

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

## **Contributors**

West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum.  
Corsellis, C. C.

## **Publication/Creation**

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THE TWENTY-NINTH  
REPORT  
OF THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE  
WEST-RIDING OF YORK  
PAUPER  
LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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Wakefield :  
ROWLAND HURST, PRINTER, WESTGATE.

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1848.



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## R E P O R T.

THE number of admissions, amounting in the course of the year to 108, has chiefly consisted of female Patients. There are no females now waiting for admission. The proportion is 32 males, and 76 females.

The condition of these Patients, although admitting, in some particulars, of a more favourable representation than that which was given in the last report, has not in any degree differed from it, as regards a hope of ultimate recovery.

They have, for the most part been sent from private Asylums, in which it may reasonably be supposed curative means have been employed in those stages of the disease during which a hope might be entertained of beneficial results. In some cases active, has given place to chronic, disease, which has been of so long standing, that no hope beyond that of an improvement in vitiated habits, and of an increase in the enjoyment of physical comforts can be entertained. In others congenital imbecility, combined with the want of early discipline, has scarcely left so much as this to be anticipated.

A more full account of the previous history of each Patient admitted is now obtained by attention to the filling up of the



new Forms of Warrants, but this cannot by any means be implicitly relied upon, and the descriptions are often found exceedingly erroneous.

From a want of due care on the part of Overseers and Medical Visitors, whose acquaintance with their Patient is of too short a continuance to enable them to form an accurate estimate of the case, and from various motives by which ill judging friends are influenced, the truth is either suppressed, or an exaggerated statement made, tending to mislead those to whose care they are entrusted.

A vast number of incurable Patients now crowd the wards of the Institution, some of whom were admitted in the years 1819 and 1822, and who are likely to continue as pensioners on the bounty of the public :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Curable .....	8	22	30
Doubtful .....	19	35	54
Incurable .....	181	197	378
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	208	254	462

There are in the Asylum several old cases of remittent Mania. In many of these the actions of the system are exalted in a remarkable manner, and continued for very lengthened periods. The paroxysms generally come on without any assignable cause, and frequently vary in their nature and duration, sometimes diminishing in intensity with each recurrence of the paroxysm, and in some Patients continuing for days, weeks, and even months, baffling all attempts to allay excitement.

In like manner the paroxysm will subside without apparent cause, and a quiescent state ensues, during which the Patients will evince no decided symptom of insanity, but will preserve for some time a demeanour so calm, and manifest conduct



so irreproachable, that a stranger seeing them in their different states could with difficulty be brought to believe they were the same person. Another class to be found amongst the old inhabitants of this, and most other Asylums, is one frequently creating a difficulty not felt as regards the generality of Patients, as the necessity of their continuance under medical supervision is most seriously called in question by themselves, their friends, and the public. They are those who after an attack of Mania, are left so susceptible to external influences as to be wholly unfitted for the ordinary business of life, they manifest no conspicuous symptom of insanity so long as the discipline of a Lunatic Asylum operates upon them, by saving them from individual responsibility, and by protecting them from the cares and labours of their former condition; but no sooner does this influence cease, by their removal from the Asylum, and they are made to feel conscious of the absence of all protection, then they lose self-controul.

It has been confessed by some of this number, that after having been apparently of sound mind for many months in the house, they have, before reaching the neighbouring town on their way home become alarmed at the confusion of ideas they have felt, and the return of long forgotten delusions.

Mention has been made in former reports of a diminution in cases of suicide. It has been an opinion of some medical authors that this form of the disease prevails epidemically, its prevalence previously to the year 1840 was painfully remarkable. From that time until the last year, the admissions of such Patients were rare, and attempts or threats of self-destruction almost unknown. Such an exemption has not continued throughout the last year, many suicidal Patients of very determined character have been admitted, and although no attempts at self-destruction have



been discovered, great watchfulness has been required to overcome this appalling propensity, or by timely means to prevent its sad consequences. The subtlety peculiar to certain forms of insanity is never more observable than in this its most dangerous form. A male Patient discharged many years since, assured the Director he had watched day and night for not less than three months, and had resorted to many ingenious contrivances in order to obtain some means of self-destruction, but his plans were always frustrated by the vigilance of the attendants ; when the erection of a summer house in the grounds about which he was employed, so successfully diverted his mind from its morbid activity that in a few weeks his perfect recovery was accomplished.

