

Second annual report of the Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital, situate near Cheadle, Cheshire, for the year from June 25th, 1851, to June 24th, 1852.

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ROYAL



SOUTH EAST FRONT.

MANCHESTER ROYAL LUNATIC HOSPITAL, NEAR CHEADLE.

SECOND ANNUAL

R E P O R T

OF

THE MANCHESTER



ROYAL LUNATIC HOSPITAL,

SITUATE NEAR

CHEADLE, CHESHIRE,

For the Year from JUNE 25th, 1851, to JUNE 24th, 1852.



MANCHESTER:

PRINTED BY T. SOWLER, 4, SAINT ANN'S SQUARE.

1852.

H. B. T.

THE

ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

OF GREAT BRITAIN

MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR THE YEAR 1850
The Secretary is Mr. T. WOOD & Co. 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.
For the Year 1850, the List is printed by T. DICKSON & Co. 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

MEMBERS

MR. T. WOOD & CO.

1850

PRINTED BY T. DICKSON & CO. 15, ABCHURCH LANE, LONDON, E.C. 4.

MANCHESTER
ROYAL LUNATIC HOSPITAL
Patroness :

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Officers.

Treasurer SALIS SCHWABE, Esq.

Acting Physicians for the Year..... DRs. P. WOOD and C. BELL.

Resident Medical Superintendent ... T. DICKSON, L.R.C.S.E.

Matron MRS. DICKSON.

Secretary ROBERT THORPE RADFORD.

MANCHESTER

ROYAL LENTHIC HOSPITAL

NEAR

CHEADLE, CHESHIRE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee of this Institution, instead of making any regular Report of their own for the past year, have had the right to publish the Report which they have received from the Resident Medical Superintendant, and to add full of information to it.

The Institution, as to making the Report, has many beneficial observations. They desire, however, to take this opportunity of calling special attention to the peculiar objects and advantages of the Hospital.

Established for the relief of patients of the middle and upper classes, it seeks to furnish every comfort and accommodation which they are capable of receiving. The rate of payment commences at 15s. per week, and increases in proportion to the superiority of the accommodation required. Some Patients, who are unable to afford the above minimum rate of payment, are admitted at lower and non-remunerative terms, the difference being paid out of a Benevolent Fund which has been established in connection with the Institution.

The healthy and agreeable locality in which the Hospital is situated, its admirable internal arrangements, and the

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facilities which it affords in its extensive grounds and gardens for out-door exercise and amusement, render it peculiarly adapted to its objects.

The Managers of the Institution have no personal or private interest to serve—no pecuniary advantage to aim at—they have expended a very large sum of money in building and furnishing the Hospital, for which they look for no return whatsoever; and all they desire is to secure the greatest amount of comfort, and to apply the most approved and effectual methods of treatment, at the most moderate cost, to those who are suffering under one of the most afflicting dispensations of Providence.

The Committee have great satisfaction in quoting the following notice, in reference to this Institution, from the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor, published in January last, which fully bears out all that is here urged in its behalf:—

“ Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital. This Institution
 “ has been detached from the Royal Infirmary, to which
 “ it was formerly an adjunct, and has been removed to
 “ Cheadle, in Cheshire, about ten miles south of Man-
 “ chester, where an elegant and commodious structure,
 “ capable of affording comfortable accommodation for from
 “ 80 to 100 lunatic patients of both sexes, and of the
 “ MIDDLE and UPPER CLASSES, has been erected out of
 “ the funds of the Charity. Around the New Hospital
 “ are several airing courts, laid out with grass plots, gravel
 “ walks, and shrubberies; and attached to it, also, is
 “ a considerable extent of land, which is used partly as a
 “ kitchen garden and partly for farming purposes. This
 “ Hospital has now been open upwards of eighteen months*
 “ and on the 9th April, 1851, when it was last visited and

* One year and three months ago.

“ inspected, it contained 17 patients of the male and 8
 “ patients of the female sex. Many of these, in consider-
 “ ation of their reduced and straitened circumstances, are
 “ received on very moderate and certainly not remunerative
 “ terms, a portion of the cost of their maintenance being
 “ borne by the funds of the Charity. But the Managers
 “ are also desirous to receive, and they are able to provide
 “ excellent accommodation for patients of a remunerative
 “ class ; and the arrangements for the treatment and
 “ comfort of the patients are so liberal and complete, that
 “ the Institution cannot fail to be made much more exten-
 “ sively available as soon as it becomes generally known.”

