The annual report of Dr. Parsey, M.D., medical superintendent of the County of Warwick Pauper Lunatic Asylum, at Hatton, near Warwick, to the Committee of visitors: January 8th, 1864.

Contributors

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THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. PARSEY, M.D.,

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

COUNTY OF WARWICK PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM,

AT HATTON, NEAR WARWICK,

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

JANUARY 8TH, 1864.

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- J. O. BACCHUS, Esq., Leamington.

EDWARD WHELER, Esq., Leamington.

REPORT.

In laying before the Committee my Report of the condition of the Asylum and its inmates during the past Year, I have the satisfaction of stating that our progress throughout has been one of ordinary routine; and, though attended by occasional difficulties and emergencies, such as unavoidably occur in large Institutions of this description, giving cause for much temporary anxiety and trouble, has not been marked by any occurrences of a painful or distressing nature.

So far as the movements of the patients have been concerned, I think I may justly designate this as a satisfactory and not unsuccessful year. Whilst the admissions have been fewer than those of most other years, the recoveries show a per centage as high as what we have attained in any except one similar preceding period, and the mortality is somewhat below the average.

				M.	F.	-	TOTAL.
At the	close of t	the year 1862 ou	r numbers were	171	 197		368
During	the past	year there have	been Admitted	43	 45		88
	,,	,,	Died	25	 13		38
	,,	,,	Recovered	18	 16		34
	"	"	$\left. egin{array}{c} \operatorname{Relieved} \\ \operatorname{and} \\ \operatorname{Removed} \end{array} \right\} \dots$				
			and }	3	 3		6
		"	Removed)				
Absent	1	 0		1			
Remaini	ng at the	end of the year	1863	168	 210		378
Daily av	erage nui	mber resident		170	 200		370

Five of the admissions have been those of persons chargeable to Unions in other counties, and who have been, or will be, transferred to their respective Asylums; and, with respect to the admissions generally, I wish to bring under your notice that, so far as the past year's experience is of value, the fear entertained by many that a large increase to our numbers would result from the burden of maintenance being removed from the separate parishes to the common funds of Unions has been in no way realized; whilst the additional benefit accruing to individual patients, by their more speedy removal to the Asylum on the occurrence of mental disorder has been so far manifested that, though a large number of aged people with broken constitutions or destructive disease of brain have been received only to swell our

mortality, there has been a good proportion of really hopeful cases under treatment; and many of these have already been returned to their homes recovered.

The ages of patients on admission have been-

M.	F. TOTAL.	M. F. TOTAL.
Under 10 years 1	1 2 1	From 60 ,, 70 years 6 8 14
From 10 to 20 years 1	3 4	,, 70 ,, 80 ,, 4 1 5
,, 20 ,, 30 ,, 5	11 16	,, 80 ,, 85 ,, 0 1 1
,, 30 ,, 40 ,, 9	7 16	T-1-1 49 45 00
,, 40 ,, 50 ,, 4	10 14	Total43 45 88
,, 50 ,, 60 ,,13	3 16	

From which it appears that, whilst more than half the males were above the age of fifty at the time of their admission, only between a fourth and a third of the females had passed that age. This disparity necessarily exerts an unfavourable influence over the males, both in increasing their rate of mortality and in diminishing their proportion of recoveries; as all experience tends to shew that in advancing life the prospect of recovery from mental disorder is very much slighter than in the more active and vigorous period of earlier years.

The forms of insanity under which the newly-admitted patients were labouring were—

M.	F	TOTAL.	Company of the State of the Sta	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Mania under twelve		1	Puerperal Insanity	0	3	3
months' duration 14	19	33	Idiocy	2	1	3
Chronic Mania and				_	-	-
Dementia 22	12	34		43	45	88
Melancholia 5				-	-	-
000 0	11	4.3 -242	(Epilepsy	3	2	5
Of these there were comp	onca	ted with	General Paralysis	3	2	5

The whole number of congenital idiots now in the Asylum, that is of patients afflicted with idiocy, not being also epileptics, is thirty-nine. The number affected with mental disorder of any kind, being also epileptics, is sixty-one.

Among the females admitted during the year there have been none evincing any peculiarities demanding special comment. One (J. A.) was brought here in a state rendering the propriety of her removal somewhat questionable; she was in a very advanced stage of consumption, and had to bear the fatigue of a twenty-mile journey; and, though this was effected as comfortably as circumstances would permit, she lived in the Asylum only about two days and a half. Her previous mental excitement had been very great and distressing, which, with the difficulties attaching to her care and treatment in her home, no doubt,

in the jndgment of those about her, rendered her removal here exceedingly desirable, and sufficient to justify the risk attending it. Among the men there have been (as I had also to remark in my Annual Report immediately preceding this one) several admissions of persons in an advanced state of mental and physical decay from extensive brain disease, or from great age with failure of mental faculties. All such cases are admitted to die within a comparatively short space from the time of their being brought here; and it is their deaths that make such an apparent disparity in the mortality of the males and females. Still, their removal here is quite necessary, as they often for a time require very careful management and watchful attention, such as are impracticable in their own homes or in an ordinary Union House.

Two other of the men admitted in the past year have been a source of much trouble to us: one (J. S.) from having been in a state of active, noisy, restless mania for many months, during which his destruction of clothing, bedding, and the lighter furniture of his ward, has been very great, and himself a fertile cause of irritability and excitement among his fellow patients, from his annoying, quarrelsome, and sometimes pugnacious habits. Some of his most mischievous and troublesome propensities are now subsiding, and we may, I think, look forward to his ultimate recovery; but none, except those with whom such a case is brought into daily constant relation can conceive the amount of vexatious discomfort it entails on all in any way associated with The other (H. T.) has been of an altogether different character. Though under the influence of different delusions having no traceable connexion with his peculiar conduct, and though so far aware of his condition as to be able to express his conviction that this was the safest place for him, his insanity partly manifested itself for some months in a plausible cunning, exercised in the carrying out of petty destructive mischief, and in attempts to escape, objectless beyond an apparently vague uncontrollable desire to go home, though perfectly aware that he should be at once fetched back. This propensity, for it was nothing more, being unattended by any attempts at concealment to evade returning, had a most prejudicial influence over many other patients, giving rise to a general disposition to imitate his example, and keeping the attendants in a state of continual watchful anxiety.

I have mentioned these two cases not from their special peculiarities, or the rarity of their occurrence, but as exemplifying the often irksome and wearying duties devolving on those whose time is given to the care and management of the insane. It is a not uncommon remark of many who cursorily go through the wards of an Asylum, and see the order and quietude which generally prevail, that the life of those daily mixed up with the insane must be comparatively easy, though monotonous, objectionable only from the continual intercourse with minds devoid of proper intelligence. Were I to elaborate the daily vicissitudes of an Asylum life consequent on the varied perversions of intellect and feelings that have to be provided against, it would, I believe, on the contrary, be readily admitted that the duties they entail are never-ending, and for their faithful execution demand such thoughtful care and ready aptitude to meet emergencies, as involve a large amount both of labour and responsibility.

There is one other of the males (T. M.) admitted in the course of the year whom I may refer to here, not from any special interest attaching to him after admission, but from the peculiarly painful circumstance that led to the development of his insanity. He was a respectable inoffensive man, by trade a carpenter, seventy years old, and whilst returning home from his work in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, one evening last June, was attacked, as far as could be ascertained, by three ruffians, who robbed him, beat in his skull over the left eye, broke his left jaw in two places, and inflicted on him other severe injuries, leaving him insensible and nearly dead. He recovered so far as to live about five months after the injury, but his intellect had passed into a state of restless fatuity, and he was obliged to be removed here a few weeks after the perpetration of the brutal outrage that had so nearly deprived him of life.

One of the main features in the history of the past year consists in some extremely useful and valuable additions to what I may term the domestic aids to the restoration and comfort of our inmates. Among those of a minor description, two additional bagatelle tables and a small billiard table (which latter and one of the bagatelle tables I obtained for a few shillings each) have throughout the year contributed greatly to their amusement, as has also lately a magic lantern, which I have been able to purchase this autumn with part of the money allowed me by the Committee to expend at my discretion for such purposes. But, perhaps, the most attractive source of enjoyment of this kind, next to the usual fortnightly dances, has been some theatrical performances, got up among the attendants and servants for the benefit of the patients; and we have, both this year and last, been specially indebted to Mr. Sanders, for the time and trouble he has devoted to the self-imposed duties of general manager and conductor of these performances.

But of all the alterations and improvements of the past year, there has been none to bear any comparison with the useful comfort, and really necessary additional accommodation, afforded by the erection of a new and commodious Chapel. Our old Chapel had become altogether too small for the patients likely to be able to attend Divine Service out of the number that the Asylum now holds, as was manifested by the fact that on the opening of the new one about forty more were present than could in any way be found room for previously. There is also now proper space and accommodation for those of the out-door servants whose families live on the Asylum grounds, and who previously were entirely unprovided for. The new Chapel had consequently become in itself a necessity; but by its erection other pressing wants for additional space have been conveniently and satisfactorily met. for general amusements had always been very small and ill-adapted for its purpose; but by converting to this use the old Chapel. a large room, 42 by 32 feet, we have now a spacious and very convenient recreation room. And this adaptation has enabled you to meet a further want that the increasing size of the Asylum was causing to be urgently felt, that of an appropriate place in which the patients could be visited by their relatives. Until quite lately we had as visiting rooms, only two small, badly-lighted rooms at the back of the entrance hall, which are applied to the additional purpose of receiving rooms for new patients on their admission, whilst the necessary preliminaries to their being sent to one of the wards are being gone through. This was an occasional source of extreme inconvenience, when a new patient was presented for admission on the usual visiting days for the patients' friends. We are now able to use the old recreation room partly for its former purposes as an appendage to the newly-acquired one, but chiefly as the place of meeting for patients and their friends, much to the satisfaction of all of them.

All these new arrangements are extremely useful; and, trivial as some of them may appear to those not concerned in the daily workings of such an Institution, have done so much for the removal of constantly recurring inconveniences, that I hope I shall be excused having made them the subject of so lengthy observations.

The numbers in the Asylum now are considerably above those contemplated in the original design of the buildings, and press closely on the extreme amount of accommodation that has been made available by various adaptations and internal re-arrangements, which have as yet, without any detriment, been able to be effected. But, considering the population of the county, and the not very rapid increase in our numbers of late, it is very probable that you have nearly reached the limit beyond which the necessity for any extensive structural additions is scarcely to be anticipated. It is, however, by no means easy to form a reliable opinion on this point; more especially as the almost entire deficiency throughout the country of Asylums into which can be received, at a low pecuniary charge, the insane members of the classes removed somewhat above those that ordinarily seek parochial assistance. makes it difficult to compute to what extent County Asylums will continue to have indirectly to supply this deficiency. That a large number from these classes now find their way into the Pauper Asylums is undeniable; and in this county it is to the extended facilities afforded to those not really paupers, by arrangements with the parochial authorities, for obtaining shelter within our walls, that much of the unexpected increase in our numbers is to be attributed. With the present absence of other available means of properly providing for them, nobody could wish to deprive these unfortunates of the assistance which in their urgent necessity they derive from County Asylums; still, it should always be borne in mind that the reception into them of such cases was not originally contemplated, and that their presence not merely swells the apparent number of pauper lunatics, but from the publicity given to our statistics tends to foster the alarm which is now getting strong possession of the public mind that there is a rapid increase of lunacy among us.

That Asylums, in which the insane from the classes removed above the absolute poor can be received and properly treated, at a comparatively trifling cost, are very urgently needed, must be patent to all who give even a cursory thought to this subject. That such Asylums should be entirely independent of the existing county ones, there are many valid reasons for desiring; and that, could they be brought into existence, the present County Asylums would be greatly relieved of the pressure for room that is experienced in all of them, is very certain. The difficulty, however, of accomplishing so desirable and useful a work will be so great as to be almost insurmountable until the absolute need of them becomes much more generally felt and understood than it is at present. The few Asylums of a somewhat similar character that have sprung up in the last few years have their scale of charges so high as practically entirely to exclude those members of the community that so really require the shelter they might have afforded. Bethlehem and

St. Luke's Hospitals in London are still the only two which address themselves especially to the mitigation of this want; and, unfortunately, so little publicity is given to the advantages they are able to offer, that their very existence as charitable institutions for the insane from amongst the lower of the middle classes, much less the admirable manner in which they are conducted, is scarcely known in those quarters in which the benefits they can confer might be taken advantage of and converted into really so many blessings.