Making an exception of a disorder so nearly universal as the Influenza of last year, the Patients have enjoyed their wonted excellent bodily health. When compared with the symptoms by which Influenza was accompanied and with its fatal consequences in the country generally, it may be said to have but slightly affected the Patients, and in no one case has it been fatal.

This satisfactory state of health in so large a household is without doubt mainly attributable to the care given to the general comfort of the Patients, with a corresponding attention to exercise, occupation, and diet.

It is a fallacious, though at one time a very prevalent opinion, that insanity was accompanied by such powers of physical endurance, as to render attention to these matters a subject of minor importance. It cannot be doubted that there are those in whom impaired or depraved sensation renders the Patient insensible for a time to the common feelings of comfort or decency ; but this does not obviate the usual effects of neglect and privation on the constitution in



the end; certain it is, that without due attention to comfort and diet, medical treatment is useless.

The Patients have been extensively occupied throughout the summer in the cultivation of the land and gardens, nor has there been any diminution in the diligence of the convalescent and orderly females in the domestic business of the wards, kitchen, and laundry, the fancy works of the sale room, and of those employed in the various trades as tailors, joiners, shoemakers, &c., to which they had previously been accustomed. As regards medical treatment, it would be superfluous to lay down any plan to be adopted as a general rule; with the ever varying features of the disease, treatment must be in conjunction with moral remedies, adapted to the manifest indications of each case. Whilst on the one hand we have to combat the effects of neglect and delay; we have often on the other to contend with an error no less dangerous, in the too energetic treatment to which the Patient has been subjected. The violent maniacal excitation which is occasionally the first symptom of insanity, is so alarming, that with the object of reducing the Patient to a state of quietude, measures of a permanently exhausting nature are resorted to, such as excessive purgation, and copious bleeding; and the result is, that if a state of dementia does not ensue, such a loss of strength is suffered as even a long course of invigorating remedies is insufficient to repair.

An acquaintance with the indications of the pulse in the Insane, would prevent so serious an evil; and though local bleeding would in some instances be admissable, anodynes and even stimulants are often advantageously employed.

In the new Auxilliary Building three wards are now occupied by females. They are spacious, airy, and cheerful, and appear in most essential particulars well adapted to the object for which they were designed.



Some difficulty is found at present, from the distance all articles of domestic use have to be conveyed, This inconvenience is principally felt by the attendants, whose labours are much increased by having to convey every article of consumption from the domestic offices of the old building to the wards of the new; but the advantages of having sufficient accommodation for female Paupers, by which they have been received in the early stages of the disease, have, by the speedy recovery of several severe cases, abundantly justified the efforts made to open them before the rest of the building was complete.

A large augmentation was made from the new building to the guests at our annual christmas festivities. An alteration which was found to answer much better for the convenience of the attendants, no less than for the enjoyment of the Patients was made this year by holding the parties for the two sexes on separate days. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the evident delight with which the dancing and singing were kept up, and the picturesque effect of the decoration of evergreen and artificial flowers interspersed with lights, gave great pleasure. A stranger to such scenes could not fail to be surprised at the perfect good order, kind feeling, and mirthful enjoyment with which two hundred persons, all suffering one of the direst visitations of providence, can assemble on such occasions.

It would appear from the public prints that such reunions were peculiar to certain Institutions, or the effects of some specified mode of treatment, they are now general in most well conducted establishments for Lunatics, and have been a source of unmingled pleasure to the inmates of this Asylum for the last quarter of a century. Nor have such meetings been confined to the usual season for social gatherings at the close of the year. During the summer, they are frequently held in the open air, and at other times in the



principal rooms of the house, when a larger or smaller number meet according to circumstances. They form a part, and no inconsiderable one, in the category of moral remedies, its efficacy having been first distinctly tested and proved in the West-Riding.

The western portion of the new building is progressing towards completion, so that it may be expected that the whole will be fit for occupation in the course of the year.

