

The thirty-fifth report of the superintendent of the West-Riding of York Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

Contributors

West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum.
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THE
THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT
OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF
THE WEST-RIDING OF YORK
Pauper Lunatic Asylum.



WAKEFIELD :
CHARLES HICKS, PRINTER, MARKET-PLACE.
1855.



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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

On the conclusion of this my first year of residence as Superintendent of your Asylum, I have the honor to place before you the general results of management in the usual tabular forms.

During the past year, 1854,

The admissions have been 328

Males 157 Females 171

Discharged cured:—Males 65—Females 66

Relieved „ 11 „ 10

Died „ 61 „ 53

Of the admissions, I much regret I am compelled to reiterate the statements made in previous reports, that patients are brought to the Asylum in such an extremely exhausted bodily condition, that our mortality is considerably increased thereby; and, unhappily, all we can do for these cases is, by careful nursing and a large expenditure of extra diets, to sustain life for a short time after admission, whereas, had they been placed earlier under treatment, probably many might have recovered; my previous

experience during ten years, giving as the lowest, 75 per cent. recoveries of cases treated in the early stages of mental disease.

I am happy to inform you the deaths are nearly 6 per cent. below the year 1853; although I fear there is every probability of a continuance of our high per centage of mortality, from the immense number of aged, infirm, paralytic, and epileptic patients, now resident in the Asylum. Of the 762 afflicted inmates, in my opinion, not more than 70 will recover, and 80 doubtful, which leaves 612 incurable.

We have happily escaped any recurrence of cholera (at one period of last year so generally prevalent) or any other contagious disease.

Diarrhœa, during the autumnal months, prevailed slightly, and early in the spring we had a few cases of Purpura, attributable, I believe, to a deficiency in vegetable diet, as, on an additional allowance being accorded, no more cases occurred, and those affected speedily recovered.

The failure of potatoes from disease, and the subsequent severe season destroying the winter vegetables, rendered it almost impossible to furnish an adequate supply for so large a number of inmates.

Much additional anxiety has been caused by the very large proportion of suicidal cases admitted during 1854. One poor woman accomplished her object by hanging in the absence of the nurse, who, either from mistaken kindness or want of judgment, left her in the ward while taking the other patients into the airing court for exercise, because she complained of weakness and inability to walk. Several other attempts have been made to commit suicide; fortunately they were unsuccessful.

I have much pleasure in informing you, that during the past year, I have not used personal mechanical restraint, except in one instance, and that only for eight hours, and in this case no advantage whatever occurred from its application. It may be urged by some that S. L., the person alluded to as having committed suicide, might have been saved had she been coerced; yet this was one of those quiet melancholy cases, that I have no hesitation in saying the most ardent admirer of straps and strait waistcoats, would with her have tried the more humane treatment of cheerful associates and careful watching. In one instance which has come under my own observation, the strait waistcoat was the instrument by which the patient destroyed himself. He had twice recovered under my care, without being restrained (both times suicidal); upon the third attack he was placed in another asylum, where he hanged himself in the strait waistcoat, which he succeeded in removing, thus proving that coercion is no safeguard in such cases.

I have thought it advisable to make these remarks upon the subject of personal mechanical restraint, that wherever this report is circulated, the public mind may be disabused of the impression which prevails, especially amongst some of the more enlightened of the medical profession devoted to the treatment of insanity, that mechanical restraint is much used in this Asylum. One public journal citing the Yorkshire Asylums, as numbering in the very small minority of exceptions, to the non-restraint system. I beg leave most unhesitatingly to avow that I disapprove of its use: that I believe, in a well arranged asylum, it is very seldom necessary to resort to it; also from my experience in two other similar institutions, I do not doubt its disuse to be the more humane mode of treatment. With regard to seclusion, I consider when it is judiciously used for short periods, in excited cases, it has a most salutary effect.

It gives me much pleasure to state, that the removal of the circular staircases in the old building, ordered by the visitors, will gain considerable accommodation at a small cost; five excellent day rooms are obtained, 100 feet in circumference, and sleeping apartments for 40 patients, besides the additional advantage of greatly improving the appearance, comfort, and ventilation of that part of the house. The airing courts have also been enlarged by the removal of unsightly partition walls, dividing these courts on the east and west wings. In this work the patients cheerfully assisted, the whole debris being removed, and the ground put in order for exercise in a short time. They have also wheeled away many tons of earthwork and stone from the walls of No. 17 ward, admitting light and air, where previously the ceiling had been upon a level with the outer ground; besides making an uncultivated portion of the brickfield, in front of the new building, into good garden ground, by trenching, leading soil, and levelling.

