

Thirty-eighth annual report of the resident physician of the Belfast District Hospital for the Insane of the counties of Antrim and Down, and the county of the town of Carrickfergus : from 1st April, 1867, to 31st March, 1868.

Contributors

Belfast District Hospital for the Insane.
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THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN
OF THE
BELFAST DISTRICT
HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

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

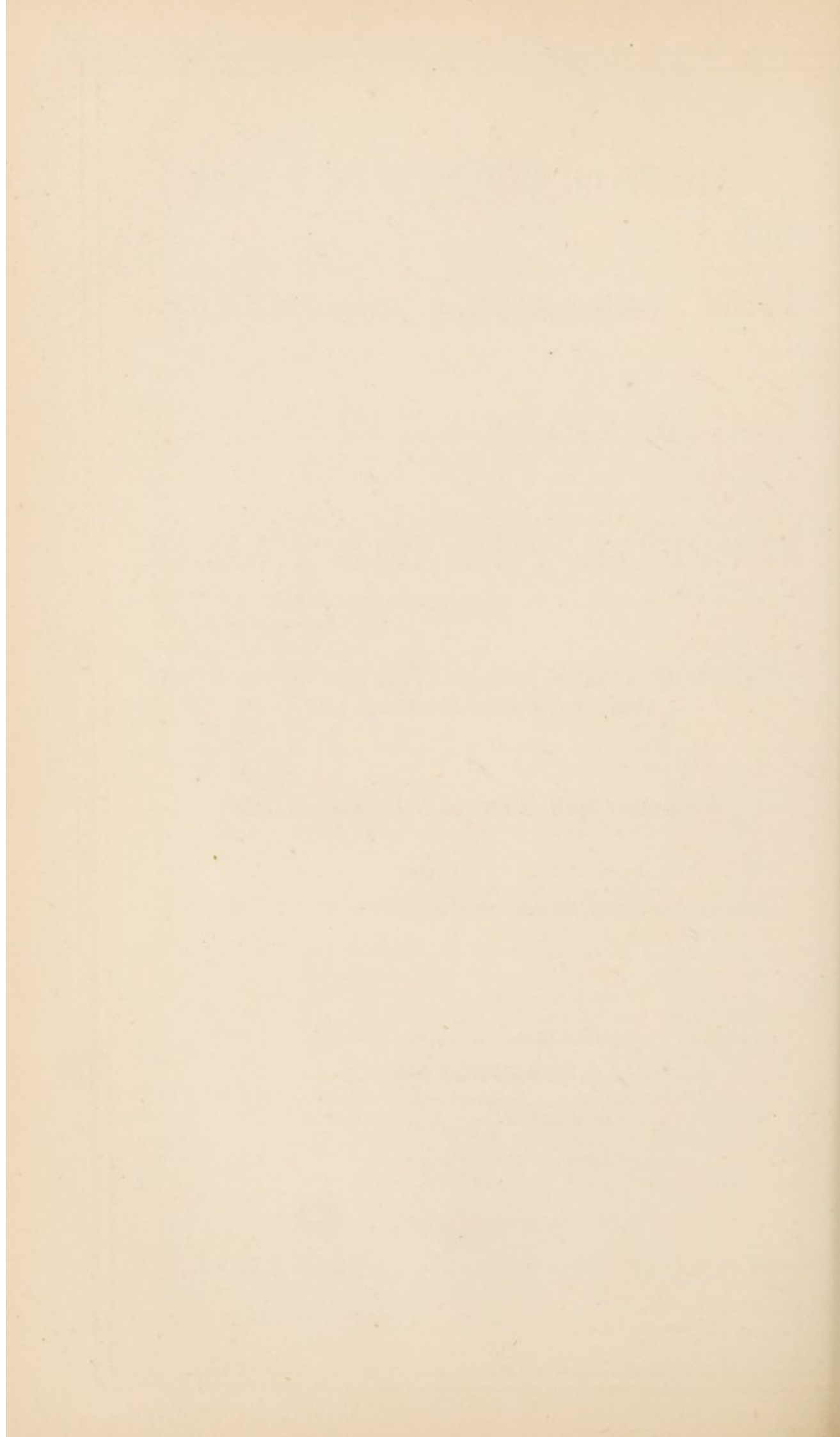
From 1st April, 1867, to 31st March, 1868.

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

ESTABLISHED 1829.

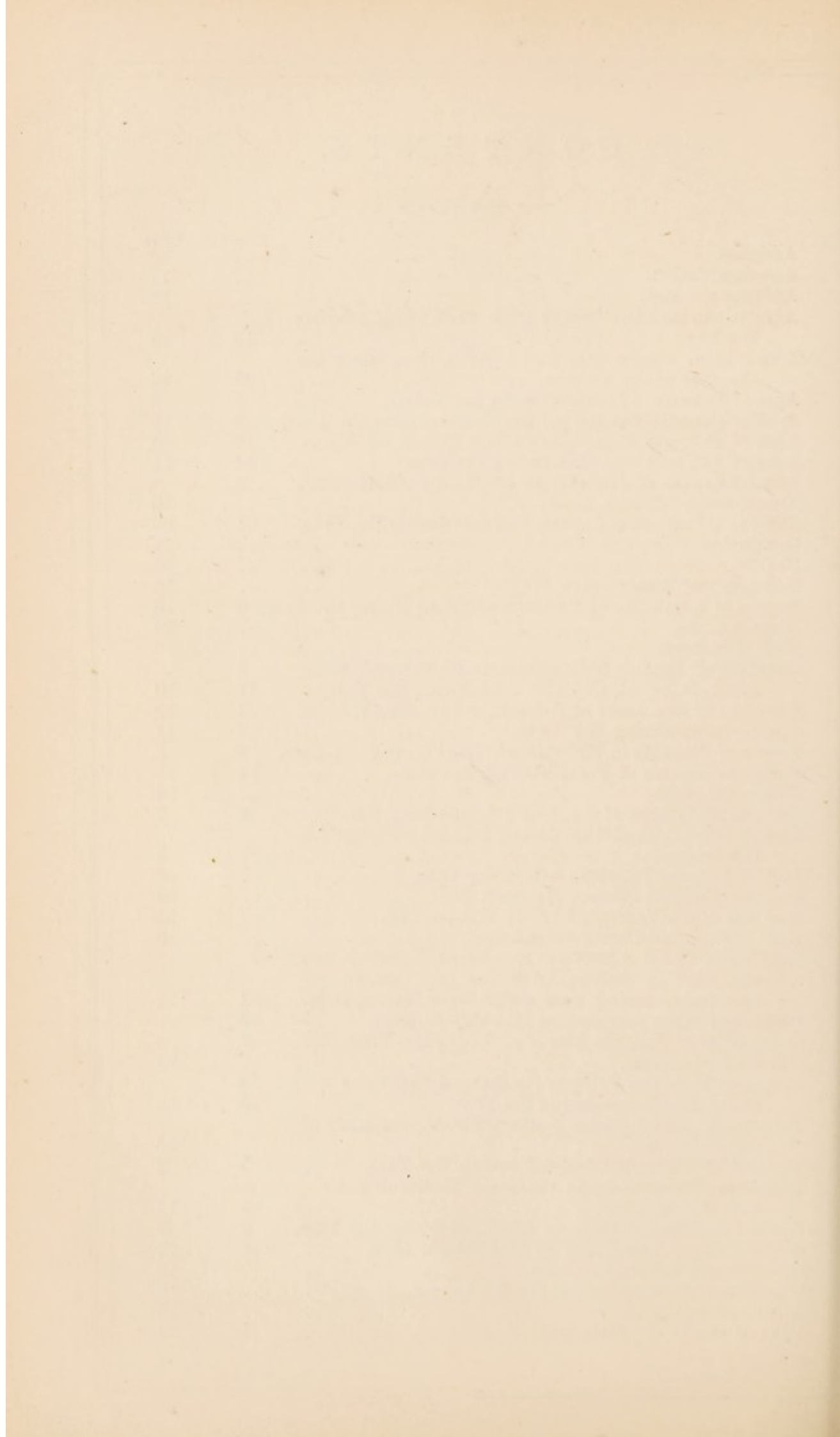
BELFAST :
PRINTED BY W. & G. BAIRD, ARTHUR STREET.

