Thirty-second annual report of the resident physician of the Belfast District Hospital for the Insane Poor of the counties of Antrim and Down, and the county of the town of Carrickfergus: from 1st April, 1861, to the 31st March, 1862.

#### Contributors

Belfast District Hospital for the Insane. Stewart, Robert.

#### **Publication/Creation**

Belfast: Printed at the Daily "Northern Whig" Office, 1862.

#### **Persistent URL**

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## THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF

#### THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

OF THE

## BELFAST DISTRICT

# Hospital for the Insane Poor

OF THE

COUNTIES OF ANTRIM AND DOWN, AND THE COUNTY
OF THE TOWN OF CARRICKFERGUS,

FROM 1ST APRIL, 1861, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1862.

[ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO BE PRINTED.]

ESTABLISHED 1829.

BELFAST:

PRINTED AT THE DAILY "NORTHERN WHIG" OFFICE,

1862.

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#### GOVERNORS

OF

# The Belfast District Fospital for the Insane,

APPOINTED BY

#### THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND PRIVY COUNCIL OF IRELAND,

Under the Provisions of 1 and 2 George IV., Cap. 33.

No.	NAME	RESIDENCE.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.
1 2 3 4 4 5 6 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Marquis of Donegall, Mayor of Belfast, Rev. Thomas Hincks, A.M., Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., D.L., William M'Cance, Esq., J.P., Robt. J. Tennent, Esq., J.P., Right Rev. C. Denvir, D.D., Rev. John Edgar, D.D., Rev. H. Montgomery, LL.D., The Very Rev. Dean Stannus, Rev. H. Cooke, D.D., LL.D., Rev. J. S. B. Monsell, A.M., Conway B. Grimshaw, Esq., John Clarke, Esq., J.P., Marquis of Downshire, Robt. Gordon, Esq., J.P., D.L., Major Crawford, J.P., The Lord Bishop of Down and Connor, and Dromore, for the time being, William Dunville, Esq., J.P., Rev. T. F. Miller, D.D., Adam J. Macrory, Esq., Lord Dufferin, Thomas M'Clure, Esq., J.P., Colonel Forde, M.P.,	Belfast, Derrykeighan Rectory, Dervock, Belvoir Park, Belfast, Belfast, Rushpark, Belfast, Belfast, Dunmurry, Lisburn, Belfast, Lynfield House, Belfast, Castle, Hillsborough, Florida Manor, Killinchy, Purdysburn, Belfast, Crawfordsburn, Holywood,	March, 1829. March, 1829. March, 1829. March, 1829. June 28, 1829. Jan. 4, 1836. Oct. 28, 1836. Oct. 28, 1836. Oct. 28, 1836. April 4, 1842. April 4, 1842. April 4, 1842. July 13, 1842. Oct. 8, 1846. Sept. 13, 1847. Nov. 16, 1847. Nov. 16, 1847. Nov. 16, 1847. Nov. 16, 1847. April 9, 1850.  May 22, 1851. Dec. 8, 1851. June 15, 1852. Dec. 10, 1855. Jan. 29, 1856. March, 1862.

STATED MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ARE HELD IN THE INSTITUTION ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT ONE O'CLOCK, P.M.

\*

## THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OH

# The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1862.

Table 1.—Genera	l Statemen	t of the	year's		ns, &c.	
T- 4b - b 1-4 A		Females.	Total.		Females.	Total.
In the house on 1st Apri		60	110	193	163	356
Admitted since, New C		60	9			
· accurps		-		55	64	119
Total under Treatment	during the	year,		248	227	475
Discharged, Recovered,		38	73			
Do., Relieved,		16	21			
Died,	11	8	19		- 00	110
				51	62	113
Remaining under Treat	ment on 31	st Marc	h. 1862	. 197	165	362
Tromaning under Treat	mone on or	SU ALLGER	1, 1002	, 10,	100	
The total Admissions d	uring the v	ear wer	е	55	64	119
Do fo	r the prece	ding ye	ar,	51	51	102
Daily Average Number	of Patient	s during	g the ye			59.50
Do. for the preceding	ng year,			•••	3	56.98
"Dangerous Lunatics" of the Lord Lieutens	admitted,	by war	rants			
embraced in the year's						
embracedin the year s			s. Total.	Males	Females.	Total
From Antrim Jail,	6		8. 10tai.	Maies.	r cmarcs.	Total.
From County Down Ja	il, 7	5	12			
From County Down Ja	il, 7			13	7	20
	_	5	12		7	20
Average Annual Exper	nse of each	5 Patien	12	e past }	7 £19 1	
Average Annual Experyear, including every	nse of each charge,	5 Patien	12 — at for th	e past }	£19 1	0 71
Average Annual Exper	nse of each charge,	5 Patien	12	e past }		0 71
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous	nse of each charge,	Patien	12 	e past }	£19 1	0 7½ 6 2¼
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for	nse of each charge, as year,	Patien ded 31s	12 t for th  t March	e past } }	£19 1	0 7½ 6 2⅓ 3 10
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for total Expenditure for total Expenditure for the Expenditure f	nse of each charge, is year, the year enche year enche	Patien ded 31s	12 t for th  t March	e past } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for tot	nse of each charge, as year, the year enche year enche	Patien ded 31s ded 31s	12 t for th  t March	e past } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for total Expenditure for total Expenditure for the Expenditure f	nse of each charge, as year, the year enche year enche	Patien ded 31s ded 31s	t for th	e past } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for total Expension for the previous fo	nse of each charge, is year, the year enche year enche year enche year	Patien ded 31s ded 31s	t for th	e past } } , 1862, , 1861,	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93	0 7½ 6 2⅓ 8 10 3 2 11 9 10 5
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for tot	nse of each charge, is year, the year enche year enche year enche year	Patien ded 31s ded 31s	t for th	e past } } , 1862, , 1861,	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367	0 7½ 6 2⅓ 8 10 3 2 11 9 10 5
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for to Do. for the Produce of Farm and Card Net Professional Expenditure for the Do. for the Professional Expenditure for the Professional Expenditure for the Professional Expensional Expen	the year enche year en	5 Patien ded 31s ded 31s es,	t for th t March t March	e past } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for total Expension for the previous fo	the year enthe year en	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, its adm	t for th  t March t March	e past } } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for total Expension	the year enche year en	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, its adm	t for th  t March t March	e past } } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females.	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 ading Total.
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for the Do. for the Produce of Farm and Gard Net Profession Table II.—Ages of the Under 20 years,	the year enche Expensit,	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, nts adm arch, 18	t March t March	e past } } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females.	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 ading Total. 4
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for the Do. for the Produce of Farm and Gard Net Profession Table II.—Ages of the Under 20 years, 20 to 30 years,	the year enche Expensit,	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, nts adm arch, 18	t March t March	e past } } , 1862, , 1861, uring the Males. 3 16	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females.	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 ading Total. 4 35
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for total Expension for tot	the year enthe year en	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, nts adm arch, 18	t March t March	e past } } } , 1862, , 1861, uring the Males. 3 16 17	£19 10 18 10 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females. 1 19 34	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 ading Total. 4 35 51
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for to Do. for the Produce of Farm and Control Deduct Farm and Gard Net Profession Table II.—Ages of the Under 20 years,  " 20 to 30 years, " 30 to 40 " " 40 to 50 "	the year enche Expensit,	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, nts adm arch, 18	t March t March	e past } } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females. 1 19 34 7	0 7½ 6 2⅓ 8 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 ading Total. 4 35 51 20
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for to Do. for the Produce of Farm and Control Deduct Farm and Gard Net Profession Table II.—Ages of the Under 20 years,  " 20 to 30 years, " 30 to 40 " " 40 to 50 "	the year enthe year en	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, nts adm arch, 18	t March t March t March	e past } } } , 1862, , 1861, uring the Males. 3 16 17	£19 10 18 10 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females. 1 19 34	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 ading Total. 4 35 51
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for to Do. for to Do. for to Do. for to Table II.—Ages of the Under 20 years,  " 20 to 30 years, " 20 to 30 years, " 30 to 40 " " 40 to 50 " " 50 to 60 "	the year enche xpens  it,  119 Patier 31st Ma	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, ats adm arch, 18	t March t March t March	e past } } } } } males. 3 16 17 13 4 2 —	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females. 1 19 34 7 2 1	0 7½ 6 2¼ 3 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 dding Total. 4 35 51 20 6 3
Average Annual Experyear, including every Do. for the previous Total Expenditure for to Do. for to Do. for to Do. for to Table II.—Ages of the Under 20 years,  " 20 to 30 years, " 20 to 30 years, " 30 to 40 " " 40 to 50 " " 50 to 60 "	the year enche xpens  it,  119 Patier 31st Ma	Patien ded 31s ded 31s es, ats adm arch, 18	t March t March t March	e past } } }	£19 1 18 1 7,021 1 6,713 £367 93 274 year en Females. 1 19 34 7	0 7½ 6 2⅓ 8 10 3 2 11 9 10 5 1 4 ading Total. 4 35 51 20 6