SALIS SCHWABE,

Chairman.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RESIDENT MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT,
For the Year ending 24th June, 1852.

TO THE COMMITTEE
OF
THE MANCHESTER LUNATIC HOSPITAL.

GENTLEMEN,

At the close of your second financial year it becomes my duty to lay before you a report of the progress of the Hospital during the preceding twelve months; and I have the satisfaction of recording that the events of the past year afford a review of increased usefulness.

The inmates have been free from any epidemic or serious physical disease. No accident has occurred to disturb, even for a short time, the tranquillity of the establishment; a matter of much congratulation, considering that a more than usual number of those admitted during the year entertained suicidal tendencies of a very determined character. The inmates have appeared as happy and contented as their malady would allow, and the results of the treatment have not merely equalled, but surpassed those of last year.

In an Institution such as this is, devoted exclusively to the care and treatment of the Insane belonging to the Middle

and Higher classes of society, there always exists a greater difficulty in obtaining that influence or moral control over the patients so essential to their recovery, than is to be found existing in asylums for the care of the insane poor. This is to be attributed to the different previous pursuits and habits of life of the patients, which renders them indisposed to take that active bodily exercise in the open air, and that personal exertion, which to those accustomed from early life to labour would be a mere pastime. To the same causes are to be attributed the unhappiness and discontent which many of the patients belonging to the higher classes exhibit for a few days after their admission; the change in their condition, from being masters in their household establishments, where previously their will was law, is so great, that it is not surprising they should resist subjection to control, however slight, and regard themselves as persons on whom any opposition to their own will is the infliction of a great injury. In our patients a residence of a few days has generally had a considerable effect in modifying these feelings of opposition to control, and in no instance have they been retained longer than a week or ten days, having yielded to the effects of sympathy judiciously expressed and persevering kindness.

The number of patients admitted during the past year was 33. At the close of the last year there were 33 inmates, so that there have been 66 patients under treatment since the date of the last Annual Report. Of these 29 have been discharged, leaving at this date 37 in the Hospital.

The average number resident during the year was 36. Of the patients discharged 17 were cured, being in the ratio of 51.22 per cent. to the number of admissions, or of 47.22 per cent. to the average number resident.

The number of patients admitted into the Hospital

since its re-opening in December, 1849, is 98, and the number discharged cured is 34, being 34.68 per cent. of the whole, or 55.74 per cent., deducting those who still remain under treatment.

This statement does not convey an adequate idea of the curative results attained, for, upon analyzing the condition of the admissions, it is remarkable that 37 of them were in such an advanced stage of disease as scarcely to afford any hope of cure, whilst the remainder, 61 in number, though in several instances in a dying condition when admitted, were labouring under attacks of more recent date. Of these latter cases, from which alone we could expect recoveries, the proportion of cures already obtained is 55.74 per cent. on the number admitted, or, deducting those still under treatment, 82.93 per cent.

In the following table the general results of the year are given:—

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Number of Inmates, June, 1851...	20	13	33
Number admitted to June, 1852 ...	17	16	33
— — —			
Total number under treatment...	37	29	66
	M.	F.	TOT.
Discharged—Cured	8	9	17
„ Relieved ...	1	3	4
„ Died	6	2	8
	—	—	— 15
	— — —		14
Total number in Hospital	22	15	37

The two following tables shew the numbers admitted, classed according to their condition. In the first of these tables are classed all those cases in which the disease had existed for a period longer than twelve months previous

to admission. The second table shews the numbers admitted, and the results attained, in all those cases in which the disease had existed for a period shorter than twelve months, irrespective of the state they were in when admitted.

TABLE 2.—*Confirmed Cases.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Remaining under treatment, June, 1851	12	6	18
Admitted during the year	3	4	7
	—	—	—
	15	10	25
	M.	F.	TOT.
Discharged—Relieved	1	2	3
„ Died	4	1	5
	—	—	—
	5	3	8
	—	—	—
	10	7	17

TABLE 3.—*Recent Cases.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Remaining under treatment, June, 1851	8	7	15
Admitted during the year	14	12	26
	—	—	—
	22	19	41
	M.	F.	TOT.
Discharged—Cured	8	9	17
„ Relieved	0	1	1
„ Died	2	1	3
	—	—	—
	10	11	21
	—	—	—
	12	8	20

Of the cases admitted during the year, six were in a state of great exhaustion; three of them were so weak and reduced as to be unable to walk or to sit upon a chair. The lives of some were, by the use of restoratives and

assiduous care, protracted for a few weeks, or months; whilst the result in the case of the others was that they were, after some time, restored to their friends in the full possession of their bodily and mental vigour.

