

The third annual report of the North Wales Lunatic Asylum, Denbigh : for the year 1851.

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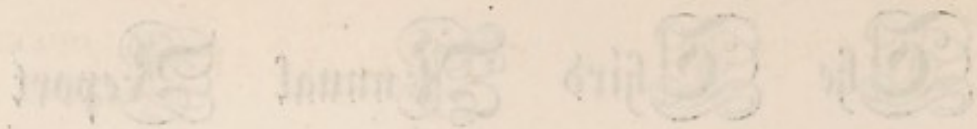
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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION

For the year 1851

NORTH WALES

LUNATIC ASYLUM

DEBENTURE

FOR THE YEAR 1851

DEBENTURE

PRINTED AT THE "ADVERTISER OFFICE" BY ISAAC SIMON.

VISITORS FOR THE YEAR 1852.

APPOINTED BY SUBSCRIBERS.

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Richard Roberts, Esq.

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Captain Heaton.

VISITING PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

DR. LLOYD WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S.L.

RESIDENT MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. GEORGE TURNER JONES, M.R.C.S.L.

CHAPLAIN.

REV. R. J. ROBERTS.

MATRON.

MRS. SHAW.

CLERK AND STEWARD.

MR. JOHN ROBINSON.

TREASURERS.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH WALES BANK, DENBIGH.

NOTE.—It is deemed essential that the House Committee should consist of persons resident within a moderate distance of the Asylum; yet, the occasional attendance of the Visiting Justices of the distant Counties would be much desired by the House Committee.

VISITORS FOR THE YEAR 1832.

APPOINTED BY SUBSCRIBERS.

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Richard Roberts, Esq.
Edward Edwards, Esq.
John Williams, Esq. M.D.
John Jones, Esq.

VISITING PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

DR. LEONARD WILLIAMS, M.D.

RESIDENT MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. GEORGE TURNER JONES, M.D.

MATRON.

MRS. SHAW.

CHAPLAIN.

REV. R. J. ROBERTS.

CLERK AND STEWARD.

MR. JOHN ROBINSON.

TREASURERS.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH WALLS BANK, DENBIGH.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE Committee of Visitors of the North Wales Asylum, in presenting their Third Report to the Subscribers and to the Justices of the united Counties have, with certain drawbacks, to which their attention has been forcibly called by the Report of their Medical Officers, and which they are not disposed to gloss over or to conceal, much satisfaction in being enabled to convey a continued favorable impression of the general state of this Institution.

In making this representation, they wish it rather to be considered in contrast with what the state of Lunacy has been in Wales, and they may add generally in England, than what they deem it ought to be; and what with very little exertion on the part of those to whom the control and management of the Asylum is entrusted, namely the House Visitors and Medical Officers of the Asylum, it doubtless might be.

The Committee, in concurrence with the views held by the Medical Officers, have had sufficient experience to declare their decided opinion that it is their duty to progress in adopting every improvement that can be suggested in the cure of those committed to their charge, and that not to progress in such treatment with the many improvements that are constantly presenting themselves to their notice, would in fact be to recede from the high position which they have endeavoured not without some degree of success to attain. It is not, however, with some ideal state of perfection that the Committee consider they have at present to deal, but with actual wants which they have to contend for, and for which they are now compelled to call upon the general body of Visitors to assist them, either by their own authority or by their influence, with their several Courts of Quarter Sessions to provide.

It is now happily notorious that through the truly humane abolition of all mechanical restraints and all bodily coercion the two great objects to be sought for in the moral treatment of the Insane are employment and

recreation—that these are as much essentially necessary for the modern mode of treatment as medicine, or nourishing food, or warmer raiment. And it is as impossible to carry out fully the system of non-restraint without these means of employment of the body, and diverting the thoughts of those, who are incapable of labour, from brooding over their own delusions by engaging them in amusements, as it would be to cure bodily diseases without those medical appliances which are appropriate for the respective cases.

The Committee are spared from entering into detail on this subject by the able Medical Report which, according to their annual practice, they now append, with the earnest recommendation to the General Board of Visitors, that they may be aided in carrying their essential suggestions into effect—merely adding that it is painful for any body of men to be placed in a position of responsibility whilst they are crippled in what they deem of the greatest importance to the cure of patients; and whilst they cannot but feel, when such is the case, that confidence is practically denied to them.

