

The thirty-seventh 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 SEVENTH REPORT
OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF
THE WEST RIDING OF YORK
Pauper Lunatic Asylum.



WAKEFIELD:
CHARLES HICKS, PRINTER, MARKET-PLACE.
1857.



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MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

On the first of January, 1856, the number of patients resident in the WEST RIDING ASYLUM were 356 males and 411 females; since that time 141 males and 155 females have been admitted,—making a total under treatment of 1063, and an average daily number resident throughout the year of 803.

The discharges during this period were 279 from all causes, viz: 55 males and 67 females recovered; 23 males and 29 females relieved; 1 male not improved; and 50 males, 54 females, died; thus leaving 784 patients resident on the 31st of December.

I have again to bring under the consideration of the Committee of Visitors the serious inconvenience which many Parishes have sustained from our inability to receive their Insane upon the first application for admission, they were necessitated to send the patients to private Asylums, or retain them in work-houses. This latter arrangement being so highly detrimental as to retard, if not entirely frustrate, recovery.

During the second quarter of the year, 35 males and 8 females were refused admission; in the third quarter 19 males and 25 females; and up to 10th of October 5 males and 3 females. At this juncture we were enabled to receive patients

by the discharge of 43 recovered, and by the removal of 28 chronic cases to the lunatic wards recently built, contiguous to the Halifax Union Workhouse; and again in December, 17 were discharged recovered, and 18 more chronic cases sent to the Halifax Union Wards. Yet, notwithstanding this reduction of numbers, it is evident the Institution is inadequate for the requirements of so large and populous a County, as indicated by the following facts;—that between the 10th October, and the 31st December, the unusual number of 133 vacancies occurring, I was induced to hope there would be sufficient room for some time to come, whereas, in that period, the admissions being 96, proves the fallacy of the idea.

During the pressure for admission of male paupers in the second quarter, the Committee of Visitors sanctioned my proposal to convert the weaving shop into a dormitory, connecting it by an attendant's room with No. 3 ward, this makes the most comfortable sleeping apartment in the house, for twenty aged and infirm men. A steampipe passes up the centre of the room, imparting an agreeable temperature, it has now been in use more than three months, and in every respect answers satisfactorily. Though we are, for a time, deprived of the industrial occupation this shop afforded to about a dozen men, I trust the period is not far distant when we shall have workshops for all purposes, as complete as any Asylum in the kingdom, their want has been so long felt, I have no doubt that the Visitors will order their erection at the earliest possible period.

The Committee of Visitors having decided to build a wing contiguous, and communicating with the laundry, calculated to hold sixty females, who usually work in the washhouse and laundry, plans and estimates were accordingly prepared and transmitted for approval to the Commissioners in Lunacy, they, however, were returned, with a request that various alterations

and modifications might be made ; therefore, to enable the Architect to combine the modern improvements in other Asylums, with his own plans, the Visitors directed Mr. HARTLEY and myself to inspect some of them. We accordingly went to Lancaster, Rainhill, Stafford and Nottingham. We observed many convenient arrangements, the galleries are open on one side and bed rooms opposite,—when neatly furnished an appearance of cheerfulness is imparted, and better ventilation than is found in Asylums where there are double rows of bed rooms. A considerable proportion of their land is surrounded by a boundary wall, making it more secure for the labouring patients, and many of the others are taken out for exercise, instead of continually spending their time in the regular airing courts. Mr. HARTLEY's next plans received the approval of the Secretary of State, in October, and on the 30th the various contracts were let, and the building at once commenced. Considering the unfavorable weather it is rapidly progressing, and I hope will be fit for occupation before the end of this year.

I must again request the Visitors to consider the serious inconvenience and pecuniary loss the Institution suffers from the want of more land. It is not only desirable as a source of profit, but as a remedial and curative means, for it is a well established fact that the largest proportion of recoveries are derived from those men who work out in the farm and garden. Having completed the improvements and planting of the airing courts, there are many patients able and willing to work out of doors, for whom, unfortunately, we have difficulty in finding profitable employment in the ordinary routine of our small farm and garden.