1868.



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GOVERNORS

OF

The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,


APPOINTED BY

THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND PRIVY COUNCIL OF IRELAND.

No.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.
1	The Marquis of Donegal,	London,	March, 1829
2	The Mayor of Belfast,	Belfast,	March, 1829
3	The Ven. Achden. Hincks, A.M.,	Bushmills.	March, 1829
4	Robert J. Tennent, Esq., J.P., D.L.,	Rushpark, Belfast,	Jan., 1836
5	The Very Rev. Dean Stannus, ...	Lisburn,	April, 1842
6	The Rev. H. Cooke, D.D., LL.D.,	Belfast,	April, 1842
7	The Rev. J. S. B. Monsell, A.M.,		July, 1842
8	Conway B. Grimshaw, Esq., ...	Sydenham, Belfast	Oct., 1846
9	The Marquis of Downshire, ...	Hillsborough Castle,	Nov., 1847
10	John S. Crawford, Esq., J.P., D.L.,	Crawfordsburn,	Nov., 1847
11	The Lord Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore, ... }	The Palace, Holywood,	April, 1850
12	William Dunville, Esq., J.P., ...	Richmond Lodge, Co. Down, ...	May, 1851
13	The Rev. T. F. Miller, D.D., ...	The Vicarage, Belfast,	Dec., 1851
14	Adam J. Macrory, Esq.,	Duncairn, Belfast,	June, 1852
15	Lord Dufferin,	Clandeboyne, Belfast,	Dec., 1855
16	Thomas M'Clure, Esq., J.P., D.L.,	Belmont, County Down,	Jan., 1856
17	Lieutenant-Colonel Forde, M.P.,	Seaford, County Down,	March, 1862
18	The Right Rev. P. Dorrian, D.D.,	Belfast,	Sept., 1866
19	Sir E.C.W. M'Naghten, Bart., D.L.	Bushmills,	Oct., 1866
20	Sir Edward Coey, J.P.,	Merville, Belfast,	Oct., 1866
21	John Young, Esq., J.P., D.L., ...	Galgorm Castle, Ballymena, ...	Oct., 1866
22	H. H. M'Neile, Esq., J.P.,	Parkmount, Belfast,	Oct., 1866
23	J. B. Houston, Esq., J.P., D.L., ...	Orangefield, Belfast,	Oct., 1866
24	Viscount Templetown,	Castle Upton, Templepatrick, ...	Oct., 1866
25	Colonel Adair, F.R.S., J.P., D.L., ...	The Castle, Ballymena,	Oct., 1866
26	Captain Gray, J.P., D.L.,	Graymount, Belfast,	March, 1867
27	Sir Thomas Bateson, Bart., M.P.,	Belvoir Park, Belfast,	March, 1867
28	Dr. M'Gee, J.P.,	Belfast,	April, 1867
29	David Taylor, Esq., J.P.,	Bertha House, Belfast,	Feb., 1868
30	Thos. Hamilton-Jones, Esq., J.P.,	Moneyglass House, Toome,	Feb., 1868
31	Wm. Ewart, jun., Esq., J.P.,	Belfast,	March, 1868

Resident Physician-Superintendent, ... ROBERT STEWART, M.D.
 Visiting and Consulting Physician, ... HENRY M'CORMAC, M.D.
 Visiting Surgeon, &c., JAMES MOORE, M.D.

*Stated Meetings of Governors are held on the first Monday of
 each month, at One o'clock, p.m.*



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THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1868.

Table I.—General Statement of the year's Admissions, &c.

	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
In House on 1st April, 1867,	..	..	..	192	166	358
Admitted since, New Cases,	57	65	122			
Relapses,	8	4	12			
	—	—	—	65	69	134
Total under Treatment during the year,			..	257	235	492
Discharged Recovered, ..	30	32	62			
Do., Relieved, ..	11	21	32			
Died,	9	9	18			
	—	—	—	50	62	112
Remaining under Treatment on 31st March, 1868,				207	173	380
Total Admission since opening of Asylum, ..			..			4,124
Total discharged same period, ..			..			37 44
	Males	Females	Total			
The total Admissions during the year were ..			..			134
Do. for the preceding year, ..			..	45	43	88
Daily Average Number of Patients during the year, ..			..			369.55
Do. for the preceding year, ..			..			362.91
Per centage of Recoveries and Relieved on the						
Average Daily Number under Treatment, ..			..			25.43
Do. for the preceding year, ..			..			21.21
Do. on year's total Admissions, ..			..			27.23
Do. for the preceding year, ..			..			24.24
Average per centage of Deaths on the total Number						
under Treatment during the year, ..			..			3.65
Do. for the preceding year, ..			..			2.90
Do. on the average Daily Number during the year, ..			..			4.87
Do. for the preceding year, ..			..			3.58
"Dangerous Lunatics" admitted by Warrant						
since 1st January last (as embraced in the						
year's total Admissions), viz. :—						
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
From County Antrim, ..	12	5	17			
From County Down, ..	10	5	15			
	—	—	—	22	10	32
Average Annual Expense of each Patient for the past						
year, including every charge, ..			..			£21 9 1
Do. for the previous year, ..			..			19 7 3
Total Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1867,				7,028	16	8
Do. for the year ended 31st March, 1868,				7,927	0	4
Net Profit on Farm and Garden, ..			..			£349 7 4