Table III.—Alleged Causes of Insanity in the 119 Cases admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

				1000	Males.	Females.	Total.
Bodily Ailments,					 9	7	16
Child Birth,					 0	2	2
Disappointed Lov	e,				 1	1	2
Fright,					 0	1	1
Grief, Disappointr	nent,	and An	xiety,		 12	14	26
Hereditary,					 2	4	6
Intemperance,					 9	4	13
Jealousy,					 1	2	3
Puerperal Condition	on,				 0	5	5
Religious Excitem	ent,				 6	6	12
Totally Unknown	,				 15	18	33
						-	
TOTAL	s,				 55	64	119

Table IV.—Forms of Disease in the 119 Patients admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

		епиеи	orse ma	псп, 100	)4.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Dementia,						2	3	5
Mania,						40	49	89
Melancholia,						8	9	17
Monomania,						5	3	8
						_	-	
	TOTALS	,				55	64	119

Table V.-Religion of the 119 Patients admitted during the year ended

		31st	March,	1862.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Covenanters,					 0	1	1
25 12 22 1					 0	1	1
Presbyterian and	Protesta	ant Di	ssenters,		 26	27	53
Roman Catholics,					 14	20	34
Unitarian,					 1	0	1
United Church of	Englan	d and	Ireland,		 14	15	29
					-	-	-
T	OTALS,				 55	64	119

Table VI.—Social Condition of the 119 cases admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

Married, Single, Widowers	and		 	 	Males. 8 47 0	Females, 26 34 4	Total. 34 81 4
		TOTALS,		 	55	64	119

Table VIIOccupation of	the	119	cases	admitted	during	the	year	ended
	31	st N	Jarch	1862				

			Sist	march,	1862.			
						Males.	Females.	Total.
Cabdriver,						 1	0	1
Carpenters	,					 2	0	2
Clerk,						 1	0	1
Dealers,						 1	2	3
Dressmake	er,					 0	1	1
Farmers, V	Wive	s and Dau	ghters	of		 10	1	11
Flowerers	and S	Sewers,				 0	7	7
Hackler,						 1	0	1
Housekeep	ers,					 0	5	5
House Ser	vants	,				 0	8	8
Housewive	s,					 0	17	17
Labourers	and '	Wives of	do.,			 14	0	14
Mechanics,	,					 3	0	3
Millworker	rs,					 1	4	5
Paupers,						 0	2	2
Sailor,						 1	0	1
Seamstress	,					 0	5	5
Shoemaker	s,					 5	0	5
Teachers,						 0	2	2
Weavers,						 9	3	12
Without an	ny O	ecupation,				 6	7	13
						-	_	
		TOTALS,				 55	64	119

Table VIII.—Degree of Education in the 119 cases admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

	,	 	 	Males.	Females.	Total.
No Education,		 	 	4	7	11
Read only,		 	 	11	19	30
Read and Write,		 	 	39	37	76
Well Educated,		 	 	1	1	2
				-	-	
				55	64	119

Table IX.—Ages of the 73 Patients discharged Recovered during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

					enaea a	sist ma	ren, 180	12.	Males.	Females.	Total.
From	20	to	30	years,					13	17	30
"	30	to	40	"					14	12	26
"	40	to	50	"					7	9	16
"	50	to	60	"					1	0	1
									200		_
				TOTALS,					35	38	73

Table X.—Shewing the period of time the 73 Patients discharged Recovered were under treatment during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

				0.700-000-000	Males.	Females.	Total.
Und	ler 3 Month	s,	 		 1	1	2
	m 3 to 6 Me		 		 13	9	22
44		66	 		 7	15	22
66	1 to 2 Ye	ars.	 		 5	7	12
66	2 to 5 "		 		 8	4	12
44			 		 1	1	2
66	10 to 20 "		 		 0	1	1
					-	_	
		TOTALS,	 		 35	38	73

Table XI.—Shewing the Duration of Disease in the 113 Patients discharged Recovered and Relieved, and who died during the year ended March 31, 1862.

DURATION OF DISEASE.		OVERED RELIEVEL		DIED.			
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total	
Under 3 Months,	2	0	2	3	2	5	
From 3 to 6 Months,	8 5	15	23	1	1	2	
" 6 to 12 "	5	12	17	0	0	0	
" 1 to 2 Years,	11	9	20	1	2	3	
" 2 to 5 "	7	9	16	2	2	4 2	
" 5 to 10 "	3	5	8	1	1	2	
" 10 to 20 "	4	4	8	0	0	0	
" 20 to 23 "	0	0	0	1	0	1	
" 23 to 30 "	0	0	0	2	0	2	
TOTALS,	40	54	94	11	8	19	

Table XII.—Ages of the 19 Patients who died during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

				,	Males,	Females.	Total.
From	20 to 30	Years,	 		 2	2	4
"	30 to 4	) "	 		 1	1	2
66	40 to 5	0 "	 		 5	I	6
"	50 to 6	) "	 		 1	1	2
"	60 to 7	) "	 		 2	3	5
					-	_	-
		TOTALS,	 		 11	8	19

#### Table XIII .- Employment during the year ended 31st March. 1862.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Assisting Servants,				 11	9	20
Basket Making,				 2	0	2
Breaking Freestone,				 4	0	4
Cultivating the Farm,				 80	0	80
Embroidering,				 0	9	9
Gardening Labour,				 4	0	4
Knitting,				 0	27	27
Making and Repairing				5	17	22
Making and Repairing	Shoop			2	0	2
				 0	0	0
Painting,	•••	***		 		
Pumping Water,	***		***	 17	0	17
Quilting,				 0	6	6
Smith Work,				 2	0	2
Spinning,				 0	25	25
Sweeping Yards, Carryin	ng Coal	s. &c		 25	0	25
Tailoring,				 3	0	3
Washing in Tanadan				 2	23	25
Warping, Weaving, and				 10	0	10
" arping, " caving, and	** Indi	ng,		 10	0	10
Totals,				 167	116	283

## Table XIV.—Forms of Disease of the Total Number of Patients remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1862.

		100			Males.	Females.	Total.
Dementia,				 	5	7	12
Mania,				 	136	91	227
Do., comp	licated with	Epile	psy,	 	19	10	29
Melancholia,				 	23	44	67
Monomania,				 	14	13	27
	Totals,			 	197	165	362

## Table XV.—Shewing the State of the Cases remaining in the Hospital on the 31st March, 1862.

0100 1	1	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Considered Chronic or Incurable Probably Curable,	Cases,			147 94	$\frac{241}{121}$	
Totals,				197	165	362

## Table XVI.—Shewing the Religious Persuasions of the 362 Patients remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1862.

