - -	3	..	3
Congenital Malformation - - - -	4	1	5
Fright - - - -	..	1	1
Inability to obtain Employment -	2	..	2
Overwork - - - -	1	1	2
Brain Fever - - - -	..	1	1
Coup de Soleil - - - -	2	..	2
Disappointment of Marriage - -	1	..	1
Disappointment in Love - - -	..	1	1
Unreciprocated Love - - - -	1	..	1
Getting a young lady in the family-way	1	..	1
Ill-health - - - -	..	2	2
Hyperlactation - - - -	..	3	3
Functional derangement - - - -	..	3	3
Paralysis - - - -	1	1	2
Desertion by Husband - - - -	..	1	1
Sudden disappearance of Brother -	..	1	1
Excitement upon going to emigrate .	1	..	1
Excitement upon taking up with Foresters - - - -	1	..	1
Losses in Business - - - -	4	..	4
Pecuniary difficulties - - - -	1	..	1
Ambition - - - -	1	..	1
Unknown - - - -	33	41	74
	93	93	186

* Hereditary Predisposition to Insanity traced in 25 men and 29 women.

TABLE No. 6.

Social condition of the 186 Patients admitted in the year 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Married - - - - -	37	43	80
Single - - - - -	47	34	81
Widowed - - - - -	9	16	25
	93	93	186

TABLE No. 7.

Causes of Death in those cases which terminated fatally during the year 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Consumption - - - - -	3	3	6
Maniacal Exhaustion - - - - -	9	7	16
Epilepsy - - - - -	7	..	7
Enteritis - - - - -	1	..	1
Dysentery - - - - -	1	..	1
General Paralysis - - - - -	5	1	6
Paralysis - - - - -	..	1	1
Broncho-Pneumonia - - - - -	2	..	2
Choking* - - - - -	1	..	1
Rupture of an Aneurism of the Abdominal Aorta - - - - -	1	..	1
Typhus Fever - - - - -	1	..	1
Exhaustion from Melancholia - - - - -	2	..	2
Old age decay - - - - -	..	3	3
Disease of the Heart - - - - -	..	2	2
Apoplexy - - - - -	..	1	1
Erysipelas - - - - -	..	1	1
Cancer of the Uterus - - - - -	..	1	1
Bronchitis - - - - -	..	3	3
	33	23	56

* Coroner's Inquest held on this case.

TABLE No. 8.

Forms of Insanity in those cases which terminated fatally during the year 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania and Melancholia	16	16	32
Dementia and General Paralysis	6	6	12
Epileptic Mania	7	...	7
Idiocy	4	1	5
	33	23	56

TABLE No. 9.

Age at Death and Periods of Residence of those Patients who died in the Asylum in the year 1866.

Number in each Decennium,	Males.	Females.	Total.	Time of Residence.			
				Under 1 Month.	Under 1 Year.	Under 10 Years.	From 10 to 21 Years.
Above 80 years ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
From 70 to 80 years	2	6	8	2	1	3	2
" 60 to 70 "	4	4	8	...	2	4	2
" 50 to 60 "	5	3	8	3	...	4	1
" 40 to 50 "	9	3	12	1	4	6	1
" 30 to 40 "	5	3	8	2	1	4	1
" 20 to 30 "	3	2	5	...	1	4	...
Under 20 years	5	1	6	...	...	6	...
	33	23	56	8	9	32	7

TABLE No. 10.

Form of Insanity in the 186 Patients admitted in 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Acute Mania	7	11	18
Mania	54	39	93
Melancholia	6	17	23
Suicidal Melancholia	4	2	6
Epileptic Mania	7	6	13
Dementia with General Paralysis	5	...	5
Puerperal Mania ... ..	...	6	6
Dementia	2	...	2
Imbecility	7	10	17
Idiocy	1	2	3
	93	93	186

TABLE No. 11.—A Table shewing the number of Insane Pauper Patients in the County of Kent, on the 1st of January, 1867, and how disposed of, according to the Annual Returns from the Unions.