Six new lavatories have been completed, adding much to the comfort and cleanliness of the patients; and six new self-acting water closets are in course of erection, which I have reason to hope will answer very well; if so, I trust I may be permitted to increase the number.

The separation of the sexes into two different buildings has taken place, and the visitors who thought this arrangement advisable will be glad to hear the advantages fully realise their expectations—300 patients exchanged residences in less than four hours, and the necessary preparations only occupied twelve hours. I visited the wards three times during the night, and found all settled and tranquil after their removal. The men are now in the old building, and are more immediately under the supervision of the superintendent. The women in the new, in the centre of

which are the matron's apartments; therefore she can more readily see to the well-being of the female patients and keep their attendants at their duties.

The occupations and amusements have been much the same as in previous years.

The farm and garden, during the past year, have been very productive, adding much to the health and comfort of the patients; all available land has been brought into cultivation, yet the quantity is insufficient for an increasing asylum already so large.

It is much to be lamented that the supply of water (once so abundant) has become deficient; during the dry part of the season most of the springs ceased to flow into the principal wells. So much being required, we were obliged to avail ourselves of assistance from the Water Works Company, but even this was inadequate to our wants; the pipes and metre being too small to convey a sufficient quantity into the well. It may therefore become a question whether it would be prudent to sink the present wells lower, to avoid being dependent upon the water works at a large annual cost.

In conclusion, I beg respectfully to thank the Committee of Visitors for the uniform kindness and courtesy, which I have received from them, as well as for their cordial co-operation in everything for the benefit of the Institution.

J. S. ALDERSON,
Superintendent.

JANUARY 1ST, 1855.

WEST YORK COUNTY ASYLUM

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance of last Account	2493	11	9
„ Amount received for Cows' Hide	0	5	0
Calves	12	19	0
Pigs	22	15	0
Pigeons	1	8	0
Cloth.....	8	10	9
Dripping	58	9	3
Yeast.....	29	11	1
Garden Produce	4	19	11
Rags	8	7	0
„ Discount on Wheat	0	7	3
„ Banker's Interest	22	12	5
„ Amount received from Ellis Hodgson, Esq., for } Patients chargeable to the Riding	287	0	0
„ Amount received from Unions and Townships	11939	18	0
	£14890	14	5

To Amount due from Unions and Townships for } half-year ending 31st December	5874	16	1
„ Balance in hand as per Contra	1457	16	4
	£7332	12	5

Audited, January 18th, 1855.

J. HOLDSWORTH.

Allowed at Annual Meeting, 18th Jan., 1855.

H. W. WICKHAM,
CHAIRMAN.

BALANCE SHEET FOR 1854.

Expenditure.		Dr.		
		£	s.	d.
By Amount paid for	Brushes	56	2	6
	Clothing and Bedding	535	11	3
	Cotton and Linen Yarn	211	19	0
	Coals	855	0	0
	Cows and Fodder	86	0	0
	Drugs, Leeches, &c.,	133	2	6
	Earthenware	62	1	10
	Freight and Carriage	8	1	3
	Funeral Expenses	143	8	0
	Groceries	736	13	5
	Hops	236	10	0
	Ironmongery	65	8	6
	Incidentals	37	11	5
	Malt	1251	7	6
	Meat	2659	19	6
	Oils, &c.,	20	3	4
	Rates and Taxes	88	17	3
	Rent of Land to Harrison's Fund...	36	0	0
	Do „ „ William Shaw ...	20	0	0
	Salaries and Wages	2415	19	6
	Setting Razors	8	8	0
	Seeds for Farm and Garden	29	10	6
	Stationery, Printing and Postages...	91	0	10
	Straw	160	17	9
	Tobacco	92	5	0
	Thermometers	4	5	0
	Wheat, Flour, Meal, &c.,	2679	2	3
	Wine, Spirits and Porter	201	4	6
	Wool	230	6	0
	Horse Hire	8	15	0
	Leather, Hemp, &c.,	214	13	0
	Potatoes	52	13	6
		<hr/>		
		13432	18	1
„	Balance in hand on the 31st December, 1854	1457	16	4
		<hr/>		
		£14890	14	5
		<hr/>		
„	Amount due to Tradesmen on existing Contracts	1720	0	0
„	Balance in favor of the Institution	5612	12	5
		<hr/>		
		£7332	12	5
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P A T I E N T S .

