

# **The twenty-eighth report of the director of the West-Riding of York Pauper Lunatic Asylum.**

## **Contributors**

West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum.  
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THE TWENTY-EIGHTH  
REPORT  
OF THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE  
WEST-RIDING OF YORK  
PAUPER  
LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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1847.



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## R E P O R T.

IN submitting to the Magistrates the twenty-eighth Annual Report of this Institution, the Director is impressed with a deep feeling of the responsibility connected with the nature of the charge entrusted to him.

The urgent and increasing claims of the insane in all parts of the West Riding, the extended and peculiar office of opening another building, in addition to one originally amongst the largest in the kingdom, and an ever increasing perception of the awful character of insanity itself, invest the duties of your Director with a degree of interest and importance, which more than ever awaken attention, solicitude, and care.

An unusually small number of curable patients have been admitted during the past year, thus diminishing the opportunities of affording benefit, and decreasing considerably the number of discharges. Those admitted, have for the most part been received from other Institutions, and have presented all the unfavourable symptoms consequent on previous mismanagement and long continued disease. Manifest improvement has been effected by careful attention to functional derange-



ment, more generous and nutritious diet, warm clothing, and attention to personal cleanliness. But when one year has succeeded another without medical treatment, or without the removal of those moral causes by which medical treatment may be rendered useless; the benefit derived is too generally limited to the mere palliation of urgent symptoms, or a prolonged temporary suspension of the malady.

Of the 93 Patients admitted, 16 are termed re-admissions, having been discharged cured, at former and distant periods. It is gratifying to find that such Patients return to the Asylum with confidence, and in many instances from their own special request. It will not be irrelevant to notice that an attack of insanity like an attack of any other disease, leaves behind it a pre-disposition to recurrence, but a cure is not therefore less certainly established, than is the recovery after the removal of local Inflammation, or in Typhus Fever. A variety of causes conspire to render a return of disease in the Patients of a Pauper Lunatic Asylum, more probably than in those taken from the higher and middle classes of society. Combined with the suspicion with which the public too often regard, any, even the most trifling peculiarity in one who has been the subject of Insanity, and the want of judgement, with which questions are asked, and an attempt made to prove the validity of their cure, and the soundness and compass of their restored faculties; is the difficulty of obtaining a livelihood, the reluctance of former employers to renew their trust, and the self-suspicion with which want and physical privations are anticipated.



These attacks, especially in such instances as are connected with hereditary tendency, or whose proximate cause is distinctly marked by functional derangement, are frequently observed not only to occur successively at more lengthened periods, but gradually to diminish in violence and duration. This circumstance is sometimes perceived by the Patient himself, and it has been found beneficial as a means of inspiring hope, to point it out and dwell on it in conversation, as affording to the Patient cause for gratitude, and the hope, (however slight in the mind of the Physician) of ultimate and permanent recovery.

From the partial occupation of the "Chronic Hospital" now in the course of erection, those admitted have for the most part been females, 54 have been removed to it from the original building. This removal was productive of much satisfaction, numerous applications for removal to the new Wards, having previously been made by the female Patients. The exterior of the "new Building" now completed and partially occupied, is not pre-possessing, but the lightness, cheerfulness and agreeable temperature found within, the sense of adequate space, and appearance of comfort, added to an extensive view of the surrounding country, commanding a not very distant view of the town of Wakefield, with its beautiful church and spire, and of a finely undulating distant back ground of the Yorkshire and Lancashire hills—are objects unquestionably of greater importance than a building of a more agreeable aspect, but in which the particulars essential to the well-being of the inmates, are of secondary



consideration. The centre and <sup>W</sup>east wing of the new Building for the reception of male Patients will require some time before they can be ready for occupation; and on the assurance of the Surveyor that a period of no less than fifteen months must elapse before they could be inhabited, the Visiting Justices determined to seek a temporary abode for male Patients, in which, instead of being scattered in various places as they now are, they might receive the same supervision as within the walls of the Asylum.