Table II.—Ages of the 134 Patients admitted during the year ending 31st March, 1868.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Under 20 years	7	3	10
20 to 30 years	22	25	47
30 to 40 "	16	15	31
40 to 50 "	8	11	19
50 to 60 "	9	8	17
60 to 70 "	3	7	10
TOTALS,	65	69	134

Table III.—Alleged Causes of Insanity in the 134 Cases admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males.	Females	Total.
MORAL CAUSES.			
Disappointed Love,	0	3	3
Domestic Quarrels,	1	5	6
Fright,	3	9	12
Grief, Disappointment, and Anxiety,	8	18	26
Jealousy,	0	1	1
Religious Excitement,	7	6	13
Total Moral Causes	19	42	61
PHYSICAL CAUSES.			
Bodily Ailments.	22	7	29
Fever,	0	1	1
Intemperance,	9	1	10
Over-study,	1	0	1
Puerperal Condition,	0	6	6
Total Physical Causes,	32	15	47
Hereditary,	3	4	7
Unascertained,	11	8	19
Total Moral and Physical, &c.,	65	69	134

Table IV.—Forms of Disease in the 134 Patients admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
Dementia,	2	1	3
Mania,	51	54	105
Melancholia,	6	7	13
Monomania,	6	7	13
TOTALS,	65	69	134

Table V.—Religion of the 134 Patients admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
Methodists,	2	1	3
Presbyterian and Protestant Dissenters, ..	26	28	54
Roman Catholics,	16	26	42
Unitarians,	1	1	2
United Church of England and Ireland, ..	20	13	33
TOTALS,	65	69	134

Table VI.—Social Condition of the 134 Patients admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
Married,	21	23	44
Single,	42	43	85
Widows,	2	3	5
TOTALS,	65	69	134

Table VII.—Occupations of the 134 Cases admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
Blacksmiths,	2	0	2
Carpenters,	4	0	4
Clerks,	5	0	5
Draper,	1	0	1
Dressmakers,	0	2	2
Farmers,	5	0	5
Housekeepers,	0	16	16
Linen Lappers,	2	0	2
Mechanic,	1	0	1
Millworkers,	0	5	5
Muslin Agents,	2	0	2
Publican,	1	0	1
Pensioners,	2	0	2
Sea Captain,	1	0	1
Servants,	24	16	40
Sewers,	0	9	9
Shoemakers,	1	0	1
Shopkeepers,	1	1	2
Student,	1	0	1
Tailor,	1	0	1
Teachers,	0	2	2
Weavers,	6	2	8
Without any Occupation,	5	16	21
TOTALS,	65	69	134

Table VIII.—Degree of Education in the 134 cases admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
No Education,	7	13	20
Read only,	5	15	20
Read and Write,	35	36	71
Well Educated,	10	2	12
Unknown,	8	3	11
TOTALS,	65	69	134

Table IX.—Ages of the 62 Patients discharged Recovered during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 20 years,	5	2	7
From 20 to 30 years,	8	11	19
“ 30 to 40 “	10	9	19
“ 40 to 50 “	1	5	6
“ 50 to 60 “	4	3	7
“ 60 to 70 “	2	2	4
TOTALS,	30	32	62

Table X.—Shewing the period of time the 62 Patients Discharged Recovered were under treatment during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Under 3 months,	2	1	3
From 3 to 6 months,	12	12	24
“ 6 to 12 “	11	8	19
“ 1 to 2 years,	2	6	8
“ 2 to 5 “	2	3	5
“ 5 to 10 “	1	2	3
TOTALS,	30	32	62

Table XI.—Shewing the Duration of Disease in the 112 Patients Discharged Recovered, Relieved, and who Died, during the year ended March 31, 1868.

DURATION OF DISEASE.	RECOVERED AND RELIEVED.			DIED.		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Under 3 months,	3	4	7	2	0	2
From 3 to 6 months,	12	14	26	0	2	2
“ 6 to 12 months,	13	9	22	0	3	3
“ 1 to 2 years,	3	4	7	2	1	3
“ 2 to 5 “	5	8	13	1	0	1
“ 5 to 10 “	3	4	7	1	1	2
“ 10 to 20 “	1	7	8	1	1	2
“ 20 to 30 “	1	3	4	2	1	3
TOTALS,	41	53	94	9	9	18

Table XII.—Ages of the 18 Patients who Died during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

				Males	Females	Total
From 20 to 30 years,	..	..	..	1	3	4
“ 30 to 40 “	..	..	..	2	2	4
“ 40 to 50 “	..	..	..	1	0	1
“ 50 to 60 “	..	..	..	2	3	5
“ 60 to 70 “	..	..	..	3	1	4
TOTALS,	..	..	..	9	9	18

Table XIII.—Employment during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

				Males	Females	Total
Assisting Servants,	..	..	..	14	14	28
Basket Making,	..	..	..	1	0	1
Breaking Freestone,	..	..	..	2	0	2
Cultivating the Farm,	..	..	..	68	0	68
Embroidering,	..	..	..	0	1	1
Gardening Labour,	..	..	..	6	0	6
Knitting,	..	..	..	0	18	18
Making and Repairing Clothing, Bedding, &c.,	..	..	..	0	25	25
Pumping Water,	..	..	..	25	0	25
Smith Work,	..	..	..	1	0	1
Spinning,	..	..	..	0	20	20
Sweeping Yards, Carrying Coals, &c.,	..	..	..	32	0	32
Tailoring,	..	..	..	2	0	2
Warping, Weaving, and Winding,	..	..	..	8	0	8
Washing in Laundry,	..	..	..	2	23	25
TOTALS,	..	..	..	161	101	262

Table XIV.—Forms of Disease of the Total Number of Patients remaining on 31st March, 1868.

				Males	Females	Total
Dementia,	..	..	..	6	2	8
Mania,	..	..	..	151	128	279
Do., Complicated with Epilepsy,	..	..	..	10	7	17
Melancholia,	..	..	..	20	19	39
Monomania,	..	..	..	20	17	37
				207	173	380

Table XV.—Shewing the State of the Cases remaining on 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
Chronic Cases,	132	111	243
Probably Curable Cases,	75	62	137
TOTALS,	207	173	380

Table XVI.—Shewing the Religious Persuasions of the 380 Patients remaining on 31st March, 1868.