With regard to the discharges and mortality during the year just closed, I have little to say. The recoveries bear a proportion of rather above 38½ per cent. to the admissions, which is as large as that of any except one preceding year; and the deaths are in the ratio of 10½ per cent. on the daily average number of patients in the Asylum, the average for the ten preceding years having been 11 per cent. And I have the satisfaction of being able to say that we have been free from dangerous or serious accidents, and that, as in all preceding years since the opening of the Asylum, I have not to record a case of suicide. The causes of death have been—

	M.	F.	TOTAL.		M.	F.	TOTAL.
General Paralysis	2	3	5	General Dropsy and			
Chronic Disorganisa-				Old Age	0	1	1
tion of Brain	5	0	5	Enteritis	1	0	1
Epilepsy	5	0	5	Disease of Womb	0	1	1
Maniacal Exhaustion	4	0	4	Cancer	0	1	1
Decay of Age	3	0	3	Choking from Food			
Phthisis	2	7	9	in Windpipe	1	0	1
Pneumonia ,	1	0	1	SET ON SECURITY CONSTRUCTION	=	_	-
Albuminuria	1	0	1		25	13	38
					-	-	

The general character of the year has been one of progress, and, I hope, of improvement. Both myself and my colleague, Mr. Bowen, have endeavoured to provide faithfully such professional assistance as in our judgment we have considered advisable; and I can with much satisfaction state that, in matters of general management, and in all details conducing to alleviate the wants or promote the comforts of the patients, and to carry out the trust we hold under yourselves, I have had the hearty co-operation of all my fellow-officers and of the special ward attendants and general servants of the Asylum.

W. H. PARSEY, M. D.

After the reading of the foregoing Report at the Meeting of the General Committee of the Asylum, on the 8th of January, 1864, the following Resolution was ordered to be entered on the Minutes of the day, and appended to the printed copies of the Report for circulation throughout the county:—

"In referring to that portion of Dr. Parsey's Report which touches on the desirability (not to say the necessity) of an Establishment where Lunatics above the class of Paupers might be sheltered, the Committee consider that the subject should be more generally ventilated through the County, with a view to obtain the opinions of those who would be likely or anxious to contribute their aid and funds towards such an object."

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WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. PARSEY

RESIDENT MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS;

ALSO, THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

TO THE

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS, EPIPHANY, 1865;

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1864.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

WILLIAM DICKINS, Esq., Cherrington, Shipston-on-Stour, Chairman.

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OWEN PELL, Esq., Leamington.

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John Staunton, Esq., Longbridge House, Warwick.

HENRY CHRISTOPHER WISE, Esq., Woodcote, Warwick.

THE REV. RICHARD LICKORISH, Wolston, Coventry.

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THE REV. JAMES CORALL ROBERTS, Witherley, Atherstone.

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C. M. CALDECOTT, Esq., Holbrook Grange, near Rugby.

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J. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., Rugby.

J. O. BACCHUS, Esq., Leamington.

EDWARD WHEELER, Esq., Leamington.

James Dugdale, Esq., Wroxall Abbey.

REPORT.

The Committee of Visitors of the County Pauper Lunatic Asylum have to express to the Court their continued satisfaction with the general management of the Asylum, and with the medical treatment and general care and attention bestowed upon the Patients. During the past year, the numbers in the Asylum have not increased in the same proportion as in former years. The number of admissions has been, Males 38, Females 46, total 84. The discharges have been, Males 10, Females 20, total 30, recovered; 5 Males and 5 Females have left the Asylum, relieved; 17 Males and 21 Females have died, total 38, from natural causes and general The numbers now in the Asylum are, Males 174, decay. Females 207, making a total of 381 Patients. Notwithstanding the gradual increase of the Patients up to the present number of 381, which considerably exceeds the number of Patients for whom the Asylum was originally intended, namely 325, the present accommodation is amply sufficient, both on the Male and Female side, for all the requirements of the Asylum, additional accommodation having been obtained by re-arrangement of some of the Day-rooms and Dormitories, and by the erection of an additional Story over the Laundry, which affords a spacious new Day-room and Dormitory. The hope is, therefore, that if there shall be no very large increase in the average number of Patients, which, by the experience of the past year, there is fair ground to expect, the Asylumo will be found sufficient for the requirements of the County, without involving the necessity of materially adding to the

Buildings. Two of the Commissioners in Lunacy paid their annual visit to the Asylum in July last, and made a favourable report of the state and condition of the Asylum. Amongst their observations, they have recorded their opinion, "That the Sanitary condition of the Asylum is satisfactory; that the Patients generally were found by them free from excitement, and their personal condition as to dress, and otherwise, was satisfactory, and creditable to those immediately responsible for their charge;" and they go on to say, "We have to report most favourably of the cleanliness and proper condition of the several Wards and Rooms, Beds and Bedding." And they conclude by stating, "The condition and management of the Asylum continues to be very creditable to Dr. PARSEY, who is efficiently assisted by Dr. Browne." The Committee beg to add that they join entirely with the Commissioners in the opinion expressed by them of the skill, and ability, and attention of Dr. Parsey, the Medical Superintendent, and of the assistance afforded to him by Dr. Browne; and the Committee desire to express also their satisfaction at the manner in which their duties have been performed respectively, by the Matron, Miss RAYNES, and the Clerk to the Asylum, Mr. Sanders. The present weekly charge to the Unions for the Pauper Patients is 8s. 5½d., which has been the same throughout the year.

(Signed)

WILLIAM DICKINS.
R. N. C. HAMILTON.
J. O. BACCHUS.
O. PELL.
BOLTON KING.
RICHARD GREAVES.
LEIGH.

REPORT.

I have the honor of presenting to the Committee of Visitors my usual Annual Report on the condition of this Asylum, and on the movements of the patients during the year 1864, bringing the record of such statistics to the middle of the thirteenth year from the date of its being opened for the reception of the insane poor of this County.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
At the close of the year 1863 the numbers, includ-			
ing one male out on trial, were	168	210	378
During the year 1864 there have been admitted	38	46	84
", ", Discharged—			
Recovered	10	20	30
Relieved and not improved	5	5	10
" " Died	17	21	38
Absent on trial at the end of the year 1864	0	3	3
In the Asylum ,, ,,	174	207	381
Daily average number resident	173	217	390

The small increase in the numbers contrasts favourably with that of former years, and may be taken as an indication that they are reaching the limit for which permanent provision will have to be made, if nothing occurs to materially swell the poorer population of the County. conclusion is borne out by a comparison of the number of insane poor in this County with that of the inhabitants generally, as given in the last census returns. The officially known lunatics of all classes comprise a proportion of rather over two in a thousand of the whole population of England and Wales—and nearly half of them are confined in County and Borough Asylums—the remainder being in Lunatic Hospitals, Private Asylums, Workhouses, or boarded with their friends; those in Workhouses, and almost all those boarded with their friends, being also paupers. We may, therefore, estimate the proportion of insane poor at present in County and Borough Asylums as 1 in 1000 of the population: but the population of this County, exclusive of Birmingham, is, in round figures, 260,000, and the County Asylum can afford accommodation for 430 or about one in 600. It has already had within its walls at the same time 394 pauper inmates. From this last statement the inference might be drawn that in this County insanity among the poor is very much above the average; and I am aware that this excess above some

other rural divisions does, to some extent, exist in the West Midland section of the country, of which Warwickshire forms a portion. But it applies, I believe, not to the rural districts of Warwickshire, but to Birmingham and the densely-populated portions of the associated counties; and a much more satisfactory and correct explanation of the apparent excess in our County Asylum is to be found in the fact that, whereas throughout the country the number of insane poor in Workhouses and boarded with their friends is nearly four-fifths that of the inmates of County and Borough Asylums, in this County they are only rather more than two-fifths as numerous. Or, in other words, in the County of Warwick the propriety and advantage of transferring the insane poor to their legal place of care and detention, the County Asylum, is so far appreciated, that the proportion of those detained in Union Houses, or at their homes on a small pittance allowed by the parish, is scarcely more than half as great as that which constitutes the average of the Country generally.

In our male residents the annual increase for some years has been so trifling that no structural additions have been found necessary since the opening of the Asylum to meet the demands for accommodation; whilst for the females the addition during the past year of a dormitory and day room over a part of the laundry buildings has, at a trifling cost, given such increased accommodation as will meet all ordinary requirements; and, at the same time, has added greatly to the convenience of arrangement for the proper working of the laundry, and for the comfort of the

numerous patients who find occupation in it.

The admissions in 1863 did not reach in number those of any, except one, of the seven preceding years; and, during the past year, they have fallen short of those of its immediate predecessor. Their mental and bodily character have been of about the usual average; and it is satisfactory to be able to state that none have on presentation here been, as in some former years, in so exhausted a state from bodily disease as to have been in an utterly hopeless condition. There has been only one among them of such striking peculiarity as to merit special remark; it presents one of those extraordinary instances of self-mutilation which even among the insane, when not under control, are of extremely rare occurrence; especially when, as in the case now under record, adopted. not as a means of mere mutilation under the influence of a special delusion, but for the purposes of self-destruction. A man (T.M.) while in gaol in another county deliberately, and, as he states, after several incisions, cut away the whole of his genital organs. was, doubtless, at the time in a state of insanity, and had been previously released from an Asylum. Soon after leaving the gaol he was convicted in this County and sentenced to a month's imprisonment; and, whilst in gaol, being found insane, was transferred here under a Secretary of State's warrant. He is further an object of much interest, surgically, in having had his left knee-joint successfully cut away some time back to remedy a permanent contraction of the leg—the result

of the operation being to convert a previously most cumbersome limb into a very useful and efficient one. Spite of the painful inconvenience, resulting from the injury he inflicted on himself, he still retains a dangerous taste for experimental operative surgery, requiring careful guarding against whilst his mental unsoundness continues; and, unfortunate for his future prospects, as his trade, that of a shoemaker, will always necessitate his having very sharp instruments in his possession.

Eight of the admissions have been re-admissions—they having been previously discharged from here at periods varying from two months to six years. The ages and forms of insanity of the patients on admission are given in the two following Tables:—

	AGES	ON	AD	MIS	SIO	N.		FORMS OF INSANITY ON	AD	MISS	SION.
					M.	F.	TOTAL.		M.	F. '	TOTAL.
From	10 to	20	year	8	2	5	7	Mania-			
,,	20 ,,	30	,,		9	13	22	(a) Recent	10	20	30
,,	30 ,,	40	,,		6	10	16	(b) Chronic	1	3	4
,,	40 ,,						16	(c) Puerperal	0	4	4
,,	50 ,,	60	,,		5	3	8	Melancholia	4	10	14
"	60 ,,	70	11		4	5	9	Dementia—			
,,	70 ,,	80	,,		2	3	5	(a) Recent Acute	2	2	4
Over	80				1	0	1	(b) Chronic, and			
					_	-	-	Senile	19	6	25
					38	46	84	Idiocy	2	1	3
					-	-	-	CONTRACT CONTRACTOR	-	_	_
							day 6		38	46	84
									-	-	-
				C	omi	nlica	ted with	Epilepsy	8	2	10
					VIII)	PARCO	TOTAL WILL	General Paralysis	5	0	5

From these Tables the contrast between the males and females in respect to the probability of recovery is very striking.

It will be seen that the average age of the men is much above that of the women; that thirteen men, and only two women, have their insanity complicated with epilepsy or general paralysis; and that of prima facie curable cases, comprising recent and puerperal mania, melancholia, and recent acute dementia, there have been admitted only sixteen males against thirty-six females. This analysis goes far to explain why the recoveries of females have been double those of males.