After much enquiry, the only available edifice that could be found was a small, neat, and well arranged detached building, used as a place of reception in connection with the "House of Correction." This building was capable of such alterations as would render it a suitable and comfortable abode for 40 or 50 demented male Patients; a large plot of ground on which it opened might with little expense and trouble have been converted into an excellent garden, for air and exercise, and after a minute inspection by the Visiting Justices and the "Commissioners in Lunacy," they unanimously agreed on the propriety of its adaptation to the purposes of a "Lunatic Hospital" with the solitary objection, that prejudice might exist on account of its merely apparent connection with a prison. Such prejudice it was deemed wiser to encounter, and by the removal of 40 or 50 incurable Patients from the present Institution to make room for the same number of recent cases, than by a delay of fifteen months to hazard their recovery, and perhaps place them beyond the reach of curative treatment.



With the sanction of the "Commissioners in Lunacy" an application was made to the Secretary of State so to occupy it; when some legal objection being raised, Sir G. Grey was induced, under the advice of the law officers of the Crown, to withhold his permission, and the works of pulling down and building up, of purifying and adorning, by which this house of detention was to be converted into a house of mercy, were abandoned.

The Visiting Justices in their efforts, (however unsuccessful,) to provide for the relief of the suffering, and to remove from many, an onerous charge for which they feel and acknowledge themselves unfit, have this left, "they have done what they could."

In a former report it was stated, that the only means by which the real condition of a Lunatic Asylum could be known, was, by a residence within its walls, by a personal acquaintance with its detail, and by observation of the relative bearing of one part of the great machine on another.

Official documents, whether in the form of reports, diaries, &c., are liable to be tinged by the peculiarities of opinion, character or circumstances of the writer; nor can it reasonably be expected that an officer recording the results of his own practice should note them in the least favourable point of view. Evidence more worthy of confidence must at all times be found in the general testimony of discharged Patients. The perversion or obliquity of the mental and moral faculties which is often found in the Insane, whether in, or out of an Asylum, demands that individual evidence should be viewed with considerable caution and suspicion, but



the delusion of one, or even of a few, cannot be the delusion of all, consequently the general testimony of the Insane, there being no power of combination for the maintenance of falsehood, is the most secure of any on which credence can be placed, and certainly in the absence of personal investigation the surest on which an opinion of the state of a Lunatic Asylum can be formed.

The general management of the Institution continues so far as is practicable the same as has been pursued since its opening. A system of employment in varied useful, and amusing occupations, by which the interior of a Lunatic Asylum has not inaptly been compared to a "bee hive,"—social meetings amongst the Patients and their attendants, conducted in such a manner as to be recreative, without producing excitement,—exercise and labour in the grounds and surrounding country are amongst the moral agents, no less valuable in the treatment of the Insane, than the judicious employment of medical remedies, in the alleviation of functional derangement or organic lesion.

At the same time it would be improper to pass over without thankful acknowledgement, that throughout the long period of service, during which the officers have discharged their onerous and important functions, the general health, personal comfort, and tranquillity of the Patients, was never in a more satisfactory state.

From the extensive enlargement of the Institution, admitting as it now does within its walls, a number sufficient to people a village of no inconsiderable size, every member of which is a Pauper, and their disease



frequently, distinctly attributable to the hardships consequent on a life of poverty, the benefit of the "Harrison's Fund Charity," scarcely needs to be explained.

Many Patients have, in the past year, left the Asylum with the most grateful acknowledgments, not only of the treatment they have experienced, but also with hearts lightened by a consciousness of taking to their homes and families, the means of at least temporary comfort.

The respectable mother of a large and young family received, by an order from the Visiting Justices, the sum of five pounds on leaving the Establishment. This was placed at the disposal of a benevolent Magistrate in her neighbourhood, by whom it was given to her in such small sums as the wants of her necessitous charge demanded. Similar sums have been dispensed with equal advantage, and the flourishing state of the Bazaar, supplied by the labour and ingenuity of the Patients, is evident by the addition of £30 realized by the sale of articles during the last year, and which has been paid into the bank in aid of the Charity.