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
In the Asylum on the 1st January, 1854	341	367	708
Admitted during the year 1854	157	171	328
	498	538	1036

In the Asylum on the 1st January, 1854

Admitted during the year 1854

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged.....	80	77	157
Dead	61	53	114

	141	130	271
	357	408	765

Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1854

A D M I T T E D .

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, and first attack.	Cases that have had previous attacks.
124	37	15	37	115

DISCHARGED.

Cases not having been insane more than three months before admission, and discharged within six months.	Cases not having been insane more than twelve months before admission, and discharged within two years.	Cases not having been insane more than ten years before admission, and discharged within three years.	Cases having had previous attacks.	Cases not cured discharged by desire of their friends, and by order of the visiting committee.
40	32	15	49	21

Admitted since the opening of the Asylum

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged.....	1316	1638	2954
Dead	1186	917	2103

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL
.....	2859	2963	5822

Remaining

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged since the opening of the Asylum Cured	1091	1337	2428
Relieved	225	301	526

Daily average number of Patients resident during the year 1854..... 738.

Number of Patients admitted in each Year, from 1820 to 1854.

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840
76	89	109	118	122	143	122	114	119	123	113	143	149	143	127	147	147	155	183	159	140

1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
127	171	162	146	111	93	108	257	268	285	263	284	340	328

Number of Patients admitted in each Month.

Jan.	Feb.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
443	407	465	446	578	547	537	480	447	445	426	463

Number of Patients discharged in each Year, from 1820 to 1854.

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840
35	46	49	54	89	85	68	64	81	70	74	72	66	93	80	81	89	85	97	94	91

1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
71	96	76	89	75	36	48	55	135	121	131	139	134	157

Number of Patients who have died in each Year, from 1820 to 1854.

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

1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
57	53	53	57	44	37	43	79	226	81	96	109	145	114

Different ages at which Patients have been admitted during the Year 1854.

From 5 to 10 years.	From 10 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.
0	10	35	38	MALES. 43	20	6	5	0
2	11	46	44	FEMALES. 32	19	13	5	2

Statement of Patients re-admitted.

Patients re-admitted who had not been discharged more than 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.
4	2	0	MALES. 4	1	2	10
3	2	3	FEMALES. 2	5	1	9

Statement of the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths of all the Patients in the Asylum, since the Opening, 23rd Nov., 1818.

ADMISSIONS.

Admitted	within three months after first attack	1897
„	within twelve months after first attack	960
„	who had been insane from one to thirty years	1194
„	who have had previous attacks, and have been confined before in this Asylum	811
„	who are stated to have had previous attacks, but have not been confined here	960
		<hr/>
		5822
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DISCHARGES AND DEATHS.

Discharged recovered, who had not been insane more than three months before admission	879
Deaths.....	543
„ recovered, who had not been insane more than twelve months before admission	490
Deaths.....	392
„ recovered, who had been insane from one to many years before admission	162
Deaths	705
„ recovered, who had had previous attacks	901
Deaths.....	463
„ not recovered, by desire of friends and by order of the Visiting Committee	522
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Deaths during the Year, 1854—viz:

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
MALES	15	21	10	15	61
FEMALES	11	20	9	13	53
TOTAL	26	41	19	28	114

Average Mortality on the average daily resident, 15.44 per cent.

Average weekly number under Medical Treatment.

Males, 12.73. Females, 18.71. Total, 15.72.

Causes of Death of the Patients who have died in the Asylum during the Year 1854.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Apoplexy	3	0	3
Atrophy	0	0	0
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Chronic Diarrhœa	3	4	7
„ Hepatitis	0	0	0
Disease of Brain	1	2	3
„ „ Heart.....	2	0	2
„ „ Bowels	1	0	1
Dysentery	0	1	1
Dropsy	2	0	2
Epilepsy	8	2	10
Erysipelas	1	0	1
Gradual Exhaustion	10	18	28
Inflammation of Lungs	0	2	2
Jaundice	0	2	2
Maniacal Exhaustion	0	2	2
Old Age	2	4	6
Paralysis	16	4	20
Phthisis	5	5	10
Scrofula	3	3	6
Suicide.....	0	1	1
Perforation of Stomach	1	0	1
Fever	1	1	2
	61	53	114