The mortality for the year, scarcely 9\frac{3}{4} per cent. on the daily average number under treatment, has been favourable, both as compared with the average of County Asylums generally, and so far as it is an index of our own standard of health; but the majority of the deaths are, as may be expected, referable to certain specific morbid conditions peculiar to a comparatively small and very short-lived part of our population; the larger proportion of which, constituting the cases of simple chronic insanity, enjoy a bodily condition approaching in healthfulness that of the ordinary adult population, and an average longevity not excessively disproportionate to that of the sane portion of the community. At present twenty of our inmates vary from 70 to 80 years of age, and eight from 80 to 90.

TABLE OF MORTALITY FOR THE YEAR.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.		M.	F.	TOTAL.
General Paralysis	5	2	7)	Cancer of Lungs	0	1	1
Chronic Disorganisa-			174000	Caries of Vertebræ			
tion of Brain	2	2	4	Marasmus	0	1	1
Ædema of Brain	0	1	1	Suffocation from Vom-			
Apoplexy	0	1	1	ited Matter in Wind-			
Epilepsy				pipe (age 81)	1	0	1
Phthisis	1	2	3	General Decay			1
Pneumonia	0	1	1	Decay of Age		4	4
Bronchitis	2	0	2			_	_
Hydrothorax				Total	17	21	38
Heart Disease	0	1	1		_	_	_
Cancer of Stomach	0	1	1				

The greater number of deaths among the females than males during the past year is the reverse of the general experience of Asylums, but has only tended to equalize a disproportion in the opposite direction that had been existing in the two immediately preceding years, when the mortality among the females was unusually low, and that among the males above the average. A fair proportion of those who died had attained to a considerable age, and more than run out the full span of life; two had turned 80 years; one was in her 80th year; and two others in their 78th. And of the others twenty will be seen to have died of organic disease of the brain or of epilepsy—leaving only thirteen to be accounted for by the various other fatal disorders incidental to adult life.

Two coroners' inquests were held; one on a female who died in an epileptic fit between five and six o'clock in the morning, no one being present at the time of death; the other on a man, 80 years of age, who, during an attack of vomiting, was suffocated by a quantity of vomited matter getting into the windpipe. In both cases a verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

It is again gratifying to be able to record that, from the time of the opening of the Asylum, there has not been among the patients a single death by suicide.

The recoveries are 36 per cent. on the admissions; and, excluding one patient, who was discharged after a residence here of between three and four years, their average time under treatment in the Asylum has been twenty-three and a half weeks; the shortest time five weeks; and the longest seventy-seven weeks. Ten patients have also left the Asylum not recovered. Of these five were removed to other Asylums, from the adjudication of their settlement out of this county; three have been discharged to the care of their friends; and two were self-discharged by escape. These two latter were criminal lunatics, confined under a Secretary of State's warrant, and were strangers to the county. The first (J. W.) escaped in July; he had just about completed the term of his sentence (12 months); and, from having been a violent and dangerous lunatic, was approaching convalescence. He got away whilst working with others on the grounds, and was almost immediately

missed; he was tracked for about four miles; then all clue to him was lost; and, nothing being known of his home or haunts, and his name here being an assumed one, he was not again heard of. The accomplishment of his attempt being soon generally known, induced several abortive ones of a similar character, most of them quite motiveless, or engendered by a vague spirit of restlessness, which, until it gradually subsided, compelled an unusual, and otherwise unnecessary, amount of caution in the supervision of the movements of some of the patients.

The other escape was a daring and clever one; it occurred subsequently to the one just noticed, and was that of a female (M. A. W.) received from the County Gaol whilst awaiting trial for larceny. She was an old offender, who had evidently before been both in Gaols and Asylums; and was a compound of criminality and insanity, each characteristic being strongly marked in her. During the few weeks that she was here she slept in a dormitory with three others, and on the night of October 2nd went to bed, as was her wont, later than many other of her ward companions; and her day clothing was removed as usual by her nurse from the sleeping room. On the following morning it was found that she had effected her escape in the night, by getting through a window-opening, eleven inches by seven inches in area, and twenty-four feet from the the ground. She was able to assist herself in her exit by a sheet fastened to the upper part of the window frame, but must have had to drop at least twenty feet. She then got over a low airing court wall, which was the only further impediment to her progress. To supply herself with clothing she took an article of dress here and there from that of fellow-patients, who had gone to bed before her, which she secreted in her dormitory. She was an Irishwoman, and here under an assumed name; and has not since been heard of.

Occurrences such as these are at the time sources of much trouble and annovance; but are almost necessarily incidental to the system of construction and management of County Asylums, whose arrangements divest them as much as possible of the character of places of forcible confinement; and which are not adapted for the safe custody of an insane criminal, who, with strong motives for making his exit from his place of detention and its neighbourhood, may have sufficient reason left to Any such person received into an ordinary direct his movements. County Asylum will be sure, if he chooses, to find a way to free himself from it, unless the comfort and liberty of those with whom he is associated are much curtailed—a proceeding that would be altogether unjustifiable for such an object. The liberty of the insane in Asylums is necessarily, both for their own protection and for that of the community at large, no longer in their own keeping; but their deprivation of it should not be carried beyond what is deemed absolutely necessary; and the comparative freedom that is able to be extended to many of them, and the reliance that can often be placed in their sense of honour not to infringe it, is one of the most pleasing features in the system of dealing with them in the Asylums of this country.

Among the incidents of the past year there is one very painful in its circumstances, and another of an unpleasant and discreditable nature, neither of which I can entirely omit from my annual record. was the removal from among us, by a melancholy and sudden death, of Mr. Bowen, who had for six years occupied the post of Assistant Medical Officer here; and who, by the cheerfulness and kindliness of his disposition, and the active personal interest he took in all that conduced to the comfort and happiness of the inmates, had made himself a great favourite among them. The suddenness of his removal from a state of apparently perfect health, exerted a very depressing influence over several of the patients, demanding for some time afterwards much anxious care to guard against such untoward circumstances as might be likely to arise from the morbid suggestions of a community constituted as ours is. It is my good fortune to have met with an able and accomplished successor to him in Dr. James Crichton Browne, who, during the eight months of his residence here, has given abundant proof not merely of his efficiency for the office he now holds, but of capabilities of no common order for undertaking, when the opportunity offers, higher responsibilities than those devolving on him in his present more subordinate position.

In referring to the second subject, I may premise that in my former reports, when making allusion to the servants of the establishment occupying the trying and difficult position of ward attendants, I have been able to speak of them as a body in terms of. I believe, merited commendation; but this year they have felt themselves disgraced by one among them having been detected by me making his way out of the Asylum at night, by means of a false master-key, for the sake of petty, though doubtless systematic plunder. It was fortunately not difficult to adduce legal proof of his guilt; and he was committed for trial and sentenced to two years' imprisonment: and, though in recording this occurrence I am keeping in remembrance a blot on our character which I might wish rather to have as quickly as possible forgotten, I cannot be blind to the fact that Institutions like this must afford greater facilities for peculation than are met with in the ordinary occupations of the class from which our servants are taken; and I would for that reason wish to make the conviction of an attendant a standing warning to any who, from the apparent facilities afforded by their position, may feel tempted to forget the increased responsibility attached to their trust, and the heavier consequences attending the detection of a serious breach of it.

I have in my reports to your Committee always avoided, as irrelevant, matters bearing specially on professional treatment; but this year I beg to be allowed to deviate from my custom so far as to record my protest against a sort of revulsion of opinion which is gaining ground with regard to the value of "seclusion," as a remedial agent in the treatment of the insane. By "seclusion," I mean the confinement to his own room, and against his will, of a patient during some temporary paroxysm

of excitement involving the risk of immediate danger to himself or others, or of serious destruction of property; or exhaustive of his physical powers, and demanding the adoption of special means for soothing his exalted nervous irritation. Of late it has become, if I may so term it, rather a fashion to assert, contrary I believe to all physiological experience and reasoning, that seclusion is altogether unnecessary and objectionable, and only a relic of the old system of personal restraint; and it is a boast of some Asylums that their patients are treated entirely The statement of such facts without having recourse to it. attests to the practicability of excluding this from the list of remedial agents; but whether or not such a course, if literally and unreservedly carried out, is judicious, is a question not so easily In the ordinary practice of physicians, the removal disposed of. of all sources of excitement, the darkening of the room, perfect rest and stillness, in other words seclusion in one's own room, are looked upon as among the most valuable agencies in relieving disorders in which irritability or exhaustion of the nervous system exists as a prominent feature; and few have passed through a long and active life without having at some time or other experienced in their own persons their soothing influences: and, with beneficial consequences so patent, and so appreciable by all, whether skilled or not in the science of medicine, it is to me somewhat incomprehensible that, for the sake of a pseudo-philanthropic theory, that particular class, the exalted irritability of whose nervous systems is often so conspicuous a characteristic in them, should be debarred the valuable advantages to be derived from its use. Other remedies, as opium, tartar emetic, digitalis, prussic acid, shower baths, prolonged warm baths, wet packing, and others, are known to be efficacious in reducing this condition of the insane in their temporary as well as in their more persistent paroxysms. And in this list, though not of it, I must enumerate, lest I should be supposed to ignore that most valuable of our resources where excitement is not accompanied by great exhaustion, free exercise and liberty in the open air, accompanied by generous diet. But to any of these remedies, except the last, a very careful and limited range of use, and to some of them none whatever, should, in my opinion, be accorded in temporary outbreaks of violence, as they are attended by grave objections in no way applicable to the simplicity and efficacy of temporary seclusion. Until, therefore, I can substitute for this agent some other equally simple and equally efficacious, I shall be unwilling to act otherwise than on my present views. But while advocating the value of seclusion in the hands of the Physician, I should be sorry to see its application entrusted to the judgment of any other individual engaged in the management of the insane; it is as much a therapeutic agent as any drug prescribed in the ordinary course of medical treatment; and, if not strictly so regarded and used, the power of enforcing it might, and doubtless would, quickly degenerate into an abuse of the worst kind; as, to those who have the ordinary routine care and supervision of the insane it affords a most facile means of ridding themselves temporarily of the annoyance of a restless or troublesome patient.

Another change, which has obtained much advocacy of late, and is considered by its admirers a great advance in Asylum domestic management, should also be brought under your notice, as I have not yet thought it advisable to recommend its adoption here. It is that of assembling all the better patients from the different wards of an Asylum to take their dinner together in a large common Dining Hall, instead of having it served to them in the ordinary day-room of their respective wards with the rest of the usual daily occupants; thus enabling the more orderly patients to enjoy greater comfort and quiet at their principal meal, and also giving an incentive to some of the more doubtful ones to control their conduct in order to get admission to this distinction. These real advantages are supposed to be further enhanced by the addition of the Asylum band (and most Asylums have a band) playing during the meal; and of a certain time being allowed afterwards for indulgence in reading, smoking, and light amusements. The sight of a number of patients thus assembled must be gratifying and imposing: still the practice may be but a doubtful improvement; for, in a properly managed Asylum, where the patients dine together in their respective wards, the occurrence of anything during the meal offensive to the feelings of any so associated is of very rare occurrence; and the more intelligent and active often render valuable assistance to the more feeble and demented-thus exercising their better feelings, and inducing a kindly mutual interest among them-while the general character of the meal is more domestic, and consistent with the former habits of the patients: whereas the assembling in large numbers in a common hall is so foreign to their habits as always to require a certain time to make it tolerable, though, doubtless, it may afterwards come to be regarded as an agreeable privilege. The indulgence in smoking and recreation after dinner can with equal facility be encouraged under either arrangement. But to my mind a great objection to the adoption of this new system presents itself, in the fact, that if from the different wards the better class of patients, with some of their attendants, be withdrawn at meal time, those that are left behind, who must constitute a considerable proportion, cannot be nearly so well cared for as they would have been when mixed with a larger number of both sane and insane persons, with intelligence and will to assist in ministering to their wants.

But while unwilling either to adopt the general dining hall, or to abolish seclusion without more extended proofs of the advantage of either course, I must protest against being influenced by any opposition to progressive improvement in Asylum management and treatment; on the contrary, I trust that this Asylum has not been behind-hand either in the introduction or adoption of such advances as have maintained their place in the list of improvements; and I am fully sensible that much remains to be done before we attain to all that is practically valuable in our general intercourse with the insane.

