State of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum (instituted November 4, 1819) : [fourteenth report].

Contributors

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STATE

OF THE

LINCOLN

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

(INSTITUTED NOVEMBER 4, 1819.)

1838.

LINCOLN:

PRINTED BY J. W. DRURY, HIGH-STREET.

MDCCCXXXVIII.

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1838.

LINCOLN LUNATIC ASYLUM.

FOURTEENTH REPORT

At the General Board in July last the Governors, having taken into consideration the pressing inconveniences, arising from the inadequate accomodation, and the unfinished state, of the Female side of the Asylum, as described in the preceding Annual Report, resolved upon applying to the Lincoln Bank for a credit of £2000, on deposit of the writings of the Trust estate. This application was readily acceded to, and considerable progress has been made in carrying into effect the objects of the loan, under the very economical management of Mr. Hartley, whose Professional ability as Surveyor of this Establishment is well known. A large accession of room has thus been obtained for the reception and necessary Classification of Female Patients, and a long desired purchase has been effected of about an acre of ground, immediately adjoining the Female portion of the Building. All the more Sensible of either sex will now be enabled to enjoy the invaluable privilege of taking exercise in the open air, without interruption, in ample space, and with cheerful distant scenery, during any part of the day whenever the weather will permit : and the former Airing Courts of this class of the Patients may be applied to the enlargement of the remainder, so as to gain for the less Sensible class, much healthful and convenient room, long seriously needed under their increase of numbers.

The Boards have to acknowledge with gratitude numerous liberal donations in aid of the above objects, from parties whose names are recorded in the annexed list of Benefactors. The situation well merits every exertion which can be made to enhance

the natural advantages. A late writer thus describes it. *"The "Asylnm is built on the prominent south-western brow of the "lofty hill which forms the scite of the Castle, and consequently "commands one of the finest prospects in the County. The City "lies partly to the east, and partly below the hill towards the "south-east, so situated as neither by smoke nor business to "become any annoyance to the inmates of the Asylum. On the "west and south-west is an extensive plain, once covered with "water, but now completely drained; the nearer part a large "open common field, in which is the race-ground, and a great "part of that ancient canal, the Fossdyke. Beyond, a fine cul-"tivated Country, interspered with woods, seats, and spires, of "an extent truly astonishing, and only bounded by the high "grounds of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and the towering "mountains of the Peak. Thus elevated in its situation, open "to the western breezes, and sheltered from the cutting north and "north-west winds, it enjoys an air, pure and salubrious, unim-"pregnated by miasma, uncontaminated by the effluvia of a "crowded population."

There is now an increased confidence that the anticipations of the last year may be fulfilled, and that "An example may be "offered of a Public Asylum, in which undivided personal attention "towards the Patients shall be altogether substituted for the use of "Instruments of restraint". The bold conception of pushing the mitigation of restraint to the extent of actually and formally abolishing the practice, mentioned in the last Report as due to Mr. Hill the House Surgeon, seems to be justified by the following abstract of a statistical Table,† showing the rapid advance of the abatement of restraints in this Asylum, under an improved Construction of the Building, Night-watching, & attentive Supervision. We may venture to affirm, that this is the first frank Statement of the common practice of restraints, hitherto laid before a British Public.

* The Lincolnshire Cabinet.

⁺ This Table was prepared by Mr. Hill, who since his appointment in July, 1835, has, on this, as well as every other occasion, faithfully and unsparingly exerted himself to serve the interests of the Institution. It is in the power of an unwilling officer to make any improvements fail in practice. Number of the Patients Restrained, and of the Instances and Hours of Restraint, in eight successive years and nine months, as extracted from the Register of Restraints established March 16th, 1829, on the plan required by Law in Scotland.