On the 24th April two baths and lavatories were ordered for each house, as well as two self-acting water closets, they have been in use long enough to prove their efficiency and

the necessity of increasing the number ; I therefore hope the Visitors will order the remainder to be finished. Additional furniture has been placed in several of the wards, of a more comfortable construction, such as settees, sofas, and chairs ; also cocoa nut fibre matting laid upon some of the floors, and carpets by the bed sides. These add much to the patient's comfort, and I trust I may be permitted to furnish, gradually, the remainder of the wards. The walls in many of the day rooms and galleries have been painted six feet high, thus improving their appearance and cleanliness.

The steam pipes for heating the wards, which were laid down last year, continue to answer very well. Wards 12 and 16 still remain unfinished, no order having been given for them last year. In these two wards we have experienced frequent difficulty in obtaining a sufficient quantity of hot water for the baths, this arises from the cisterns being too small to supply the water required for daily use.

The supply of water, for general purposes, has not been quite sufficient: 419,300 gallons have been taken from the Water Works Company. But nearly the whole of the rain water, which would be so valuable for the laundry, and some other purposes, runs into the drains, for want of a large tank ; this seems a pity, and I should be glad if the Visitors would take this matter into their consideration.

The health of the patients has been good, and free from epidemic disease. The recoveries are fewer than last year, this may be attributed to the number of recent cases which were refused admission, and from the incurable state of such a large proportion of the inmates, as, at this time, there are not more than 70 presenting favorable symptoms of recovery. The deaths bear a fractional increase over the previous year, but this is not

surprising, when out of 296 admissions, 205 were in a weak and exhausted state of health, adding these to the numerous aged and infirm residents, at the beginning of the year, a high scale of mortality may naturally be anticipated; some, I am sorry to say, were brought in such an enfeebled condition that they only lived a few days.

The schools continue to afford instruction, interest, and amusement to many of the patients: it appears to have the salutary influence of checking outbreaks of excitement, thus proving its utility. I feel assured that our warmest thanks are due to the Chaplain for his unremitting perseverance in continuing this self-imposed labour.

The gardens and farm have not yielded such abundant crops as last year. And there is so much disease amongst the potatoes, that we shall fall far short of the necessary quantity, and should the present high price continue, it will add materially to our weekly expenditure.

Allow me to offer my sincere thanks for your kind and generous assistance in promoting improvements for the well being of the Asylum, and comfort of the patients. And also for responding to my application for an Assistant Resident House Surgeon. The election of Dr. CHAPMAN took place on the 13th November, and he entered upon his duties on the 1st January, 1857.

JOHN S. ALDERSON,
Medical Superintendent.

JANUARY, 1857.

	Receipts.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of last Account	"	"	"	—	10	3	9	7	
" <i>Cash received for Sundries sold, viz :</i>									
Calves	10	12	0						
Cows' Hides and Tallow.....	10	9	0						
Pigs	3	0	0						
Oats	13	15	0						
Garden Produce	5	11	4						
Dripping	81	7	2						
Yeast	24	11	8						
Eggs	3	15	0						
Soot	0	16	0						
Soot	13	15	0						
Rags	0	3	0	—	167	15	2		
Clothing									
" Amount received from Ellis Hodgson, Esq. }	"	"	"	367	10	4			
for Patients chargeable to the Riding... }	"	"	"	15496	2	0			
" Amount received from Unions & Townships	"	"	"				£ 17039	17	1

" Amount due from Unions and Townships }	"	"	"	5991	18	10			
for half-year ending 31st December, 1856 }	"	"	"	1412	7	7			
" Balance in hand as per contra.....	"	"	"				£ 7404	6	5

AUDITED, *January 22nd, 1857,*

JOHN BARFF.

PASSED, *at the Annual Meeting of Visitors,*
22nd January, 1857,

H. W. WICKHAM,
Chairman of Visitors.

BALANCE SHEET, FOR 1856.

