

**Superintendent's report of the County of Lancaster Lunatic Asylum,  
Prestwich : January 1st, 1852.**

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY OF LANCASTER

LUNATIC ASYLUM,

PRESTWICH.


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JANUARY 1st, 1852.

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TO THE VISITING JUSTICES OF THE COUNTY OF LAN-  
CASTER LUNATIC ASYLUM AT PRESTWICH.

JANUARY 1st, 1852.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with established custom it will be my duty to report to you annually the principal occurrences of the preceding year, in relation to this asylum, over which you have honoured me with the appointment of Superintendent; and it will be most gratifying to me if I have it in my power to speak as favourably in all future reports as I am enabled to do in this my first.

In consequence of the great inconveniences arising in the county from the over crowded state of the asylum at Lancaster, this institution, although in a very unfinished condition, was opened for the reception of patients in January last, since which time it has admitted 428—217 men and 211 women; of whom 141 were transferred from the Haydock Lodge Asylum, and 25 from workhouses, in the early part of the year. Out of this number no less than 45 were labouring under general paralysis (many of them in advanced stages), and 74 subject to epilepsy, whilst many more were afflicted with other incurable diseases. 67 have been discharged recovered (6 of them having been re-admitted), and 55 have died, the particulars of which will be shewn by the annexed tables.

The establishment contains this day 302 patients—149 men and 153 women.

Although always much pleased with the plan adopted in the construction of this asylum—that of separate and detached buildings for the different classes of patients, the upper floors being entirely devoted to bedrooms, and the ground floors, with some exceptions, to day and dining-rooms—the experience of the past year empowers me to speak with confidence as to the advantages of this peculiarity over the usual mode of building asylums in one block.



The buildings, which are calculated to hold 500 patients, are now warmed throughout by large open fires, affording a much more agreeable warmth and a more cheerful appearance than that produced by the circulation of hot water.

I cannot refrain from remarking upon one most admirable feature of this establishment, the church, which is so pleasantly situated at a distance from the asylum—a great improvement upon the old system of constructing within the walls of the building a large room for the purposes of a chapel. The edifice has all the security and quietness of an ordinary asylum chapel, with the pleasing characteristics of a village church, and is evidently much appreciated by the patients.

The morning and evening services are read every Sunday, without, as is usual in these institutions, any curtailment; the patients (about 180 in number) behaving in a most orderly and, in some instances, devout manner, and not exhibiting in the slightest degree any signs of weariness or restlessness.

We are much indebted to Mr. Frank shton for his kind offices as organist, which have been the means of establishing a choir, and to which may be partially attributed the quiet demeanour of the patients throughout the full services.

Since the opening of the church some of our neighbours have been occasionally present; a circumstance, I believe, alike conducive to the comfort and, in some instances, recovery of patients, and to the removal of prejudices which yet prevail amongst a great portion of the community.

Prayers also are read every morning, in the large work-room, to about 180 of the patients, by the chaplain, the Rev. Richard King (whose constant efforts to do good amongst them can hardly be over-estimated); and evening service read once a week, in the same room, to those whose infirmities will not admit of their going to church, and to others who may feel disposed to be present.

The employment of patients—which, as an important means in the treatment of the insane, is now too well understood to need any advocacy on my part—has been most carefully attended to, and their labour usefully applied. A great deal has been done out of doors by the men in the formation of the drives, walks, and large exercising grounds; in the removal of the earth from the boundary wall, and in levelling and cultivating parts of the land and kitchen garden for potatoes, turnips, and other vegetables; and the present aspect of the place, compared with its state at the beginning of the year, will fully testify to the past industry of the patients.

Although a great number of the men have laboured out of doors, others have been employed within the asylum, in painting the walls of the day and



dining rooms, galleries, &c., and in flagging the connecting corridors and other places, whilst many more have worked at their respective trades of shoemakers, tailors, upholsterers, carpenters, and mechanics. Neither have the women been idle, but, on the contrary, equally diligent in their avocations. The laundry, wash-house, work-room, and kitchen have afforded them constant occupation, and the improvement in their demeanour is, consequently, very remarkable;—the riotous, disorderly, and offensive conduct and language of many of them have given way, with few exceptions, to comparative quiet and decent behaviour.