	186.75	D. Sec.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Covenanters,		 	 	2	0	2
Methodists,		 	 	0	3	3
Presbyterians,		 	 	63	68	131
Roman Catholies,		 	 	71	57	128
Unitarians,		 	 	3	0	3
United Church of				58	37	95
To	OTALS,	 	 	197	165	362

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Cause of Death.		General Debility, compli-	Exhaustion from continued Mania.	Apoplexy, supervening on Epilepsy (suddenly).	General Debility.	Phthisis.	Figures Aoscess.	General Debility.	General Exhaustion and	Exhaustion from continued	Apoplexy.	Exhaustion from Mania,	seated abscess on chest.	Gradual Exhaustion from	Do. do.	Paralysis.	Apoplexy.	Paralysis.	Scrofulous disease.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
Period an Inmate.	Yrs. Mos. Wks. Days.	1 3	9 6	0 2	1 6	0 -		9 7 9	20	1 2	2 1	0 1		1 4		2 1			1 4	
Period	rs. Mos.	0 1	0 2	2 10	0 0	4 1 10			28 0	0 5	30 3	0 1		1 4		0 2			1 7	
Occupation.	X	Sewing.	Cardriver.	Labourer.	Dealer.		mer.	Housewife.		Housewife.	Soldier.	Farmer.		Servant.	Pauper.	Lady's Maid.	Labourer.	Labourer.	None.	Butcher.
Social State.	1	Widow.	Married.	Married.	Single.	Single.	Single.	Widow.	Widower.	Married.	Single.	Single.	0	Single.	Widow.	Single.	Single.	Married.	Married.	Married.
Form of Insanity and supposed Exciting Cause.		Mania-Intemperance.	Mania-Abuse of Medicine.	Mania-Unknown.	Mania-Unknown.	Mania-Unknown.	Mania-Unknown.	Melancholia. Religious excitement	Mania-Unknown.	Mania-Religious Excitement.	Mania—Excessive Drinking.	Mania-Wound of Head		Mania-Hereditary.	Mania-Grief.	Mania-Nervous Debility.	Mania-Injury of Head.	Mania-Mental Anxiety.	Unknown.	Mania-Grief at death of son.
Sex. Age.		55	45	32	45	25	940	61	62	32	99	46		23	65	89	40	53	42	51
-		표.	M.	M.	M.	E;	N.	E E	M.	E	M.	X		E	E.	E.	M.	M.	E.	M.
No.		7	61	63	4	100	10	- 00	6	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19

#### GENERAL HEALTH.

It is a matter for much thankfulness to be enabled to state that the sanitary condition of the House, during the past year, was everything that could have been desired, neither illness of any serious nature nor epidemic having occurred amongst the inmates, even crowded as the establishment was in all its departments, throughout the entire year.

#### MORTALITY OF THE YEAR.

Amongst so large a community of invalids as the inmates generally of such an institution as this must be considered, the number of cases which terminated in death was both comparatively and positively small, being but nineteen altogether (eleven males and eight females), or a percentage of only 5.28 on the average daily number under treatment. And here it may, in passing, be remarked, that one reason for the supposed increase of lunacy in these countries is, that the life of the insane patient has been considerably prolonged, owing, happily, to the greatly improved and more liberal line of treatment pursued towards this peculiarly afflicted portion of the human family. Eight of the deceased had been inmates for periods varying from one to six months only, and, for the most part, were so much broken down in both mental and physical health on admission as to leave no hope of any other result but a fatal one. Three others had been patients between one and two years; three more between two and three years; one under five years; two between five and ten years; one upwards of twenty years; one twenty-eight years; and one for the lengthened term of thirty The patient of twenty years residence was the greater portion of that time a most useful and serviceable member of the Institution as a house painter, exercising his trade with much skill and taste, so that his death has been felt as a serious loss. He had very exalted ideas of his own condition, imagining that he was a Prince and closely allied to Royalty itself, yet condescending, for the public weal, to employ himself as an humble tradesman, until he was restored to those just rights which, as he conceived, had been usurped from him.

The deceased patient of twenty-eight years care and treatment is another whose removal has been felt very sensibly, inasmuch

as he was a source of much enjoyment to the inmates generally, from his musical abilities, both vocal and instrumental. performed on the violin with great skill, and, in the singing of a comic song, he had few equals. Originally he had been a teacher in a Lancasterian school in England, which occupation he ultimately gave up for that of a musician, as more congenial to his decidedly mercurial temperament. Overstudy was the supposed cause of his mental aberration. He had in his possession, on entering the House, a volume of MS. of his own composition, in refutation of "Locke on the Human Understanding"—a subject to which he had devoted himself with the greatest ardour, and for a lengthened period. His attachment to the Asylum was strong to a degree. Some years ago, after the retirement of the late Dr. Macdonnell, as the Visiting Physician, that eminent and much-esteemed gentleman begged, as a particular favour, the company of the deceased, with some other patients, to spend an evening at his house in town, which, however, he, with the greatest difficulty and persuasion, consented to do; nor would be stir outside the gate until repeated promises were made to him that he would be brought back by a particular hour. On his way to town, he would look towards the Asylum with evident concern, and a strong desire to retrace his steps; and when returning home from his visit the delight he was in was something astonishing.

With reference to the inmate of thirty years' duration, he, though generally quiet and harmless, would, on the slightest occasion, break out into a fit of passion, and this to such a pitch of extreme violence at times that the person nearest him would be in imminent peril of a furious onslaught with any offensive weapon he might at the moment be able to seize upon for his homicidal purpose. He had been a Bombardier; and a delusion which was persistent with him was, that a ship in full sale occupied his right side. He also conceived that he was a member of the medical profession, and, in cases of illness of those in his division, he would feel their pulse with much gravity, and invariably prescribe for them either strong punch or tea.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH.

Six of the deceased inmates (three males and three females)

succumbed to the exhausting effects of continued mania; four (one male, three females) sank from continued general debility; two (males) of epilepsy; two (males) of apoplexy; two (one male, one female) of paralysis; one (male) lumbar abscess; one (male) of chronic bronchitis; and one (a female) of phthisis. The oldest male was sixty-six, and the youngest twenty-one; the oldest female was sixty-eight, and the youngest twenty-three; the average age of both males and females being but forty-five, shewing that insanity is not favourable to "length of days," but decidedly the reverse.

#### SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL PATIENTS.

The very large number of fifty-seven of the year's admissions (twenty-five males, thirty-two females) were of the suicidal and homicidal class, respectively. Twenty-four of the former made actual attempts on their own lives before admission, nine of whom were males and fifteen females: the latter had recourse principally to strangulation to effect their purpose, eight having used such means; of the nine males, three cut their throats more or less severely, three tried to strangle themselves, two to end their days by submersion, and one by jumping out of a window. The number homicidally disposed was fourteen (nine males and five females), all of whom, in their maniacal fervor, made serious attacks on the lives of others. From this statement some ideaa very faint one, however-may be formed by the general public of the fearfully responsible, anxious, and perilous nature of the duties of those in immediate charge of the insane—duties for the performance of which no pecuniary remuneration could adequately compensate. There must be something more than the spirit of the mere hireling to induce to undertake the office of all others the most trying and arduous that can well be conceived—that of "ministering to the mind diseased;" and those so devoting their lives and energies deserve largely the support and sympathy of the extern world.

#### PRESENT STATE OF ACCOMMODATION.

The year now closed was a very anxious and constantly embarrassing one, owing to the House being more crowded than ever it had been before. The demands for admission were of so urgent a nature that case after case was endeavoured to be accommodated rather than refuse the benefits of the Institution to the appeals for admission on the part of distressed families and others, until the numbers came up to 372 at one period, being forty-two above the proper accommodation, thus seriously overstraining the abilities of the Institution, and interfering greatly with its internal arrangements, hygienic and disciplinary. At the present time the total number in the House amounts to 362. The outstanding cases in ordinary awaiting admission are ten, this being exclusive of those committed temporarily to the jails of Antrim and Down as "dangerous lunatics," awaiting a transference here, and which may be estimated at about twenty-five.

#### NEW DISTRICT ASYLUM FOR THE COUNTY DOWN AT DOWNPATRICK.

In last year's Report it was stated the means which had been using up to that period for providing additional accommodation for the insane of the district. Since then, it has been finally agreed upon that a new Asylum should be erected for the County Down alone, in the neighbourhood of Downpatrick, and so relieving this one of the patients belonging to that county, now amounting to 160. The building of this new Asylum has not yet been actually commenced, nothing further than a site having been fixed upon; and granting that all due expedition will be used in its erection, it need scarcely be expected that it will be in working order for at least two years hence at the earliest, if nearly so soon, so that, in the meantime, the pressure from without will be felt here, and all the inconveniencies already referred to, and risks of an overcrowded and overstrained house will have to be submitted to, and guarded against, as best they may, under circumstances so unavoidably difficult and perplexing.

#### VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF CARLISLE, LORD LIEUTENANT.

His Excellency Earl Carlisle honoured the Institution with a visit (as he had done formerly also) in the month of August, upon which occasion he was received by several of the Governors, and accompanied by them, together with Dr. Nugent and the officers, he went through a portion of the building,

his time being so limited as not to enable him to do more; and after freely conversing with several of the patients, and this, too, to their great gratification and delight, and hearing the band play "God save the Queen," he took his departure, having previously made a note on the books of the satisfaction his visit had afforded him, both as regarded the condition of the patients and the great cleanliness of the establishment.

## REVISED GENERAL RULES OF THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND PRIVY COUNCIL.

Lately a long-expected and much-needed revision has been adopted by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of the Rules for the government of these Institutions, which, so far as this Asylum is in question, are in accordance generally with the system of internal management which has been carried on specially in it, and with the approval of the authorities both before and since 1843, when the first issue of P.C. Rules was made. The present Rules having been under the consideration of the Board, their views thereupon will be found in the Appendix to this Report.

#### CHANGES, &C., ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

The changes which have taken place on the Board of Governors since last year are the following, viz:—1. The removal, by death, of Edward Bruce, Esq., late of Scoutbush, but who for several years past had never attended any of the Meetings, having left the district altogether. 2. The cessation of the Government Inspectors and Commissioners of Control of Asylums, Doctors Nugent and Hatchell, as members ex-officio. 3. The appointment recently of Colonel Fforde, M.P., Seaforde, County Down.

The attending members during the past year were sixteen, viz:—Mr. M'Clure (9), Rev. Dr. Edgar (8), Rev. Dr. Montgomery (8), Major Crawford (8), Mr. Grimshaw, (7), Mr. Clarke, (7), The Bishop of Down, &c., (7), Mr. Macrory (6), Rev. Dr. Miller, (5), Right Rev. Dr. Denvir (3), Very Rev. Dean Stannus (2), Mr. Batt (2), The Mayor of Belfast (Sir Edward Coey, 1), Mr. Dunville (1), Rev. Dr. Cooke (1), Dr. Nugent (1).

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S CHARGES AGAINST, AND SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO, THE INSTITUTION.

The Appendix contains a copy of the Board's proceedings in

sir Robert Peel, the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, in which he called for an immediate investigation by the Governors into certain charges communicated to him by some unnamed party, and reflecting strongly on the condition and discipline of the House. The Board are aware that no answer to their statement in reply has been received to the present time from the Chief Secretary, who, however, shortly after its transmission, visited the Institution, when he made some observations in the "Visitors' Book" of his inspection of the House, a copy of which, also, will be found in the Appendix, together with the Resident-Physician's reply thereto.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF THE DAY ROOMS.

Since last year several important improvements have been made in the patients' day rooms, all having been covered with lively patterns of paper, a change from the monotonous whitewashed walls so promotive in itself of the general cheerfulness of their unhappily stricken inmates. In addition to this step in the right direction, it must not be omitted to be stated that a member of the Board of Governors-William Dunville, Esq. -most considerately and liberally presented several paintings and engravings to adorn still further their walls, and the good effect of this on the patients can scarcely be imagined. It should also be here mentioned, as it is with many thanks, that Robert Henderson, Esq., of Belfast, very kindly sent, a few months since, a beautiful goldfinch, trained to lift up a bucket when requiring to drink, and open its seed box, which, along with its singing powers, are sources of great amusement and pleasure to the inmates. The philanthropist has a wide field in these Institutions for giving proof of his desire to benefit those under their care by taking a hint from the above praiseworthy and curatively tending presentations, and which, doubtless, it is only necessary to give, to have cordially and usefully responded to in various ways.

New fire grates of an improved, neat, and much more heatgiving kind, have replaced the former prison-like and wasteful furnishings in this way; and, further, the floors have been covered with cocoa-nut fibre matting, which, together with the other changes, have made the rooms homely and comfortable to a greatly increased degree, and at a comparatively small expenditure.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The band composed from amongst the inmates continues to progress in a most satisfactory and creditable manner, under the skilful direction of the band master, Mr. Dornan. execution in the best style of difficult pieces of music by them is not a little surprising to visitors and strangers, and the good effects arising from this source of regular amusement and recreation cannot be overrated amongst such a community. walks outside are enjoyed to the utmost, and looked forward to with the greatest delight. Recently an opportunity on two occasions was afforded through the liberality and kindly feeling of Mr. Bell, the Proprietor of the Hippodrome—which has been in town for some time past—to bring a select party of the inmates of both sexes to that place of amusement, and the pleasure which was thus afforded to them, together with their entirely correct and orderly demeanour in partaking of this indulgence, was of a character the most gratifying and encouraging in every respect.

The gradual substitution of hair mattresses on canvassbottomed bedsteads, in lieu of the beds of cocoa-nut fibre, which, from the tendency of this latter material to get into hard lumps, made them far from comfortable, is a most important change for the better, and fully appreciated by the inmates.

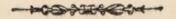
#### CONCLUSION.

The Resident-Physician feels it both a duty and pleasure in reiterating his former high appreciation of the Board's great kindness to himself personally, and the effective support they have so invariably afforded him in carrying on an Institution so important in its objects as an Hospital for the Insane, and which has now been in local operation thirty-two years, twenty-seven of which it has been his privilege, however anxious a one, to have been charged with its superintendence.

Of his professional colleagues it is needless to make further

remark than that they are always ready to give their best aid, as may be required in accomplishing the benevolent objects of the Institution; and that, as regards the attendants, they continue, with much humanity, diligence, and probity, to fulfil their peculiarly trying and confidential duties.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D., Besident-Physician.



## GENERAL TABLES OF STATISTICS.

Table XVIII.—Shewing the Admissions, Discharges, &c., from each County in the District, during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

#### ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY.

Antrim,							Males.	Females.	Total.
		Town of C					0	2	2
Down,							20	18	38
							_	-	-
		TOTALS,					55	64	119
		DISCHAR	GED,	&c.,	TO EACH	Cou	NTY.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
						***	28	41	69
County o	f the	Town of Ca	arric	kferg	us,	***	0	1	1
Down,							23	20	43
								-	-
		TOTALS,					51	62	113
	RE	MAINING IN	THE	Hot	SE, 31ST	MA	всн, 18	62.	
Antrim,							Males. 98	Females. 96	Total.
		Town of Ca					3	4	7
				_					
Down,	•••				***			65	161
		TOTALS,					197	165	362

Table XIX.—Shewing the Per Centage of Discharges and Deaths, and the Average Per Centage calculated on the Average Number of Patients for Thirteen Years, ended 31st March, 1862.

Years	Yearly	RECO	VERED.	REI	JEVED.	DIED.		
31st March.	Average Number. No. of		Rate Per Cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent	
1850	267.51	50	18.68	22	8.22	43	16.07	
1851	271.12	81	29.87	29	10.69	29	10.69	
1852	275.71	62	22.48	24	8.70	27	9.79	
1853	280.01	67	23.92	21	7.49	25	8.92	
1854	279.11	47	16.83	20	7.16	19	6.80	
1855	266.48	36	13.50	21	7.88	39	14.63	
1856	291.96	50	17.12	14	4.79	19	6.50	
1857	323.25	66	20.41	15	4.64	39	11.75	
1858	342.59	82	23.93	26	7.58	25	7.29	
1859	347.20	65	18.17	18	5.18	18	5.18	
1860	358.97	75	20.89	22	6.12	25	6.96	
1861	356.98	47	13.16	31	8.68	22	6.16	
1862	359.50	73	23.05	21	5.08	19	5.02	

Table XX.—Ages of the 362 Patients remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1862.