Cr.

			Expenditure.					
By Provisions, viz :			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Flour, Oatmeal, &c.....			3088	0	0			
Groceries and Tobacco.....			1356	3	0			
Hops			99	9	0			
Malt			1448	0	2			
Meat			3186	16	0			
Potatoes			13	12	0	9192	0	2
Wine and Spirits.—(See Surgery and Dispensary below.)								
„ Clothing and Bedding, viz :								
Cloth, Linen, Sheetting, Draperies, &c....			1067	0	1			
Leather, Hemp, &c.....			244	1	0			
Straw for Bedding			80	0	0	1391	1	1
Necessaries, viz :								
Brushes			53	18	6			
Coals			870	2	3			
Earthenware.....			47	19	10			
Ironmongery.....			79	8	2			
Oils, &c.....			28	2	0			
Water			19	1	0	1098	11	9
„ Salaries and Wages, viz :								
Officers' Salaries			1334	8	8			
Attendants' and Servants' Wages			1222	7	7	2556	16	3
„ Surgery and Dispensary, viz :								
Drugs, Leeches, &c.....			128	6	10			
Wine, Spirits, and Porter			170	14	6	299	1	4
„ Funeral Expences—Coffins, &c.			„	„	„	121	19	0
„ Farm and Garden, viz :								
Bran, Sharps, Meal, &c.			305	18	6			
Cows and Fodder.....			189	3	0			
Horse Hire			13	3	0			
Seeds			40	8	7			
Straw.....			40	9	3			
Lime for Land			4	18	0	594	0	4
„ Rent of Land.....			„	„	„	56	0	0
„ Rates and Taxes.....			„	„	„	106	7	2
„ Miscellaneous, viz :								
Advertising			6	1	0			
Banker's Commission			7	8	3			
Carriage.....			6	6	3			
Clocks Winding, Repairing, &c.			5	15	9			
Looking Glasses, Pictures, &c.			12	14	0			
Plants and Shrubs			12	0	0			
Stationery, Printing, and Postages ...			114	15	2			
Setting Razors			8	8	0			
Thermometers			4	13	6			
Incidentals			33	10	6	211	12	5
						15627	9	6
„ Balance in hand on 31st December, 1856						1412	7	7
						£ 17039	17	1
„ Amount due to Tradesmen on existing Contracts.....						2026	12	10
„ Balance in favor of the Institution.....						5377	13	7
						£ 7404	6	5

PATIENTS.

In the Asylum on the 1st January, 1856.....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Admitted during the year 1856	356	411	767
	141	155	296
	497	566	1063

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged	79	96	175
Dead	50	54	104
	129	150	279
Remaining in the Asylum on 1st January, 1856	368	416	784

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Admitted since the opening of the Asylum	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
	3134	3249	6383
Discharged	1468	1827	3295
Dead	1298	1006	2304—2766
Remaining	368	416	784
Discharged since the opening of the Asylum—Cured	1212	1486	2698
Relieved, &c.	256	341	597

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 attack.
110	31	30	38	87

Recoveries during the Year 1856.

MALES, 55.

FEMALES, 67.

TOTAL, 122.

Forms of Insanity, and Duration on Admission in the Recoveries of the Year.

Forms of Insanity.	Recoveries of those admitted during the year 1856.						Recoveries of those in the Asylum previous to the year 1856.						TOTAL RECOVERIES.			DURATION ON ADMISSION.											
													1 Month and under.		1 to 3 Months.		3 to 6 Months.		6 Months to 1 Year.		One to many Years.		Not known.		Had previous Attacks.		
	M.	F.	TOT.	M.	F.	TOT.	M.	F.	TOT.	M.	F.	TOT.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Mania	21	19	40	16	21	37	37	40	77	13	11	4	5	2	2	0	3	2	1	1	1	4	15	14			
Melancholia ...	9	15	24	6	9	15	15	24	39	4	9	3	5	2	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	4	5				
Dementia	2	1	3	1	2	3	3	3	6	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0				
	32	35	67	23	32	55	55	67	122	19	21	7	10	5	6	0	5	3	2	1	4	20	19				