Notwithstanding the great liberty enjoyed by nearly all the patients, (fifty of whom, on their arrival, were reported as suicidally disposed,) and the trust placed in them in the use of tools, &c., nothing untoward—accidental or intentional—has happened to either attendants or patients since the opening of the establishment. Cricket, bagatelle, cards, draughts, and dominoes have been their chief games, whilst a sufficient supply of suitable books and periodicals has been afforded them for their amusement and instruction.

I need not dwell upon the hackneyed subject of restraint; suffice it to say that mechanical restraint (with the solitary exception alluded to in the Commissioners' Reports) has not been required, nor has it often been found necessary to confine any of the patients to their bed-rooms during the day time. The system of employing the tradesmen and mechanics as attendants answers well both with regard to economy and utility.

I ought not to conclude my report without bringing under your notice the efficient and harmonious manner in which the officers, attendants, and servants have performed their difficult tasks in their several departments; for when it is considered that during eleven months out of the year work-people in great numbers have been constantly employed in completing the asylum, and that the majority of persons engaged as attendants, &c., were strangers to their duties, the increased difficulties and anxieties of organizing and conducting a new Institution will immediately present themselves.

The Commissioners in Lunacy have twice visited the asylum in the course of the year, and left the following Reports upon the condition and progress of the Establishment,

“ April 7th, 1851.

“ We have this day visited and inspected the County Lunatic Asylum, at Prestwich, and have seen all the patients under care and treatment in the establishment. There are now in the asylum 194 patients, 85 men and 109 women. At the time of our visit they were, with one or two exceptions, remarkably tranquil and orderly. No one was placed under any description



of mechanical restraint, and it appears that one patient only has been subject to such restraint, and that for a short period. In this instance the coercion was resorted to in consequence of the unfinished state of the building and the want of means suitable for the treatment of violent patients. These deficiencies have now been supplied, and it is hoped that in future no instances of mechanical restraint will occur.

"We have reason to think that since their admission, the patients have improved in many respects. We found them in good bodily health, well dressed; and a large proportion of them are regularly employed in some useful occupation. We are glad to find that considerable attention has been given to the industrial pursuits of the inmates, and that they enter on their respective occupations at an early hour in the morning.

"The diet allowed to the inmates appears to be liberal, well cooked, and judiciously served. The bedding we found ample, of excellent quality, and remarkably clean.

"The various apartments occupied by the patients were clean and in good order. For the most part they were well ventilated, but we are of opinion that the single sleeping rooms, not yet in use in the new buildings, on the north side of the establishment, would be improved by making a small opening from each into the flue which we understand is constructed in the walls. If some means could be adopted to render the external aspect of these buildings more cheerful and more in accordance with the other portions of the institution, a good influence would be produced on the inmates. Several of the water closets are imperfectly ventilated, a defect which might readily be removed by breaking out a small opening at the upper and lower part in the outside wall.

"Since the opening of the establishment eight patients have been discharged recovered, and the discharge of three has been ordered who are also recovered and are only waiting until they can be conveniently removed.

"The asylum was opened for the reception of patients on the 1st of January, 1851, and it is evident that considerable progress has been made in this short time towards the completion of the unoccupied parts. We have every reason to be well satisfied with the arrangements adopted, and we think the condition of the establishment is creditable to those who are entrusted with the supervision and management of the institution.

(Signed)

"S. GASKELL, } Commissioners  
"J. W. MYLNE, } in Lunacy."



"PRESTWICH COUNTY ASYLUM,

"21st October, 1851.