**Ages of Patients who have Died in the Asylum during
the Year 1854.**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
From 10 to 20 years	2	2	4
„ 20 to 25 years	3	3	6
„ 25 to 30 years	3	2	5
„ 30 to 35 years	8	7	15
„ 35 to 40 years	6	2	8
„ 40 to 45 years	11	9	20
„ 45 to 50 years	9	8	17
„ 50 to 55 years	7	4	11
„ 55 to 60 years	4	4	8
„ 60 to 65 years	1	4	5
„ 65 to 70 years	2	1	3
„ 70 to 75 years	3	3	6
„ 75 to 80 years	2	0	2
„ 80 to 85 years	0	4	4
	61	53	114

Average of the 61 Male Patients who have died during the year, 44.4.

Average of the 53 Female Patients who have died during the year, 47.4.

Mean Average, 45.9.

**Period of Residence of the Patients who have died in the Asylum
during the Year 1854.**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Within 1 week.....	3	1	4
From 1 week to 1 month	6	2	8
„ 1 to 2 months	4	5	9
„ 2 to 3 months	3	3	6
„ 3 to 6 months	5	4	9
„ 6 to 9 months	3	3	6
„ 9 to 12 months.....	5	8	13
„ 12 to 18 months	9	5	14
„ 18 months to 2 years	5	3	8
„ 2 to 4 years	6	7	13
„ 4 to 6 years	6	4	10
„ 6 to 10 years.....	4	4	8
„ 10 to 15 years	2	1	3
„ 15 to 20 years	0	2	2
Twenty-seven years	0	1	1
	61	53	114

Average period of Residence of the 61 Male Patients who have died during the
Year 1854, 2 years and 5 months.

Average period of Residence of the 53 Female Patients who have died during
the Year 1854, 2 years, 9 months and 2 weeks.

Mean average duration of Residence, 2 years and 8 months.

**Occupation of the 157 Male Patients admitted during
the Year 1854.**

Attorney's Clerk	1	Mill Hands	2
Butchers	3	Manure Dealer	1
Block Printer	1	Porters	2
Boatmen	2	Postman	1
Brass Turner	1	Printers.....	2
Blacksmiths	2	Painters	2
Coal Miners	4	Pattern Designer	1
Carters	2	Rope Makers.....	2
Cloth Dressers	4	Soldiers	2
Cooper	1	Schoolmaster.....	1
Commercial Travellers	2	Shoe Makers.....	5
Cutlers	8	Stone Masons	4
Dyer	1	Stuff Presser	1
Engineers	2	Silver Smith	1
Farmers	2	Silver Polisher	1
Furniture Broker	1	Saw Grinder.....	1
French Polisher	1	Tailors	3
Green Grocer	1	Tinker	1
Gardeners	2	Weavers	10
Hawker.....	1	Wool Combers	9
Joiners	4	Wool Sorters	2
Labourers	40	Watch Maker	1
Musicians	2	Waterman.....	1
Mechanics	2	No Occupation	12

**Occupation of the 171 Female Patients admitted during
the Year 1854.**

Burlers	3	Mill Hands	13
Bonnet Makers	1	Milliner	1
Charwomen	7	Rag Sorter	1
Dairy Maid	1	Shoe Binder	1
Dress Makers	3	Sempstresses	2
Glove Maker.....	1	Servants	28
House Keepers.....	3	Weavers	15
Housewives	69	Washerwomen	7
Hawkers	2	Warehouse Woman	1
Laundress	1	No Occupation	10
Manglewoman	1		

**Degree of Education of the 328 Patients admitted during
the Year 1854.**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Can Read and Write	114	79	193
Can Read only.....	19	45	64
No Education	24	47	71
	157	171	328

**Social state of the 328 Patients admitted during
the Year 1854.**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Married	82	76	158
Single	64	69	133
Widowed	11	26	37
	157	171	328

Religion of the 328 Patients admitted during the Year 1854.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Church of England	62	51	113
Roman Catholics	9	12	21
Wesleyans	21	51	72
Calvinists	9	13	22
Baptists	5	5	10
Primitive Methodists	1	8	9
Unitarians	0	1	1
Not Known	26	16	42
No Religion	24	14	38
	157	171	328

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