To the minor details, that add so much to the general well-being of the Asylum in the additional comforts they afford to all classes curable and incurable, I hope that there has, during the year, not been a lack of Our great annual out-door and in-door gatherings at Midsummer and Christmas were a source of more or less special enjoyment to full three-fourths of the patients, whilst the remainder were not uncared for; and there have been several other out-door meetings, both on our own and our neighbours' grounds, that, in addition to their direct curative influences, have given pleasure and amusement to large numbers. The fortnightly dances, out of doors in summer, and in doors in winter, and the weekly walks about the country, in which more than half the patients take part, have been regularly kept up; and cricket, and other out-door games, readings, theatricals, magic lantern, and fantoccini performances, have all in their season done good service in affording recreation and dispelling lethargy and gloom. The bagatelle (4) and billiard (2) tables, draughts, dominoes, solitaire, and other light in-door amusements, have also been kept in fair requisition; and I must not forget to add that, by means of our periodicals and library, to which considerable additions have been made in the past year, there has been a liberal supply of literature of all kinds for readers, some of whom have most omnivorous and insatiable appetites. The furniture, flowers, and modest ornamentation of our wards, all add also to the moral agencies brought to bear on the systematic treatment of the patients. equally and impartially distributed throughout the wards; none is more or less favoured than another; but I think I may with perfect truthfulness state that these little cheerful and cheering additions are, on the whole, most appreciated in those parts of the building in which the unpractised observer would least expect to find any appreciation of such homerecalling attractions. To individual patients I have also been able to extend the indulgence of visits to their homes, or friends; and others, in parties, have been allowed to go to different spectacles in the neighbouring town, as the Yeomanry Cavalry Review, the May-day procession, &c.; and I have not in any one instance had this extension of liberty abused.

Of our purely medical resources this is not the place to speak; but, in conclusion, I may say that it has been my own endeavour, and I believe that of all others associated with me, faithfully to carry out the trusts imposed on us; and my own intimate and responsible association with the Asylum, from the time it was only preparing for habitation, will, I hope, be a guarantee that my identification with it and its inmates makes me jealous of its position among the similar Institutions for the cure and treatment of the thousands of insane poor of this Country.

THE DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN THE ASYLUM FOR THE YEAR 1864 WAS 390.

AVERAGE WEEKLY COST OF MAINTENANCE MEDICINE, CLOTHING, & CARE OF PATIENTS DURING THE YEAR 1864.

	Total Cost for the Year.	Cost per Head per Week.					
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.					
Salaries and Wages	1,883 4 101	0 1 101					
Provisions (including all articles of							
Diet, excepting Wine, Spirits, and	4						
Porter)	4,114 0 7	0 4 01					
Wines, Spirits, and Porter	36 11 0	0 0 03					
Necessaries (Fuel, Lighting, Washing,	Language Se lie						
&c.)	1,123 8 3	0 1 14					
Surgery and Dispensary	54 19 4	0 0 0					
Clothing	592 0 81	0 0 7					
Furniture and Bedding	484 9 41						
Garden and Farm		0 0 53					
MISCELLANEOUS, viz:- £. s. d.	601 6 4	0 0 7					
Funeral Expenses 20 13 10	-						
Rates and Taxes 9 7 4½	142 8 7	0 0 14					
Printing, Stationery, Tra-		0 0 18					
velling Expenses, &c. 112 7 $4\frac{1}{2}$	BUT BUT B						
de la company de	9,032 9 01	0 8 104					
Less Monies received for Articles,	0,002 0 02	0 8 104					
Goods, and Produce Sold (exclusive	gi ampi i en						
of those consumed in the Asylum)	323 5 21	0 0 33					
	020 0 22	0 0 31					
	£8,709 3 10	0 8 61					
		s. d.					
Total Average Weekly Cost pe	r Head	8 61/2					
Weekly Charge for Paupers from Coun	ties or Borough	s to					
which Asylum belongs							
Ditto Ditto from other Counties							
* Ditto Ditto for Private Patients							
		10 6					
* Not now admit	ted.						

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Of the Receipts and Payments on Account of the Warwick County Lunatic Asylum, from 1st January to 31st December, 1864.

PAYMENTS. £. s. d. Balance due to Treasurer 1st January PAYMENTS under the following Heads, viz.:—	1. Monies Invested during the Year	4. Wines, Spirits, and Porter 36 11 0	1,123 8	6. Surgery and Dispensary 54 19 4 7. Clothing 592 0 82	8. Furniture and Bedding	10. Building and Repairs £1,965. 2s. 2d. } 5,804 5 8 Building Loan & Interest £3,839. 3s. £d. }	11. Garden and Farm 601 6 4	Miscellaneous, viz.:— Printing, Stationery, Travelling Expenses, &c. 11	Total Payments	£15,713 5 2½	R N C HAMILTON >
Balance in hand 1st January 1,449 7 1 Receipts under the following Heads, viz.:—	1. From Interest on Monies Invested	Private Patients 219 12 0	Boroughs to which 8,349 9 1		and Boroughs \ 68 16 0	under the following Heads:—	", Furniture and Fittings	5. From Voluntary Contributions	Balance due to the Treasurer 31st December	Total Receipts £15,713 5 23	



COUNTY LUNATIC

ASYLUM.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1865.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

WILLIAM DICKINS, Esq., Cherrington, Shipston-on-Stour, Chairman.

THE LORD LEIGH, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth.

SIR R. N. C. HAMILTON, Bart., Avon Cliffe, Stratford-upon-Avon.

CHARLES HOLTE BRACEBRIDGE, Esq., Atherstone Hall, Atherstone.

HENRY THOMAS CHAMBERLAYNE, Esq., Stoney Thorpe, Southam.

RICHARD GREAVES, Esq., Cliff House, Warwick.

BOLTON KING, Esq., Chadshunt, Kineton.

Gustavus Thomas Smith, Esq., Walton, Warwick.

JOHN STAUNTON, Esq., Longbridge House, Warwick.

HENRY CHRISTOPHER WISE, Esq., M.P., Woodcote, Warwick.

THE REV. RICHARD LICKORISH, Wolston, Coventry.

THE REV. CHARLES PILKINGTON, Stockton, Southam.

THE REV. JAMES CORALL ROBERTS, Witherley, Atherstone.

- T. S. Morris, Esq., The Cottage, Stoke, near Coventry.
- C. M. CALDECOTT, Esq., Rugby.
- J. T. ARKWRIGHT, Esq., Hatton, near Warwick.
- J. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., Rugby.
- J. O. Bacchus, Esq., Leamington.

EDWARD WHELER, Esq., Leamington.

James Dugdale, Esq., Wroxhall Abbey.

COMMITTER OF VISITORIS.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

TO THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS, EPIPHANY, 1866.

THE Committee have to report that in all points the management and conduct of the Asylum is going on to their satisfaction. In the last Annual Report, at the commencement of the year 1865, the total number of Patients in the Asylum the first day of the Sessions amounted to 384; and the Committee congratulated the County upon the decrease of admissions during the preceding year, 1864, compared with former years, leading to the hope that, by the increased accommodation which had been recently effected, joined to the gradual decrease of admissions, the Asylum would be found sufficient for all the requirements of the County for many years. In the point of the number of the Patients, the Committee are in some measure disappointed. The present numbers are—Males, 181; Females, 220; total, 401; making an increase of 17 Patients over the number in the Asylum last Epiphany Sessions. Of this total number, 40 Patients belong to the class denominated Idiots; and, if it should at some future time become necessary to enlarge the Asylum, it will be a question whether it will not be advisable to provide separate accommodation for this class. The admissions during the past year have been 37 Males, 48 Females; total, 85. The discharges have been 12 Males, 23 Females, total 35, recovered; 4 Males and 1 Female, total 5, have left the Asylum relieved. 14 Males and 15 Females have died, chiefly from natural causes or general decay. 1 Male and 3 Females are now out on trial. The weekly charge for each Patient has been throughout the year 8s. 51d., the same as during the preceding year.

(Signed)

WILLIAM DICKINS.
BOLTON KING.
RICHARD GREAVES.
J. T. ARKWRIGHT.
LEIGH.
H. C. WISE,

DR. PARSEY'S ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

I have the honor of submitting to your Committee the following Report, on the movements of the patients and condition of the Asylum during the year 1865; with Tables appended, bringing the statistics of the Asylum up to the present date, being a continuation of those laid before you at the close of the year 1862.

Of the admissions, I would observe that they have been of about the average range of the last three years, and that there has been nothing in their bodily condition calling for special comment. The proportion of chronic cases, especially of aged persons afflicted with dementia, has been unusually large; and 38 out of the 86 persons received during the year were above the age of fifty. The youngest admitted was a girl fifteen years of age; the oldest, also a female, was eighty-five. This last was brought here from a distance of about 16 miles, on the coldest day of last winter; but, beyond a little temporary prostration, felt no ill effects from her inclement journey, and now enjoys excellent health for her great age. Seven others were admitted at ages varying from seventy-six to eighty-two years.

Eight or 9½ per cent. were re-admissions after previous discharge as recovered. The period of their absence from the Asylum, since such discharge, varied from three months to eight years—five of the eight having been away for more than five years.

For the past three years the average of admissions has been lower by ten than that of the preceding ten years. This arises probably from their having latterly been uninfluenced by any extraneous sources of increase from the reception of private patients, or of those from Birmingham, chiefly Irish, whose settlements could not be fixed—both of which contributed formerly to swell our numbers.

In this, as in preceding years, the congenital idiots (not also epileptics), admitted have been very few. They have averaged but four or five in a year, though there must be a very considerable number of them scattered over the county, either in their own homes or in the Union Houses, and not subjected to any systematic discipline for their improvement. Those that have found their way into this Asylum have been drawn from the most degraded or mischievous among them, and chiefly from

the adults, in whom it is too late to expect much benefit from any training. Yet, even with the inadequate means at our disposal, there is not one of them who has not evinced some change for the better, after a more or less extended residence; whilst in most the improvement has exhibited itself to a marked degree, in greater attention to their natural wants, in the exercise of greater self-control, and in the development of their capabilities for useful employment. About fourfifths of them are employed-the males chiefly on the farm or in trades; the females in the laundry or at needlework. These results would in themselves be an encouragement to persist in more extended efforts for the improvement of the condition of this class, and for the abatement of the social evils consequent on their uncontroled and undisciplined freedom; but they are insignificant when compared with those attained in the fully organized Asylums for idiot children, where, out of materials apparently the most unpromising, a progressive development of capabilities is sometimes evolved that endues the child with as it were a new nature; one that gives him a capacity for much useful action and much enjoyment of life; though there may still be lacking a sufficient manifestation of those higher faculties essential to success in undertaking the ordinary responsibilities of the outer world.

Though there has been nothing in the physical state of the admissions this year to call for special remark, in their mental condition a very prominent feature has existed in the prevalence of suicidal propensity, which has demanded an amount of anxious watchfulness, much greater than usually devolves either on myself or on their immediate attendants. It has more particularly characterized the female admissions, in more than half of whom it has been evinced; and in many of them in a very determined manner, refusal of food being the chief mode adopted for effecting their object. Unfortunately the force of imitation, so strong among some of the insane, has led some of our older residents to follow this very troublesome and dangerous example set by the new comers; and in no other year, since the Asylum has been open, has this condition been the source of such continuous solicitude. It has, I am glad to say, been in every case combated without having recourse to that still highlyfavoured, though very unphilosophical mechanical procedure, as a means of treatment, the use of the stomach pump. But this year we have not been altogether successful in our endeavours to prevent the propensity to self-destruction terminating in a fatal issue; and I have, for the first time since the Asylum has been in operation, to register a case of suicide. This occurred so recently (23rd Dec.), that the details

are fresh in the memory of many of your Committee; so I need only state here that it was caused by a patient setting fire to her clothing, deliberately and with the exercise of much precaution, to insure the accomplishment of her object. At the inquest, the Coroner and Jury were unanimous in the expression of an opinion, exonerating her special attendants, or any one else connected with the Asylum, from blame or the charge of carelessness. This opinion was endorsed by the relatives of the deceased present at the inquest, as also by your Committee.