	Males	Females	Total
Covenanters,	2	0	2
Methodists,	2	4	6
Presbyterians,	91	60	151
Roman Catholics,	62	69	131
Unitarians,	3	1	4
United Church of England and Ireland,	47	39	86
TOTALS,	207	173	380

Table XVII.—Obituary for the year ended 31st March, 1868.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Insanity, and alleged Exciting Cause.	Social State.	Occupation.	Period an Inmate.				Cause of Death.
						Yrs.	Mos.	Wks.	Dys.	
1	F.	56	Mania—Grief.	Single.	Spinning.	22	5	1	3	Maniacal Exhaustion.
2	F.	25	Monomania—Domestic troubles.	Single.	Weaver.	3	2	6	4	Chronic Phthisis.
3	M.	44	Mania—Epilepsy.	Single.	Servant.	14	4	2	0	Epilepsy.
4	M.	30	Mania—Religion.	Single.	Clerk.	0	0	0	6	Maniacal Exhaustion.
5	M.	57	Mania—Hereditary.	Widower.	Farmer.	1	2	0	5	Maniacal Exhaustion.
6	F.	57	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Servant.	27	2	3	0	Chronic Phthisis.
7	F.	25	Mania—Puerperal.	Married.	Housewife.	0	1	2	6	Puerperal Mania.
8	M.	50	Mania—Intemperance.	Married.	Land Steward.	0	3	3	4	Paralysis.
9	M.	65	Mania—Fear of Want.	Married.	Fisherman.	1	5	3	4	Peritonitis.
10	F.	36	Mania—Loss of Money.	Single.	Servant.	2	11	2	3	Phthisis.
11	M.	61	Mania—Unknown.	Widower.	Cotton Carder.	32	11	0	0	Bronchitis.
12	F.	50	Monomania—Hereditary.	Single.	Servant.	0	1	0	3	Gastric and enteric disease.
13	F.	30	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Servant.	1	4	2	0	General Debility.
14	F.	68	Mania—Ill-usage by Husband.	Married.	Spinner.	31	8	3	0	Chronic Bronchitis.
15	M.	33	Mania—Wounds in Action.	Single.	Soldier.	3	5	1	4	Paralysis.
16	M.	69	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Labourer.	0	10	3	4	Maniacal Exhaustion.
17	F.	22	Mania—Over-work.	Single.	Sewer.	0	6	1	2	Convulsive Fits & Diarrhoea.
18	M.	20	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Wood Turner.	0	1	3	1	Maniacal Exhaustion.

GENERAL HEALTH.

NOTWITHSTANDING the continued over-crowding of the house, in its several departments, throughout the year, yet happily no appreciable deviations from the ordinary health occurred, which has been a matter of so much moment in so peculiarly circumstanced a community.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths this year, from all causes, was eighteen, and exactly nine of each sex. Those of last year were thirteen. In either case, the mortality was remarkably low, even under the most favourable circumstances; and, though, apparently, larger now, yet, taking into account the increased number resident, as compared with the preceding year, the deaths were still unusually small, comparatively, and all from natural causes.

Five (four males, one female) succumbed from Maniacal Exhaustion; three (females) from Pulmonary disease; two (males) from Paralysis; two (one male and one female) Chronic Bronchitis; two (one male and one female), Epilepsy; one (female), Gastric disease; one (female), Puerperal mania; one (male), Peritonitis. The largest period of inmateship (a male) was thirty-three years nearly; one (female), thirty-two years nearly; one (female), twenty-seven years; two (females), twenty-seven years and sixteen years respectively; one (male), fourteen years; three (one male and two females), three years respectively; three (one male and two females), one year and upwards; four (two males and two females), under six months; one (male), but six days, having been sent in in a very prostrated condition generally, and labouring under the effects of a fall from a window, prior to his admission.

The oldest of the deceased males was sixty-nine; and, of the females, sixty-eight. The youngest male was twenty, and the youngest female twenty-two. The average of the males was forty-eight; of the females, forty-one. The average age of the entire eighteen was forty-four and a-half years.

SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL CASES.

Each year brings its own quota of cases of the above character, which are always such an anxious charge, and add so seriously to the increasing responsibilities devolving upon those placed over these institutions. Thirty of the admissions were suicidally disposed,—fourteen males and sixteen females. Of the suicidal males, one nearly strangled himself before being admitted; one threw himself into the fire, but was extricated before receiving much injury; one precipitated himself from a window; one refused food pertinaciously: the remainder made suicidal attempts, by hanging, drowning, cutting the throat, &c. Of the females of this class, five attempted suicide by drowning; two by taking poison; one by throwing herself into a well; one by jumping from a window; and the others by hanging, and threatening self-destruction in various ways. The homicidal cases were twenty-three in number,—eighteen males and five females. The males in this category threatened, or attempted, the lives of parents, wives, children, and others. The females, in three cases, attempted the lives of their husbands; one, her mother; and the other was strongly homicidally disposed.

ACCIDENT.

The only accident out of the usual course during the year was one which occurred to an epileptic male patient, who, whilst walking about in the airing court, suddenly fell down in a violent paroxysm,—and, in doing so, fractured his leg. The house being so greatly crowded at the time, it was deemed advisable to send him to the General Hospital in town, where he remained about two months, then returning quite recovered. The committee of the General Hospital considered that the expenses incurred for the special attendance, &c., which were necessary in his case, should be paid, and which, after some correspondence with the Government authorities, were discharged accordingly, by order of the Governors.

AMUSEMENTS.—HOUSE BAND.

During the year, the patients of both sexes, in large numbers, walked into the country, according to usual custom, besides being, by special invitation, through the considerate kindness and liberality of the proprietors, at Circus exhibitions and Panoramas in Belfast, also at several Bazaars, Horticultural and Flower Shows, and the Royal Belfast Botanic Gardens; the Band of the Institution being always a prominent and highly popular portion of the party, and which continues to be a source of great enjoyment, and a most useful and important adjunct in the daily routine of the Institution.

DRILL EXERCISES.

The drilling of the male patients, which was commenced here about twenty years ago, continues to be regularly carried on, and with the best effect, in promoting discipline and self-control.

THE GREENHOUSE.

After a lengthened delay, this most important addition has been lately completed, and is now gradually furnishing with choice geraniums, &c., &c., through the kindness and liberality of members of the Board, the Curator of the Royal Belfast Botanic Gardens, and others, and soon will be a very handsome and conspicuous object on the grounds, besides being so instrumental in furnishing the corridors and day-rooms with a regular supply of plants and flowers, so gay and cheering to all to look at, and so well adapted by their beauty and variety to be beneficial to the inmates, for whose especial advantage this improvement was sanctioned, and the monotony of whose life will thus be helped to be dispelled, and made the more bearable.