Und	er 20 Year	s,	 	 	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fron	a 20 to 30	Years,	 	 	41	28	69
"	30 to 40	"	 	 	49	48	97
"	40 to 50	"	 	 	61	52	113
"	50 to 60	"	 	 	31	23	54
"	60 to 70	44	 	 	13	11	24
-46	70 to 80	"	 	 	1	2	3
		Totals,	 	 	197	165	362

## Table XXI.—Shewing the Duration of Residence in the Hospital of the 362 Patients remaining under Treatment. 31st March, 1862.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
From	m 1	to S	Months,			 	8	5	13
66	2	to 3	66			 	10	11	21
66	3	to 6	"			 ***	7	11	18
66	6	to 9	) "			 	9	15	24
66	9	Mo	nths to 1	Tear,		 	13	7	20
66	1	Yes	er to 18 M	onths,		 	17	15	32
"			nths to 2 Y	Years,		 	5	3	8
"	2	Yea	rs to 4	"		 	37	25	62
"	4	**	to 6	"		 	25	21	46
66	6	"	to10	66		 	19	14	33
66	10	"	to15	66		 	13	19	32
66	10	"	to 20	66	***	 	13	11	24
66	20	"	to 25	66		 	10	5	15
66	25	66	to 30	66		 	7	2	9
66	30	and	upwards,			 	4	1	5
			TOTAL	LS,		 	197	165	362

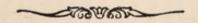
## Table XXII.—Shewing the Articles Manufactured and made by the Patients during the year ended 31st March, 1862.

2,173 Hanks Linen Yarn,
1,975 Yards Plain Linen,
139 Yards Ticken,
530 Yards Plain Calico,
115 Yards Twilled Calico,
325 Pairs Stockings and Socks,
470 Sheets,
161 Shirts,
143 Shifts,
195 Aprons,
174 Petticoats,

66 Wrappers,
317 Day Caps,
35 Night Caps,
40 Bolsters,
63 Bed Ticks,
17 Gowns,
275 Pillow Slips,
254 Neck Ties,
7 Quilted Blankets,
37 Overalls.

Table XXIII.—Shewing the Number of Cases Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, and who Died in each Quarter and each Month, respectively, during the Year ended 31st March, 1862.

	DISCHARGED.											
	ADMITTED.			RECOVERED.			RELIEVED.			DIED.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
April, May, June,	6 7 3	2 11 4	8 18 7 —33	3 4 3	3 5 2	6 9 5 -20	3 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0 -3	1 1 1	1 0 1	2 1 2 —5
July, August, September,	3 4 4	6 2 5	9 6 9 —24	2 0 4	3 2 4	5 2 8 —15	2 0 0	3 0 1	5 0 1 —6	1 0 1	0 0 1	1 0 2 -3
October, November, December,	5 5 3	6 10 3	11 15 6 —32	6 3 3	5 1 4	11 4 7 —22	1 0 1	3 2 3	4 2 4 —10	1 1 1	0 1 1	1 2 2 -5
January, February, March,	7 6 2	6 8 1	13 14 3 —30	1 0 6	5 3 1	6 3 7 —16	1 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0 -2	0 2 1	2 1 0	2 3 1 —6
	55	64	119	35	38	73	8	13	21	11	8	19



AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FOR ONE YEAR,

# BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1861, TO 31ST MARCH, 1862.

THE DISCHARGE.	Paid for Provisions, £3,393 1 4  Do Clothing, 223 14 6  Do. Bedding, 105 19 2  Do. Furniture, 105 19 2  Do. Fuel and Light, 367 5 3  Do. Stationery, Printing, and Periodicals, 117 14 10  Do. Advertising, 412 2  Do. Medicines, 38 11 5  Do. Repairs and Alterations, 38 11 5  Do. Farm and Garden Expenses, 38 10 5  Do. Incidental Expenses, 1,180 4 10  Do. Salaries and Wages, 1,180 4 10  Balance on Hand, 314 5  £7,664 12 10
THE CHARGE.	Balance of last Account in favour of the public, £285 S 4  Received from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, 6,880 9 11  Received for Vegetables and Fruit sold, £40 17 10  Do. Oats and Wheat sold, 314 4  Do. Hay sold, 314 4  Do. Hay sold, 314 4  Do. Therest, per Bank-Book, 24 10 1  Do. From Commissioners of Control, &c., of Lunatic Asylums, 200 0 0  Do. Cheques issued on Bank, but not drawn 120 11 3  Do. Overcharge on Calico, 5 15 9  Do. Overcharge on Insurance, 0 0 7  Do. Overcharge on Insurance, 0 2 6  Do. Grazing, 5 10 0  Balance in favour of the public, £642 9 0

E, FOR ONE YEAR,	0 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 7 7 7 7 8 9 9 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
HE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANGAT, TO 31st MARCH, 1862.	By 172 cwt. 1qr. 0lbs. Potatoes used in the Establishment, at 4s per cwt., 98 cwt. 0 qrs. 241bs. do., sold at various prices,
AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE ON AND PRODUCE OF THE LAND OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FOR ONE YEAR,  BEING FROM 1st April, 1861, to 31st March, 1862.	To Seeds and Plants, £18 19 10  " Spades, Hooks, Shovels, &c., £18 19 10  " Stones, £18 19 10  " Stones, 15 10  " Rent Charge, 2 12 10  " Rant Charge, 5 2 4  " Purchase of a Farm Horse, 23 4 1  " Seed Potatoes, 23 4 1  **A Balance, 274 1 4

#### DIETARY

OF

# The Belfast District Hospital for the Insanc.

BREAKFAST.

#### One quart stirabout (made with 8oz. fine or 7oz. coarse ) meal) and three-fourths of a pint mixed milk, ... § One-and-half pint stirabout and one half pint mixed ) Morning. milk, DINNER. One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. Potatoes), 6oz. ) Males & ) 3 days ... Females. solid meat, and one pint soup, ... a week. One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one quart soup (made with ox-heads and bones cut out ) Males. 3 days of meat, vegetables, oatmeal, barley, pease, &c.), a week. One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes), and ) Females. one-and-half pint soup, ... ... Three-fourths of a pound loaf bread (or 31 lbs. pota-) Males. toes) and one pint mixed milk, ... ... 1 day One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs, potatoes) and one a week. Females. pint mixed milk, ...

#### SUPPER.

One half-pound loaf bread and three-fourths of a pint of new milk,	Males.	Summer
One half-pound loaf bread and one half-pint new amilk,	Females.	6 months
One quart stirabout and three-fourths of a pint new milk,	Males.	Winter
One quart stirabout and three-fourths of a pint new milk,	Females,	6 Months

Patients who are actively employed are allowed a portion of meat, in addition to the soup, five instead of three days in the week. When the state of the patient's health requires it, the diet is changed accordingly, and any other substituted that may be considered requisite by the Medical Officers.

### APPENDIX.

"Office of Lunatic Asylums, Dublin Castle, 28th October, 1861.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Inspectors to transmit to you the accompanying copy of Memorandum received from the Chief Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, which you are requested to bring under the immediate attention of the Board of Governors, and inform the Inspectors of the result.

"I am to add that the condition in which the Asylum appears to have been found has excited the greatest surprise in the minds of the Inspectors.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

"W. J. CORBET, Chief Clerk.

"The Resident Physician of the District Lunatic Asylum, Belfast."

#### [MEMORANDUM.]

"THE INSPECTORS OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

"How was it that yesterday both the Manager and Matron of the Belfast Asylum were absent at one and the same time from their duties?

"Is not this a fit subject for inquiry?

"Again, can it be the case that the attendants in the Belfast Asylum carry clubs when accompanying visitors through the wards? "Has there ever been an instance of the use of their clubs on the part of the attendants towards the patients?

"Pray make these inquiries of the Board, and report immediately.

(Signed)

"ROBERT PEEL.

"October 26th, 1861.

"P.S.—I am told that yesterday, in the absence of the Manager and Matron, the condition of the house was anything but cleanly, although it has got the character of being a well-conducted establishment.

(Signed)

"R. P.

[A TRUE COPY.]

(Signed)

"W. J. CORBET.

"28th October, 1861."

#### BOARD-ROOM,

DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BELFAST, 4th November, 1861.

#### TO THE INSPECTORS OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN IRELAND.

Gentlemen,—At a meeting of the Board of Governors, specially convened on the above date, and attended by the following members, viz.:—

THE LORD BISHOP OF DOWN AND CONNOR AND DROMORE.

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF ROSS.

THE REV. JOHN EDGAR, D.D.