The recoveries (35) are in the proportion of 41 per cent. to the admissions, and are as high as those of any preceding year; and, in addition to these, two have, through settlement in other counties, been removed to their proper Asylum, and three have been discharged to the care of their relatives, who have given the necessary legal guarantee that they shall be properly cared for, and be not again chargeable to a Parish or Union. These three, though not recovered, were mentally much improved; and there was fair probability that, with proper home-supervision, the risk, either to themselves or society, from their being at large would be but nominal. Applications from the friends of other patients for their discharge in a similar way have been made to your Committee; but the advance towards recovery, if any, was in none of them sufficiently marked to have allowed of their removal from an Asylum without much chance of eventual mishap either to themselves or to others; and, though their individual friends may have felt aggrieved at your exercising the power, allowed by law, of refusing their application, the ratepayers of the Union, that would have been supposed to be relieved of their charge, must be more satisfied to contribute to the maintenance of a dangerous lunatic, than to hear that he is handed over, at certain hazard to the community, to the doubtful care and keeping of some poor relative, who tenders a guarantee that there is no reasonable probability of his being able to carry out.

The average of recoveries for all the County and Borough Asylums in England, taking an extended period of several years, is estimated at about 37 per cent. on the admissions. There is a wide margin of difference in this respect, dependent in great measure on the state of the patients on admission, which in different districts varies, so far as the prospect of recovery, or even of prolongation of life, is concerned, to an extent far greater than would be supposed from the apparently uniform system under which the care of the insane poor is regulated throughout the kingdom. In a few Asylums the recorded recoveries are strikingly numerous; but, as in such Asylums the relapses are also somewhat frequent,

it may be legitimately inferred that a larger than ordinary proportion of such recoveries is apparent rather than real. Taking the total admissions into an average County Asylum, receiving indiscriminately all the insane poor sent to it, it will be found that nearly half may, from various self-evident causes, so far as our present knowledge of insanity and the laws of life can guide us, be regarded as affording the smallest prospect, or none at all, of ultimate recovery; but of the remainder a very large proportion are returned to their homes in a condition to be able again to maintain themselves and those dependent on them. It has been made a subject of complaint by some, who ought to be well informed in these matters, that, with all the resources at our command, recoveries are not more numerous than they are; but such complaints appear to have their foundation in ignorance of the mental and bodily condition in which so many find their way into our large Asylums. The worst classes of idiotic and insane epileptics; persons become demented and violent, and with all their instincts perverted by chronic disorganization of brain; or, the subjects of insanity supervening on irreparable organic changes in other vital organs, or on some of the changes consequent on old age; all tax our resources as heavily as instances of simple acute insanity, but without yielding any satisfactory results in the way of recovery. On the contrary, they come here to drag out the remainder of their useless and wearisome lives, objects for the exercise of a patient humanity, till each one passes away to add another to the list that swells our mortuary Tables. It has with similar want of consideration been suggested that all such cases might be equally well-cared for in Union or Poor Houses as in the more costly County Asylums: so, doubtless, they might be, but on the simple condition that, so far as attention to the mental and physical wants of the inmates is concerned, and so far as a special provision for them is made, the portion of the Poor or Union House in which they are detained be brought up to the standard of public Asylums; which would be tantamount to scattering the insane poor over a number of small Asylums with increased difficulties of supervision, instead of concentrating all those for a special district in one building, under one responsible staff, and the whole subjected to a constant active supervision.

As illustrating the relative curability of insanity in its two distinctive stages of recent and chronic, comprising in the former all cases of not more than a twelve months' duration before admission, and in the latter all those in which symptoms of mental disorder have existed beyond that period; and, grouping all the cases admitted into this

Asylum, from the time of its opening to the present date, under these two heads, I find that under the former the recoveries have been to the admissions slightly over 60 per cent., whilst of the latter, or chronic cases, less than 1 per cent. have been discharged recovered. The extreme smallness of these latter recoveries is due to the fact that most of the insane poor are sent here either moderately early in the attack, or else are retained at home, or in their respective Unions, much beyond the first twelve months; indeed, until the disease has become of thoroughly old standing; and are at last obliged to be removed for some unusual paroxysm, which renders them for the time no longer manageable in their former domiciles; and, being once removed, are not again returned to the world.

The mortality here has from the time of opening been a trifle below the mean average of Asylums; and this year I have the satisfaction of recording one somewhat lower than any of its predecessors. It has been 7½ per cent. on the average daily resident population; and, so far as it is worth it must be deemed satisfactory. But a mortality that falls to any marked degree below the ordinary range is generally only temporary, and counterbalanced by some preceding or succeeding higher rate; and, as this year does not follow an unusually high scale, it is only in the order of things to expect that such is in reserve for us.

Taken by itself, the relative mortality, like the relative recoveries, in Asylums, affords but a very inadequate criterion of the more or less judicious management exercised in them; but is rather an index of the physical condition in which patients are sent to them. It is rarely in a properly appointed Asylum to be traced to the chronic established inmates, whose chance of life is nearly as good as that of the ordinary community; neither to those labouring under acute uncomplicated insanity among the fresh admissions; for their prospects, so far as the prolongation of life is concerned, even where recovery does not take place, are by no means bad; but to helpless paralytics, the very aged, and a variety of others unfitted by their mental disturbance for the infirmary of a workhouse or their own homes, but who, either there or in an Asylum, have before them the prospect of but a brief span of life; and, perhaps, nothing influences more the relative mortality in an Asylum than the fact of its being in a concentrated populous district, affording great facilities for the removal to it of a large proportion of these cases so unfavorable to prolonged life; or, in an extended sparse one, where distance and difficulty of conveyance interfere with the safe transit of such cases. In this Asylum we may be considered to occupy about a

medium position, being able to meet all the demands of a population neither highly concentrated nor particularly scattered, and affording fair average facilities for conveyance from the different districts dependent on us.

With a low mortality we have enjoyed a good average standard of general health, free from epidemic disorder, and little affected by what are considered the special diseases of the different seasons. This is probably partly due to the marked salubrity and high average temperature, without extreme heat, of the past long summer; and, doubtless, the health of the dwellers on a clay soil, such as that on which we are located, would derive a certain advantage from the small amount of rainfall that we experienced, just as on the contrary on such soils a certain deterioration of health beyond that in more favoured localities accompanies a continuously wet and cold season. In the earliest part of the year the unusually severe weather told unfavorably on some of the most aged and infirm; and of the five deaths of persons above eighty years old, recorded this year, three occurred within ten days at the end of January and beginning of February.

In my last annual report I mentioned the successful and somewhat extraordinary escape of a female criminal patient (M.A.W.) in the month of October, and our loss of all clue to her whereabouts. After an absence of five months she was recovered, through the agency of the Warwick police, very soon after making her re-appearance in this county. The satisfactory consequences of a re-capture of this kind are not confined to the bare fact that a lunatic, with criminal propensities, is again placed in safe keeping; but the general discipline of an Asylum is strengthened by the sense of ultimate fruitlessness of such attempts that is thus made to pervade all the more intelligent of its inmates; for, where one of the prominent features in the treatment of the insane in Asylums consists in granting to the more intelligent of them as much personal freedom and liberty as are consistent with their supposed safe custody; and where much is left to their own better feelings and sense of honour not to abuse that liberty, it is well that their somewhat feeble resolutions and good intentions should not be tried by the successful absconding of one of their number. They have their instinctive love of liberty strengthened by an inability fully to appreciate the reasons for their being deprived of it; and many of them have home ties that are still very dear to them; and, no doubt, are at times sorely tempted to take advantage of the facilities open to them for breaking their faith; and it is not to be wondered at that occasionally, especially where there

is an idea of wrongful detention, attempts are made to escape. These are confined chiefly to the class I am speaking of; for the more dangerous, debased, or restless inmates, being subjected to a more strict and careful supervision, ought, if their attendants are well trained and equal to their duties, rarely to have opportunities allowed them for evading their vigilance; but with the others the main preventives on which we should rely, the substitutes for lofty walls and massive gates of former times, are to be found in a kindly sympathy, and a practical interest in their welfare, which are very rarely indeed unappreciated by them; and these may, without detriment, be supplemented by a conviction, arising from personal observation, that, when made, attempts at evasion are not likely to be permanently successful. Two temporary escapes of this kind were effected whilst the patients were out walking about the country. But there is a pleasure in noting how rarely any improper advantage is endeavoured to be taken of the liberty thus enjoyed, though from the earliest days of the Asylum it has been extended to nearly or quite half its inmates, always once a week, and much oftener throughout the more seasonable periods of the year. In other respects the amount of liberty accorded either to individual patients, or to parties of them seeking agreeable change beyond the precincts of the Asylum, has not fallen short of that of preceding years; and one such afternoon, which, for the enjoyment it afforded, remains fresh in the memory of a large party of our female inmates, was passed under the auspices of a most kindly hospitality on the grounds of one of the members of your Committee.

In general matters of discipline and treatment, or in appliances for promoting the comfort and health of our inmates, or the recovery of those in whom so happy a result has appeared attainable, there has been no marked change from the practice of former years; and such changes as have been made may, I hope, be considered as advancement; for, without adopting every novelty that is suggested, or every change that is not also an improvement, I have endeavoured, so far as my own judgment, or the experience of others will guide me, to regard our present treatment of the insane as only progressive; or, I may more correctly say, remembering how small is our real knowledge of the mental and physical changes comprehended in the term insanity, as simply tentative: for, as yet mental disorder is as it were an inscrutable mystery, and will probably remain such so long as our ideas of mind, in what we call its sound state, are no more than a series of crude speculations.

No Statistical Tables beyond the mere summary of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, have been embodied in my Reports since that for the year 1862—the very frequent detail of such matters being in a measure superfluous; but as such statistical information as bears on the condition and movements of the inmates, and affords reliable and material information, is justly expected to be embodied in reports of the progress and condition of an Institution of this nature, I have this year continued the Tables previously submitted to you, so as to bring them up to the present date.

The only change that has occurred among the superior officers of the Asylum has been the resignation of Dr. J. C. Browne, the late Assistant Medical Officer, on his being elected Medical Superintendent of the new Lunatic Asylum for the borough of Newcastle. His loss to us here was much regretted, for he was a very efficient, zealous, and deservedly popular officer. In Mr. C. Berrell, we had the good fortune to meet with a gentleman apparently well fitted, by his professional capabilities and courteous business habits, to succeed him in his duties; and the experience of the eight months that he has been among us has confirmed the favourable estimate formed of him at his appointment. From all the other officers and servants I have met with a cordial co-operation; and I trust that the result of this year's labours will be satisfactory to your Committee.

W. H. PARSEY, M.D.

4th January, 1866.

TABLE 1.

SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS, RE-ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1865.

				arteria.	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Asy	lum January 1, 1865.		174	210	384		
		Male.	Female.	Total.			
and sold a	For the first time	37	40	77	main is	in mini	
	After previous dis-					NORTH IN	
Admitted	charge	0	8	8	37	49	86
H-	By recapture of an		Tall the		Lies	and in	
	escaped Criminal	0	1	1	- nume		111111
Total unde	er care during the Yea		211	258	469		
Discharge	d or Removed:—						
Recover	ed	12	23	35			
Relieved	l	4	1	5	16	24	40
	·		14	15	29		
	g in Asylum December		181	990	401		
	on trial)					220	401
Average n	umber resident during	the ye	ar		178.5	211	389.5

TABLE 2.

SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND DEATHS; WITH ANNUAL PER CENTAGE OF RECOVERIES TO ADMISSIONS; AND MEAN ANNUAL MORTALITY; SINCE OPENING OF ASYLUM.

