

Fifth annual report of the medical superintendent of the lunatic asylum, for the counties of Salop and Montgomery, and for the borough of Much Wenlock, 1849 / [Salop and Montgomeryshire Counties Lunatic Asylum].

Contributors

Salop and Montgomeryshire Counties Lunatic Asylum.
Everest, Thomas.
Oliver, Richard.

Publication/Creation

Shrewsbury : printed by Richard Davies, 1850.

Persistent URL

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FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE COUNTIES OF

SALOP AND MONTGOMERY,

AND FOR


THE BOROUGH OF MUCH WENLOCK.

1849.

SHREWSBURY:

PRINTED BY RICHARD DAVIES, HIGH STREET.

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FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
LUNATIC ASYLUM FOR THE
COUNTIES OF SALOP AND MONTGOMERY
 AND FOR THE
BOROUGH OF MUCH WENLOCK.

ON the 1st of January, 1849, the number of Patients remaining in the Asylum was 139; and of those, 73 were Males and 66 were Females. In the course of the year 37 Males and 51 Females were admitted; 14 Males and 30 Females were discharged Recovered; 1 Female was discharged Relieved; 3 Females were discharged Unimproved; 8 Males and 8 Females died; and 88 Males and 75 Females remain.

The average number of Patients resident during the year 1849, was 155.03: viz.—80.44 Males, and 74.59 Females.

Among the admissions this year are enumerated the cases of 13 individuals, viz.—6 Males and 7 Females who had previously been inmates of the Institution. Of these 1 Male and 1 Female had been removed unimproved, and had been absent from the Asylum for some years, whilst the others here referred to had been severally discharged Recovered and had been respectively absent as follows: viz.

	MALES.	FEMALES.
Four Months - - -	-	1
Five Months - - -	-	1
Eight Months - - -	1	
Eleven Months - - -	-	1
Fourteen Months - - -	-	1
Twenty-two Months - - -	1	
Twenty-four Months - - -	-	2
Twenty-six Months - - -	1	
Thirty-six Months - - -	1	
Forty-eight months - - -	1	

Comparing the number of Recoveries with the number of Admissions in this and in the two preceding years, and contrasting these respective periods with each other, it is gratifying to notice something which looks like progressive improvement, and which would already seem to point to the effects of those important changes which have been made in the extent and nature of the domestic accommodation of the institution, and to the generally improved means for promoting the physical health and comfort of the Patients.

The subjoined tabular statement will readily make this evident.

	Actual Number of Admissions.	Actual Number of Recoveries.	Proportion of Recoveries.
1847	70	29	41.43 per Cent
1848	62	27	45 per Cent
1849	88	44	50 per Cent

A corresponding diminution in the ratio of mortality, as set forth in a similar manner below, would likewise conduce to render this gratifying supposition more probable.

	Average Number Resident.	Actual Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths.
1847	117.78	16	13.69 per Cent
1848	133.33	16	12 per Cent
1849	155.03	16	10.32 per Cent

The principal alterations and additions above referred to having been so recently enumerated and described in the Supplement to the Medical Officer's Report for 1848, it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here; and the general facts observed during the past year being arranged in the usual Tabular Order, there are

not many other circumstances to which it may at present be expedient to direct attention. In the way of equipment, there are but two things which it would be particularly unsafe and undesirable to disregard or postpone. The Iron Palisades or Railings between the small Courts in which excited Patients are occasionally placed, and the new, or South, Courts with which they are connected, have been found insufficient to prevent individuals climbing over them. In this way the chances of escape have been sometimes facilitated; but the principal objection to the present arrangement is the risk which several persons run of suffering serious, or even fatal, injury from falling in this situation. This danger would be completely obviated by placing a roof over the top of the palisades, and thereby forming a most convenient protection from the sun in hot weather, and from rain at other times, for that class of Patients who are generally least able to work out of doors, and to whom, nevertheless, the free access of fresh air and the influence of a cheerful prospect are of the utmost consequence.