THE REV. T. F. MILLER, D.D., Vicar of Belfast.

THE REV. HENRY COOKE, D.D., LL.D., Chairman.

THE REV. HENRY MONTGOMERY, LL.D.

THE RIGHT REV. DOCTOR DENVIR, R.C.B.

ROBERT BATT, Esq., J.P., D.L.

JOHN CLARKE, Esq., J.P.

C. B. GRIMSHAW, Esq., T.C.

THOMAS M'CLURE, Esq., J.P.

A. J. MACRORY, Esq.

Dr. Stewart, the Resident Physician and Manager of this Asylum, duly laid before us your communication of the 28th ultimo, enclosing a "Memorandum" from Sir Robert Peel, dated on 26th ultimo, evidently written in haste, and under an unhesitating conviction that serious evils, urgently demanding inquiry and reformation, have existed in the management of this Institution.

Considering the peculiar tone of the Chief Secretary's "Memorandum," we might content ourselves, at present, by pursuing the diplomatic course of appointing a time for a regular investigation of his direct and implied charges, and calling upon his informant to sustain those accusations, as strict justice would demand, in presence of the accused. Taking into account, however, the high Official Quarter through which the

accusations have been preferred, as well as the gravity of the accusations themselves, we have thought it our duty to institute "an immediate investigation" as has been required of us to do; and we shall now, in due order, state the results of such ex-parte inquiries as we have been able to make in the absence of the Accuser.

Stripped of the somewhat indefinite garb of queries, in which the charges are clothed, they amount, in plain terms—

I.—To culpable neglect of duty on the part of our principal Resident Officers, Dr. and Mrs. Stewart:

II.—To the imputation of harsh treatment "towards the patients on the part of the attendants:"

III.—To a general want of cleanliness in the establishment.

As few graver accusations than the preceding could be preferred against any public institution, especially against an establishment whose unfortunate inmates are utterly deprived of all means, either of complaint or self-defence, we have carefully investigated each charge, according to all the evidence within our reach; and the following is our deliberate and unanimous finding in each case.

1st—As to culpable neglect on the part of our "Manager and Matron," on Friday, the 25th ultimo, "in being absent at one and the same time from their duties," the explanation has been very simple and, to us, entirely satisfactory.

Dr. Stewart, upon that day, after seeing the patients at dinner, went to Belfast at a quarter past two o'clock, on the proper business of the Asylum, and returned within one hour and a-half after he had left—the Clerk and Storekeeper, a most active and intelligent officer, being in the establishment during his brief and necessary absence.

Mrs. Stewart, labouring under a dangerous attack of bronchitis, had gone to her daughter's house (a short distance in the country), a few days previously, by the express direction of two eminent practitioners, viz., Dr. Neligan, of Dublin, and Dr. M'Cormac, our own Visiting Physician. Her daughter, however, Miss Stewart, a most intelligent young lady, twenty years

of age, who was born and brought up in the Asylum, who has been her mother's constant assistant for several years, who is thoroughly acquainted with every inmate of the establishment, and with every detail of its management, ably supplied her mother's place; and was assisted by Miss Lowry, our efficient Head Female Attendant.

All these facts might have been ascertained by Sir Robert Peel's informant; and we maintain that in the absence of a simple and reasonable inquiry, at the time, which would have been satisfactorily answered, Dr. Stewart has been unjustly charged with neglecting his duty whilst he was really discharging it; and we deeply sympathize with Mrs. Stewart, under the pain of an unmerited accusation preferred against her whilst she was suffering under severe indisposition, induced, most probably, by the exemplary discharge, for upwards of twenty-six years, of anxious, irksome, and laborious duties, for the benefit and comfort of the insane.

2nd—According to the evidence laid before us, the charge of "clubs being carried by the attendants," and the supposition that said clubs "may have been applied to the patients," is entirely unfounded in both its parts. No club, nor anything resembling a club, a stick, or even a switch, has ever been either "carried or used" by the attendants; nor have clubs, or any other offensive weapon ever been kept in this Asylum. The evidence upon this subject entirely accords with our personal knowledge, that the treatment of all the patients in this Asylum, by all its officers, has been singularly and uniformly gentle and humane.

3rd—Respecting the charge that, on the 25th ultimo, "the condition of the House was anything but cleanly," or, in plain words that it was uncleanly, the accusation is too indefinite and too large to admit of special refutation. Many of ourselves, however, have visited it, unexpectedly, at sundry times, and always found it, to our gratification and surprise, in all its departments, as sweet and clean as the house of any private gentleman. The evidence laid before us shows that, on the 25th of last month it was in its usual state; although it is possible that a lady and gentleman who visited the kitchen, and dining-rooms, and the corridors adjoining them, on that day,

immediately after dinner, may have considered the temporary and inevitable state and odour of those apartments, as the ordinary condition of the establishment. Besides, on coming in and going out, the agricultural patients had inevitably left some soil upon the floors, which the attendants were actually employed in removing.

We append, for the information of Sir Robert Peel, a few out of a multitude of testimonies, from official and other competent and impartial judges, as to the general condition and management of the establishment; and we entertain a sanguine expectation that, on reading those testimonies and our candid replies to his statements and inquiries, he will see cause to withdraw the wounding imputations which, under some singular misapprehension, he has cast upon two of the most active, faithful, humane, and efficient officers that, in our opinion, any public institution had ever the good fortune to possess.

Should our earnest hope, however, be disappointed in this matter, and should Sir Robert Peel, relying upon the validity of the charges which he has been the medium of advancing, consider it his duty (as, in such case, we conceive it undoubtedly would be) to direct a searching inquiry, upon oath, before a competent tribunal, where the accuser and the accused would stand face to face, we shall be ready to afford every facility in our power towards the effective carrying out of the most stringent investigation.

You, Gentlemen, are well aware of the merited and grateful esteem in which we have hitherto considered ourselves entitled to hold our estimable "Manager and Matron;" but you know, likewise, the untiring zeal and liberality with which we have laboured to secure the comfort and welfare of the unhappy beings entrusted to our care, and assuredly we shall never attempt to screen even our hitherto most trusted officers should it be proved that they have failed, in any way, to discharge their important duties. On the other hand, if they should be able to prove, as we feel confident they will, that they have been uniformly faithful, humane, and efficient public servants in a most arduous trust, we shall never desert them.

The Chief Secretary, in the conscientious exercise of his high functions, has raised an issue most serious and important, both in its private and public bearings; and whilst calmly, though anxiously awaiting its development, we are, Gentlemen, your faithful servants. In the name and by the authority of the Board of Governors.

(Signed)

HENRY COOKE, Chairman.

Extracts from Observations made on the Books of the Belfast District Hospital for the Insane by the Government Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, Drs. Nugent and Hatchell.

(1.) "Having inspected this Asylum to-day, I am happy to say that it appears to me to be in most complete order in every respect, nothing being omitted that is likely to be conducive to the comfort and care of the patients, who all appear as happy and contented as the nature of their ailments will admit of.

(Signed)

"G. W. HATCHELL.

"15th June, 1859."

(2.) "Visited the whole of the establishment, and found it remarkably clean and orderly, warm and well ventilated.

(Signed)

"J. NUGENT.

"6th February, 1860."

(3.) "Inspected the Belfast Asylum. It is clean and orderly, but overcrowded, having fully twenty patients beyond its proper numbers.

(Signed)

"J. NUGENT.

"27th August, 1860."

(4.) "I have this day inspected the Belfast Lunatic Asylum, and find it in a most satisfactory state, reflecting great credit on Dr. Stewart.

(Signed)

"G. W. HATCHELL.

"21st January, 1861."

(5.) "Inspected the Belfast Asylum this day, and have to report most favourably of its condition.

(Signed)

"J. NUGENT.

" 22nd March, 1861."

(6.) "I inspected the Belfast Lunatic Asylum this day, and find it in creditable order in every respect. The cleanliness and ventilation of the several day rooms, dormitories, and corridors are very perfect.

(Signed)

"G. W. HATCHELL.

"7th June, 1861."

(7.) "Inspected and found the house in admirable order.

(Signed)

"J. NUGENT.

"8th August, 1861."