One of the disadvantages which this, in common with all other Asylums, is subjected to, is, that instead of its being the first, it is usually the last resort adopted by friends to send their relative as a patient to the Hospital. The hope of cure, without the disagreeable alternative of placing a relative in an Institution for the Insane, prevails to a much greater extent in society in general than might at first be believed. Before this *last* step, as it is considered, is taken, every other means within the reach of funds are resorted to,—means resulting generally in no amelioration of the disease, and too often in the aggravation of the evil they are intended to cure, until the patience or health of the relatives having become exhausted, and the impossibility of concealment being made apparent, the Hospital becomes the last refuge of the patient, now reduced by the delay too far in bodily strength to afford much probability of rallying, or with the insanity too much confirmed to afford any sanguine expectation of recovery.

Every one can appreciate the kindly feelings which retains the sufferer at home, but it is often forgotten that mental diseases are not, in respect of treatment, to be compared to bodily diseases. A person may be treated for gout, rheumatism, or any bodily ailment, as well, perhaps better, at home than in an Hospital; but this does not apply to mental diseases; for if experience has ever established one fact more clearly than another, it is this, that *home treatment*, in most cases of mental diseases, is *positively injurious*. When the mind is affected, the very presence of the nearest and dearest relative—probably under the influence of some existing delusion esteemed so

no longer—provokes excitement, and the cure of the patient becomes indefinitely retarded.

The following extracts of cases, as recorded in the Case Book, afford additional illustrations of the advantages of early treatment in all cases of mental disease:—

A. B., male, aged 38, admitted 15th August, 1851; is of middle stature, full habit of body and sanguineous temperament; bodily condition febrile, is much excited, has furred tongue, pulse 98. About 12 or 14 days ago, became irritable, restless, and eccentric, and, if contradicted or opposed, violent. The night before his admission, under the influence of some delusion, he rose out of bed, and in a state of great excitement ran about two miles to the next town in his night dress. Is said to have suffered from a mild attack of mania, about two years ago, consequent upon an overpressure of business, from which he had recovered after travelling for some months on the Continent.

16. Slept badly last night; is incoherent and violent; very restless, and refuses all food; great heat of scalp, and the conjunctiva much injected; pulse 108, and wiry.

18. Under the treatment pursued the pulse is now reduced to 84, soft and compressible; is coherent and rational; injection of conjunctiva lessened.

24. Has gone on improving rapidly; is collected, and consistent in speech, memory, and ideas.

31. Continued to improve so satisfactorily that he was this day discharged cured, and when last heard of, about two months ago (ten months after his discharge), had continued quite well.

It is pleasing to have to record the manner in which this patient appreciated the benefits of the treatment he received in the Hospital. A few weeks after his discharge,

he wrote me a letter acknowledging his sense of the benefits he had received, and concludes with saying, "I wish to add a small donation, say twenty pounds, to the Institution, which I now enclose."

C. D., female, age 35, admitted 8th March, 1852; is above the middle height, and of a bilious habit of body; eyes dark grey, is much excited, incoherent, talks, sings, and screams incessantly; has a vacant expression of countenance, eyes roll very much, skin clammy, pulse extremely weak and feeble; great appearance of Anæmia; is suicidal.

Was quite well up to Sunday, the 29th February, on which day she attended forenoon church as usual, but was seized suddenly during the day. The day before admission was bled copiously.

For several days the chances of her recovery were very slight; during this period she would roll herself about until she became exhausted, and when unable to do so any longer, sang, shouted, and screamed for hours.

The treatment pursued in this case was prompt and active, and was attended with such success, that five days after her admission, it is recorded, that she was then lying quietly in her bed. Within twelve days consciousness had returned, and within twenty-two days after admission, she was convalescent, and continued to improve, without any relapse, till the middle of May, when she was discharged cured.