The great advance in the price of provisions, and in articles of clothing, has so far affected the funds of the Institution, as to render necessary an increase in the weekly sum for each Patient, on the present charge of 6s. 0d.

C. C. CORSELLIS, M.D.,

DIRECTOR.

December 31st, 1846.



## B A L A N C E

Dr.	£.	s.	d.
To Balance of last Account..... ..	167	4	6
Amount received for Butter .....	4	3	8
Dripping and Bones .....	19	15	6
Eggs and Pigeons .....	1	19	7
Discount on Wheat .....	2	5	10
Sundries from Farm and Garden ....	59	3	7
Sleeves..... ..	0	18	0
From George Haldane, as an acknowledgment .....	0	0	0½
Ditto Ellis Hodgson, Esq. for Patients chargeable } to the Riding .....	172	16	8
Ditto from Townships .....	6583	6	0
	<hr/>		
	£7011	13	4½
To Balance..... ..	776	5	7
	<hr/>		
	£7787	18	11½
	<hr/>		
Amount of Accounts due from different Townships .....	2867	16	1
Balance .....	776	5	7
	<hr/>		
	£2091	10	6
	<hr/>		
2 Cows killed and used in the Establishment, valued at ..	31	7	4
3 Calves                      ditto                      ditto                      ditto	8	1	5

Audited 9th February, 1847.

J. HOLDSWORTH.  
T. H. MARSHALL.

## SHEET.

CONTRA, CR.	£.	s.	d.
By amount paid for Clothing and Bedding .....	161	15	0
Coals .....	242	0	0
Cotton and Linen Yarn .....	77	11	3
Cows .....	56	10	0
Fodder.....	2	9	0
Drugs and Leeches .....	62	10	6
Earthenware .....	22	9	6
Brushes .....	41	6	0
Freight and Carriage .....	12	9	7
Groceries .....	370	8	4
Hops .....	129	2	5
Ironmongery .....	55	2	5
Incidentals .....	94	14	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Funeral Expences .....	57	12	0
Leather, Hemp, &c. ....	96	1	5
Malt.....	605	8	0
Meat .....	1416	7	0
Lime .....	9	3	0
Rates and Taxes .....	14	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rent of Land to Harrison's Fund ....	36	0	0
Do. A. Heywood, Esq....	20	0	0
Salaries and Wages .....	1971	19	2
Seeds .....	12	14	0
Stationery and Postages .....	67	6	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Straw .....	134	1	0
Wheat, Meal, &c. ....	1661	13	3
Wine, Spirits and Porter .....	51	11	3
Wool .....	217	3	6
Horse Hire.....	19	11	0
Pigs .....	26	7	0
Banker's Interest, Commmission, &c.	42	1	10
Balance .....	7787	18	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tradesmen's Accounts owing.....	750	0	0
Balance in favour of the Institution.....	1341	10	6
	£2091	10	6



## STOCK.

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Dr.	£. s. d.
Stock commencing 1846. (January 1st) .....	238 0 0
3 Cows purchased during the year .....	56 10 0
Pigs .....	26 7 0
	<hr/>
	320 17 0
Balance.....	203 16 2
	<hr/>
	£524 13 2

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## FARM AND GARDEN.

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Dr.	£. s. d.
Seeds for Garden.....	12 14 0
Seeds for Farm .....	7 2 0
Manure (Lime) .....	9 3 0
Manure from Farm Yard .....	40 0 0
Rent ..	84 0 0
Rates and Taxes .....	14 10 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gardeners Wages..... 29 0 0	
2nd Do Do .....	25 0 0
Farmers Do .....	25 0 0
Labourers Do .....	39 0 0
Mowing Grass .....	118 0 0
Refuse from Garden for Pigs .....	2 9 0
Straw for Pigs and Cows, from House .....	15 0 0
Sharps and Bran.....	67 0 6
Grains 1812 Bushels, at 6d. per Bushel .....	120 0 0
Swill .....	45 6 0
Pig Corn .....	32 0 0
Horse Hire .....	45 3 0
	<hr/>
	19 11 0
	<hr/>
	631 19 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Balance.....	231 5 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
	£863 4 6

## STOCK.

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CONTRA, CR.				£.	s.	d.
Stock on hand 31st December, 1846 .....				327	10	0
Cows killed and used in the Establishment (2) .....				31	7	4
Calves	Do	Do	Do (3).....	8	1	5
Pigs	Do	Do	Do .....	152	5	5
3 Calves Sold .....				3	19	0
Cow (Carcase of).....				1	10	0
				<hr/>		
				£524	13	2

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## FARM AND GARDEN.