UNIONS.	Males.		Females.		Total.		In the County Asylum.			In a Registered Hospital, Licensed House, or other County Asylum.			In the Workhouse.			In Lodgings, or Residing with Relatives.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Ashford, East	10	9	19		8		...		...	5		10	...		...	1		1
Ashford, West	13	11	24		16		...		...	2		4	...		...	3		4
Aylesford, North	14	34	48		29		...		...	4		14	...		...	3		4
Blean	7	15	22		10		...		...	2		5	...		...	1		2
Bridge	10	14	24		14		...		...	4		6	...		...	3		3
Bromley	11	15	26		13		...		...	1		6	...		...	...		...
Cranbrook	15	24	39		24		...		...	7		4	...		...	...		...
Dartford	24	38	62		33		...		...	1		11	...		...	3		10
Dover	18	38	56		7		...		...	10		38	...		...	2		8
Eastry	29	42	71		18		...		...	8		22	...		...	...		...
Elham	18	22	40		15		...		...	6		14	...		...	3		11
Faversham	11	21	32		8		...		...	6		8	...		...	1		3
Gravesend and Milton	13	23	36		13		...		...	2		12	...		...	2		3
Greenwich ..	107	203	310		21		...		...	2		2	...		...	...		1
Hoo	4	1	5		147		...		...	12		16	...		...	8		17
Hollingbourne	21	22	43		2		...		...	...		...	...		...	...		...
Lewisham	35	49	84		1		...		...	3		...	...		...	...		...
Maidstone	42	60	102		15		...		...	4		...	...		...	...		...
Malling	18	26	44		40		...		...	1		...	...		...	...		...
Medway	32	45	77		43		...		...	3		...	...		...	...		...
Milton	14	11	25		19		...		...	...		...	...		...	...		...
Romney Marsh	4	9	13		16		...		...	2		...	...		...	...		...
Sevenoaks	20	25	45		9		...		...	...		...	...		...	...		...
Sheppey	15	7	22		1		...		...	...		...	...		...	...		...
Tenterden	9	13	22		17		...		...	...		...	...		...	...		...
Thanet, Isle of	21	35	56		6		...		...	...		...	...		...	...		...
Tonbridge	33	54	87		3		...		...	...		...	...		...	...		...
Total	568	866	1434		23		75	116	195	284	434	718	160	231	391	45	85	130

TABLE No. 12.—DIETARY.

	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.	SUPPER.
SUNDAY ...	<p>MEN. For every 8 persons { Cocoa 4 oz. Treacle 8 oz. Milk 1 pint. Water 7 pints</p> <p>Bread 6 oz. Butter 2½ oz. weekly.</p> <p>WOMEN. Cocoa as above Bread 5 oz. Butter 2½ oz. weekly.</p>	<p>MEN. Cold Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 6 ozs., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., Bread 4 oz., Beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Cold Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 4 ozs., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	<p>MEN. Bread 6 oz., cheese 2 oz., (or butter 1 oz.,) beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Bread 5 oz. Tea 1 oz. Butter 3½ oz. Sugar 2 oz. } Weekly</p>
MONDAY ...	Ditto	<p>MEN. Meat Pudding 12 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Meat Pudding 10 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	Ditto
TUESDAY ...	Ditto	<p>MEN. Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 6 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 4 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	Ditto
WEDNESDAY	Ditto	Meat Pudding, &c., as on Monday.	Ditto
THURSDAY...	Ditto	<p>MEN. Rice-Milk 1 quart, bread 4 oz.; or Suet-pudding (with gravy) 12 oz., beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Rice-milk 1 quart, bread 4 oz.; or Suet-pudding (with gravy) 8 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	} Ditto
FRIDAY	Ditto	Meat, &c., as on Tuesday.	Ditto
SATURDAY ..	Ditto	<p>MEN AND WOMEN. Soup with liquor from Friday's Meat and shin bone and vegetables added, bread 4 oz.; or Bread 6 oz., cheese 1½ oz., beer half-pint.</p>	Ditto

DIETARY (continued.)

EXTRAS ALLOWED TO WORKING PATIENTS.

MEN.—For Luncheon, Bread 4 oz., Cheese 1 oz., Beer $\frac{3}{4}$ pint. For Dinner, Beer $\frac{1}{2}$ pint every day; Meat 2 oz. on Meat Days, 4 oz. on Soup and Rice or Suet-pudding Days, and Meat Pudding 4 oz. on Meat Pudding Days. In the Afternoon, Beer $\frac{1}{2}$ pint at 4 o'clock and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint at Supper.

WOMEN.—Meat 2 oz. on Thursday.

Those employed in the Laundry have Weekly, Tea 1 oz. Sugar 2 oz. for Breakfast instead of Cocoa; and with those employed in the Kitchens have Daily, when employed, for Luncheon, Beer $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, Cold Meat 2 oz. Bread 4 oz. (or Bread and Cheese.) For Dinner, Beer $\frac{2}{3}$ pint on Thursday and Saturday. In the Afternoon, Beer $\frac{1}{2}$ pint and Bread and Cheese.

MALE ATTENDANTS' DIET.—Daily, Meat (cooked and free from bone) 10 oz., Bread 1 lb., Beer 3 pints. Weekly, Cheese 1 lb., Butter $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Tea 2 oz.

FEMALE ATTENDANTS' DIET.—Daily, Meat (cooked and free from bone) 8 oz., Beer 2 pints. The rest same as Male Attendants.

The Servants of the House have no stated allowance of Meat and Bread, but have the same quantities of Cheese and Butter as the Attendants.