"We have to-day officially visited this asylum, and inspected all the wards and airing courts. We have also visited the offices and workshops. At present the asylum contains 294 patients, 147 of each sex; we have personally examined the whole of them, and at the time of our visit they were generally very tranquil, and no one was under mechanical restraint, such restraint, indeed, being unknown in the establishment. One female was in seclusion.

"The patients were very comfortably dressed and their demeanour quite satisfactory.

"We were pleased to find a large proportion of the females employed in the kitchen, wash-house, and laundry, whilst a great number of male patients were busily engaged in the grounds, removing the soil and laying out the airing courts.

"It appears by the register that last week 139 males and 134 females were employed.

"Although much has been accomplished in bringing the various departments of the asylum into order, there still remains abundant means of employment for the male patients in laying out the grounds and in cultivating the land.

"We agree with the commissioners who last visited the asylum, that it is desirable to improve the outward appearance of the wards No. 4, on each side of the establishment.

"We have made the various enquiries required by the statute, and we have examined and signed the several books, which appear to be properly entered up.

"Altogether we have derived much gratification from our visit, and are of opinion that the asylum is in a very satisfactory and promising condition.

(Signed)

"W. G. CAMPBELL, } Commissioners  
"T. TURNER, } in Lunacy."

For the kind consideration with which you have uniformly received my suggestions, and for the confidence you have placed in me, I sincerely thank you, and have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOSEPH HOLLAND, SUPERINTENDENT.



## TABLE OF ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES,

From January, 1851, to January, 1852.

Admitted .....	428
Cured .....	67
Dead.....	55
Discharged by request .....	2
Escaped .....	2
Total discharged .....	126
Per centage of Cures .....	15.65
Per centage of Deaths.....	12.85
Remaining in the Asylum on the 1st January, 1852 .....	302

## CAUSES OF DEATH,

From January, 1851, to January, 1852.

	MEN.	WOMEN.
Disease of Brain and Membranes .....	...	1
Ditto with General Paralysis .....	17	4
Ditto ditto and Caries of Ribs ..	1	...
Ditto with partial Paralysis.....	...	3
Epilepsy .....	3	5
Serous Apoplexy after Cerebral Excitement .....	1	...
Exhaustion after Mania .....	5	2
Ditto ditto (Puerperal) .....	...	1
Ditto with Gangrenous Sloughing of Arm .....	...	1
Pulmonary Consumption.....	2	1
Acute Peritonitis .....	...	1
Diarrhoea .....	...	1
Disease of Heart .....	1	1
Ulceration of Stomach .....	1	...
Abscess of Liver .....	...	1
Natural Decay in Old Age .....	...	1
Dropsy ..	...	1
	31	24



**TABLE OF ADMISSIONS**  
WITH RESPECT TO THE FORM OF INSANITY.

			Combined with Epilepsy.		Do. with General Paralysis.		Disposed to Suicide.		TOTAL.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Mania .....	53	61	6	7	6	..	5	6	70	74
Puerperal, Do. ....	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Monomania .....	7	4	..	..	2	..	1	..	10	4
Melancholia .....	14	18	2	1	2	..	13	15	31	34
Dementia .....	38	54	25	28	31	4	7	3	101	89
Amentia .....	3	4	2	3	..	..	..	..	5	7
	...	...	35	39	41	4	26	24	217	211