	£.	s.	d.
Milk used in the Establishment .....	296	16	8
Hay            Do            Do .....	39	0	0
Turnips .....	89	5	0
Potatoes .....	101	14	0
Vegetables .....	49	18	0
Apples .....	11	8	0
Vegetables sold .....	35	12	10
Potatoes in hand.....	119	0	0
Onions .....	10	0	0
Apples .....	2	0	0
Manure in the Garden .....	6	0	0
Do.            in Farm Yard.....	23	0	0
Hay 10 Tons at 65s. ....	32	10	0
Turnips 40 Tons at 21s. ....	42	0	0
Fog 5 Acres at 20s.....	5	0	0
	239	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£863	4	6

Audited 9th February, 1847.

J. HOLDSWORTH,  
T. H. MARSHALL.



# PATIENTS.

In the Asylum on the first of January 1846			
Admitted since		MALES.	FEMALES. TOTAL.
		218	207 425
		21	72 93
		239	279 518
Discharged.....			
Dead .....			
		MALES. FEMALES. TOTAL.	
		18 18 36	
		12 25 37	
		30	43 73
Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st of December, 1846 .....		209	236 445
			14

# ADMITTED.

Cases not exceeding three months' duration, and first attack.	Cases not exceeding twelve months' duration, and first attack.	Cases not exceeding two years' duration, and first attack.	Cases of more than two years' duration.	Cases of those who have had previous attacks.
18	11	4	21	39

## DISCHARGED.

Cases not having been in- sane more than three months before admis- sion, and discharged within six months.	Cases not having been in- sane more than twelve months before admis- sion, and discharged within two years.	Cases not having been insane more than two years before admission and discharged within three years.	Cases having had pre- vious attacks.	Cases not cured, dis- charged by desire of their Friends and by order of the Magis- trates.
2	16	1	10	7

Admitted since the Asylum opened .....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged .....	1825	1864	3689
Dead .....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
	924	1110	2034
	692	518	1210
Remaining .....	209	236	445

Number of Patients discharged:—Cured....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Relieved..	749	863	1612
	175	247	422

Average Number of Patients during the year, 429.



*Number of Patients admitted in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1846.*

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846
76	89	109	118	122	143	122	114	119	123	113	143	149	143	127	147	147	155	183	159	140	127	171	162	146	111	93

*Number of Patients admitted in each Month.*

January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	October.	Nov.	Dec.
289	239	281	273	360	347	328	306	268	295	276	289

*Number of Patients discharged in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1846.*

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846
35	46	49	54	89	85	68	64	81	70	74	72	66	93	80	81	89	85	97	94	91	71	96	76	89	75	36

*Number of Patients dead in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1846.*

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846
12	19	19	23	30	53	45	42	42	50	47	49	53	52	43	60	56	62	37	60	41	57	53	57	44	37	





*Statement of the Admission, Discharges, and Deaths of  
all the Patients in the Asylum, since its Opening, on  
the 23rd of November, 1818.*

A D M I S S I O N S .

Patients admitted within three months after the first attack.....	1128
Patients admitted within twelve months after the first attack....	644
Patients admitted who had been insane from one to thirty years..	779
Patients admitted who have had previous attacks, and have been confined before in this Asylum .....	543
Patients admitted who are stated to have had previous attacks, but who have not been confined here .....	595
	<hr/> 3689

D I S C H A R G E S   A N D   D E A T H S .