The dreamy states of mental perception experienced by those falling into, or awakening from, a condition of stupor or unconsciousness, and which no one who has not laboured under them can form an adequate idea of, were well expressed by this patient, when she was so far recovered as to be allowed the use of writing materials. She says—"I have a recollection of the symptoms as they gradually stole over me, on the Sunday when I was taken ill—

“ when I was alone, and none of my friends near, until
 “ it had gained such rapid strides, they must have been
 “ completely paralyzed. * * * Though I lay for a
 “ fortnight nearly unconscious of my sufferings, there
 “ were times when I was partly alive to my sensations ;
 “ as I became aware where I was, many times I have
 “ closed my eyes, hoping it was a frightful dream ; and
 “ earnestly, oh how earnestly, wishing I could awake in
 “ my own bedroom at home. I shall always retain a
 “ grateful recollection of Mrs. ——’s kindness, her sooth-
 “ ing tones did much to allay my fears. May God bless
 “ and reward her for it.”

E. F., male, aged 30, admitted 26th April, 1852 ; has within the last ten days arrived from a lengthened voyage, during the latter part of which he suffered much from sea sickness, and appeared to be somewhat excited. Is of a bilious habit of body and irritable temperament, expression of eyes and countenance fierce and excited, tongue greatly furred, pulse 100. He had, before admission, destroyed all his private papers, and also destroyed and thrown away much of his money. He has with him a small parcel of rags and paper, which he values greatly, believing that there is within it a magic spell, which will free him from the fiend which he supposes has got possession of him.

For the two following days he slept heavily, but for short periods only, screaming violently when disturbed or awakened, apparently from the influence of fear.

Active treatment was promptly used in this case, and with such success that, within five days, he was so far recovered as to be able to be in the sitting room. His convalescence was so decided, and so satisfactory to his relatives, that he was discharged, cured, within about three weeks after his admission.

These cases are instructive, and convey lessons of the most valuable kind, as they prove that those labouring under recent attacks of insanity (or rather the state of physical disease inducing or accompanying insanity) when early subjected to the proper treatment and care so easily attainable in all well appointed and well conducted Institutions for the insane, are as capable of being cured, and have as great chances of recovery, as those labouring under other diseases of a serious character. It will be observed, that these cases were sent in to the Hospital within fourteen days after seizure, and during that short period no organic lesions having had time to form, the disease readily yielded to the treatment, and convalescence once being established, it became regular and progressive to complete recovery. It is a well known fact, that from 70 to 80 per cent. of those who are subjected to treatment within a few weeks after the first attack, speedily recover; and the statistical tables of this Institution, as exemplified in this Report, give a higher per centage upon such cases, viz., 82.93 per cent. The importance of early treatment cannot be too forcibly impressed upon the medical men attending, as well as the relatives of those so afflicted.

TABLE 4.—*Ages of those Admitted & those Discharged Cured.*

	ADMITTED.			DISC. CURED.			Per Centage of Cures.
	M.	F.	Totl	M.	F.	Totl	
From 10 to 20	2	0	2	1	0	1	50.
„ 20 to 30	3	3	6	3	3	6	100.
„ 30 to 40	4	3	7	2	3	5	71.3
„ 40 to 50	5	4	9	2	2	4	44.3
„ 50 to 60	2	5	7	0	1	1	14.2
„ 60 to 80	1	1	2	0	0	0	
	17	16	33	8	9	17	

Both of the cases admitted under twenty years of age, were cases of mania, in which no hereditary tendency could be traced. Not a few of the cases, as will be seen from the table, were at an advanced age at the time of their admission, nine being between fifty-five and eighty years of age.

TABLE 5.—*Forms of Disease in those Admitted.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Mania Acute	10	6	16
„ Chronic	0	1	1
„ Puerperal	0	2	2
„ a Potu	0	1	1
„ with General Paralysis ...	1	0	1
Melancholia	2	3	5
Monomania	3	2	5
Dementia	1	1	2
	—	—	—
	17	16	33

This table exhibits nearly the same forms of insanity as that of last year. The numbers admitted labouring under Puerperal Mania are fewer, but it affords me much gratification to remark that every case of this form of mania admitted into the Hospital has recovered.