There are now 140 male Paupers waiting for admission, and the Justices may feel assured that so important a demand shall be met by the unceasing effort of their officers, that the whole may be received with the least possible delay.

The increased price of every article of consumption induced the Visitors of the Asylum to advance the weekly charge for each Patient to 7s. 6d.

**C. C. CORSELLIS, M.D.,**

DIRECTOR.

December 31st, 1847.

Ordered by the Visiting Justices, that the weekly charge continue 7s. 6d.

January 26th, 1848.



## BALANCE.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.
To Amount received for Butter .....	0	16	7
Dripping and Bones .....	27	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eggs .....	1	2	2
Discount on Wheat .....	2	0	2
Sundries from Farm and Garden..	83	4	0
Cows and Calves .....	47	13	0
Cows, Hides and Tallow .....	5	9	0
Suet, &c. ....	14	2	2
Yeast .....	5	8	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wood .....	1	15	0
From Ellis Hodgson, Esq. for Patients chargeable } to the Riding .....	148	3	6
Ditto from Townships .....	7445	10	11
	£7782	8	1
To Balance .....	1740	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	£9522	8	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amount of Accounts due from Townships .....	3805	7	11
Balance .....	1740	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	£2065	7	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Audited 26th January, 1848.

J. HOLDSWORTH.  
H. W. WICKHAM.

## SHEET.

CONTRA, CR.	£.	s.	d.
By Balance of last Account .....	776	5	7
Amount paid for Clothing and Bedding .....	178	2	9
Coals .....	294	9	0
Cotton and Linen Yarn.....	127	11	6
Cows .....	69	6	0
Fodder .....	3	11	3
Drugs and Leeches .....	58	13	0
Earthenware.....	11	13	0
Brushes.....	39	6	0
Freight and Carriage .....	13	12	9
Groceries .....	474	3	7
Hops .....	69	2	6
Ironmongery .....	16	0	0
Incidentals .....	87	0	6
Funeral Expences .....	57	0	0
Leather, Hemp, &c .....	104	8	5
Malt .....	786	5	0
Meat .....	1621	8	8
Manure (Lime) .....	10	10	0
Rates and Taxes .....	20	8	2
Rent of Land to Harrison's Fund.	36	0	0
Do.          A. Heywood, Esq.	20	0	0
Salaries and Wages ..	2009	14	1
Seeds.....	13	17	6
Stationery and Postages .....	40	12	1½
Straw .....	170	18	6
Wheat, Meal, &c.....	2128	13	0
Wine, Spirits, and Porter .....	61	11	6
Wool .....	139	18	0
Horse Hire .....	20	15	0
Banker's Interest, Commission, &c.	62	0	11
	9522	8	3½
Tradesmen's Accounts owing .....	965	0	0
Balance in favour of the Institution .....	1100	7	8½
	£2065	7	8½



## STOCK.

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DR.	£. s. d.
Stock commencing 1847. (January 1st) .....	327 10 0
4 Cows purchased during the year .....	69 6 0
 To Balance.....	 118 1 11
	<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> £514 17 11

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## FARM AND GARDEN.

DR.	£. s. d.
Seeds for Garden .....	10 12 0
Seeds for Farm .....	2 15 6
Lime .....	10 10 0
Rent .....	84 0 0
Rates and Taxes .....	20 8 2
Gardener's Wages.. .. 29 0 0	
2nd Do. .... 25 0 0	
Farmers Do. .... 25 0 0	
Labourers' Do. .... 39 0 0	118 0 0
Mowing Grass .....	3 11 3
Refuse from Garden.....	20 0 0
Straw for Pigs and Cows, from House.....	85 9 3
Sharps and Bran .....	130 0 0
Grains 1872 Bushels, at 6d. per Bushel .....	46 16 0
Swill .....	32 0 0
Pig Corn.....	65 13 6
Horse Hire.....	20 15 0
	<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 650 10 8
To Balance.....	242 10 8
	<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> £893 1 4

## STOCK.

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CONTRA, CR.					£.	s.	d.
Stock on hand 31st December, 1847.....					289	2	0
Cows killed and used in the Establishment (2).....					42	12	5
Calf	Do.	Do.	Do.	(1).....	4	8	9
Pigs	Do.	Do.	Do.	.....	131	1	9
Cows and Calves sold .....					47	13	0
					<hr style="width: 10%; margin: auto;"/>		
					£514	17	11

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## FARM AND GARDEN.