Patients discharged cured who had not been insane more than three months before admission .....	543
Dead..	268
Patients discharged cured, who had not been insane more than twelve months before admission .....	394
Dead..	247
Patients discharged cured, who had been insane from one to many years before admission.. .....	91
Dead..	436
Patients discharged cured, who have had previous attacks..	583
Dead..	259
Patients not cured, discharged by desire of their friends, and others by order of the Magistrates .....	423
	<hr/> <hr/> 1210   2034

*Deaths during the Year 1846.*

In five months of the year there was not one Death in the Male Patients: during the entire second Quarter, only one. The highest mortality, including both Male and Female Patients, occurred in the summer quarter, July, Aug., and Sept.: the lowest mortality was in the autumn quarter, Oct., Nov., and Dec. The numbers for the respective quarters are as follows:—

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
MALES.....	5	1	3	3	12
FEMALES.....	5	8	9	3	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	12	9	12	4	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Average daily number resident, 429.

Mortality—Males, 12; Females, 25; total, 37.

Average mortality on the total average number resident, 8.6 per cent.

Mortality of Males on the average number resident, 5.5 per cent.

Mortality of Females on the average number resident, 10.19 per cent.



*Work done in the Institution during the Year 1846.*

MALES.		FEMALES.	
WEAVING.			
	Yards.		
Calico .....	959	Calico, woven .....	yards 938
Linen .....	1350	Flannel do. ....	do. 404
Sheeting .....	1196	Aprons . ....	261
Check .....	324	Bed Ticks .....	13
Cloth .....	599	Cloth Shoes (bound)..	pairs 958
Flannel .....	209	Caps .....	378
SHOE MAKING.		Flannel Vests .....	42
	Pairs.	Handkerchiefs .....	80
Cloth Shoes .....	new 988	Pillows .....	53
Do. ....	repaired 676	Pillow Cases .....	159
Leather Shoes....	do. 116	Petticoats .....	60
Do. Boots.. .	do. 31	Stays .....	58
Leather Shoes.....	new 38	Shifts .....	293
Do. Boots .. .	do. 9	Sheets .....	673
TAILORING.		Smock Frocks .....	12
Cloth Jackets.....	180	Stockings.....	..pairs 734
Do. Waistcoats .....	108	Towels .....	18
Do. Trousers .....	209	Tick Dresses....	41
Do. Caps .....	126	Women's Bed-gowns ....	166

*Occupations of 93 patients admitted during the year  
1846.*

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Clothiers .....	3	Burlers .....	2
Cutler .....	1	Collier .....	1
Drapers Assistant .....	1	Domestic Servants .....	10
Fruiterer .....	1	Factory Operatives .....	5
Farm Labourers .....	3	French Polisher ....	1
Labourer .....	1	Flax Spinner .....	1
Shoemaker .....	1	Houswifery .....	29
Scissor Smith .....	1	Housekeeping and House } Duties .....	6
Spinner .....	1	Labourer (Field) .....	1
Tailor .....	1	Sempstress .....	1
Watermen .....	3	School Mistress .....	1
Woolcomber .....	1	Shop Keepers .....	2
Whitesmith .....	1	Not stated .....	4
None .....	2	No Occupation .....	8
— 21		— 72	

*Degree of Education of the 93 patients admitted during  
the year 1846.*

	Males.	Females	Total.
Can read and write .....	12	31	43
Can read ... ..	5	17	22
No education .....	3	13	16
Not stated .....	1	11	12
	21	72	93

*Social state of the 93 patients admitted during  
the year 1846.*

	Males.	Females	Total.
Married .....	9	34	43
Widowers .....	4		4
Widows .....		11	11
Single .....	8	27	35
	21	72	93



*Religion of the 93 patients admitted during the  
year 1846.*

	Males.	Females	Total.
Church of England.....	5	25	30
Roman Catholics .....		4	4
Wesleyans .....	6	16	22
Independent .....		1	1
Calvinists.....	1	1	2
Baptists .....	1	2	3
Primitive Methodists.....	1	2	3
Unitarian.....	1		1
Congregationalist .....		1	1
No Religion.....	4	8	12
Not stated .....	2	12	4
	21	72	93