Many of the cases presented features of great interest. One gentleman possessed of a handsome income imagined that he was sunk in the depths of poverty, and has, for months obstinately refused to partake of food in any form, on the supposition that he could not pay for it. Several of the patients have manifested tendencies which have led me to believe that they had not escaped being infected with the “Diggin” epidemic, having shewn much pleasure and untiring perseverance in picking up what they called “nuggets” and “diamonds” from the garden

walks. One patient is possessed with the belief that everything he touches becomes gold, and belongs to him. This insane optimism is associated with that most unfavourable and hopeless form of insanity which leads its victim, while rejoicing over unbounded wealth, into the most entire prostration of every mental and voluntary function. Besides the preceding cases manifesting ideas of wealth and grandeur, we have had under care the past year, one who believed himself to be God; two who believed themselves to be Jesus Christ; one, the Queen; one, a Prince; one, a Duchess; and two, Apostles.

TABLE 6.—*Illustrative of Suicidal tendency in those Admitted.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Mania	3	4	7
„ a Potu	0	1	1
„ Puerperal	0	1	1
Melancholia	2	2	4
Monomania	2	1	3
	—	—	—
	7	9	16

In addition to the sixteen patients here enumerated, there were six others remaining under treatment from last year having like tendencies, making a total of twenty-two who had either attempted or meditated suicide previous to or after admission. Seven of these continued to manifest a strong desire for death, and made many attempts to effect their purpose. Notwithstanding the number of cases manifesting suicidal and homicidal tendencies (of which last there were five), and the perseverance and cunning displayed in endeavouring to accomplish their purpose, it is with gratitude I record that no accident has hitherto occurred in the Institution.

TABLE 7.—*Causes of Disease in those Admitted.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Anxiety	1	1	2
Grief	1	1	2
Disappointment in Business	2	2	4
Religious Excitement	1	3	4
Fast Living and Intemperance	1	1	2
Child Bed.....	0	2	2
Speculation	1	0	1
Mental Excitement.....	6	1	7
Uncertain or unknown	4	5	9
	—	—	—
	17	16	33

Intemperance here, as usual, figures as one of the causes of insanity, and although in smaller proportion than in the statistics of Institutions receiving patients chiefly from the labouring classes, it makes with us, as well as with them, no less certain of its victims. The cause of disease in others is attributed to religious excitement, but erroneously so called, inasmuch as the excitement is more generally caused by the absence of religion, or by the superstitious fears of an ill-regulated mind. The greatest in point of frequency is from mental excitement, arising from various causes.

TABLE 8.—*Forms of Disease in those Discharged Recovered.*

	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
Mania	5	3	8
,, Puerperal	0	3	3
,, a Potu	1	0	1
Melancholia	1	2	3
Monomania	0	1	1
Moral Insanity	1	0	1
	—	—	—
	8	9	17

The forms of insanity in those who have been discharged cured, bear nearly the same relative proportion to the number of cases admitted of the same kind as last year.

Of the cases, one-half had been placed under treatment within one month from the invasion of the malady, while upwards of three-fourths of the entire number were so placed within three months. One case recovered in which the insanity had existed nearly two years before admission.

TABLE 9.—*Duration of Disease before Admission in those Discharged Recovered.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Under 1 month	3	5	8
From 1 to 3 months	4	2	6
„ 3 to 6 „	0	2	2
„ 12 to 24 „	1	0	1
	—	—	—
	8	9	17

TABLE 10.—*Period of Residence of those Discharged Recovered, Relieved, and Dead.*

	RECOVERED.			RELIEVED.			DEAD.		
	M.	F.	Totl	M.	F.	Totl	M.	F.	Totl
Under 1 month	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
From 1 to 3 months	1	2	3	0	0	0	2	2	4
„ 3 to 6 „	0	6	6	0	1	1	0	0	0
„ 6 to 12 „	3	0	3	0	2	2	2	0	2
„ 12 to 24 „	2	1	3	1	0	1	2	0	2
	8	9	17	1	3	4	6	2	8

MORTALITY.—For eleven months prior to December last, during which time sixty patients had been under treatment, no death had occurred at the Hospital, a circumstance affording such gratification as to have merited

a special remark from the Commissioners in Lunacy, on the occasion of their visit, in October last. Since that date, the mortality has been above our usual average; but it is consoling to know that in three-fourths of those who have died, the insanity had become confirmed, the other fourth belonging to the class of recent cases. The greater number of those who died were between 55 and 65 years of age, and they had laboured under insanity from two to fourteen years. Eight in all have died,—four of them from insanity or the diseases immediately causing it, or the exhaustion consequent upon it; two died from phthisis or consumption; one from apoplexy; and the other from debility, arising from a systematic course of intemperance carried on over a space of nearly twenty years.