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CONTRA, CR.				£.	s.	d.
Milk used in the Establishment.....				309	12	8
Hay	Do.	Do.	.....	49	0	0
Turnips .....				75	0	0
Potatoes .....				110	0	0
Vegetables .....				51	0	0
Apples, &c. ....				15	0	0
Vegetables sold.....				75	3	8
Potatoes in hand, 100 lds....70 lds. sets ..				102	0	0
Onions.....100 pecks .....				5	0	0
Carrots..... 30 stones .....				10	0	
Apples..... 10 pecks .....				1	10	0
Manure in the Garden .....				109	0	0
Do.	in Farm Yard.....			1	5	0
Hay, 10 Tons at 65s.....				26	10	0
Turnips, 30 Tons .....				32	10	0
Fog, 6 Acres .....				33	0	0
				6	0	0
				<hr/>		
				£893	1	4



# PATIENTS.

In the Asylum on the first of January 1847 .....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Admitted since .....	209	236	445
Discharged.....	32	76	108
Dead .....	241	312	553
Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st of December, 1847.....	208	254	462

# 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.
34	20	10	22	22

# 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.
6	10	5	20	7

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Admitted since the Asylum opened .....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged .....	931	1151	2082
Dead .....	718	535	1253
	1649	1686	3335
Remaining.....	208	254	462

Number of Patients discharged :—Cured....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
	756	897	1653
Relieved..	175	254	429

Average Number of Patients during the year, 455.



*Number of Patients admitted in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1847.*

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	1847
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	108

*Number of Patients admitted in each Month.*

January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	October.	Nov.	Dec.
292	257	288	281	371	353	337	321	280	300	281	293

*Number of Patients discharged in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1847.*

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	1847
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	48

*Number of Patients dead in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1847.*

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	1847
12	19	19	23	30	53	45	42	42	50	47	49	53	52	43	60	56	62	37	60	41	57	53	53	57	44	37	43



*Different Ages at which Patients have been admitted.*

From 5 to 10 years.	From 15 to 20 years.	From 20 to 30 years.	From 30 to 40 years.	From 40 to 50 years.	From 50 to 60 years.	From 60 to 70 years.	From 70 to 80 years.	From 80 to 90 years.
4	104	436	500	<b>MALES.</b> 459	210	115	31	5
2	103	445	325	<b>FEMALES.</b> 517	397	120	27	3

*Statement of Patients re-admitted.*

Patients re-admitted who had not been discharged three months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between three and six months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between six and nine months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between nine and twelve months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between one and two years.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between two and three years.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between three and ten years.
38	29	16	<b>MALES.</b> 20	55	21	88
32	23	26	<b>FEMALES.</b> 23	46	36	99
						<b>Total</b> 267
						<b>Total</b> 285



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

ADMISSIONS.

Patients admitted within three months after the first attack ....	1162
Patients admitted within twelve months after the first attack..	660
Patients admitted who had been insane from one to thirty years.	818
Patients admitted who have had previous attacks, and have been confined before in this Asylum .....	553
Patients admitted who are stated to have had previous attacks, but who have not been confined here.....	604
	<hr/> 3797

DISCHARGES AND DEATHS.

Patients discharged cured, who had not been insane more than three months before admission .....	557
Dead..	271
Patients discharged cured, who had not been insane more than twelve months before admission .....	400
Dead..	257
Patients discharged cured, who had been insane from one to many years before admission .....	92
Dead..	449
Patients discharged cured, who have had previous attacks.	603
Dead..	276
Patients not cured, discharged by desire of their friends, and others by order of the Magistrates .....	430
	<hr/> 1253 2082

*Deaths during the Year 1847.*

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
MALES.....	10	7	5	4	26
FEMALES .....	4	2	8	3	17
					—
					43
					—

Average daily number resident,  $455\frac{104}{365}$ .

Mortality—Males, 26 ; Females, 17 ; total, 43.