Year.	Total number of Patients in the House.	Total number of Patients restrained.	Total number of Instances of restraint.	Total number of Hours passed under restraint.
1829*	72	39	1727	20,323
1830	92	54	2364	25,458
1831	70	40	1002	13,229
1832	81	55	1401	15,962
1833	87	44	1109	11,992
1834	109	45	647	6,699
1835	108	28	323	2,450
1836	115	12	30	334
1837	130	2	3	28

After deducting the number of Patients introduced in the above Table more than once in the years 1829-30-31-32-33-34-35, and also the re-admitted cases within the same period, the actual number of Patients restrained in the course of such seven years was, 169;—

Of these 169, there remained in the House at the end of such seven years, 43;—

*From March 16th.

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This striking progress of amelioration affords good encouragement for persevering in a system so successfully commenced ; and the more so, as a corresponding decrease of violence, accidents, and revolting habits, has accompanied the change. Under any system whatsoever violence must be expected occasionally to exhibit itself, and produce its effects in a Lunatic Asylum; but the comparative rarity of such collisions in this Asylum since the alteration of the Building, the discontinuance of fermented drink, and an habitual presence of attendants in lieu of restraints, has shown that coercion may be safely dispensed with. On the same principle it has been observed, that the number of escapes and outrages in prisons has materially diminished, since the time that the legislature forbade the ordinary use of Irons. There is little doubt that the constraint upon free motion, so commonly employed in violation of a relief called for and indicated by nature under a redundant excitability, must be as distressing and injurious to the Insane, as would be a systematic suppression of the noisy mobility of Childhood. The mischievous ingenuity sometimes exhibited in Instruments of restraint, tends to mislead the feelings of the public, who ought to keep steadily in view that, without any exception, every invention (such as the Chair of restraint, &c.) must impede motion, and the proper action of the system, must irritate the Patient, encourage loathsome habits, and discourage all tendency to self control. The very principle of such bodily coercion is unsound and unphilosophical.

The erroneous prepossessions of society on the subject of Insanity, often lead strangers, while unconsciously surrounded by all the worst cases in this Asylum, to inquire where are the furious and violent; and some strangers can with difficulty be induced to believe, that the unoffending peaceful persons amidst whom they are standing, are the very objects of their inquiry and alarm, subjected to no other control than the habitual presence of steady, watchful, and powerful attendants. The popular belief in the ungovernable ferocity of the Insane, encouraged by persons more studious of their own ease and enjoyment than that of the Patients intrusted to their care, has been very mischievous, and has tended to excuse restraints and other severities, on the assumption of their necessity; whereas in truth it is this very practice, which renders the complaint intractable, and gives to it a character of exacerbation^{*} seeming to justify both the prejudice and the treatment. Such prejudices and their consequences can only be corrected, by opening examples of a milder management to the inspection of Society, which has a deep personal concern in the mild or harsh treatment of a complaint, which may affect *any*, either personally or through relatives and friends.

During the period when restraints were so freely resorted to in this and other Asylums, it could be little imagined by strangers permitted to see the condition of only a selected portion of the Patients, exercising or engaged in the beautiful Foregrounds, or in some of the cheerful Galleries in front, that behind this scene were lingering under restraints such a large proportion of the Patients. The Public has generally seen what it is least important that they should see. Dr. Farre observes, The words of the talented Samuel Tuke on this subject are golden. "I believe that "I am not too sanguine when I say, that for one evil arising from "accidental Visitation, ninety nine will be prevented. The evils "of Visitation are speculative bugbears, to which practical men "have too often found it convenient to give the character of "reality."

*The following graphic picture of the exacerbating effects of an Instrument in too common use among persons intrusted with the care of the Insane, is from a practised Officer of Bethlem, examined before a Parliamentary Committee.