ACCOMMODATION.

The year's admissions, it will be observed, have been much greater than have taken place for a number of years past,—effected, however, with no small inconvenience and risk in the general economy of the establishment—so much so, as to cause considerable difficulty in its daily operations. This large increase of admissions was partly accomplished by the discharge of chronic patients—harmless in their conduct—by such being given in charge to their immediate friends, or, through them, gotten into the Union Workhouses to which they belonged; thus enabling new, and probably curable, patients to fill up the vacancies so created. Additional beds being put into already well-filled rooms, was another method obliged, in the pressure from without, to be had recourse to; and thus, accordingly, all really urgent cases were admitted with but little delay,—which, in the treatment of insanity, is so all-important in every point of view.

The outstanding cases at present on the books awaiting vacancies are seven, and will, it is expected, be enabled soon to be taken in charge.

THE ADDITIONAL LAND.

To the present time, the additional land applied for in 1864, between this and Grosvenor Street, has not yet been delivered up to the Institution. A difficulty arose since last year, in respect of a right of way claimed by Mr. Cranston from Mr. M'Cammon, the proprietor of the proposed addition, which required an Inquisition Jury to be empannelled to dispose of that claim, and before which it came in November last, in the County Antrim Court House, when the claim made was adjusted,—the costs connected with the same having been entirely defrayed by Mr. M'Cammon. It is understood that the only cause now of delay in the matter is the necessary legal documents being completed to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Control of Asylums; so that there is every reason to hope that this most desirable addition, as a means of preventing the Institution from being completely environed with

houses of a very inferior class, and its inmates exposed accordingly to a very detrimental overlooking from such close propinquity to the same, will shortly be finally concluded.

THE COUNTY DOWN HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

It was observed, in last year's Report, that a further delay of two years, at least, might be expected to occur before this new Establishment would be in readiness to be in operation. From the most recent information obtained on this head, the surmised delay was rather under than over-stated,—as from present appearances, and the works still to be completed, the earliest probable period at which it may be expected to relieve this Institution of its County Down inmates will not be sooner than in the Summer of 1869. Let the separation, however, take place when it may, there is a great misconception abroad as to this, the present, Institution being then with freer air to breathe, and all inconveniences and danger arising from overcrowding, as at present, completely removed by the transference of about one hundred and seventy patients to Downpatrick. But it is altogether forgotten to be taken into account that just as many more of the insane, properly so called, belonging to the County Antrim, and at present scattered throughout the several Workhouses, will require to be accommodated here in their stead.

DEFICIENCY OF WATER.—NEW WELL.

The well which was sunk in 1856,—the second one from the opening of the Institution in 1829,—and which had been affording a fair supply of water (pumped up into tanks, by means of a steam-engine of five-horse power) until last Summer, fell off so greatly, owing, it was supposed, to other wells having been subsequently sunk in the neighbourhood, and so diverting the spring, that it was found necessary by the Board to have another provided for during the Autumn of last year, the dimensions of which were much larger than either of the previous ones—viz., 25 feet in depth, and 12 feet in diameter. There was no appearance of water when the excavation of 25 feet was arrived at, nor until boring afterwards to the depth of

22 feet was effected, when it commenced to spring, affording a supply of about four feet in the space of from twelve to fourteen hours. A second bore, however, was deemed expedient, in order to ensure a quicker and larger supply, and was persevered with to the depth of 70 feet; but no additional flow of water resulting, and the process of boring being both expensive, and carried on with the greatest difficulty, owing to the rocky nature of the ground in its entire course, the first bore was obliged to be satisfied with. A suction-pipe from the new well was placed in connexion with the steam-pumping apparatus of the adjoining former one, so as to lift water from either. Both wells together are now affording a good supply for the general purposes of the Establishment, and it is hoped will continue to do so,—an abundance of water being so absolutely requisite in such Institutions as these. The total cost of this new well was £81 10s.

NEW GOVERNORS.—BOARD ATTENDANCE.

Four new Governors have been added, by order of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, to the Board since last year—Dr. M'Gee, David Taylor, Esq., Thos. Hamilton-Jones, Esq., and William Ewart, Esq., jun. No other changes than those additions have occurred. The average attendance at each monthly Board was eight—three constituting a quorum; so that it will be observed that the stated meetings were invariably large. The following are the names of the Governors who were present during the year, and the aggregate attendance of each:—John Sharman Crawford Esq. (12); A. J. Macrory, Esq. (10); J. B. Houston, Esq. (9); C. B. Grimshaw, Esq. (9); the Bishop of Down (8); Thomas M'Clure, Esq. (8); Sir Edward Coey (8); Dr. M'Gee (8); H. H. M'Neile, Esq. (7); the Right Rev. Dr. Dorrian (7); the Rev. Dr. Cooke (5); David Taylor, Esq. (5); William Dunville, Esq. (4); Lord Templetown (3); John Young, Esq. (3); Capt. Gray (2); Lieut.-Colonel Forde, M.P. (2); Marquis of Downshire (1); the Mayor of Belfast (S. M'Causland, Esq.) (1).

VISIT OF THE LORD LIEUTENANT.

In October last, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant (the Marquis of Abercorn) inspected the Institution, on the occasion of his public visit to Belfast; and, having gone through the chief portions of the Institution, recorded the same, as follows:

“I have derived much satisfaction from viewing the excellent arrangements of this Institution, and the comfortable appearance of the patients.

(Signed)

“ABERCORN.

“3rd October, 1867.”

“LUNATIC ASYLUMS OFFICERS (IRELAND) BILL.”

The above Bill having been laid before the Board, at their meeting in the month of August last, and its provisions having been discussed, the following resolution was proposed:—

“That considering the Bill—to provide for the appointment of the Officers and Servants of District Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, and to alter and amend the law relating to the custody of ‘Dangerous Lunatics’—was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons so recently as the 22nd of July, and stands for a second reading in the House of Lords for this night (5th August), and from the advanced stage, accordingly, it has now reached, this Board are unable to take any active steps relative thereto. At the same time, the Board desire to record their regret, that, in a matter of such importance, the Government should not have afforded them a timely opportunity of considering its provisions.”

To which the following amendment was moved:—“That the last clause of the above motion be omitted.” And the same having been put from the chair, was negatived, and the original motion carried.

NEW ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 30 & 31 VICT., c. 118.

Since last year, the Bill referred to in the preceding paragraph has come into operation as a new Act, in connexion with these Institutions in Ireland, and of which a summary is annexed.