The other point appertains to the maintenance of the supply of water, the efficiency of the drainage, and the simplification of the means of warming the building in winter. By the adaptation of a second boiler to the steam engine the whole of these requirements would be effectually provided for; but whilst a single boiler is solely depended on for maintaining the salubrity of the Institution, and is liable at any moment to sudden and unexpected failure, from the starting of a rivet or other accident, there would be no possible means, in the event of such failure, of obtaining an adequate supply of water for a very considerable length of time; and there can be no doubt whatever that the effect of any long continued scarcity of water upon the sanatory state of the Asylum would be most disastrous. Whenever anything *has* occurred to cause a serious diminution or interruption in the supply of water which is requisite for constantly and completely flushing the drains, the morbid effects of the malaria thus originating have been unmistakeable in their character; and the occurrence of epidemic catarrhal fever (influenza), when diarrhoea and other signs of gastric and intestinal irritation have been prevalent here, has more than once served to manifest the distinction between the effects produced by local miasmata and those which were dependent on general atmospheric changes.

There can be no question that the plan adopted for the removal of excrementitious matters, and for insuring the general purity of the air in the building is a good one: the suggestion here offered relates merely to the due maintenance of the means for

carrying it into effect: and although it may not be strictly true that the entire exemption of the Inmates of the Asylum from Asiatic Cholera last summer, was exclusively dependent upon the efficiency of those means at the time when that terrible malady was so generally prevalent elsewhere, it is certainly not unreasonable to impute a large share of the advantage to this circumstance. The general maintenance and augmentation of *physical* health, in point of fact, forms the ground-work upon which every other object contemplated in the treatment of the Insane is founded; so that as this is a matter of primary importance and of absolute necessity there can be no need upon the present occasion to urge it further. Other things follow in the same general direction, and are all more or less tributary to the fulfilment of the same purpose. Even the moral regimen, or, in other words, the provision for inducing mental tranquillity and comfort, is only a branch of the same subject, and tending, as it does under favourable circumstances, to diminish the waste and consequent want of organic power which so prominently characterise almost every form of Insanity, its good effects are actually produced in the same way. For this reason, the necessity for assimilating the general customs and arrangements of the Institution, as far as possible, to the habits and usages of ordinary life, becomes one of the most important principles of management. By the constant endeavour to carry out this principle, the unavoidable irksomeness of confinement is divested of all unnecessary harshness, the mode of living is not felt to be unnatural, and the most fruitful source of general irritation is rendered comparatively harmless. The annexed Abstract from the "Daily Register of the State of the Patients" will show the mode in which this object is attempted to be accomplished here:

MALES.

Tuesday, December 18th, 1849.

		A.M.	P.M.
Patients	...	88	88
"	Employed in Domestic Offices ..	10	9
"	" as Tailors ...	3	3
"	" Shoemakers ...	2	2
"	" Labourers ...	34	34
"	" in Picking Coir ...	16	16
"	who attended Chapel ...	50	0
"	Unemployed Bedridden ...	2	2
"	" from other incapacity ...	22	22
"	in seclusion ...	0	0
"	Wet ...	0	4
"	Dirty ...	0	2
"	Kept clean ...	0	13

The number of men occupied in working at their respective trades has been very uncertain. The shoemakers only commenced to work regularly in December, and in the course of the month made six pairs and mended ten pairs of shoes, and made thirty pairs of braces. The tailors were more steadily employed, and, besides assisting to repair the men's clothing, made sixteen jackets, sixty waistcoats, and forty pairs of trowsers. The smithy has been found to afford a most important convenience in being always at hand for the supply of many incidental wants. The engine-man's estimate of the difference between the actual cost of the new work and repairs done there by the Patients during the year, and the ordinary market value of such things is £25. 8s. 1d.

The carpenter's shop, in like manner, has been a great convenience; but the articles made and the work done there by the Patients during the year, are of two miscellaneous a kind to admit of an easy estimate or enumeration.

FEMALES.

Tuesday, December 18th, 1849.