REMOVALS OR RELIEVED.—The evils consequent upon a too early removal from beneficial control and treatment are occasionally occurring. Friends are too apt to be deceived by the apparent calmness, self-possession, and improved health of the patient; and, becoming importunate, and urging the old and fallacious argument, that if they are quiet in the Hospital they will be so at home, assist in increasing the desire of the patient for a premature restoration to society. It is a well known fact, that many of the insane, who are noisy and totally unmanageable by their friends, become calm and docile when admitted into an Asylum. Such a change does not indicate the cessation of disease, but only that it is held in check by the varied influences brought to bear upon it. Many of our inmates, who are cheerful and contented, constantly occupied during the day, entering with pleasure into all the recreations and amusements afforded them, would soon relapse to their former condition, if restored prematurely to the exciting causes of their malady.

In the treatment of all other diseases, it is not considered

prudent to suspend the use of remedies upon the first indications of cure. Unfortunately, society reasons less accurately in this respect, as regards insanity, than it does in other diseases.

MORAL TREATMENT.—All the means of cure, medical and moral, hitherto in operation, have been continued with increased vigour during the past year; and, notwithstanding the difficulties already alluded to in the beginning of this Report, it is in the highest degree satisfactory that I am enabled to report the great success which has attended my exertions.

In all other physical diseases, the moral treatment forms a not unimportant part of the treatment, but it becomes of much more importance as one of the most essential elements in treating that class of maladies where the organ of thought itself has become the seat of disease.

Of the means in use, active occupation in the open air is undoubtedly the most beneficial as a means of cure. The object kept in view in devising occupation for the patients, and in which they are engaged only and in so far as it is found to be remedial and a means of recovery, and which to a certain extent I have succeeded in impressing them with, has been to induce them to take that interest in the improvement of the gardens and pleasure grounds, and in the progress of our farming operations, as would give a zest and object to their labour. This feeling has been developed, and displayed in the interest manifested by them in their various employments, and by the cheerful assistance given by them in the repairs and alterations necessary in the Hospital.

In addition to the ordinary cropping and gardening occupations undertakings in the way of forming new walks, levelling, planting, new fences, and other works, have been in constant operation, and have afforded occupation to the

able-bodied from the more intelligent and docile to the most imbecile and unmanageable. These operations have been principally carried on, on the piece of land immediately behind the Hospital, which we are now laying out as a kitchen garden, the site of which as originally planned having been found objectionable in certain respects. In addition to this I have about six acres of land under crop.

During the summer months nearly two-thirds of the male patients have been regularly employed in out-door occupation during stated hours of the day (*viz.* four hours) under the constant care, inspection, and instruction of well qualified attendants; in our hay and harvest operations the patients have given us much and valuable assistance, and during the summer even the ladies have frequently volunteered their aid, and have afforded us bands of cheerful and active assistants in our pleasure gardens, although for them the chief source of employment is in the work room, where, under the instruction and direction of the Matron, the number of articles made and repaired sufficiently attests the activity and industry which prevails in the ladies' department. In addition to the more ordinary, they are also engaged in the more ornamental kinds of needle and fancy work. The habits of self control, order, and propriety are by these means so encouraged and restored, that they supply us with an important instrument for establishing that influence and control over the patients, so necessary and so conducive to their recovery.

Music, singing, and drawing, are much practised; excursions are made frequently to some of the neighbouring towns and villages, for the purposes of shopping, &c., and occasionally to Manchester by a select few to some of the popular amusements. These excursions are sources of great interest and pleasure. They form, from time to time, new subjects of conversation, and afford, with the

means of in-door amusement, such as bagatelle, chess, &c., and reading from the library, a great and pleasing variety.

The occupations of the gentlemen are more varied and numerous; in addition to the out and in-door means of recreation already mentioned, they have access to the carpenter's and engineer's workshops. One of our patients constructed a turning-lathe, every piece of which was, with remarkable ingenuity, manufactured by himself from the rough materials found upon the premises. He put himself systematically to work, made all his own tools, converted the cast iron bars into steel, made moulds and castings of the different grooves, screws, and wheels, cut the frame and blocks out of the solid oak, and succeeded in constructing a lathe, upon which has been done all the turning work required on the premises.