-	-		
re of	t s	Total.	7 0 1 4 1 1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Per centage of Deaths on Average	Numbers Resident.	E.	4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Per c Des	Res	M.	080000000000000000000000000000000000000
re of	ns.	Total.	4888884886 <u>21</u>
enta	on issio	E.	4822223334445334484535444535444535444535444535444535444535444535445454545454545454545454545454545454545
Per c	Adn	M.	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 2
rs	i.	Total.	87 165 206 222 222 223 223 223 224 334 334 350 350
Average	siden	E.	47 92 104 107 125 136 147 157 157 157 157 157 175 175 175 175 17
AN	Re	M.	40 73 102 1116 1146 1147 1147 1158 1166 1170 1173
ng		Total.	130 1188 2220 2220 2237 2286 3316 3316 3316 3328 334 343 343 344 401
naini	Remaini at end c Year.	E.	72 108 1108 1118 1146 1149 1161 1161 1160 1160 1160 1160 1160 116
Ren		M.	58 86 86 1112 1132 1132 1151 1151 1151 1151 1151
		Total.	29 33 34 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55
Died.	Died.	F.	23224444428222
		M.	175588888888888888888888888888888888888
		Total.	
‡		1	0
Es		M.	1171111111111
	.pg	Total.	1 : c1 : Q : cc 4 :
	Not	F.	0 1 0 0 0
	Impr	M.	1 1 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
ed.	1.	Total.	1184747400
Discharged.	Relieved.		:088307878311111
Disc	Re	M.	:O01-1-4004-0004
	d.	Total.	33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33
	Recovered.	표.	250 254 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256
	Rec	M.	1208341256125814135
d.		Total.	1145 101 101 102 123 123 123 123 123 123 123 123 123 12
Admitted		E.	77. 96. 96. 97. 97. 97. 97. 97. 97. 97. 97
Ad		M.	68 52 44 47 47 44 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47
-		~	_
Years.		Last 6	of 1852 1853 1854 1855 1855 1857 1859 1860 1861 1862 1863 1863 1863 1863 1863 1864 1863 1864 1865

* Of the 1353 admissions, 107 have been re-admissions, 98 of whom had been previously discharged recovered.

+ 20 of the admissions in 1854 were chronic cases received for five years from the Gloucester Asylum; four appear in the obituary, and sixteen among the removed, not improved, in 1859. They do not appear in the other Tables. # The escapes were all of Criminals, who were strangers to this county; two of the Males were nearly convalescent when they escaped; and one was supposed to be feigning insanity. The Female was re-taken after an absence of about five months.

TABLE 3.

FORM OF INSANITY IN THE PATIENTS ADMITTED AND RECOVERED.

- 2		fore 63.	18	63.	180	34.	18	35.	То	tal.
	A.	R.	A.	R.	A.	R.	A.	R.	A.	R.
Mania										
(a) Recent	346	208	33	20	30	16	24	20	433	264
	170	10	11	1	4	1	7	0	192	12
(c) Puerperal	22	16	3	1	4	4	3	1	32	22
Melancholia	131	69	15	9	14	6	12	10	172	94
Dementia—										
(a) Recent, Acute	19	15	0	1	4	3	2	2	25	21
(b) Chronic or Senile		1	23	2*	25	0	30	1*		4
Idiocy		0	3	0	3	0	6	0	82	0
Doubtful	3	1					1	1	4	2
Total	1076	320	88	34	84	30	85	35	1333	419
Complicated with—										
(a) Epilepsy	136	13	5	2	10	0	3	1	154	16
(b) General Paralysis	400	0	5	0	5	0	4	0	63	0

Marked * Epileptics.

TABLE 4.

AGES ON ADMISSION OF PATIENTS ADMITTED AND RECOVERED.

			fore 63.	180	63.	186	34.	18	65.	To	tal.
		A.	R.	A.	R.	A.	R.	A.	R.	A.	R
Under 10 y	ears	 12	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	14	1
10 to 20	,,	 64	20	4	0	7	2	4	4	79	26
20 ,, 30	"	 234	93	16	8	22	8	11	8	283	117
30 ,, 40	22	 236	61	16	9	16	7	19	9	287	86
40 ,, 50	23	 204	60	14	6	16	3	13	4	247	7:
50 ,, 60	22	 159	48	16	4	8	4	12	4	195	60
60 ,, 70	23	 99	27	14	7	9	4	16	5	138	45
70 ,, 80	"	 55	8	5	0	5	2	8	1	73	11
80 ,, 90	22	 10	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	14	(
Above 90	,,	 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	(
Unknown		 2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1 5

TABLE 5.

TERM OF RESIDENCE IN ASYLUM OF PATIENTS RECOVERED.

	Before 1863.	1863.	1864.	1865.	Total.
Under 6 months	198	24	19	21	262
From 6 to 12 months	68	3	7	5	83
" 1 " 2 years	32	4	3	5	44
Over 2 years	22	3	1	4	30

TABLE 6.

DOMESTIC CONDITION OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

		fore 63.	18	63.	18	64.	18	65.	To	tal.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Married	217	210	21	16	15	20	18	18	271	264
Single	249	250	16	21	17	24	13	20	295	315
Widowed	43	84	5	8	5	2	6	10	59	104
Unknown	15	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	17	8

TABLE 7. RELIGIOUS PERSUASION OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

Established Church Baptists Calvinists Independents Methodists Primitive ditto	Plymouth Brethren 1 Protestant Dissenters, denomination not stated 27 Roman Catholics 68 Jews 2 None, or not known 101
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TABLE 8.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

- No		T 1 1377 1	No.
	3	Laundresses and Washerwomen	18
201110010 11111111111111111111111111111	2	Lacemaker	1
	1	Leather-dresser	1
	3	Letter Carriers	2
Bath Chairman	1 2	Limeburner	1
mental and the second s	3	Lodging-house Keepers	2 2
	8	Maltsters	
	2	Masons	2
	2 2	Merchant	
		Milkman	1
	1 8	Millers	
	6	Milliner	1
Discontinuence First First First First	2	Monthly Nurse	1
		Mountebank	
		Musician	1
200000000000000000000000000000000000000	$\frac{1}{2}$	Needlemakers	10
		Needlewomen	16
	1	None or not known	150
	2		3
	1	Painters	
	2	Peripatetic Lecturer	
Charwomen 2		Plasterers	-
	2		1
	4	Photographer	
	1	Printers	_
Coachmen	2	Prostitutes	
	ĩ	Publican	
Coal-dealers	2	Pumpmaker	1
	1	Pupil Teacher	î
Coal-miners 1	-	Railway Servants	6
	ĭ	,, Agent	
	1	Rate Collectors	
Discharged Soldiers 1		Saddler	
Domestic	-	Sailor	î
	8	Sawyer	1
Dressmakers 1		Schoolmasters	3 2
	i	Schoolmistresses	2
	4	Servants	151
	1	Shepherd	
	3	Shoebinders	-
	1	Shoemakers	26
444	1	Silkwinders	26
	9	Slater	1
	1	Stocking-makers	2
	1	Stokers	2 2 2
Gamekeepers	3	Strikers	2
Gaol Warders	2	Tailors	17
Gardeners	8	Tallow Chandler	1
Gasfitter	1	Tea-dealer	1
Governesses	5	Toll Clerk	1
Grocers and Assistants	5	Tramps	3
	1	Tutor	1
Grooms	5	Upholsterers	2
	1	Warehouseman	
Hawkers		Watchmakers	21
	3	Weavers	74
	1	Wheelwrights	7
Ironmongers	5	Whitesmiths	1
Labourers 23	1	Woodturner	1

TABLE 9.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ī		D.	P	,			
			fore 65.	18	865.	T	otal.
	Cerebral or Spinal Disease—	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.] F.
١	Apoplexy	7	4	1	0	8	4
1	Chronic disorganization of Brain	47	22	5	1	52	23
1	General Paralysis	43	11	3	0	46	11
1	Tumor in Brain	2	0	0	0	2	0
1	Epilepsy	30	10	0	0	1	0
1	Thoracic Disease—	00	10	1	1	31	11
1	Phthisis	14	31	1	4	15	35
1	Pneumonia	5	2	Ô	0	5	2
1	Bronchitis	3	1	1	i	4	2
1	Bronchorrhœa	0	1	0	0	Ô	ī
1	Hydrothorax	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	Asthma Heart disease	3 5	5	0	0	3 5	0-
1	Abdominal Disease—	0	0	0	1	5	6
1	Chronic Gastritis	1	1	0	0	1	1
ı	Diarrhœa	4	Ô	0	0	1 4	0
1	Enteritis	2	0	0	ő	2	0
ı	Peritonitis	1	0	0	0	2	l o
1	Intestinal Obstruction	1	0	0	0	1	0
1	Ascites	1	0	0	0	1	. 0
ı	Tabes Mesenterica Albuminuria	1	0	0	0	1	0
1	Uterine disease	0	0 2	0	0	1	0
١	Typhomania	11	13	0	0	11	13
١	Fever	0	1	ő	0	0	10
1	General Dropsy and Old Age	0	1	0	0	0	i
1	Cancer	0	4	0	0	0	4
١	Caries	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	Carbuncle Erysipelas	1 0	0	0	0	1	0
1	Pyœmia	1	1 0	0	0	0	1
1	Cellulitis	1	0	0	0	1	0
1	Gangrene (Senile)	Ô	2	0	0	0	2
1	,, of Lung	0	1	0	Ö	ő	1
1	Paralysis of Bladder	1	0	0	0	1	ô
-	Prostration of Vital Powers from	0					
-	extreme grief	0	1 0	0	0	0	1
1	Asphyxia from food in Windpipe	9	8	0	0	8	8 0
1	" from vomited matter in do.	8 2 1	0	0	0	2	0
1	" from turning on face	ō	ĭ	ő	ő	0	1
1	Burn	1	0	0	1	1	0 1 1
	Fracture of Cranium from fall in			1	1		
	Epileptic Fit	1	0	0	0	1	0
	General Decay	8	6	0	0	8	6
	Dood of ago	18	29	2	6	20	35
-	(-	-			

TABLE 10.

AGES OF PATIENTS AT DEATH.

	Before 1865.	1865.	Total.		Before 1865.	1865.	Total.
Under 10 years	3	0	3	From 60 to 70 years	50	5	55
From 10 to 20 years	14	0	14	,, 70 ,, 80 ,,	52	3	55
,, 20 ,, 30 ,,	41	5	46	,, 80 ,, 90 ,,	10	4	14
,, 30 ,, 40 ,,	70	3	73	,, 90 ,, 100 ,,	2	0	2
,, 40 ,, 50 ,,	74	6	80	Not known	9	0	9
,, 50 ,, 60 ,,	63	3	66	12 13 12 15 1		The land	

DIETARY TABLE.

MEN.

BREAKFAST.

One Pint of Coffee.
Six Ounces of Bread and 3 Ounces of Butter.

DINNER.

Sunday Cooked Meat, free from bone, 51 Ounces; Tuesday Bread, 4 Ounces; Beer, Wednesday Half a Pint; Vegeta-bles, about 12 Ounces. Friday Meat and Potato Pie— Crust, 12 Ounces; Monday Cooked Meat, 12 Ounces; Thursday -Beer, Half a Pint. Saturday-Soup, 1 Pint; Bread, 6 Ounces; Beer, Half a Pint.

SUPPER.

Six Ounces of Bread, 2 Ounces of Cheese, Half a Pint of Beer; or, 1 Pint of Tea, 6 Ounces of Bread, and 3 Ounce of Butter.

WOMEN.

BREAKFAST.

One Pint of Coffee.

Five Ounces of Bread and § Ounce of Butter.

DINNER.

Sunday Cooked Meat, free from Bone, 41 Ounces; Tuesday Bread, 4 Ounces; Beer, Wednesday Half a Pint; Vegeta-Friday bles, about 12 Ounces. Meat and Potato Pie-Monday Crust, 10 Ounces; Cooked Meat, 12 Ounces; Thursday -Beer, Half a Pint. Saturday-Soup, 1 Pint; Bread, 5 Ounce; Beer, Half a Pint.

SUPPER.

One Pint of Tea, Five Ounces of Bread, § Ounce of Butter.

N.B.—Soup for One Hundred Patients, to be made of Liquor of Meat cooked the previous day, with 14 lbs. of Leg or Shin of Beef, 7 lbs. of Peas, 6 lbs. of Rice, 3 lbs. of Scotch Barley, 5 lbs. of Onions, Salt, Pepper, and Herbs.