A very important and serious change has been made in its provisions, in regard to the admission of that class of the insane legally, however unprofessionally, termed "Dangerous Lunatics." Hitherto the insane, thus infelicitously denominated, were sent, in the first instance, to the jails of the district, and subsequently transmitted to a public asylum as vacancies were reported to the Castle. Now, however, all such are to be sent directly to these Establishments on the warrant of two magistrates.

Three months have now elapsed since this portion of the Act came into operation—viz., from the 1st of January last; and, since then, so many as twenty-seven—twenty males and seven females—have been sent here, being at the rate of nine each month; so that, if such cases continue in the same proportion, some organic change in the Establishment, as to accommodation, will be absolutely needed. It is, in fact, to be apprehended that this new system of sending in inmates will, in a great measure, if not entirely, supersede the ordinary method of admission; as interested parties will find it much simpler and easier to free themselves of troublesome members in a family, besides being free from all responsibility in withdrawing them—not being under any obligation so to do, on their becoming harmless, or otherwise unfit objects for the Institution. In one instance, a case came before the Board for admission, and which, after the fullest inquiry, was considered more fitted for the Workhouse, and was refused accordingly, the house being so overcrowded, when the friends obtained the necessary warrant, and thus had the patient admitted without any further difficulty,—a case, too, which has not manifested any degree of violence of conduct whatever since being received. A most serious inconvenience in the sending of those "warrant" cases must not be omitted to be specially called attention to, which is that of

being brought here by the Constabulary at advanced hours in the evening, after the patients have gone to bed for the night ; and thus, in bringing them into the corridors, causing such noise and disturbance as to excite the other inmates most injuriously—an excitement which continues, more or less, all that night afterwards. This the committing magistrates might easily remedy, by directing the Constabulary to arrive here as early in the day, or evening, as possible,—and certainly not later than four o'clock.

The Act, 30 & 31 Vic., c. 118, as above referred to, dated 20th August, 1867, contains eleven sections, and is entitled:—

“An Act to provide for the appointment of the Officers and Servants of District Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, and to alter and amend the Law relating to the Custody of dangerous Lunatics and dangerous Idiots in Ireland. 20th August, 1867.”

“1. The word *officer* shall include resident medical superintendent, consulting and visiting physician, chaplains, matron, apothecary, clerk, and storekeeper, schoolmaster and schoolmistress, and any person discharging any duties in any such Asylum whom the Lord Lieutenant, by order in Council, shall so designate.

“2. The Lord Lieutenant, from time to time, by order in Council, shall determine the staff of male and female officers and servants, and direct the same being increased, diminished, or altered, and appoint their salaries, and define their duties, and make rules and regulations for their control and guidance.

“3. The Lord Lieutenant to appoint the resident medical superintendent, who must be qualified to practice both medicine and surgery, and registered as such under the medical Act, 1858. All other officers to be appointed by the Governors of the District Asylums, with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant. The servants to be appointed by the Governors.

“4. All appointments of officers by the Governors to be probationary only, and confirmed by them not sooner than three, nor later than six, months from the date of the probationary appointment; and every appointment so confirmed to be submitted for the approval of the Lord Lieutenant; and should the Governors not, within six months, confirm such probationary appointments, or refuse to do so, or should the Lord Lieutenant refuse to approve of any appointment so confirmed, and notify such refusal to the Governors, the officer so appointed shall cease to hold office, and the same shall become vacant at the end of six months.

“5. The Lord Lieutenant to appoint officers in default of Governors not doing so at the end of two months after they have been required to do so, in writing, by one of the Inspectors of Asylums.

"6. The resident medical superintendent to hold office during the pleasure of the Lord Lieutenant; removal of all other officers to be by the Governors, with the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant. The Governors to dismiss the servants.

"7. All appointments made by the Lord Lieutenant before the passing of this Act to be valid and effectual.

"8. From and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Governors of any District Lunatic Asylum, with the approval of the Inspectors of Lunatics, or one of them, on the retirement of any officer or servant whose whole time has been devoted to the service of such Asylum, to direct that any officer or servant shall receive such superannuation allowances as they shall think proper; and in ascertaining and awarding the amount of such superannuation allowance, the said Governors shall proceed according to the principles laid down by the 'Superannuation Act, 1859,' and every such superannuation allowance shall be advanced, paid, presented for, and raised in like manner as any other moneys advanced or raised for supporting and maintaining such District Lunatic Asylum: provided always that nothing herein contained shall prejudice or affect the right to superannuation of any person employed in any District Lunatic Asylum previous to the passing of this Act."

9, 10, 11. These sections direct the ceasing, from and after the 1st of January, 1868, of "dangerous Lunatics or dangerous Idiots" being committed to any jail in Ireland, as hitherto, who, instead thereof, are to be sent to the "Lunatic Asylum established for the County in which they shall have been apprehended," under the warrant of two Justices of the Peace, on being certified for as "dangerous Lunatics or Idiots," by the certificate of the medical officer of the dispensary district.

PETITION OF GRAND JURIES AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAINS, &C.

The Grand Juries of the district unanimously adopted petitions to the House of Lords during the progress of the Bill already noticed, in which the appointment of chaplains, schoolmasters, and schoolmistresses was embraced. The petition was as follows:—"That your petitioners having learned that a Bill, intituled, 'District Lunatic Asylums Officers (Ireland),' had passed the House of Commons, which, among other things, empowers the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to appoint chaplains, schoolmasters, and schoolmistresses to the District Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, and considering such appointments, if made, as likely to prove prejudicial to the welfare of the patients in these Institutions, and calculated to interfere injuriously

with the mental treatment adopted for their recovery, respectfully pray that your lordships' House may decline to assent to that portion of the Bill."

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS.

During the year, the house, besides being inspected, monthly, by the Board, was visited officially, as directed, under the Statute thereto relating, and of which visitations the following are transcripts:—

"On inspecting the Belfast District Asylum, I feel fully satisfied, as on previous visits, to report that its condition is in every respect satisfactory; the house itself, in its various departments, is maintained with noticeable order and cleanliness, while the inmates are evidently most kindly attended to. Of the total number of patients—361—two only are confined to bed from bodily illness. No restraint of any kind is in use. The provisions are all of good quality; and I am happy to learn that the contractors are very correct in their dealings. There is nothing to which I would direct the attention of the Board, except it be to the very worn-out and in part dangerous state of the stone stairs leading to the basement story at the male side. I think it advisable that the female attendants should, as a rule, dress themselves in their own apartments; for without venturing even on a suspicion, as such, for the past, would not be justifiable, it appears to me open to an objection that women's dresses should be hanging up in the sleeping-rooms of male servants, for the sake of convenience, in order that they might be the more readily changed, after the corridors and dormitories are cleaned.

"The books, &c., are regularly kept.

"(Signed)

"J. NUGENT.