# Transcripts of Remarks of Visitors, as entered in the Visitors' Book.

(1.) "I have visited this Institution this day, and have been much pleased with the general arrangements of the house, the cleanliness of the wards, and the comfortable appearance of its inmates.

(Signed)

"W. F. CARRIEL,
Assist. Phy. State Lun. Asylum, Trenton,
New Jersey, U.S.A.

"30th August, 1860."

(2.) "In passing through the wards, grounds, and other parts of this establishment, I have derived much pleasure from the order, the apparent contentment and comfort of patients, and the general management of all its departments.

(Signed)

"J. S. SCHULTZ,
Assist. Phy., State L. Hos., Harrisburg,
Pensylvania, U.S.A.

"June 17th, 1861."

(3.) "I have experienced great pleasure in my visit to this institution, having minutely examined every department of it. The order and regularity are in my opinion very striking; and I cannot but express my gratification at the introduction of music amongst the patients, and the salutary effect of it upon them.

(Signed)

"GEORGE ROE, Dublin. (4.) "I entirely concur in the above (No. 3). Everything connected with the arrangements of the establishment is admirably designed to make the inmates happy; a spirit of kindness pervades all the management; and, all things considered, this is by far the best conducted Asylum I have seen.

(Signed)

"J. GODKIN,

Dublin.

(Irish Correspondent of The Times newspaper.)

" August 8th, 1861."

(5.) "I inspected the female wards, unavoidably in great haste; all that met my eyes was most satisfactory; the passages seem extremely clean, and the demeanour of the patients cheerful.

(Signed)

"CARLISLE.

"August 9th, 1861."

(6.) "Visited the Asylum this day and 16th, and was much pleased with the admirable order and cleanliness observable everywhere; and so far as the agreeable occupation of the inmates, the Asylum appears much in advance of many others; and it is but just to the officers of the institution to say that they all appear most anxious to provide increased amusement and occupation. When this is done, there will be nothing to find fault with, but as yet there is a decided deficiency in this important respect.

(Signed)

"JOHN A. BLAKE, M.P., Waterford. (7.) "In all my travels I have not met with a more interesting spectacle than was exhibited by this morning's drill. I admire the patience and ingenuity which must have been called into exercise in bringing the patients to this most wholesome discipline, and I hope that, like the improvement in the treatment of criminals, for which we are indebted to Ireland, this system of drilling will extend to other institutions, and to other lands.

(Signed)

"D. J. MACGOWEN,
of New York,
Medical Missionary from China and Japan.

"September 10th, 1861."

(8.) "I have been much interested by my visit to the Asylum. I have been particularly pleased with the orderly manner in which the labour is conducted, and with the musical performance.

(Signed)

"P. PINCOFF, M.D., &c.

"October 21, 1861."

# COPY OF SIR ROBERT PEEL'S REMARKS IN THE VISITORS' BOOK.

"I have this day visited this Institution, but it is difficult to judge of its general cleanliness, on ordinary occasions, from the fact the wards and every part of the corridors having just been thoroughly washed, the beds arranged with clean linen, &c., &c.

"This is the first Institution of the many I have visited in which the Matron of the Establishment did not accompany a party of visitors through the female wards. The prejudicial

practice of sanding the wet floors in the rooms and corridors appears to prevail here.

(Signed)

"ROBERT PEEL.

" November 15, 1861."

In reference to the above remarks of Sir Robert Peel, the Resident-Physician feels called upon, respectfully, but decidedly, to state:—

- 1. That the "wards and every part of the corridors," together with "the beds arranged with clean linen," were precisely in their "ordinary" daily state, in every respect, on the "occasion" of Sir Robert Peel's (entirely unknown and unexpected) visit; a "fact" subsequently corroborated by some of the Governors themselves, who happened to be at the Institution during the period of his visit.
- 2. That the "Matron not accompanying" Sir Robert Peel and his "party of visitors" (a lady with a gentleman) was neither necessary nor required, and would have been quite out of place when the chief officer of the Institution undertook to do so. But, further, Sir Robert Peel was not unaware that the official whom he has specially named had recently been the subject of a dangerous illness, which quite unfitted her for an exertion of this kind, as he must himself have perceived when he conversed with her in the Board-Room previously to his departure.
- 3. That, in regard to the alleged "prejudicial practice of sanding the wet floors," no sand has ever been used for such purpose.

Sir Robert Peel, however, may have been deceived by the fact that his visit occurred immediately after the usual and stated scouring of the day-rooms and corridors, and whilst a very small portion only of one of the latter was not sufficiently dry to have the freestone swept off at the early hour at which his visit took place, viz.:—eleven o'clock.

(Signed)

# RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON THE NEW RULES.

AT a Special Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Belfast District Asylum, held on the 17th March, 1862-present, the Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore in the Chair, Right Rev. Dr. Denvir, Rev. Dr. Montgomery, Major Crawford, J.P.; Thomas M'Clure, Esq. J.P.; A. J. Macrory, Esq.; and C. B. The new "General Rules and Regulations Grimshaw, Esq. for the Management of the District Lunatic Asylum in Ireland," as made and adopted by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland, on the 16th of January, 1862, having been read seriatim and considered, a Committee, consisting of the Chairman and Mr. Macrory, was thereupon appointed to draw up a report founded upon the discussion which then took place, in order to submit to the next regular meeting of the Board, to be held on the 31st instant; and, accordingly, the following resumé of the Special Board's proceedings, has been prepared by the Committee, as deputed to them, viz:—

Rule XVI, relating to the discharge of patients, having been fully discussed, the Board were unanimously of opinion, that to carry such into practice would prove exceedingly inconvenient, and be a great hardship to both patients themselves and their friends, especially in cases indicating a fatal termination, when their removal home is often and naturally desired, and when a day's delay would be of consequence, and, accordingly, were decidedly of opinion, that the existing mode of discharge should not be departed from, namely, by the Resident Physician, who subsequently reported the same to the Board, a mode which has been in practice since this Asylum was opened, and always found to work with entire satisfaction, in every respect.

Rules XXVI., XLVIII.—The Board considered that these two Rules, having reference to the absence of the Resident Physician and the Matron, were needlessly stringent and particularly humiliating to the former Officer, both as a professional man, and the Superintendent of the Institution, and therefore submit that they (the Board) should exercise their own discretion in this

matter of detail towards both these important Officers; and as permitted by the Authorities, on an application to that effect, in connexion with the Rules in 1843.

Rule XXXI. Number one of the Rules of 1843 required half-yearly Returns to be supplied to the Grand Juries of the District for which this Rule appears to be substituted, but makes no provision for those Returns. Again, this new Rule requires that the general Annual Report of the Resident Physician to the Board "should be prepared not later than the 31st of January;" whereas, this has always been done hitherto up to the 31st of March, to correspond with the Audit Office financial year. It is submitted, therefore, that the half-yearly Grand Jury Returns should be continued as usual through the Council Office, and that the Annual Report of the Resident Physician for printing, by the direction of the Board, should also be to the 31st of March, as much more convenient and satisfactory for its specific purposes.

Rules XXXII., XXXIII.—The system pursued in this Asylum, and with the entire approval of the Executive, upon the promulgation of the Rules of 1843, has been for the Visiting Physician to attend statedly on three days in the week, and oftener if occasion required, a system which has been found to fulfil every requisite purpose, and which to depart from, it is now respectfully submitted, would be entirely unnecessary, besides that it would entail a largely increased Salary to the Visiting Physician, but without any corresponding advantages, whose duties would be more than doubled if called upon to visit And further, that to require this Officer "to examine once, at least, in each fortnight, with the Resident Medical Superintendent, as to the mental condition of every patient," as laid down by the 33rd Rule, would be an additional demand upon his time, so great, as to call for increased remuneration of itself, and yet for the performance of a duty not at all required in the mind of the Board, the Patients being always under the superversion of the Resident Medical Superintendent in respect of their general condition.

Rule LXIII.—The Board beg to observe that the keeping of a "diary" by the attendants, as required by this Rule, would be found out of the question with this class of officials, and that, even if otherwise, it would be imposing a task fruitless as to any available result upon parties having already duties to perform of a constantly and sufficiently anxious nature.