Per Centage of Recoveries, viz:

Recoveries on the 1036 Patients under treatment in 1854	12.64 per cent.
Ditto on the 1030 Patients under treatment in 1855	14.37 per cent.
Ditto on the 1063 Patients under treatment in 1856	11.47 per cent.
Recoveries on the 328 Patients admitted in 1854	16.46 per cent.
Ditto on the 265 Patients admitted in 1855	22.26 per cent.
Ditto on the 296 Patients admitted in 1856	15.19 per cent.

Number of Patients admitted in each Year, from 1820 to 1856.

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	1855	1856
127	171	162	146	111	93	108	257	268	285	263	284	340	328	265	296

Number of Patients admitted in each Month.

Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
516	448	526	484	634	598	590	498	475	489	460	528

Number of Patients discharged in each Year, from 1820 to 1856.

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	1855	1856
71	96	76	89	75	36	48	55	135	121	131	139	134	157	166	175

Number of Patients who have died in each Year, from 1820 to 1856.

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	1855	1856
57	53	53	57	44	37	43	79	226	81	96	109	145	114	97	104

Different Ages at which Patients have been admitted during the Year 1856.

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.
1	13	32	36	MALES. 23	20	12	3	1
0	7	35	39	FEMALES. 33	25	12	4	0

Statement of Patients re-admitted.

Re-admitted who had not been discharged more than three months.	Re-admitted who had been discharged between three and six months.	Re-admitted who had been discharged between six and nine months.	Re-admitted who had been discharged between nine and twelve months.	Re-admitted who had been discharged between one and two years.	Re-admitted who had been discharged between two and three years.	Re-admitted who had been discharged more than three years.
1	1	1	MALES. 4	1	2	8
0	2	1	FEMALES. 1	6	4	14

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	2119
„ within twelve months after first attack	1028
„ who had been insane from one to many years	1295
„ who have had previous attacks, and have been confined before in this Asylum.....	927
„ who are stated to have had previous attacks, but have not been confined here	1014
	<hr/>
	6383
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DISCHARGES AND DEATHS.

Discharged recovered, who had not been insane more than three months before admission.....	1019
Deaths.....	612
„ recovered, who had not been insane more than twelve months before admission	520
Deaths.....	456
„ recovered, who had been insane from one to many years before admission	179
Deaths.....	753
„ recovered, who had had previous attack	984
Deaths.....	483
„ not recovered, by desire of friends and by order of the Visiting Committee	593
	<hr/>
	2304 3295
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Deaths during the Year, 1856—viz:

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
MALES	15	18	6	11	50
FEMALES	13	13	11	17	54
TOTAL	28	31	17	28	104

Average Mortality on the average daily resident, 12.95 per cent.

Ditto on the 1063 Patients under Treatment 9.79. per cent.

Average weekly number under Medical Treatment.

Males, 10.96. Females, 15.30. Total, 26 26.

Causes of Death of the Patients who have died in the Asylum during the Year 1856.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Apoplexy	1	0	1
Bronchitis	3	0	3
Chronic Diarrhœa	3	8	11
" Dysentery	1	0	1
Disease of Brain and Membranes	2	3	5
" Heart	2	0	2
" the Prostrate	1	0	1
Epilepsy	7	2	9
Fever, continued	0	2	2
General Exhaustion	0	10	10
" Paralysis	0	1	1
Hemorrhage from the Lungs	16	0	16
Maniacal Exhaustion	1	0	1
Old Age	4	3	7
Paralysis	3	15	18
Puerperal Mania	2	2	4
Pleuro, Penumonia, and Pleurisy	0	2	2
Phthisis	1	1	2
Scirrhus, disease of Liver	2	1	3
Scrofula	1	0	1
	0	4	4
	50	54	104