"The Patients are completely confined; if the Strait Waistcoat be tied tightly, re-"spiration is prevented or impeded, and it is always at the mercy of the Keeper how tight he "chooses to tie the Waistcoat. If the Patient be irritated by itching in any part, he is "unable to administer the necessary relief by scratching, or if troubled with flies; in hot "weather it is a painful incumbrance, and if not changed is liable to absorb a great deal of "perspiration, which renders sometimes the skin excoriated. He cannot wipe his nose, and "he becomes a driveller in consequence; he cannot assist himself on natural occasions, or "possess personal cleanliness, so long as the Strait Waistcoat is applied. Then there is "another very curious effect, that has resulted from keeping on the Strait Waistcoat for "a considerable time; the nails are pinched up, and I have seen some instances, when "Patients have been long kept in the Strait Waistcoat, where the nails have resembled the "claws of an Animal, so that I can pretty nearly judge by the look of the hand of a Lunatic, if "I do not see his face, whether be has been the subject of a Strait Waistcoat a leng while." The Dietary of the Third Rank Patients has received an addition of animal food, which is now allowed daily instead of for four days only in the week as heretofore. A corresponding diminution in the consumption of farinaceous food, and the entire disuse of fermented drink (by reason of its stimulating property,) have obviated the necessity of any increased charge on this account; while the improved digestible and nutritious quality of the food, will render it more suitable for the impaired nervous condition of the Patients. A recent Parliamentary inquiry has elicited the fact, that a high rate of mortality in Asylums for the Insane, usually accompanies a low rate of charge; the latter of course implying inferiority of diet, and warmth, and attendance, as the chief sources of reduced cost.

Statistical observations have determined that Insanity tends to accelerate the rate of mortality: how much of this consequence may justly be attributed to the complaint, and its usual accompaniment of latent or open organic disease, and how much to improper treatment, remains yet to be ascertained. It is probable that as the number of public Lunatic Asylums shall continue to increase, the treatment of the Insane will continue to improve by comparison of practice, provided that the size of the Establishments be kept within such limits, as not to place the management beyond the control of the Boards, nor out of the reach of minute inspection in every department, nor beyond the possibility of particular professional attention being paid to the case of each individual Patient. Under such circumstances the Statistics of future years may show results more favourable than those of the past, which embrace a period when public Lunatic Asylums were comparatively few, and under a revolting system.

E. P. CHARLESWORTH, CHAIRMAN.

MARCH, 1838.

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		and the second	
from December 25 to 31, 1837.	M.	F.	Totals.
Number of Patients in the House.	50	38	88
First Rank.	5	1	6
Second Rank.	2	1	3
Third Rank.	43	36	79
Maintained by their Friends.	15	7	22
Maintained by the Public.*	35	31	66
Less than 1 year since the 1st attack.	3	5	8
From 1 to 2 years since the 1st attack.	2	7	9
More than 2 years since the 1st attack.	45	26	71
Less than 1 year since admission.	6	12	18
From 1 to 2 years since admission.	12	10	22
From 2 to 14 years since admission.	20	8	28
Re-admitted cases not included in the above.	12	8	20
Not expected to recover.	43	28	71
Expected to recover.	7	10	17
Convalescent.	2	3	5
Employed.	25	14	39
Attended Evening Prayers.	23	16	39
Attended Chapel on Sunday,	28	17	45
Cases of Idiotcy.	2	-	2
Cases of Epilepsy.	4	1	5
Cases of Paralysis.	1	1	2
Cases of Imbecility.	9	6	15
Insensible to calls of nature.	5	5	10
Refuse food.	2	-	2
Dangerous to themselves.	10	14	24
Dangerous to others at present.	5	6	11
Dangerous to others occasionally.	17	10	27
Disposed to destroy Clothing, &c.	14	13	27
In a Noisy Room.	-	-	_
Under any Day Restraint.	-	-	-
Under any Night Restraint.	-	-	_
Sick.	-	2	2
Under Surgical Treatment.	1	-	1
Died.	- 1	_	

1, Gosberton-2, Grimsby-1, Haburgh-1, Hale (little)-1, Haxey-1, Helpringham-1, Henswell-1, Holbeach-1, Horncastle-1, Glentham-1, Gonerby (little)-Benedict: 1, St. Martin: 2, St. Mary: 2, St. Peter at Arches: 1, St. Swithin)-1, Louth-1, Morton, near Gainsbro'-1, Horncastle-1, Leicester-7, Lincoln, (viz. 1, St. 2, Peterboro'-1, Rauceby (South)-1, Sibsey-1, Skirbeck-1, Spalding-1, Spilsby-1, Stamford (St. Martin)-1, Newton upon Trent-1, Partney-1, Toynton (high)--1, Uffington-1, Whaplode.