Average mortality on the average daily number, 9.45.

*Average weekly number of Patients under Medical Treatment.*

Males.	Females.	
$4\frac{11}{52}$	$8\frac{7}{52}$	$6\frac{9}{52}$



*Work done in the Institution during the Year 1847.*

MALES.		FEMALES.	
WEAVING.			
	Yards.		
Calico .....	1320	Calico, woven..... yards	720
Linen .....	2592	Flannel do. .... do.	360
Sheeting .....	1144	Aprons ..	591
Cloth .....	284	Bed Ticks .....	41
Flannel ...	112	Cloth Shoes (bound) ..pairs	674
		Caps .....	276
		Flannels.....	23
		Handkerchiefs .....	400
SHOE MAKING.		Pillows .....	72
	Pairs.	Pillow Cases .....	387
Cloth Shoes .....new	826	Petticoats .....	113
Do. .... repaired	764	Stays .....	102
Leather Shoes .... do.	117	Shifts .....	644
Do. Boots.... do.	44	Sheets .....	253
Leather Shoes .....new	36	Shirts .....	464
Do. Boots .....	5	Stockings .....	866
		Towels .....	13
TAILORING.		Tick Dresses .....	49
Cloth Jackets ..	126	Women's Bed-gowns ....	208
Do. Waistcoats .....	88		
Do. Trousers .....	167		
Do. Caps .....	96		

*Occupation of 108 patients admitted during the year  
1847.*

<b>MALES.</b>		<b>FEMALES.</b>	
Weavers .....	5	Housewifery.....	27
Cloth Dressers.....	2	Domestic Servants .....	9
Woolsorter .....	1	Housekeepers .....	7
Woolcomber .....	1	Washerwomen .....	3
Knife Grinder.....	1	Market Women .....	2
File Cutter.....	1	Weavers ..	3
Cutler .....	1	Dressmakers.....	2
Labourers .....	4	Shopkeeper .....	1
Attorney .....	1	Baker.....	1
Mechanic .....	1	Waiter .....	1
Collier .....	1	Knitter .....	1
Tailor .....	1	Factory Operative .....	1
Carver .....	1	Burler .....	1
Painter.....	1	Hurrier .....	1
Shoemaker .....	1	White Metal Rubber .....	1
Blacksmith .....	1	Assistant Matron at Union } .....	1
Sailor .....	1	Workhouse .....	1
Post Office Clerk .....	1	No Occupation.....	12
No Occupation .....	6	Not Stated ..	2
	32		76

*Degree of Education of the 108 patients admitted during  
the year 1847.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Well educated.....	1	1	2
Can read and write.....	17	26	43
Can read .....	8	26	34
No education .....	6	15	21
Not stated .....		8	8
	32	76	108



*Social state of the 108 patients admitted during  
the year 1847.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Married .....	11	35	46
Widowers .....	4		4
Widows .....		9	9
Single .....	17	32	49
	32	76	108

*Religion of the 108 patients admitted during the  
year 1847.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Church of England .....	12	24	36
Roman Catholics .....	4	2	6
Wesleyans .....	4	27	31
Calvinists .....		4	4
Baptists .....	1	2	3
Primitive Methodists .....	2	2	4
No Religion .....	6	11	17
Not stated .....	3	4	7
	32	76	108

Report of the 100th Infantry Regiment during the year 1897.

Month	Present	Detail	Total
Jan	11	3	14
Feb	11	3	14
Mar	11	3	14
Apr	11	3	14
May	11	3	14
Jun	11	3	14
Jul	11	3	14
Aug	11	3	14
Sep	11	3	14
Oct	11	3	14
Nov	11	3	14
Dec	11	3	14
Total	132	36	168

Report of the 100th Infantry Regiment during the year 1897.

Month	Present	Detail	Total
Jan	11	3	14
Feb	11	3	14
Mar	11	3	14
Apr	11	3	14
May	11	3	14
Jun	11	3	14
Jul	11	3	14
Aug	11	3	14
Sep	11	3	14
Oct	11	3	14
Nov	11	3	14
Dec	11	3	14
Total	132	36	168



THE UNIVERSITY

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

JANUARY 1871