				A.M.	P.M.
Patients	...	...	...	76	76
„	Employed in Kitchen	...	...	5	5
„	„ Laundry	...	...	12	12
„	„ Sewing	...	...	23	23
„	„ Knitting	...	...	7	7
„	„ other Domestic Offices	...	...	7	7
„	who attended Chapel	...	...	34	0
„	Unemployed Bedridden	...	...	4	4
„	„ from other incapacity	..	..	17	18
„	in seclusion	...	...	1	0
„	Wet	...	...	0	2
„	Dirty	...	...	0	1
„	Kept clean	...	...	0	7

The following is a List of the Articles of Clothing, &c. made by the Female Patients during the year 1849.*

Aprons	...	224	Petticoats	...	120
Bed Head covers	...	40	Pillow Cases	...	60
Caps	...	272	Sheets Pairs of	...	33
Cloaks	...	10	Shifts	...	132
Curtains (Window)	...	60	Shirts	...	107
Dresses (Strong)	...	12	Stockings Pairs of	...	108
Drawers Pairs of	...	25	Table Cloths	...	21
Gowns	...	74	Towels	...	160
Ditto Night	...	60	Waistcoats	...	62
Kerchiefs (Neck & Pocket)	190				

* On two days in each week the Females are employed in repairing Articles.

In addition to the points before referred to as urgently requiring attention, it may here be mentioned that the Kitchen is by no means so commodious as it ought to be in an Institution which contains so large a number of persons, and that it would be well if some plan were devised both for improving its arrangements and for placing it, if possible, in some more suitable situation.

The formation of a Bowling green in a readily accessible place has furnished the Male Patients with the means of much healthful pastime ; and whilst the ground on the south side of the Asylum continues to be the principal field of employment for the men, its greatly improved arrangements, and particularly the terrace which in a great measure deprives the boundary wall of its unsightly aspect, whilst it affords the opportunity of obtaining a complete view of the diversified country beyond it, will shortly be available for the occasional recreation and gratification of the women also.

Within doors, the great source of general amusement is Music ; and as this is absolutely indispensable, whilst the present means of obtaining it are somewhat uncertain, it is exceedingly desirable that this matter should be placed on a more secure footing by furnishing the Institution with a good barrel organ, or other similar instrument.

In the course of the year several attempts were made to escape, and in four of those the individuals were so far successful as to get clear off. In one case the person was absent from the Asylum for not more than an hour. In the other instances the periods of absence from the Asylum were respectively eight hours, thirty-two hours, and four days.

RICHARD OLIVER, M.D.

Bicton,
January 1st, 1850.

1. TABLE exhibiting the number of Patients in the Asylum, with the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the year ended December 31st, 1849.

	Remaining January 1st, 1849.	Admitted	Discharged Recovered.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unimproved	Died.	Remaining Dec. 31, 1849.
MALES.....	73	37	14	0	0	8	88
FEMALES..	66	51	30	1	3	8	75
TOTAL.....	139	88	44	1	3	16	163

2. TABLE exhibiting the conditions of Celibacy, Marriage, and Widowhood of the Patients admitted during the year, 1849.

	Males	Females.	Total.
Single.....	18	22	40
Married	18	22	40
Widowed	1	7	8

3. TABLE exhibiting the ages of the Patients admitted during the year ended December 31st, 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Between 15 & 20	4	2	6
... 20 & 25	1	9	10
... 25 & 30	6	5	11
... 30 & 35	5	4	9
... 35 & 40	3	4	7
... 40 & 45	3	11	14
... 45 & 50	2	2	4
... 50 & 55	4	5	9
... 55 & 60	3	3	6
... 60 & 65	2	3	5
... 65 & 70	1	1	2
... 70 & 75	1	1	2
... 75 & 80	0	0	0
... 80 & 85	1	1	2
... 85 & 90	1	0	1

4. TABLE exhibiting the Duration of the Malady at the time of Admission in the whole of the Patients received during the year ended December 31st, 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Less than 1 month ...	9	14	23
..... 2 months ...	5	5	10
..... 3 months ...	5	5	10
..... 6 months ...	4	8	12
..... 9 months ...	2	7	9
More than 1 year ...	4	2	6
..... 2 years ...	5	2	7
..... 3 years ...	1	1	2
..... 4 years ...	0	3	3
..... 6 years ...	0	1	1
..... 8 years ...	1	1	2
..... 10 years ...	0	0	0
During Life	1	2	3