"April 8th, 1867."

"Visited and inspected. The house, though much overcrowded, is in its usual state—clean, orderly, and well-ventilated. The patients appear to be, in every respect, duly attended to. The sanitary condition of the Asylum is highly satisfactory, six of the inmates only being confined to bed, and from chronic affections, out of 369, between male and female. I think it highly advisable that the Infirmary windows should have good blinds affixed to them, in this bright weather particularly.

"(Signed)

"JOHN NUGENT.

"6th July, 1867."

CONCLUSION.

The Resident Physician, in conclusion, has to express his obligations to the Board for the continued courtesy he has experienced from it, and to state that the manner in which the attendants generally have discharged their arduous duties has been entirely satisfactory.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D.

GENERAL TABLES OF STATISTICS.

Table XVIII.—Shewing the Admissions, Discharges, &c., from each County in the District, during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY.							
					Males	Females	Total
Antrim,	..	..	..	..	41	35	76
County of the Town of Carrickfergus,	..			..	0	2	2
Down, ..	..	..	..	..	24	32	56
TOTALS,	..	..	..	..	65	69	104
DISCHARGED, ETC., TO EACH COUNTY.							
					Males	Females	Total
Antrim,	..	..	..	..	33	33	66
County of the Town of Carrickfergus,	..			..	1	0	1
Down, ..	..	..	..	..	16	29	46
TOTALS,	..	..	..	..	50	62	112
REMAINING IN THE HOUSE, 31ST MARCH, 1868.							
					Males.	Females	Total.
Antrim,	..	..	..	..	106	86	192
County of the Town of Carrickfergus,	..			..	3	5	8
Down, ..	..	..	..	..	98	82	181
TOTALS,	..	..	..	..	207	173	381

Table XIX.—Ages of the Patients remaining on 31st March, 1868.

					Males.	Females	Total.
Under 20 years ..	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
20 to 30 years	..	..	..	..	44	36	80
30 to 40 "	..	..	..	..	64	42	106
40 to 50 "	..	..	..	..	48	46	94
50 to 60 "	..	..	..	..	33	32	65
60 to 70 "	..	..	..	..	12	11	23
70 to 80 "	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
TOTALS,	..	..	..	..	207	173	380

TABLE XX.—Shewing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions for each Year, since the opening of the Asylum.

Year.	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.				DIED.			Remaining, 31st Dec. each year.		Average No. Resident.	Per centage of Recoveries on Admissions.	Per centage of Deaths on average numbers Resident.			
	Recovered.			Relieved.			DIED.			Male.	Female							
	Total.		Male.	Fmle.	Total.		Male.	Fmle.	Total.									
	Male.	Fmle.			Male.	Fmle.						Male.				Fmle.		
1831	94	80	174	25	19	44	5	3	8	6	3	9	58	55	113	103.68	32.79	8.68
1832	51	49	100	29	22	51	2	3	5	10	5	15	68	74	142	132.65	38.44	11.30
1833	41	32	73	21	24	45	16	6	22	15	8	23	57	63	125	131.45	34.23	17.49
1834	32	44	76	18	29	47	1	2	3	5	6	11	65	75	140	136.78	34.36	8.04
1835	43	42	85	23	25	48	—	—	—	7	7	14	78	85	163	151.50	31.59	9.21
1836	37	36	73	32	30	62	—	—	—	7	9	16	78	83	161	163.49	57.91	9.78
1837	42	39	81	31	22	53	—	—	—	16	15	31	78	88	166	166.75	31.78	18.58
1838	36	56	92	19	39	58	—	—	—	10	12	22	85	93	178	178.75	27.95	12.30
1839	52	55	107	25	40	65	—	—	—	5	10	15	107	98	205	194.00	29.87	8.24
1840	56	58	114	30	33	63	—	—	—	10	19	29	123	104	227	217.35	25.30	12.88
1841	62	53	115	34	31	65	5	3	8	14	10	24	132	113	245	244.67	26.15	9.80
1842	56	59	115	35	37	72	6	5	11	9	18	27	138	112	250	246.80	29.17	10.94
1843	72	51	123	59	37	96	3	4	7	8	10	18	140	112	252	249.44	36.08	7.21
1844	64	50	114	43	26	69	4	8	12	13	8	21	144	120	264	253.15	27.25	8.29
1845	60	53	113	33	35	68	—	—	—	14	26	40	142	106	248	258.83	26.36	15.50
1846	53	54	107	32	29	61	10	4	14	9	15	24	144	112	256	252.18	24.19	9.51
1847	50	63	113	26	35	61	7	14	21	15	12	27	146	114	260	254.96	23.53	10.58
1848	60	80	140	31	50	81	12	3	15	18	29	47	145	112	257	262.56	30.85	17.90
1849	61	59	120	27	42	69	8	6	14	21	9	30	150	114	264	271.32	25.43	11.05

1850	57	63	120	24	28	52	11	10	21	25	18	43	147	121	268	267.51	18.68	16.07
1851	69	71	140	33	48	81	11	18	29	22	7	29	150	119	269	271.12	29.87	10.69
1852	54	70	124	32	30	62	9	15	24	11	16	27	152	128	280	275.71	22.48	9.79
1853	50	65	115	26	41	67	9	12	21	14	11	25	153	129	282	280.01	23.92	8.92
1854	34	46	80	19	29	48	14	5	19	8	11	19	146	130	276	279.11	16.83	6.80
1855	37	59	96	13	25	38	11	8	19	18	21	39	141	135	276	266.48	13.50	14.63
1856	65	49	114	20	30	50	5	9	14	12	7	19	169	138	307	291.96	17.12	6.50
1857	78	64	142	27	39	66	9	6	15	23	25	48	188	142	330	323.25	20.41	11.75
1858	71	76	147	38	44	82	14	12	26	14	11	25	193	151	344	342.59	23.93	7.29
1859	57	57	114	33	32	65	7	11	18	12	6	18	198	159	357	347.21	18.17	5.18
1860	51	69	120	35	41	76	9	13	22	17	8	25	188	166	354	358.97	20.89	6.96
1861	51	51	102	18	29	47	14	17	31	14	8	22	193	163	356	356.98	13.16	6.16
1862	55	64	119	35	38	73	5	16	21	11	8	19	197	165	362	359.50	23.05	5.02
1863	38	44	82	24	35	59	4	6	10	7	7	14	200	161	361	362.90	22.59	3.85
1864	45	47	92	29	23	52	8	11	19	8	4	12	200	170	370	366.02	25.13	3.27
1865	33	40	73	15	21	36	7	16	23	10	12	22	201	161	362	364.51	20.26	6.03
1866	38	49	87	26	30	56	10	9	19	7	7	14	196	164	340	364.75	23.85	3.83
1867	45	43	88	30	25	55	13	9	22	6	7	13	192	166	358	362.91	24.24	3.58
1868	65	69	134	30	32	62	11	21	32	9	9	18	207	174	380	369.55	27.27	4.87
Total, 2015	2109	4124	1080	1225	2305	260	285	545	460	434	894	265.29	26.27	9.43				

Table XXI.—Shewing the Articles Manufactured and made by the Patients during the year ended 31st March, 1868.