EXTRAS.—For men employed as Ward-helpers, or in out-door labour: in the middle of the Forenoon, Half a Pint of Beer, 2 Ounces of Bread, and Half an Ounce of Cheese; and at Four P.M., Half a Pint of Beer. For Women employed as Ward-helpers, or in the Kitchen or Laundry, Beer, Bread, and Cheese, in Forenoon, as Men. The Sick to be dieted at the discretion of the Medical Superintendent.

THE DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN THE ASYLUM FOR THE YEAR 1865 WAS 390.

AVERAGE WEEKLY COST OF MAINTENANCE, MEDICINE, CLOTHING, & CARE OF PATIENTS DURING THE YEAR 1865.

	Total Cost for	Cost per Head
version.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salarias and Wagas		$0 \ 1 \ 10\frac{3}{4}$
Salaries and Wages	1,927 5 8	0 1 101
Provisions (including all articles of		Sept to the sept
Diet, excepting Wine, Spirits, and	4 514 19 01	0 4 73
Porter)	4,514 12 8½	0 4 53
Wines, Spirits, and Porter	46 8 0	0 0 01
Necessaries (Fuel, Lighting, Washing,	1000 0 111	0 1 03
(&c.)	1,330 6 11½	0 1 3 4
Surgery and Dispensary	56 16 11	0 0 05
Clothing	617 13 2½	0 0 74
Furniture and Bedding	270 1 4	0 0 31/4
Garden and Farm	$582 \ 6 \ 9\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 678
Miscellaneous, viz.:- £. s. d.		
Funeral Expenses 18 18 6		
Rates and Taxes 7 18 10	161 8 4	0 0 12
Printing, Stationery, Tra-		
velling Expenses, &c. 134 11 0)	0.500.10.11	0 0 41
T . M 1 C . A 1	9,506 19 11	0 9 44
Less Monies received for Articles,		
Goods, and Produce Sold (exclusive	400 0 91	0 0 43
of those consumed in the Asylum)	409 9 3½	0 0 43
	£9,097 10 7½	0 8 11½
	Same as a second	s. d.
Total Average Weekly Cost pe	er Head	
		water to be designed in
Weekly Change for Pannons from Co	unties on Danson	s. d,
Weekly Charge for Paupers from Co		
which Asylum belongs Ditto Ditto Ditto from other Countie		
* Ditto Ditto for Private Patients * Not now adm		10 6
- Not now adm	To The Contract of the Contrac	

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COUNTY LUNATIC

ASYLUM.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1866.

MARWICKER

COUNTY LUNATIC

ASTIUM.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1866.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

WILLIAM DICKINS, Esq., Cherrington, Shipston-on-Stour, Chairman.

THE LORD LEIGH, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth.

SIR R. N. C. Hamilton, Bart., Avon Cliffe, Stratford-upon-Avon.

CHARLES HOLTE BRACEBRIDGE, Esq., Atherstone Hall, Atherstone.

HENRY THOMAS CHAMBERLAYNE, Esq., Stoney Thorpe, Southam.

RICHARD GREAVES, Esq., Cliff House, Warwick.

BOLTON KING, Esq., Chadshunt, Kineton.

GUSTAVUS THOMAS SMITH, Esq., Walton, Warwick.

John Staunton, Esq., Longbridge House, Warwick.

HENRY CHRISTOPHER WISE, Esq., M.P., Woodcote, Warwick.

THE REV. RICHARD LICKORISH, Wolston, Coventry.

THE REV. CHARLES PILKINGTON, Stockton, Southam.

THE REV. JAMES CORALL ROBERTS, Witherley, Atherstone.

T. S. Morris, Esq., The Cottage, Stoke, near Coventry.

C. M. CALDECOTT, Esq., Holbrook Grange, near Rugby.

J. T. ARKWRIGHT, Esq., Hatton, near Warwick.

J. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., Rugby.

J. O. Bacchus, Esq., Norwood House, Learnington.

EDWARD WHELER, Esq., 3, Bertie Terrace, Leamington.

James Dugdale, Esq., Wroxhall Abbey.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

TO THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS, EPIPHANY, 1867.

THE Committee of Visitors, in making this their Annual Report of the state and condition of the Asylum, and its efficiency for the proper accommodation of the number of Lunatics, for whom it may be necessary to make provision, have to express their regret that, owing to a gradual increase in the number of admissions during the past and the preceding year, the accommodation, especially on the Female side, has become inadequate to the requirements of the County. At the last Annual Report, Epiphany Sessions, 1866, the number of Patients was-Males, 181; Females, 220; total, 401; being an increase of 17 Patients over the number in the Asylum at the preceding Epiphany Sessions. At the present time the numbers are-Males, 190; Females, 241; total, 431; making an increase of 30 Patients during the year 1866. Total recovered during the year, 39. It has, therefore, become incumbent upon the Committee to provide some increase of accommodation, to meet the increasing demand. For this purpose, they have consulted Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain, Architects, of Birmingham, who have prepared a Plan, with the assent of Dr. Parsey, the Medical Superintendent, and with the approval of the Committee, who have gone very minutely into the details, whereby increased accommodation will be obtained on the Female side for 22 Patients, and other improvements made, which practical experience suggests, as necessary to the health and well-being of the Patients. To effect these alterations and additions, will require, by Estimate, a Sum not exceeding £2,500; and the Committee apply to the Court to sanction this outlay. As regards the general management of the Asylum, and the conduct of the Officers and Servants belonging to it, the Committee continue to place unabated confidence in their assiduity and ability in their respective departments; in which opinion they are confirmed and supported by the recorded judgment of two of the Commissioners in Lunacy, in their last annual visit of inspection, that the state and condition of the Asylum is very creditable to the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Parsey, and the Officers connected with the Establishment.

(Signed)

WILLIAMS DICKINS. LEIGH. RICHARD GREAVES. J. O. BACCHUS. H. C. WISE.

DR. PARSEY'S ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

In bringing under the notice of the Committee a statement of the movements and general condition of the inmates of the Asylum during the past twelve months, I am glad that, with the exception of an unusual increase in the numbers, I have little or nothing to record which has interfered with their general well-being and comfort, or has added to the difficulties of management.

The movements during the past year have been :-

T- 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	M.		F.	7	COTAL.
In the Asylum 1st January, 1866	181		220		401
Admissions	42		63		105
Total under treatment during the year Removals—	223	4.	283		506
Recovered	12				35
Relieved			3		3
Transferred to another Asylum			0		1
Escaped			0		1
Deaths Remaining 31st December, 1866, including one	19		15	••	34
Female absent on trial	190		242		432
Daily average number under treatment	187		226		413

The prominent feature of this summary is the large addition to the numbers if compared with previous years; an addition that has been approached on only one out of the last eight years, viz., 1862, when there was a permanent increase of 25; the annual average increase for the seven years preceding the present having been 14.5.

The mental condition of the admissions has not been favourable as regards the prospect of recovery; more than half of them have been of a chronic incurable character; fifteen were epileptics; and seven congenital idiots. Their physical state has been of about the ordinary average; there has been a rather undue proportion of elderly people among them; and two were above the age of eighty.

But what is perhaps the point of greatest interest in our numbers, is the proportion that they bear to the population of the County, and the unequal proportion in which they are received from the different Unions. According to the last return of the Commissioners in Lunacy, there were on January 1st, 1866, 24,995 insane poor confined in the various County and Borough Asylums, and other Lunatic Hospitals and Asylums throughout England and Wales; or, one to about every 860 of the population. But, estimating the population of the County of Warwick (exclusive of Birmingham, which has its own Asylum) in round numbers at 265,000, the insane poor confined in this Asylum are one in about every 620. The apparently unfavourable contrast shown by these figures is, however, in great measure accounted for by the smaller proportion of insane poor retained in the Warwickshire Workhouses, than in those of many parts of the Country,* which, from their great size, are able to have wards with special (though generally very inadequate) conveniences and arrangements, and a staff of attendants set apart for some of their chronic insane.

The accompanying TABLE

Name of Union.	Population at last Census.	Lunatics in County Asylum.	Proportion of Lunatics to Population.			
Alcester	11,791	25	1 in 472			
Aston	29,974	16	,, 1,873			
Atherstone	10,615	7	,, 1,516			
Banbury	2,788	4	,, 694			
Chipping Norton	1,285	3	,, 428			
Coventry	41,647	57	,, 706			
Foleshill	19,997	- 30	,, 666			
Hinckley	1,272	0				
Lutterworth	1,972	2	,, 986			
Meriden	11,290	26	,, 434			
Nuneaton	13,054	18	,, 725			
Rugby	21,413	20	,, 1,019			
Shipston-on-Stour	7,937	16	,, 496			
Solihull	9,383	25	,, 357			
Southam	10,372	13	,, 798			
Stratford-on-Avon	18,813	41	,, 459			
Tamworth	8,785	8	,, 1,098			
Warwick	42,847	87	,, 492			
County Fund	a shift in	26	to partenger of a dir			

^{*} The number of pauper lunatics or idiots still confined in Workhouses is nearly 10,000.

gives the number of pauper insane in this Asylum on 31st December, 1866, and the proportions that they bear to the populations of the respective Unions of the County. The absence of all approximation to uniformity shown by the various Unions is somewhat striking; the relative numbers sent here by some of them being nearly three times as great as from others; and this without any special feature in the habits, occupations, or grouping of the population to account at all for such discrepancies; indeed, it appears that, contrary to what might be anticipated, the largest proportions are derived from some of the most strictly agricultural Unions-those most removed from what are commonly considered the more active exciting causes of insanity. That the Warwick Union should stand high in the list would be expected by every one conversant with Asylum statistics, as the experience is very general that the patients from the home Union-that in which the Asylum is situated-are relatively in excess of those from most other parts of a County; and this appears to be a natural result of the greater facilities for transmission, and of the slighter repugnance of friends to their insane relatives being removed to an Asylum easily accessible, and better understood as to its objects and detail of working than can be by residents in more distant parts of a county. If from all the districts from which our inmates are drawn they were sent here in the same ratio as from the Warwick Union, our present numbers would be nearly 530 instead of 430.

The accumulating numbers of the insane in Asylums has often and in large measure erroneously been adduced as proof that mental disorder is seriously on the increase. If, however, we bear in mind that the extent to which it is supposed to prevail in different countries bears a direct ratio to the advance that has been made in the care and treatment of their insane; or, in other words, that where insanity is most carefully looked for, there it is most extensively found; and that in this country, during the last quarter of a century, the influence of very great changes favourable to the prolongation of life among the insane has been gradually working its effects; and that from the more diffused knowledge of the disorder its less exaggerated forms are recognised, and the appreciation of its existence is no longer by the mass of people limited to that really comparatively rare form of it, raving mania; we may, in these conditions, I think, find the explanation of the apparent increase of it among us. Many would, doubtless, add to these the present activity of life, with its accompanying irregularities; intense

but to those accustomed to deal with insanity in the rural districts this latter influence does not carry with it the same significance as it does to observers in the large industrial centres, as we find mental disorder to be nearly, if not quite, as rife among the rural as among the urban population; and, in either locality, affecting females to as great, or greater extent than males. Under all circumstances of life the proclivity to the disorder appears to be equally common; only the form that it assumes is to a certain extent influenced by the habits, occupations, and modes of life of the different sections of the community.

Whatever, however, may be the cause, or the assigned reasons, the fact of the extensive diffusion of mental disorder has to be accepted and dealt with, and presents many serious considerations as regards both the insane themselves and society at large. And it is not to be wondered at that this Asylum, which, planned on the imperfect data of eighteen years ago, was supposed to have been built on a very liberal scale, has been found inadequate to the demands of the County. Originally intended to accommodate 150 males and 175 females, it has now within its walls 190 males and 241 females; and the want of room still presses upon you. During the past year, structural alterations, which have given twenty-two additional beds and a very acceptable and useful enlargement of two day rooms, will, I hope, meet the demands of the male side of the building for the next few years, as the increase of males has never been rapid, and, for the last seven years, has averaged only four per annum. On the female side a similar enlargement, which may be effected with equal facility, and at similar cost, or such other mode of increasing the accommodation as your Committee may think most advisable, is becoming absolutely necessary, as all available space has been brought into use, and occupied by the female patients now in the Asylum. For what length of time such an enlargement will suffice it is difficult to estimate, as the annual rate of increase (ten per annum for the preceding seven years) has always been much greater than that of the males.