5. TABLE exhibiting the Duration of the Malady at the time of admission in the Cases Discharged Recovered, during the year 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Less than 1 month ...	5	9	14
..... 2 months ...	5	8	13
..... 3 months ...	2	2	4
..... 6 months ...	0	4	4
..... 9 months ...	0	5	5
More than 1 year ...	1	1	2
..... 3 years ...	0	1	1
..... 13 years ...	1	0	1

6. TABLE exhibiting the Occupations of the Patients admitted during the year 1849.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Bank Clerk (out of place)	1	Beer Shop Keeper	1
Bricklayer	1	Bricklayer's Wife	1
Clergyman	1	Boat Builder Daughter of	1
Colliers	3	Carpenter Wife of	1
Cooper	1	Chare Woman... ..	1
Farmers	3	Clerk Wife of	1
Farmer's Son	1	Colliers Wives of	2
Forgeman... ..	1	„ Widows of... ..	2
Game keeper	1	Dress Maker	1
Labourers	13	Farmers Wives of	2
Publican	1	„ Widow of	1
Shoemakers	2	Labourers Wives of	11
Smiths	2	„ Widows of	2
Surgeon	1	„ Daughters of	2
Tailors	2	Miner Daughter of	1
Weaver	1	Pedlar Wife of	1
Wheelwright	1	Servants Domestic... ..	10
Of no occupation from in-		Shoemakers Wives of	2
capacity... ..	1	Thatcher Wife of	1
		Wheelwright Widow of	1
		Of no Occupation from in-	
		capacity	6

7. TABLE exhibiting the amount of Education in the cases admitted during the year 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well educated	2	1	3
Moderately educated	4	0	4
Can read and write	10	17	27
Can read only	13	17	30
Cannot read... ..	8	14	22
Unknown	0	2	2

8. TABLE exhibiting the supposed principal causes of the Malady in the Cases admitted during the year 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Age	1	2	3
Anemia	0	3	3
Cerebral Development Imperfect	0	4	4
Disappointed Affections	0	2	2
Domestic Troubles	2	0	2
Epilepsy... .. .	4	2	6
Fatigue	0	2	2
Fever	0	1	1
Grief	0	1	1
Hemorrhage	0	2	2
*Hereditary Predisposition without any obvious exciting Cause	4	9	13
Intemperance	8	0	8
Irregular Habits	3	1	4
Lactation	0	2	2
Physical Debility	4	4	8
Poverty	8	15	23
Previous Attacks without obvious exciting Cause	3	1	4

* The entire number of Cases in which Hereditary Predisposition is traceable..... 5 12 17

9. TABLE exhibiting the Number of Attacks in the Cases admitted during the year 1849.

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	7th	8th.	Unknown
Males	25	8	1	1	1	0	1
Females	32	10	1	6	0	1	1
Total	57	18	2	7	1	1	2