Rule XC.—The Board submit that the following addition should be made to this Rule, which would be only respectful to them, and more satisfactory to the officers themselves, in the event of any misunderstanding occurring amongst the latter, but which have never happened in their Asylum—viz., to follow after the word "Rules"—"which the Board of Governors are unable to adjust."

Rule XCI.—The Board unanimously deprecated the scope of this Rule, which they considered, in effect, ignored their legitimate powers as a deliberative body, and left them powerless—even in the most ordinary details of the Institution—to act, as contingencies and emergencies might require. For instance, a pressing necessity might arise for the immediate appointment of an additional attendant, or attendants, either as supernumaries or otherwise, but which the spirit and letter of this Rule would preclude being done directly by them, and thus seriously embarrass the daily operations of the House. Being held responsible for the good working of an important Institution like theirs, they beg to submit, accordingly, that, in their judgment, this Rule, in its present stringent and unexplained form, is very objectionable, and calculated to embarrass the Board in the discharge of their important duties.

(Signed)

ROBERT DOWN AND CONNOR.
A. J. MACRORY.

Belfast, 19th March, 1862.

(Adopted)

(Signed)

\* C. DENVIR, Chairman.

31st March, 1862.

## LIST OF ANNUAL REPORTS, &c.,

RECEIVED FROM 1st APRIL, 1861, TO 31st MARCH, 1862.

#### Hrish.

- Armagh District Hospital for the Insane, annual report to 31st March, 1861, pp. 15. By Robert M'Kinstry, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Clonmel Do., reports to 31st March, 186I, pp. 12, and 31st December, 1861, pp. 23. By James Flynn, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 3. Derry Do. annual report to 31st March, 1861, pp. 17. By W. F. Rogan, M.B., Physician-Superintendent.
- Killarney Do., report for 1860 and 1861 (December), pp. 19. By
   M. S. Lawlor, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Kilkenny Do., annual report to 31st March, 1861, pp. 16. By Barry Delany, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Limerick Do., annual report to 31st March, 1861, pp. 10. By Robert Fitzgerald, M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent.
- Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, tenth biennial Parliamentary Report of, to 31st March, 1861, pp. 67. Also, eleventh do., for nine months, to 31st December, 1861, pp. 60. By John Nugent, M.D., and George W. Hatchell, M.D., Commissioners for General Control, &c., and Government Inspectors of Asylums in Ireland.
- Maryborough Do., 26th annual (sheet) report to 31st March, 1861.
   By Thomas C. Burton, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 9. Omagh Do., eighth annual report to 31st March, 1861, pp. 31, and for nine months to 31st December, 1861, pp. 43. By Francis John West, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Waterford Do., half-yearly (sheet) reports for November, 1860, and May, 1861. By John Dobbs, Manager.

#### English.

- An Inquiry into a frequent cause of Insanity in Young Men, 1861,
   pp. 39. By R. P. Ritchie, M.D., late Medical Officer of Bethnal House Asylum.
- Bucks County Asylum (at Stone), eighth annual report for 1860, pp.
   John Humphry, M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent.
- Cheshire County Asylum, annual reports for 1859, pp. 31, and 1860, pp. 30. By T. M. Brushfield, M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent.
- Devon County Lunatic Asylum, fifteenth annual report for 1860, pp. 26. By John C. Bucknill, M.D., Lond., Physician Superintendent.
- Dorset County Asylum (at Forston), annual reports for 1857-8-9
   and '60. T. G. Symes, M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent.
- Durham Do., second annual report for the year 1860, pp. 39.
   Robert Smyth, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.

- 17. Earlswood Idiot Asylum, Red Hill, Surrey, Second Visit to, by the Rev. Edwin Sidney, A.M., pp. 31.
- 18. Hants County Asylum (Knole, near Fareham) annual report for 1861, pp. 35. John Manley, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 19. Kent Do. (at Barming Heath, Maidstone), annual report, to 4th July, 1861, pp. 39. By J. E. Huxley, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Lancaster County Asylum (at Rainhill), annual report for 1860,
   pp. 63. By T. L. Rogers, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 21. Do. (at Prestwich), annual report for 1860, pp. 49. By J. Holland, F.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent.
- Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital, annual report to June, 1861,
   pp. 16. By Henry Maudsley, M.D. Physician-Superintendent.
- 23. Metropolitan Commissioners in Lunacy, fifteenth report of, to March, 1861, pp. 238.
- 24. Monmouth Joint Counties Asylum, (at Abergavenny), eighth annual report for 1860, pp. 62. By David Moore M'Cullough, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Northampton General Lunatic Asylum, annual report for 1860, pp.
   Edwin Wing, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 26. Nottingham County and Borough United Do., sixth annual report for 1861, pp. 31. By W. P. Stiff, M.B., Physician-Superintendent.
- 27. Our Holiday at Laverstock House Asylum, 1860, pp. 67.
- Salop and Montgomery County Asylum (at Shrewsbury), sixteenth annual report for 1860, pp. 15. By Richard Oliver, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 29. Somerset County Asylum twelfth annual report for 1860, pp. 78. Robert Boyd, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Statistical report of the Retreat (near Leeds), 1851 to 1860, No. 1, pp. 22. By G. P. Smith, M.D.
- 31. Suffolk County Asylum (at Melton, Woodbridge), annual report for 1861, pp. 38. By J. Kirkman, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 32. Sussex County Asylum (at Hayward's Heath), annual reports for 1860 and 1861, pp. 50. C. Lockhart Robertson, M.B., Physician-Superintendent.
- Warwick Do., annual reports for 1860, pp. 10, and 1861, pp. 11.
   W. H. Parsey, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 34. Wilts Do. (at Devizes), tenth annual report for 1860, pp. 51. By John Thurnam, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 35. Worcester Do., eighth annual report for 1860, pp. 101. By James Sherlock, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 36. York, Friends' Retreat at, 65th annual report to June, 1861, pp. 30. By John Kitching, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Yorkshire (N. & E. Ridings), Do., annual report for 1860, pp. 25.
   By Samuel Hill, M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent.

#### Scotch.

- Aberdeen Royal Asylum for the Insane, annual report for 1860, pp.
   By Robert Jamieson, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 39. Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland, fourth annual report of, to December, 1861, pp. 248.
- 40. "Cottage Asylums," 1860, pp. 32. By W. A. F. Browne, M.D., Commissioner in Lunacy, Scotland.
- 41. Crichton Royal Institution for the Insane, (at Dumfries), twenty-first annual report till November, 1860, pp. 26. By James Gilchrist, M.D., Physician-Superintendent. Also, "Notes of a hurried Visit by Do. to some of the Irish Asylums in 1861," pp. 4.
- 42. Dundee Do., forty-first annual report till June, 1861, pp. 32. James Rorie, M.D., Physician Superintendent.
- 43. Glasgow Do., forty-seventh annual report for 1860, pp. 61. By Alex. Mackintosh, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 44. "Legal Relations of Insanity," pp. 26. By D. Skae, M.D., Physician Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Asylum.
- 45. "Morningside Mirror," in monthly numbers, for 1861.2. Conducted by the inmates of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.
- 46. Perth (James Murray's) Royal Asylum for the Insane, thirty-fourth annual report to June, 1861, pp. 107. By William Lauder Lindsay, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.

#### American.

- Halifax (Nova Scotia) Hospital for the Insane, annual report for 1860, pp. 24. By J. R. De Wolf, M. D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 48. Kentucky Eastern Hospital for the Insane, report for the year 1861, pp. 12. By W. S. Chipley, M.D., Physician Superintendent.
- 49. New Jersey State Hospital for the Insane (at Trenton), annual report for the year 1860, pp. 31. H. A. Buttolph, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Pennsylvania Do. (at Philadelphia), annual reports for 1860, pp. 31, and 1861, pp. 30. By John Curwen, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- 51. St. John's (Newfoundland) Hospital for the Insane, annual report for 1860, pp. 24. By H. H. Stabb, M. D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Toronto Provincial (Western Canada) Do., annual report, to 31st December, 1860, pp. 35. By Joseph Workman, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
- Western Lunatic Asylum (Richmond), report for 1859-60, pp. 13.
   By F. T. Stribling, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.