Number of the Patients Admitted, and of those Discharged from the Books, from Jan. 1, 1837, to Dec. 31, 1837. from April 26, 1820, to Dec. 31, 1837.

	Μ.	F.	Tot.		Μ.	F.	Tot.
Remained Jan. 1, 1837	53	32	85				
Admitted in 1837	16	17	33	Admitted	300	233	533
Re-admitted in 1837	8	4	12	Re-admitted cases	60	52	112
Discharged in 1837	27	15	42	Discharged	310	247	557
Remaining Dec. 31, 1837	50	38	88	Remained Dec. 31, 1837	50	38	88

State of the Patients when Discharged	from the Boo	ks.
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from Jan. 1, 1837, to Dec. 31, 1837.

from April 26, 1820, to Dec. 31, 1837.

As Recovered 15 Improved 6 Removed during treatment 5 Improper object 0 By order of the Board 1 Escaped 0 Dead* 15	Improved64Removed during treatment112Improper object1By order of the Board13Escaped5Dead†108

Re-admissions.

Of the 533 patients admitted, have	Of the 254 Patients Discharged as
been Re-admitted.	Recovered, have been Re-admitted.
63 Patients 1 time each 63 cases 9 2 times each 18 2 3 6 3 4 12 1 5 5 1 8 8	23 Patients 1 time each 23 cases 4 2 times each 8 2 3 6 1 4 7 7 7 7
79 Patients 112 cases.	31 Patients 48 cases Of whom 3 have died and 4 remain.

in the Asylum.

* Causes of the deaths in 1837.

Consumption 4	Gradual Exhaustion 1	Typhus Fever 3
Dropsy 1	Old Age 3	Ulcerated Bowels 1
Epilepsy 1	Paralysis 1	

+ Causes of the Deaths from April 26, 1820, to Dec. 31, 1837.

Abscess in the Brain 1	Fever	Old Age 6
Apoplexy 6	Found dead in bed 2	Paralysis
Catalepsy 1	Gradual Exhaustion 26	Psoas Abscess
Consumption 4	Inflamed Brain 1	Suicide
Diarrhœa 3	Lungs 2	Tabes
Diseased Heart 1	Parotid Gland 1	Typhus Fever
Dropsy 7	Locked Jaw 1	Ulcerated Bowels 9
Dying when admitted 6	Maniacal Exhaustion 6	Water in the Head 1
Epilepsy 9	and	

16

Between 1—7 days	Days 7-14	Weeks 2-4	Months 1-3	Months 3-6	Months 6-12	Years 1-2	Years 2—3	Years 3—16	Tot.
4	8	6	13	10	19	16	10	22	108

Periods of Decease after Admission.

Ages at the time of Decease.

Betw 20	20-30	30-40	40—50	50-60	60—70	70 & upw.	unknown	Total.
1	11	22	25	19	13	8	9	108

Average Number of Patients and Household in 1837.

Patients..... 90; Household..... 15

Average Consumption of Bread, per head, per day..... 18oz. Average Consumption of Meat, per head, per day..... 10oz.

Note .- The Patients did not all receive a Meat diet daily in 1837.

Charged to the Patients for Board, Lodging, and Attendants in 1837. £2344 13 23

Number of each Rank of the Patients admitted in 1837. First Rank.... 1 M. 2 F. | Second Rank.... 3 M. 2. F. | Third Rank.... 20 M. 25 F.

Sums received from the Patients for Board, Lodging, and Attendants. from the Opening of the Institution in March 1820, to December 31, 1837.