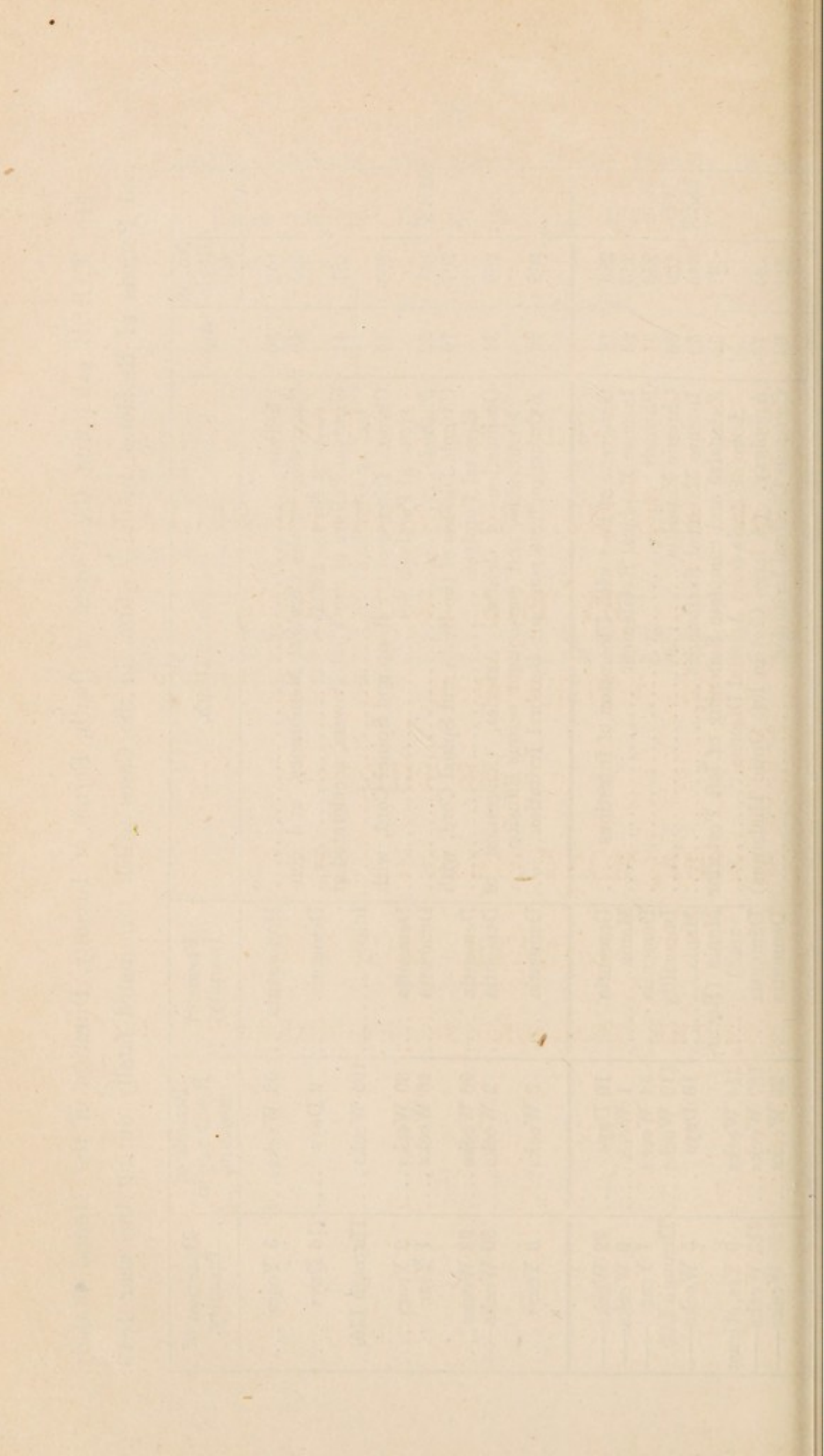
10. TABLE exhibiting the Forms of the Malady in the
Cases admitted during the year 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total
Mania	7	14	21
Monomania	3	6	9
Melancholia	3	12	15
Dementia	22	17	39
Moral Insanity	2	1	3
Delirium from Ex- haustion	0	1	1

The number of **Epileptic Cases** received during the year 1849 was 6: viz. 1 Male included under the head Monomania, with 3 Males and two Females included under the head Dementia.

11. TABLE exhibiting the Causes of Death, Forms of Insanity, Duration of the Mental Malady, and Periods of Residence in the Asylum, in the Cases which terminated fatally during the year 1849.