1,625 Hanks Linen Yarn.	49 Wrappers.
1,132 Yards Plain Linen.	115 Day Caps.
466 Pairs Stocking and Socks.	57 Bolsters.
183 Sheets.	32 Bed Ticks.
205 Shirts.	67 Gowns.
157 Shifts.	177 Pillow Slips.
263 Aprons.	66 Iron Bedsteads Painted.
58 Petticoats.	

Table XXII.—Shewing the Number of Cases Admitted, Recovered, Relieved and who Died in each Quarter and each Month, respectively, during the Year ended 31st March, 1868.

	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.						DIED.		
				RECOVERED.			RELIEVED.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
April,	8	6	14	2	4	6	0	1	1	0	2	2
May,	7	6	13	4	3	7	0	2	2	0	0	0
June,	3	5	8	2	1	3	0	2	2	0	0	0
July,	2	3	5	2	3	5	0	0	0	2	0	2
August,	4	9	13	2	4	6	0	4	4	1	0	1
September,	3	8	11	2	3	5	0	1	1	0	1	1
October,	2	5	7	2	1	3	1	3	4	0	1	1
November, . .	5	2	7	5	1	6	1	3	4	0	0	0
December, . .	5	6	11	1	2	3	7	0	7	1	0	1
January, . . .	11	5	16	1	3	4	1	1	2	2	2	4
February, . .	4	8	12	4	4	8	0	2	2	2	2	4
March,	11	6	17	3	3	6	1	2	3	1	1	2
	65	69	134	30	32	62	11	21	32	9	9	18

Table XXIII.—Shewing the Duration of Residence of the 380 Patients remaining under Treatment, 31st March, 1868.

					Males.	Females	Total.
From	1 to 2 months,	..	..	..	18	16	34
"	2 to 3 "	..	..	..	12	9	21
"	3 to 6 "	..	..	..	7	6	13
"	6 to 9 "	..	..	..	5	4	9
"	9 months to 1 year,	..	..	..	7	8	15
"	1 Year to 18 months,	..	..	..	10	5	15
"	18 months to 2 years,	..	..	..	7	4	11
"	2 years to 4 years,	..	..	..	4	9	13
"	4 " to 6 "	..	..	..	8	20	28
"	6 " to 10 "	..	..	..	24	25	49
"	10 " to 15 "	..	..	..	44	21	65
"	15 " to 20 "	..	..	..	15	12	27
"	20 " to 25 "	..	..	..	18	17	35
"	25 " to 30 "	..	..	..	18	13	31
"	30 " and upwards,	..	..	..	10	4	14
TOTALS,					207	173	380

AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE FOR ONE YEAR,
BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1867 TO 31ST MARCH, 1868.

THE CHARGE.

Balance of last Account in favour of the Public ...	£238	8	7
Received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury ..	...	...	7,715 18 3
Received for Vegetables and Fruit sold	£14	6	8
Do. Oats and Wheat sold	31	6	11
Do. Bones and Rags sold	17	18	3
Do. Hay sold	12	9	0
Do. Potatoes sold	3	12	5
Do. Grazing	6	0	0
Do. Interest	9	8	7
Do. Fine on Servant	0	5	0
	<hr/> £95 6 10		
Balance in favour of the public	...	...	£122 13 4
	<hr/> £8,049 13 8		

THE DISCHARGE.

Paid for Provisions ...	£4,148	13	4
Do. Clothing	...	742	12 8
Do. Bedding	...	335	3 6
Do. Furniture	...	96	6 9
Do. Fuel and Light	...	491	1 1
Do. Soap and Candles	...	84	7 2
Do. Stationery, Printing, and Periodicals...	...	48	0 9
Do. Advertising	...	2	11 3
Do. Medicine	...	25	16 1
Do. Repairs and Alterations	...	252	15 0
Do. Farm and Garden Expenses	...	40	5 8
Do. Insurance	...	24	12 6
Do. Incidental Expenses	...	360	3 0
Do. Salaries and Wages	...	1,270	6 8
Do. Postage	...	4	4 11
	<hr/> £7,827 0 4		
Balance on hand	...	122	13 4
	<hr/> £8,049 13 8		

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE ON & PRODUCE OF THE LAND OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE
FOR ONE YEAR,
BEING FROM 1st APRIL 1867 TO 31st MARCH, 1868.

Dr.	EXPENDITURE.	PRODUCE.	Cr.
To Seed Potatoes	By 26 tons Potatoes used in the Establishment, at 4s. per cwt. ...	£104 0 0
" Seeds and Plants	" Sold at various prices ...	3 12 5
" Spades, Hooks, Shovels, &c.	" Oats used in the Establishment	£107 12 5
" Repairs of Implements...	...	" Oats and Wheat sold ...	46 5 0
" New Cart and repairs of Barrows	...	" Hay used in the Establishment	31 6 11
" Saddlery work	" Do. sold ...	36 15 0
To Balance	" Straw used in the Establishment	12 9 0
		" Vegetables and Fruit sold ...	49 4 0
		" Do. used in the Establishment ...	43 8 0
		" Manure, valued at ...	74 6 8
		" Osiers, made into Baskets ...	30 0 0
		" Grazing on ground on River-side ...	1 10 0
Total	Total ...	6 0 0
			389 13 0

DIETARY

OF THE

Belfast District Hospital for the Insane

BREAKFAST.

One quart stirabout (made with 8oz fine or 7oz coarse meal and three-fourths of a pint mixed milk),	Males.	} Every Morning.
One-and-half pint stirabout and one half pint mixed milk,	Females.	

DINNER.

One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs potatoes), 6oz. solid meat, and one pint soup,	Males & Females.	} 3 days a-week.
One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs potatoes) and one quart soup (made with ox heads and bones cut out of meat, vegetables, oatmeal, barley, peas, &c.,	Males.	
One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes), and one-and-half pint soup,	Females.	} 3 days a-week.
Three-fourths of a pound loaf bread (or 3½lbs potatoes) and one pint mixed milk,	Males.	
One half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one pint mixed milk,	Females.	} 1 day a-week.

SUPPER.

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

. Patients who are actively employed are allowed a portion of flesh-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.