**PREVIOUS OCCUPATION.**

MALES.			
Tailors .....	6	Railway Watchmen ..	2
Shoemakers .....	10	Cordwainer .....	1
Weavers and Workers } in Factory..... }	46	Minister .....	1
Labourers .....	28	Ironmonger .....	1
Joiners .....	8	Farmer .....	1
Butchers .....	3	Gardener .....	1
Stonemasons .....	4	Soldier .....	1
Publicans .....	3	Bookbinder .....	1
Dyers .....	3	Printer .....	1
Colliers .....	4	Solicitor .....	1
Brewers .....	2	Engraver .....	1
Brokers .....	2	Artist .....	1
Mechanics, &c. ....	9	Schoolmaster .....	1
Porters ..	2	Policeman.....	1
Clerks.....	4	Surveyor .....	1
Tin-plate Workers.....	2	Cow Doctor .....	1
Travellers.....	2	Ostler.....	1
		Collector of Taxes....	1
		Waiter .....	1
		Baker .....	1
		Ropemaker .....	1
		Pattern-card Maker ....	1
		Chair-mender .....	1
		Sawyer .....	1
		Lime-burner .	1
		Street-sweeper.....	1
		Waterman .....	1
		Whitewasher, Slater, &c.	1
		Hawker.....	1
		Muffin Hawker.....	1
		Brickmaker .....	1
		Packer ..	1
		Unknown .....	45
		None .....	7
		Total .....	217
FEMALES.			
Household.....	47	Prostitutes .....	3
Servants.....	35	Bootbinders .....	2
Weavers .....	20	Milkwoman .....	1
Factory Hands.....	29	Baker .....	1
Governesses .....	2	Hawkers .....	3
Laundress.....	1	Fringemaker .....	1
		Seamstress, &c. ....	17
		Unknown .....	29
		None .....	20
		Total .....	211

Age.	M.	F.	Age.	M.	F.
Under 15.....	2	2	60 to 70.....	4	14
15 to 20.....	8	13	70 „ 80.....	2	1
20 „ 30.....	47	53	80 „ 90.....	2	1
30 „ 40.....	44	65	Unknown.....	34	2
40 „ 50.....	46	37			
50 „ 60.....	28	23			
			Total.....	217	211



*Extract from the Daily Account of the State of the Patients.*

MALES.						
EMPLOYED.	THURSDAY, 30th.		FRIDAY, 31st.		SUNDAY, November 2nd.	
	Morn.	Aft.	Morn.	Aft.	Morn.	Aft.
Working in Land .....	60	63	58	66	...	...
Assisting Engineer.....	2	2	2	2	2	2
" Joiner.....	2	2	2	2	...	...
" Painter and Plumber ....	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Shoemaker .....	7	7	7	7	...	...
" Tailor.....	5	5	6	6	...	...
" in Kitchen.....	7	7	7	7	8	4
" Baker.....	1	...	1	1	...	...
Cleaning Wards .....	31	17	26	20	86	...
Picking Flocks and Hair.....	10	13	7	12	...	...
Stonemasons .....	2	2	2	1	...	...
Carrying Coals .....	...	6	...	7	...	...
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYED .....</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>UNEMPLOYED.</b>						
Excitement, with Restraint .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. with Seclusion .....	2	2	1	1	1	1
Do. without do. ....	...	...	...	...	4	4
Sick .....	12	12	12	12	12	12
Quiet .....	9	12	20	7	36	126
<b>TOTAL UNEMPLOYED .....</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>143</b>
Admissions .....	1	...	1	...	...	...
Deaths and Discharges .....	1	...	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>149</b>
Attended Prayers, &c.....	90	...	86	46	...	...
Attended Church .....	...	...	...	...	77	88
FEMALES.						
EMPLOYED.	THURSDAY, 30th.		FRIDAY, 31st.		SUNDAY, November, 2nd.	
	Morn.	Aft.	Morn.	Aft.	Morn.	Aft.
Cleaning Wards .....	29	32	30	30	30	14
Assisting in the Kitchen.....	4	4	4	4	4	4
" in the Laundry .....	41	41	41	41	...	...
Making Men's Clothing .....	4	4	4	4	...	...
Mending Stockings .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Knitting and Netting .....	3	3	3	4	...	...
Sewing and Quilting .....	29	29	28	29	...	...
Picking Flocks .....	15	18	16	18	...	...
Binding Boots and Shoes .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYED .....</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>UNEMPLOYED.</b>						
Excitement, with Restraint .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. with Seclusion (1 hour)	1	...	2	3	1	1
Do. without do. ....	7	3	4	6	4	3
Sick .....	7	7	8	8	8	8
Quiet .....	11	11	12	6	101	118
<b>TOTAL UNEMPLOYED .....</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>130</b>
Admissions .....	1	...	1	...	...	...
Deaths and Discharges .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL... ..</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>148</b>
Attended Prayers.....	84	...	84	64	...	...
Attended Church.....	...	...	...	...	76	79