No. in Register.	Age.	Causes of Death.	Forms of Insanity.	Periods of Residence in Asylum.	Duration of Insanity.
192	30	Phthisis	Monomania ..	93 Weeks....	3 Years
305	40	Congestion of the Cerebral Membranes, and consequent Serous Effusion	Dementia	2 Days	16 Days
181	41	Gradual Failure of the Vital Powers, accelerated at last by Diarrhæa	Idiocy	105 Weeks	Through Life..
203	45	Chronic Disease of the Brain and Spinal Cord, with General Paralysis	Dementia	89 Weeks....	2 Years
MEN. 238	52	Phthisis	Dementia	46 Weeks....	1 Year
207	75	Chronic Disease of the Brain and Spinal Cord, with General Paralysis	Dementia	90 Weeks....	93 Weeks....
358	84	Ossification of Cerebral Arteries, Congestion of Membranes, and consequent serous Effusion....	Dementia	2 Weeks....	80 Weeks....
362	88	Exhaustion from constant Cerebral Irritation.....	Dementia	3 Weeks....	3 Years
288	18	Gangrene of Feet with Ulceration of Intestines	Dementia	10 Days	22 Weeks—
355	23	Intense Maniacal Excitement	Mania	1 Week	9 Weeks—
233	31	Phthisis	Dementia	44 Weeks....	1 Year —
139	36	Chronic Enteritis	Imbecility	119 Weeks....	Through Life..
345	50	Intense Maniacal Excitement	Mania	10 Days	5 Weeks—
31	54	Extensive and complete Softening of left Posterior Lobe of Brain from Arterial Disease.....	Mania (Recurrent)	214 Weeks....	9 Yrs. at least
64	73	Apoplexy. (A large Clot in left Optic Thalamus)	Dementia	187 Weeks....	213 Weeks—
311	84	Constant Cerebral Irritation	Dementia	25 Weeks....	129 Weeks—



AN ACCOUNT
OF ALL MONIES RECEIVED OR PAID
BY THE TREASURER,
OR OTHERWISE, ON ACCOUNT
OF THE
SALOP, MONTGOMERY, AND WENLOCK
LUNATIC ASYLUM,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31ST, 1849.

RECEIPTS.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To Cash per Unions and Parishes contributing to the Asylum, for the Maintenance, &c. of Patients	3615	4	3			
Ditto Salop County Treasurer for Patients chargeable to the County	109	10	0			
Ditto Montgomery Ditto for Ditto.....	13	11	6			
				3738	5	9
Carried forward...				3738	5	9

PAYMENTS.

BY SALARIES AND WAGES.				£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Medical Superintendent and Matron (less maintenance of family)...	...	...	...	255	5	0			
Clerk	...	...	...	50	0	0			
Chaplain	...	...	...	40	0	0			
Treasurer (proportion of)...	...	...	...	20	0	0			
Chief Attendant	...	...	...	37	5	0			
Engineer (57 weeks)	...	...	...	57	0	0			
Six Attendants at £27, £26, and £25	...	...	...	148	6	0			
Six Nurses at £11 10s, £11 0s., and £10 10s.	...	...	...	60	0	0			
Cook and Laundress, at £13 each	...	...	...	26	0	0			
Kitchen Maid	...	...	...	6	0	0			
Gate Keeper	...	...	...	6	10	0			
Washer Women, Gardener, & Labourers	...	...	...	19	15	2			
Semstresses, making clothes and bedding	...	...	...	12	9	6			
							738	10	8
PROVISIONS & NECESSARIES, &c.									
Bread, Flour, and Oatmeal	...	...	...	544	17	0			
Butcher's Meat	...	...	...	408	11	11			
Butter, Cheese, and Bacon	...	...	...	234	3	8			
Grocery, Soap, and Candles	...	...	...	288	9	1			
Beer and Ale	...	...	...	305	11	6			
Potatoes and other Vegetables	...	...	...	108	13	6			
Milk and Fresh Butter	...	...	...	45	3	3			
American Beans and Pea Flour...	...	...	...	27	12	0			
Wine and Spirits, (2 years)	...	...	...	54	15	10			
Fruit, Fish, &c.	...	...	...	14	9	6			
Coals, Coke, and Cordwood	...	...	...	280	7	1			
Oil and Camphine	...	...	...	40	9	3			
							2353	3	7
Carried forward...							3091	14	3

Claims and Liabilities of the

	£.	s.	d.
To Amount of Accounts delivered for maintenance, &c. of Patients, for the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1849	1116	16	0
Arrears of former Accounts due from			
Llanfyllin Union	67	15	3
Madeley	146	8	0
Montgomery County Treasurer	6	18	0
Oswestry Incorporation	76	7	0
Pool, Middle Division	6	18	0
Pool, Lower Division	20	9	6
Worthen	13	16	0
Castle Caereinion	3	3	0
St. Julian, Shrewsbury	36	0	0
	1494	10	9

Quantities and prices of Provisions, &c.