1st Rank	1	Patient at	2	12	6	per week,	6	7	6	· · · · · · · ·		
	3		2	2	0		166	7	0			
	2		1	11	6		59	3	6			
	2		1	5	0		47	6	7			
	52		1	1	0		3295	7	1	 3574	11	8
2nd Rank	78		0	15	0		2453	9	0	 2453	9	0
3rd Rank	23		0	12	0		453	0	- 4			1
										 15,318	8	2
										£21,346	8	10

Variations in the rates of payment by some of the same Patients, and Re-admissions, will account for the apparent excess of Patients above the real number of 533.

DISBURSEMENTS,

from January 1, 1837, to December, 31, 1837.

£ s. d. £ s. d.	
House Surgeon 100 0 0	Brought Forward 1842 8 $10\frac{1}{2}$
Matron 36 4 0	Escape of Patients 6 7 6
Secretary 42 0 0	Medicine 13 10 4
Surveyor 10 10 0	Newspapers, Peri-
Grounds Porter 20 19 6	odicals, Books. 2 19 5
4 Male Attendants 80 10 7 ¹ / ₂	Printing, Advertis-
4 Female Ditto 31 10 0	ing 21 1 10
5 Female Servants 39 7 7	Stationery, Postage 5 11 0 49 10 1
In lieu of Beer 53 4 $10\frac{1}{2}$	By suic of hance
Night Watching 23 12 6	Cooperage 3 15 9
Sick Nursing 3 15 0	Earthenware, Glass 6 19 0
Hired Labor 15 6 8 457 0 9	Furniture117 19 6
	House Linen 74 17 5
Bread 45,157lbs.261 1 9	
Butter 1,031lbs. 55 14 3	Ironmongery, Bra- ziery 31 10 10 235 2 6
Cheese 782lbs. 27 14 6	ziery 31 10 10 235 2 6
Coffee28lbs. 2 16 0	and Lorenzation States
Eggs 6 7 8	Excavating, Level-
Fish 0 7 5	ling 60 3 8
Flour268lbs. 31 4 6	Leading 52 7 0
	Joiner
	Mason, Bricklayer 916 14 0
	Painter 8 0 6
Oatmeal 24 4 0	Plumber, Glazier 94 1 9
Plums, Currants 4 1 0	Smith 74 12 1 1625 1 1
Potatoes 1,292lbs. 33 12 $6\frac{1}{2}$	
Poultry 5 1 6	Surveyor, a gratuity for ad-
Rice926lbs, 11 11 10	ding a story to the North
Salt, Pepper 3 16 $2\frac{1}{2}$	Male Gallery, and building
Sugar1,562lbs. 45 19 0	the North Female Gallery 80 0 0
Tea250lbs, 59 4 0	A COLORED AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
Vegetables 14 16 10	Purchase of Land 344 16 10
Wine 5 15 6 1115 13 7	A MICHAGE OF LANG ACCOUNT OF TO TO
	Insurance, 2 years 16 10 0
Candles 445lbs. 10 6 7	Insurance, 2 years 16 10 0
Coal 160 tons 156 10 3	
Firewood 5 14 11	Patients' Clothing 210 11 5
Mops, Brushes 11 0 8	
Oil for Lamps 12 10 2	Patients' Advances returned
Soap645lbs. 16 12 $6\frac{1}{2}$	on discharge 33 6 $9\frac{1}{2}$
Starch, Blue 1 9 7	
Straw 23 5 0	In hands of Surveyor 123 3 9
Sundries 21 14 1	
Washing 10 10 9 269 14 $6\frac{1}{2}$	

£4560 11 4

RECEIPTS,

from January 1, 1837, to December 31, 1837.