As a sort of set-off against the excess of females in the Asylum, it is, perhaps, worth stating, that there is an unusually large proportion among them so aged that in the common course of nature their additional period of life can be but short, and the anticipated mortality among them from simple decay of age must tend, in some degree, to keep down our numbers. There are at present four females above eighty years of age, eleven between seventy-five and eighty, and ten between seventy and

seventy-five; making a total of rather over ten per cent. of the female residents who have already attained to the ordinary span of life. As bearing also on this subject, I should refer to the mortality during the past year. It has, like that of its preceding one, been below the average for Asylums; and that must in itself contribute to the increase of our numbers; for by death alone can our large yearly admissions of persons in a chronic incurable state of insanity be reduced. In 1865 the mortality was seven and a half per cent. on the average number resident; in the past year it has been eight per cent.; or for each year more than three per cent. below the general average: if it had attained to the average four and twenty more would have been in the two years struck off our numbers, and our annual increase would not have called for special comment. The following summaries give the causes of death, and ages at the time of its occurrence:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

General Paralysis. Disorganization of Brain Epilepsy Cerebral Congestion and Exhaustio after Epilepsy Typhomania Decay of age Phthisis Caries of Spine.	7 4 1 1 6 7	Pneumonia & Maniacal Exhaustion 1 Pneumonia and Chronic Disease of Lungs and Heart
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AGES AT DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total.		M.	F.	Total.
10 to 20 years	1	0	1	70 to 75 years	2	0	2
20 ,, 30 ,,	1	3	4	75 ,, 80 ,,	3	2	5
30 ,, 40 ,,	3	3	6	80 ,, 86 ,,	0	1	1
40 ,, 50 ,,	5	1	6	" "			1
50 ,, 60 ,,	2	4	6	Total	19	15	34
60 ,, 70 ,,	2	1	3		-	10	94

A woman, aged 76, who was dying out from general decay, had her death to some extent accelerated by a fracture of the neck of the thigh bone from an accidental fall in her bed room. With this exception there has been nothing in any way out of the ordinary contributing to the causes of death. Diseases of the brain and nervous system occupy naturally the most prominent place; after them consumption and old age; leaving only five others to be accounted for by other forms of disease. One-fourth occurred in persons above seventy years of age; another fourth in persons between fifty and seventy; indicating a good average at death; and the assigned causes, all of which were verified by post mortem examination, show, what has been borne out by the general healthy condition of the Asylum, that we have been free from epidemics, and from the fatal forms of disease which are supposed specially to affect the general community at the different seasons.

Besides the fracture already referred to there have been but two accidents through the year, in any degree of a serious character; one of these was the loss of a finger, consequent on a very severe bite from a fellow-patient; the other happened to a patient whilst helping to clear away after supper; he in some way entangled his foot and fell, breaking some earthenware, a piece of which inflicted a long deep gash across his cheek and side of nose. Exhaustion from profuse loss of blood, and difficulty at first in taking food, from the nature of the injury, induced a serious form of delirium, which was a source of much anxiety for a day or two, but terminated favourably; and in a short time he was none the worse for his accident.

The general good health and freedom from disease that have characterised the year are, I consider, in some degree attributable to the readiness of the subordinate officers of the Asylum in carrying out such instructions as have been given them, either as regards the personal condition and clothing of the patients, cleanliness, exercise, air, ventilation, or measures directed towards the promotion of cheerfulness; such as due attention to recreation and amusement among those who can appreciate such influences—and there are few who cannot—and the careful watching and tending of the feeble, helpless, or deprayed. There has been of late a special necessity for care and vigilance in the matter of cleanliness and ventilation; as, with increase in our numbers, and lapse of years, the system of drainage from the sinks and closets has become so far imperfect as to call for much alteration and improvement: but as this has been recently made a

subject of special enquiry by your Committee, with a view to the remedying of defects, I have no occasion to make further reference to it here.

The system of occupation and amusement, which in an Asylum should take a prominent place among the remedial and palliative agents, has not varied materially from that pursued in preceding years. We have been able to find daily useful employment of some kind or other for an average of about two-thirds of each sex; and four-fifths may be taken roughly as the number for whom some sort of industrial break is made in the routine monotony of their lives. The value of this labour varies greatly: some helps appreciably in reducing expenditure; whilst other, in a monetary point of view, is merely nominal; but, as giving something to do to those who would otherwise be mischievous, or lead a life of utter monotonous listlessness, it is, as a remedial agent, of as great, and in some cases greater value, than that which contributes to the profitable industry of the Asylum. As estimating the value of the patients' work, I may mention that one paid shoemaker, with the aid of five and sometimes six patients, does all the making and mending; whilst a tailor-attendant with an average of eight or nine patients, makes and repairs all the men's clothing, mattress-cases, and many other useful requisites. Three constantly, and one occasionally, assist the "baker and brewer;" and one of them, for a long period, took the entire management of the brewing. Five work in the carpenter's shop, and one of them is a very ingenious and valuable workman, to whose steady skill we are indebted for numbers of washing stands, picture frames, flower stands, and other work on the female side, and for almost all carpentering required in the male wards. One is regularly employed in the clerk's office and stores. A smith patient keeps the forge usefully at work. One acts as stoker, and helps in the gas making; whilst the painting, papering, colouring, and whitewashing, in the male division, are almost entirely the work of patients; and much similar assistance is rendered by them in the female division. All this may be regarded as skilled labour, and has a decided value; and is in addition to the less valuable work done by those employed in the gardens and on the land, by the coal carriers, ward helpers, and the pickers of hair, for the making and renovating of mattresses and pillows.

Among the females, the work done is in all respects equally useful. More than thirty patients are employed in the laundry, and ten in the kitchen, whilst the needlework and knitting done in the wards

keeps up an efficient supply of female clothing, of male under-clothing, bed linen, and a large proportion of stockings required for use, in addition to much simple ornamental work—such as vallances, knitted curtains, table covers, hearth-rugs, &c. The assistance of the females also in the ordinary domestic work is manifest to everybody who passes through the female wards.

In enumerating these occupations, I have drawn attention to their economic value; but in an Asylum for the insane this is only the lower points of view from which to regard them. Employment of a patient means a certain stage of mental improvement, or an arrest of mental deterioration; it indicates so much lighting up of an impaired or decayed intelligence; the exercise of so much self control; in some the concentration of so much attention; in others the withdrawal from a morbid abstraction, or concentration of ideas; and the willingness to return to it is often one of the first and most valuable indications of a returning dawn of reason. And it is in the promotion of objects such as these that industrial employments have their special significance, and require careful and judicious supervision at the hands of trained and skilled directors. To the other division of this branch of curative treatment, the abstraction from morbid trains of thought by amusements, I have no occasion to refer now, except to say that as much variety is given to it as our resources will allow, and that I have to thank all the officers and servants of the Asylum, for the readiness with which they devote to the promotion of this object much of the time that they might otherwise claim as their own.

The recoveries, though numerically exactly the same as those of the preceding year (35), bear a relatively smaller proportion to the admissions, which have been unusually numerous, especially towards the latter part of the year. In addition to those discharged recovered, two others were so far improved as to be able to return to their homes and occupations; but these and one other were discharged as relieved. One was removed to another County Asylum, that of his place of settlement. And one effected his escape; he was at the time nearly, if not quite, convalescent, and would, in a few weeks, have been returned to Gaol, to take his trial for a comparatively trifling offence. He did not belong to this county, and has not been again heard of. This is only the fourth patient that has effected a permanent escape from this Asylum from the time of its opening; all of them had been received from Gaol, and had no fixed location in this County.

The only change in the higher working staff of the Asylum has been caused by the resignation of Mr. Berrell, the Assistant Medical Officer; after only sixteen months' residence here he was obliged, from private reasons, to give up his appointment that he might reside in London. Both on my own account and on that of the patients, I regretted the necessity of his resignation, but am fortunate in having as his successor Mr. R. Nell, who has brought with him a previous experience from a twelvementh's residence in the Gloucester Asylum as Junior Assistant Medical Officer, and an apparently earnest desire to perform the requirements of his office here in a spirit that will make his assistance valuable to myself, and advantageous to the objects of our charge. From my other fellow officers I have received assistance, whose value is enhanced by their long experience in their respective departments of this Asylum, and I hope that the results of the year's work will not be unsatisfactory to your Committee.

W. H. PARSEY, M.D.

3rd JANUARY, 1867.

THE DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN THE ASYLUM FOR THE YEAR 1866 WAS 413.

AVERAGE WEEKLY COST OF MAINTENANCE, MEDICINE, CLOTHING, & CARE OF PATIENTS DURING THE YEAR 1866.

	Total (Head eek.
and the same of the same of the same of	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Salaries and Wages	1,929	14	41	0	1	91/2
Provisions (including all articles of						
Diet, excepting Wine, Spirits, and	estin Total					
Porter)	5,033	8	11	0	4	8
Wines, Spirits, and Porter	32	0	0	0	0	03
Necessaries (Fuel, Lighting, Washing,						
&c.)	1,163	6	$3\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	1
Surgery and Dispensary	54	8	7	0	0	0\$
Clothing	732	11	10	0	0	81
Furniture and Bedding	299	15	8	0	0	34
Garden and Farm	468	14	$2\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	51
MISCELLANEOUS, viz.:- £. s. d.				1		
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	9,889	1	31/2	0	9	21
Less Monies received for Articles,						
Goods, and Produce Sold (exclusive				1		
of those consumed in the Asylum)	360	14	81/2	0	0	4
	£9,528	6	7	0	8	104

Total Average Weekly Cost per Head, 8s. 104d.

Weekly Charge for Paupers from Counties or Boroughs to which Asylum belongs... 8s. 9d., 9s. 0½d., 9s. 0½d., 9s. 0½d., 9s. 0½d. Ditto Ditto Ditto from other Counties... 14s. *Ditto Ditto for Private Patients... 10s. 9½d., 11s. 1d., 11s. 1d., 11s. 1d. *Not now admitted.

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1	Balance due to Treasurer 1st January	PAYMENTS under the following Heads, viz.:-	Monies invested during the Year	larie	Provisions (including all articles of Diet,	өхсе	Wines, Spirits, and Porter	cess	Surgery and Dispensary	Clothing	Furniture and Bedding	Funeral Expenses	Building and Repairs£1,059 11s. 7d.)	Building Loan & Interest £3,121 19s. 8d.	Garden and Farm	Rates and Taxes	MISCELLANEOUS, viz. :-	ntin				5
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8.	0 0 0 0		0 0	360 14		212 1	ies and)	8,118	longs	. 02	0 60	EASURERS			9			spect of,	9 16 0	0 0	£14,368 15	
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£. 8.	alance in hand 1st January 0 0 0		0 0	360 14	INTENANCE ACCOUNT, viz.:-	212 1	(1. From Counties and)	8,118	~	. 02	0 60	m County and Borough Treasurers	nder the following Heads:-	or Buildings and Repairs	9		SCELLANEOUS, viz. :-	from County Fire Office, in respect of,	9 16 0	0 0	£14,368 15	
£. 8.	Balance in hand 1st January 0 0 0	viz.:-	0 0	our, &c 360 14	MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT, viz.:-	-	(1. From Counties and)	8,118	Pauper ditto { Asylum belongs)	. 02	0 60	4. From County and Borough Treasurers	under the following Heads:-	For Buildings and Repairs	4,542 6	From Voluntary Contributions 0 0 0	6. Miscellaneous, viz. :	Bonus from County Fire Office, in respect of,	9 16 0	r 0 0	368 15	

RICHARD GREAVES, J. T. ARKWRIGHT,

AUDITIORS.
P. P. SANDERS, Clerk.