	£	s.	d.
Beef, Roasting, 748lbs. at 6d. 5½d.	18	8	2
Boiling, 15680 lbs. at 5d. 4½d. 4d.	298	13	11
Mutton, 3606lbs. at 5½d. 5¼d. 5d.	79	7	9
Other Meat, 369¼ lbs.	10	15	0
Suet, 210½ lbs. at 5d.	4	7	9
Flour, 94 bushels, at 7s. 5d	34	15	6
Bread, 65327 lbs. at 1½d. 1¼d. 1½d.	482	14	10
Oatmeal, 11 sacks, at 32s 30s.	17	6	0
Butter, fresh, 159 lbs.	9	0	9
salt, 3368 lbs. at 10¾d. 10½d. 9¼d.	145	11	5
Cheese, 3369 lbs. at 4¾d. 4¼d.	66	10	4
Tea, 253 lbs. at 5s. 4s. 3s. 9d.	50	7	2
Coffee, 852 lbs. at 2s. 1s. 4d. 1s. 3s.	58	4	0
Sugar, Lump, 240 lbs. at 6½d. 6d.	6	8	9
Brown, 3234 lbs. at 5d. 4½d.	64	13	1
Rice, 1568 lbs. at 26s. 22s. 21s.	15	11	0

Consumed during the year 1849.

	£.	s.	d.
Milk, new. 1114 quarts, at 2d.	-	-	9 5 8
skim, 7387, at $\frac{1}{14}$ d.	-	-	26 9 5
ale and Porter, 630 gallons, at 52s. 49s. 6d.	-	-	44 5 9
Beer, 6722 gallons, at 30s. 27s.	-	-	271 5 11
Wine and Spirits	-	-	28 17 1
Potatoes and other Vegetables	-	-	106 15 11
Soap, 1650 lbs. at 60s. 45s. 42s.	-	-	34 8 5
Candles, 384lbs. at 8d. 6d. $5\frac{1}{2}$ d.	-	-	11 11 0
Oil, 96 gallons, at 5s. 4s. 6d.	-	-	22 16 4
Amphine, $105\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, at 5s. 6d. 5s.	-	-	27 4 9
Coals, 390 tons, at 12s. 7d. 12s. 6d. 12s.	-	-	242 8 1
Woke, $58\frac{1}{2}$ tons, 22s. 21s. 6d. 21s.	-	-	62 14 10

THOMAS EVEREST, Clerk of the Asylum.

April 2nd, 1850.

AUDITED { T. H. HOPE,
 J. O. HOPKINS.

measured during the year 1840.

No.	Description	Quantity	Value
1	Wine, 1114 quarts, at 25.	1114	27850
2	Wine, 7887, at 56.	7887	441062
3	Wine and Porter, 680 gallons, at 52s. 4d.	680	35520
4	Wine, 6722 gallons, at 30s. 3d.	6722	201666
5	Wine and Spirits		
6	Potatoes and other Vegetables		
7	Wine, 1650 lbs. at 60s. 4d.	1650	99660
8	Wine, 3511s. at 8d. 6d.	3511	29592
9	Wine, 100 gallons, at 5s. 4d.	100	5440
10	Wine, 1054 gallons, at 5s. 6d.	1054	58424
11	Wine, 300 tons, at 12s. 7d. 12d.	300	37500
12	Wine, 584 tons, 32s. 2s. 6d. 2s.	584	189120

THOMAS EVEREST, Clerk of the Assize.

Printed and Sold by T. O. HOPKINS, Stationer, No. 11, St. Paul's Church-yard, London.