**Ages of Patients who have Died in the Asylum during the
Year 1856.**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
From 10 to 20 years.....	3	1	4
" 20 to 25 years.....	2	5	7
" 25 to 30 years.....	5	3	8
" 30 to 35 years.....	7	5	12
" 35 to 40 years.....	4	1	5
" 40 to 45 years.....	8	6	14
" 45 to 50 years.....	3	3	6
" 50 to 55 years.....	7	6	13
" 55 to 60 years.....	3	3	6
" 60 to 65 years.....	4	7	11
" 65 to 70 years.....	1	7	8
" 70 to 75 years.....	1	6	7
" 75 to 80 years.....	1	0	1
" 80 to 85 years.....	1	1	2
	50	54	104

Average Age of the 50 Male Patients who have died during the year, 43.18.

Average Age of the 54 Female Patients who have died during the year, 51.79.

Mean Average, 47.65.

**Period of Residence of the Patients who have Died in the Asylum
during the Year 1856.**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Within 1 week	5	5	10
From 1 week to 1 month.....	2	1	3
" 1 to 2 months.....	1	3	4
" 2 to 3 months.....	3	4	7
" 3 to 6 months.....	4	6	10
" 6 to 9 months.....	5	5	10
" 9 to 12 months	3	6	9
" 12 to 18 months.....	9	3	12
" 18 months to 2 years	5	3	8
" 2 to 4 years.....	7	10	17
" 4 to 6 years.....	4	0	4
" 6 to 10 years	1	2	3
" 10 to 15 years.....	0	3	3
" 15 to 20 years.....	0	0	0
" 20 to 30 years.....	1	3	4
	50	54	104

Average period of Residence of the 50 Male Patients who have died during the year, 1 year, 11 months, and 1 week.

Average period of Residence of the 54 Female Patients who have died during the year, 3 years and 3 months.

Mean Average, 2 years, 7 months, and 3 days.

**Occupation of the 141 Male Patients admitted during the
Year 1856.**

Blacksmiths	7	Joiners.....	6
Basketmaker	1	Labourers	26
Bookseller	1	Machanics	4
Butcher	1	Mill Hands.....	5
Brickmaker.....	1	Pattern Card Maker	1
Coal Leaders	2	Plumber	1
Coal Miners	6	Potters.....	2
Carver and Guilder.....	1	Rage Dealers	2
Cloth Dressers	7	Saddler	1
Commercial Traveller.....	1	Soldier	1
Clothiers	3	Schoolmaster	1
Cutlers	7	Shoe Makers	4
Cornfactor	1	Stone Masons	3
Dyer	1	Tinner.....	1
Excavator	1	Tailors.....	2
Edge-Tool Maker	1	Weavers	9
Flax Dresser	1	Woolcombers	2
File Cutters	3	Woolsorters.....	2
Grooms	2	Watchman	1
Hawkers	3	Die Sinker	1
Innkeepers	2	No Occupation.....	12
Leather Dresser	1		

**Occupation of the 155 Female Patients admitted during
the Year 1856.**

Burler	1	Shoebinders.....	2
Charwomen	9	Sempstress	1
Dress Makers	2	Servants	20
Housewives	77	Shopkeeper	1
Hawkers	2	Weavers	11
Mill Hands	16	No Occupation...	12
Nurse	1		

**Degree of Education of the 296 Patients admitted during
the Year 1856**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Can Read and Write	86	58	144
Can Read only.....	17	46	63
No Education	31	28	59
Not Known	7	23	30
	141	155	296

**Social state of the 296 Patients admitted during
the Year 1856.**

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Married	66	80	146
Single	64	48	112
Widowed	11	27	38
	141	155	296

Religion of the 296 Patients admitted during the Year. 1856.

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
Church of England	62	57	119
Roman Catholics	10	7	17
Wesleyans	22	45	67
Calvinists	5	3	8
Other Denominations	11	16	27
Not Known	15	10	25
No Religion	16	17	33
	141	155	296

