

The report of the visitors of the West-Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum for the year 1852.

Contributors

West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum.
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THE
R E P O R T
OF THE
VISITORS
OF THE
West - Riding
P A U P E R
LUNATIC ASYLUM,
For the Year 1852.

Wakefield :
PRINTED BY R. HURST, WESTGATE.

1853.

THE
REPORT
OF THE VISITORS
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VISITORS
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REPORT OF THE VISITORS.

Health of Patients. The health of the Patients during the past year has been generally good, and although the mortality has been great, the deaths that have taken place have occurred chiefly amongst the paralyzed, the epileptic, and the Patients recently admitted, some of whom have died within a few hours after their reception.

Admissions. The Admissions during the year have been :—

Males.....132

Females.....152

—————
Total..... 284
—————

Accommodation. There being now ample accommodation in the Buildings, all Patients have been admitted on application, a circumstance which tends much to promote their ultimate recovery.

Deaths. The deaths have been as follows :—

Males..... 54

Females..... 55

—————
Total109
—————

Discharges. The discharges have been as follows :—

Males..... 67

Females..... 72

—————
Total139
—————

Number of Patients. The number of patients this day in the Institution is as follows :—

Males.....302

Females.....345

—————
Total647
—————

Weekly charge. The Visitors have reduced the weekly charge from seven shillings, to six shillings and three-pence, during the present year.

New Farm Buildings. The Visitors have thought it desirable to provide New Farm Buildings, the old ones being quite inadequate to the wants of the enlarged Institution, and the old Buildings could not have been made available except at a greater cost and with less of convenience than the new ones will afford.

Officers and Servants. The Officers and Servants of the Asylum have fulfilled their respective duties to the entire satisfaction of the Visitors.

Paupers only to be admitted. The Visitors again desire to call the attention of the Justices to the necessity of confining the admissions to Paupers only. The Justices are particularly requested to see that the commitments are carefully filled up, and

that the persons for whom warrants of commitment are required, are really chargeable to the Townships.

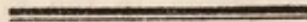
Visit of
Commis-
sioners
in Lunacy.

The Commissioners in Lunacy have visited the Institution on two occasions during the past year. Copies of their Reports are appended, to which the Visitors refer with satisfaction, as shewing that the Institution is ably and successfully managed.

H. W. WICKHAM,

CHAIRMAN.

January 4th, 1853.



WEST-RIDING LUNATIC ASYLUM,

WAKEFIELD, MAY 22nd, 1852.

We have this day officially visited and inspected the West-Riding Lunatic Asylum, and have seen all the Patients now placed in it. These amount to 649, of whom 307 are Males and 342 are Females. At the time of the visit they were in general tranquil and orderly, and in their persons and dress they were very neat and clean. Two patients, a male and a female, who were in bed, were under instrumental restraint, to prevent them from getting up, and indulging their propensity to violence and destructiveness. Two men and three women were in seclusion.

Since the visit of the Commissioners in December, 1850, 393 new patients have been received, whose certificates were laid before us. Within the same period 187 have been discharged (of whom 170 are stated to have been recovered,) and 135 have died. Of the deaths 19 are ascribed to maniacal exhaustion, 21 to gradual exhaustion, 19 to paralysis, 15 to phthisis, 11 to old age, 9 to diarrhœa, 2 to dysentry, 14 to epilepsy, and 25 to various other causes.

The present condition of the inmates is generally healthy, and no epidemic or contagious disorder now prevails among them.

The various Wards, the dormitories, and single sleeping rooms, were clean, well ventilated, and in good order when we inspected them. In all of the day rooms and several of the dormitories we found comfortable fires burning.

We saw the Patients at dinner; the food was of good quality and seemed to be eaten with relish.

On enquiry we learn that about 230 men on an average are employed in various kinds of work, nearly 100 of them in labour out of doors. At least an equal number of women are regularly employed in the laundry and wash-house, in cleaning the wards, in the kitchen and scullery, in knitting and weaving, and at their needle. With reference to the occupation of the males, it seems to us highly desirable that if an opportunity should offer, advantage should be taken of it to make some addition to the land attached to the Asylum for gardening and agricultural purposes, no species of employment being so generally beneficial and useful in the treatment of the insane, as garden and field labour. The extent of land at present under cultivation does not exceed 20 acres.

The patients spoke very favourably of the kindness and attention with which they are treated;—and the condition of the inmates and of the establishment generally, does credit to those to whom its superintendence is committed.

J. W. MYLNE, }
J. R. HUME, } *Commissioners in Lunacy.*

WAKEFIELD ASYLUM, 17th SEPTEMBER, 1852.

We have inspected this Asylum and seen all the Patients, 649 in number. Of these 305 are males, and 344 are females. With very few exceptions the patients were tranquil and orderly in their demeanour, and their condition was satisfactory. Since the last visit of the Commissioners, in May, 76 new patients have been admitted, 35 have been discharged, and 41 have died. Of the deaths 10 are attributed to paralysis, 6 to epilepsy, 6 to gradual exhaustion, 4 to phthisis, and the remaining 15 to various other causes.

The Asylum is at present in a very healthy state, and few of the patients are suffering from bodily disease of a serious character; 9 males and 14 females are reported to be under medical treatment.

No one is registered in the Medical Journal as having recently been placed under mechanical restraint or in seclusion. At the time of our visit to-day, several patients were shut up in darkened cells; and one male, who was extremely restless, had his left wrist fastened to the bedstead, to prevent him from getting out of bed.

We learn that prayers are read by the Chaplain as usual, and that a large proportion of the patients attend regularly.

As regards employment, there is nothing new to be reported. Every effort is made to occupy the greatest possible number of patients, and all who are capable of work, are encouraged to employ themselves in the way best suited to their capacity. The amount of land however, belonging to the Asylum, is not sufficient to afford adequate out door labour to so large a number of male patients, and we entirely agree with the Commissioners who last visited the establishment, that an additional quantity would be most valuable. We are glad to learn that the Visiting Justices have taken this subject into their serious consideration.

We noticed in our passage through the Wards, several patients who appeared to be approaching convalescence. We heard no complaints, and have every reason to be satisfied with the condition of the establishment.

The Wards were throughout clean and well ventilated.

W. G. CAMPBELL, }
S. GASKELL, } *Commissioners in Lunacy.*