	£	8.	d.
Balance brought forward from December 31, 1836	349	0	11
Cash from Patients, including payments in advance	2632	3	5
Annual Subscriptions			
Benefactions			
Dividends on Stock		0	
Found in the Charity Box		6	6
By sale of Swill		0	
By sale of Ashes		7	0
By sale of old Iron		10	6
Balance		0	$9\frac{1}{5}$

STATE OF DEBTS AND CREDITS, January 1, 1838.

DEBTS.

	£	8.	a
Patients' Advances in hand	276	9	4
Due to the Bank	1161	8	6

CREDITS.

Stock in the new 4 per Cents	200	0	0
Cash in the hands of the House-Surgeon	20	0	0
Matron	30	0	0
	7	7	8
Surveyor		3	9

RULE.—Any Governor may at all times inspect, extract, or copy, any Bills, Accounts, Journals, Registers, Minute-Books, or Documents whatsoever, provided that the names of the Patients shall not be copied.

£4560 11 4

EXTRACTS FROM THE RULES.

BOARDS.

An Ordinary Board of the Governors is held Weekly at the Asylum, on Monday at One o'Clock.

A General Board of the Governors is held Quarterly on the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October, at Twelve o'Clock.

ADMISSION OF PATIENTS.

The Ordinary Board regulates the admission of Patients.—The Forms of Admission, with other necessary information, are immediately supplied to applicants, by the Secretary or House-Surgeon.

The House-Surgeon, during the intervals of the Boards, may on emergency, provisionally admit Patients who have complied with the necessary Forms, subject to the opinion of the Physician.

Where any difficulty occurs in conducting Patients to the Asylum, the Physician may send a confidential Attendant and needful Apparatus for the purpose; for which no charge is made beyond the expenses incurred.

The following are the usual terms for Board, Lodging, Attendants, and Medical Treatment.

		£.	8.	d.	
1st Rank	. per week	1	1	0	
2nd Rank		0	15	0	
3rd Rank, Males		0	9	0	
, Females		0	8	0	

Special Contracts may be made for extra Attendants and Diet.

A "Deposit of six weeks' payment," and a "Payment in advance up to the next Quarter Day," are required with each Patient on admission.—The Friends may advance for any additional Quarters, if more convenient.—The Quarter Days fall on the first of January, April, July, and October, respectively.— On the removal or death of any Patient, the amount due to the institution is deducted, and the surplus returned.

OFFICIAL VISITING.

A "Governors' Memorandum Book" shall lie upon the Board Room Table, for their remarks at such times as they shall think proper to visit the Asylum.

At each Quarterly General Board the Governors present or some of them, shall be requested to inspect the Asylum, and see every Room and Patient, and report forthwith to the Board. At each Ordinary Board, one of the Governors shall be appointed Visitor for the week next succeeding, to visit the Asylum daily if convenient, to see every Patient once at least in the week, to make any enquiries which may seem fit, and to enter his observations in the "Weekly Visitors' Book;" and no person whatsoever shall interfere to prevent the most minute examination of the Establishment.

OCCASIONAL VISITING.

Persons wishing to visit the Asylum, may be personally introduced by one of the Physicians, Surgeons, or Governors, or by the written order of a Governor; and the House-Surgeon may admit any respectable non-resident of Lincoln to see the establishment, without a special order.

VISITS OF FRIENDS.

The Rules affecting the admission of the Patients' friends are appended to each Quarterly Account.

FORMS FOR LEGACIES.

Persons disposed to contribute to this Asylum by their last Will, are particularly requested to use the following words.

I give and bequeath unto the Treasurer of a Society who call themselves GOVERNORS OF THE LINCOLN LUNATIC ASYLUM, the Legacy or sum of which sum I charge on such part of my personal estate as does not consist of Chattels real, and direct to be paid by my Executors within ______ months after my decease, and applied to the charitable uses of the said Asylum, for which, on payment, the Treasurer's Receipt shall be a sufficient discharge.

For want of this Form many Charities have lost their Legacies, the Testators having charged them on their *real* instead of their *personal* estate.

J. W. DRURY, PRINTER, LINCOLN.