Nor is the cultivation of the Fine Arts neglected. Some good likenesses have been taken in oil and in water colours. Etchings and designs for friezes and elevations of public buildings have also been made.

We have at the Hospital some very beautiful sculptured figures and models, executed by the patients.

Walks and drives in the country—and pic nic parties—have followed each other with great frequency and zeal, as formerly.

The fortnightly concert and ball have been kept up with the usual spirit, until the setting-in of the warm weather; as before, this has been found a powerful auxiliary in the treatment, and it has been varied occasionally by extraordinary exertions on the part of the inmates, to mark a holiday, or to do honour to some of the former inmates, who, having been cured, retain a grateful recollection of the benefits received, and occasionally come and join in our festivities.

Christmas and New Year's Day had their usual festivi-

ties; a central suite of rooms was tastefully and elaborately decorated for the occasion. On Christmas morning the inmates were treated with a concert of sacred music, including the Christmas Hymn, which appeared to afford them much enjoyment.

A large arbour or open summer house has been erected, from plans drawn by one of the patients, in each of the largest gardens belonging to the male and female departments, from which the patients have derived great benefit during summer, being able to be out in the open air, without being exposed to the bad effects of exposure to the rays of the sun. In constructing them the object was kept in view of elevating them so much as to afford the patients a full view of the surrounding country, which they appear very much to enjoy.*

The Library of the Hospital has, through the gifts of kind friends, continued to increase; and with the ample supply of newspapers and periodicals, is a constant source of occupation and enjoyment.

Among other sources of interest and amusement, I must not omit to refer once more to the visits of those who were formerly patients in the Hospital. Those visits seldom fail to produce a beneficial effect on the minds of the inmates, to whom they afford the most practical and intelligible of all proofs, that their own condition is not destitute of hope, while they are at the same time satisfactory to us, as showing that, in spite of the many associations of a painful nature, which must necessarily attend a residence here, there are not wanting some of a more pleasing kind.

The Hospital was visited by the Commissioners in Lunacy on 21st October, 1851; their report of the condi-

* These arbours have received the unqualified approbation of the Commissioners in Lunacy at their recent visit.

tion of the Hospital, which was most satisfactory, was published in the annual report of last year.

In conclusion, it only remains for me to thank the Directors generally, as well as the Physicians, for the uniform courtesy and support which I have received from them in the discharge of the responsible and onerous duties which have devolved upon me.

THOS. DICKSON, L.R.C.S.E.,
Resident Medical Superintendent.

19th August, 1852.

Since the preceding pages have gone to press the Hospital has been inspected by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, from whose report the following extracts are subjoined:—

“ Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital,
“ 22nd September, 1852.

“ We have visited this Hospital and seen all the patients,
“ viz., 21 males and 13 females. At the time of our visit
“ no one was under mechanical restraint, nor in seclusion;
“ indeed the patients were, without exception, in a tran-
“ quil state. For the most part they are in good bodily
“ health.

“ Six male and three female patients are reported to be
“ under medical treatment.

“ A considerable number of the male patients occupy
“ themselves in gardening, and some assist in the wards.
“ We learn also that nearly all the females are induced
“ to employ themselves at their needle, and in reading,
“ drawing, and music. Much credit is due to the Super-
“ intendent for having so successfully carried out a system
“ of employment which is at all times difficult with patients
“ of the upper classes.

“ Prayers are read as usual in the wards, and we are
“ glad to learn that the committee intend shortly to have
“ the chapel seated and brought into use.

“ Since the last visit of the Commissioners, on the 22nd
“ of October, 1851, 25 patients have been admitted, and

“ 22 have been discharged, of whom 17 were recovered.

“ Within the same period 10 deaths have occurred.

“ We have examined and signed the various books, and
 “ made an entry in the patients’ book. The recent certi-
 “ ficates have been laid before us.

“ We think that the general condition of the Hospital
 “ and patients is creditable to Dr. and Mrs. Dickson, and
 “ we only have to regret that so few patients have the
 “ benefit of the good accommodation provided.

“ Signed,

“ W. G. CAMPBELL, } Commissioners
 “ S. GASKELL, } in Lunacy.”