## LIST OF ARTICLES OF CLOTHING &amp;c. MADE AND REPAIRED,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1851.

NAME OF ARTICLES.	MADE.	REPAIRED	ALTERED.
Shoes .....	99 pairs	179 pairs	
Boots .....	24 "	...	
Suits of Clothes for Male Attendants.....	12	...	
Jackets .....	85	63	
Waistcoats.....	47	33	
Trousers.....	108 pairs	761 pairs	
Ditto lined .....	...	137 "	
Braces .....	108 pairs	...	
Drawers .....	82 "	...	
Shirts .....	71	356	
Neckerchiefs .....	556	..	
Handkerchiefs .....	216	...	
Linen Slops .....	92	...	
Night Dresses .....	17	...	
Dresses for Female Attendants .....	15	...	
Petticoats .....	44	149	300
Aprons .....	559	200	140
Linsey and Quilted Gowns .....	98	42	
Pinafores .....	26	...	
Stockings .....	39 pairs	1031 pairs	
Caps .....	...	60	
Shifts .....	...	171	240
Stays .....	...	59	
Bonnets Trimmed .....	120	...	
Strong Dresses ..	...	65	
Strong Rugs .....	...	40	
Mattresses .....	178	1219	
Pillows .....	53	...	
Bolsters .....	152	182	96
Pillow Slips .....	16	...	
Bolster Slips .....	228	...	
Sheets .....	524	30	
Blankets .....	...	15	
Counterpanes .....	...	...	94
Towels .....	478	..	
Table Cloths .....	135	...	
Tray Cloths .....	14	..	
Toilet Covers .....	18	...	
Blinds .....	68	..	
Dusters .....	72	...	
Carpets, Curtains, Cushions, and Hassocks for Church.....			
Curtains and Carpets for House Surgeon's Rooms			



PRESTWICH ASYLUM DIET TABLE.

DAYS.	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.		SUPPER.
		MALES.	FEMALES.	
Monday .....	{ $1\frac{1}{2}$ pint Milk Porridge, 6 oz. bread.	{Boiled Meat 7 ounces, uncooked and free from bone; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beer, 1lb potatoes, and 4 ounces of bread.	Boiled Meat $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, uncooked and free from bone; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beer, 1lb of potatoes, and 4 ounces of bread.	1 pint Tea or Coffee, 6 ounces bread, and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces butter.
Tuesday .....	Ditto.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ pint Peas Soup and 6 ounces of bread.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ pint Peas Soup and 6 ounces of bread.	Ditto.
Wednesday...	Ditto.	Rice Pudding, 6 ounces bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint beer.	Rice Pudding, 6 ounces of bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint beer.	Ditto.
Thursday.....	Ditto.	{Meat Pies, with 4 oz. meat; 1lb potatoes each, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beer.	Meat Pies, with 4 oz. meat; 1lb potatoes, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beer.	Ditto.
Friday .....	Ditto.	{Boiled Meat 7 ounces, uncooked and free from bone; 1lb potatoes, 6 ounces bread, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint beer.	Boiled Meat $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, uncooked and free from bone; 1lb potatoes, 6 ounces bread, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beer.	Ditto.
Saturday.....	Ditto.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ pint Irish Stew and 4 ounces of bread.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ pint Irish Stew and 4 ounces of bread.	Ditto.
Sunday .....	Ditto.	{Roasted Meat 7 ounces, uncooked and free from bone, 1lb of potatoes, 6 ounces of bread, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beer.	Roasted Meat $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, uncooked and free from bone, 1lb of potatoes, 6 ounces bread, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beer.	Ditto.

Lunches of Bread and Cheese and Beer, with Tobacco, are allowed to those Patients who employ themselves.