Under these circumstances the Committee must again press for certain enlargements, which are now become absolutely necessary for providing Workshops in the covered parts of the House, as well as what will obviate the cheerlessness of the long winter evenings, the erection of an apparatus for generating Gas in or near to the premises.

The indispensable appropriation of the Day Wards, which are now used for Workshops to their original purposes, owing to the increased and increasing number of patients, will render this alteration not only necessary, but even remunerating, whilst they trust that from a liberal gift by an anonymous friend of two hundred pounds, applicable for the erection of Gas works, and by an arrangement by which a portion of the profit from the higher classes of patients may be appropriated to repay the money which may be advanced from other sources, but a very small charge, if any, may be eventually required from the counties for this purpose.

The Committee hope that they have effected some saving by their purchase of Cows. In consequence of the refusal of the county of Merioneth to sanction expenditure for a permanent building, they have erected temporary sheds at a trifling cost for their reception; and they have thus, in the important article of milk for their patients, placed themselves beyond

the power of the contractor ; an object of consideration, as such a contract admits of little competition, being necessarily confined to the immediate vicinity of the Asylum.

Your Committee feel some difficulty in entering upon the subject of the course which under the direction of the General Board, and from a sense of justice to other Counties, who had paid their contributions, they have been compelled to take against the County of Merioneth for the payment of the balance of their quota assessed upon them, preparatory to their finally closing the accounts. Without detailing the legal and technical proceedings, it may be sufficient to state that the Court of Queen's Bench granted a writ of Mandamus, calling upon the Justices of Merioneth to make a rate for the sum of £87. 16s. 0d. to repay the contribution assessed upon them.

Without commenting upon the unfairness to those who have had the whole labor and responsibility pecuniary and personal of bringing this work to a completion, and the ungraciousness of the attempt to thwart them in their exertions for the benefit of the most suffering portion of our fellow creatures, they are led and are willing to believe that this unsatisfactory opposition must have proceeded on the part of those to whom the administration of the county finances is entrusted, from a want of information relative to the mode of expending the money under the orders of the Board of Visitors,—a deficiency which may be accounted for by the inattention on the part of the Visiting Justices nominated by Merionethshire to the duties, for the performance of which they were appointed. It is a fact that upon referring to our Minute Books, it appears that only two of the Merionethshire Visitors have ever attended the Quarterly Meetings. That that attendance took place upon one and the same occasion, and that they then expressed satisfaction at the general administration of the affairs, and coincided in one of the most expensive propositions. And further, their Committee of Visitors named by that county, have not had an opportunity of obtaining that information by other means, as their officer returned unopened, the Reports with which, by order of the Board, the Justices had been furnished.

Your Committee would earnestly entreat the attendance of the Justices of Merioneth at the meetings of the Board, or at least at the annual meetings, as they feel convinced they would be satisfied with the expenditure, making

due allowances for the novelty of the task, and the almost overpowering difficulties which they had to encounter in the gradual adhesion of the several counties. That they would regret as much as the Committee themselves this ill-advised contest at a cost for legal expenses far greater than the amount in dispute, and resulting in the delaying the reduction of the weekly payment by parishes, which the Committee confidently consider that if they had not been thus embarrassed, might have been ere now reduced by one shilling weekly.

The Committee announce with pleasure the attention that has been paid to the recreations of the patients in forming a Bowling-Green and a Skittle Ground, as well as a Flower Garden for the higher classes. From the labour of the patients being so available in the completion of the works of this pleasurable nature, but a trifling cost has been created, but it is the general principle that such costs, as well as the ornamental distinguished from the profitable laying out of the grounds, although doubtless legitimately within the purview of the Act, as appliances for the curative treatment of the insane, have, where not entirely completed by the labour of the patients and their attendants, been provided out of the Subscription Funds; and more especially, as making a part of the expenses of the profitable classes, out of the profits arising from their increased payments.

The Committee, as appears in the Minutes, beg to express their unqualified concurrence in the sentiments of the Medical Officers relative to the charges of the detention of patients beyond the period of their perfect recovery. The charge, fortunately, carries its own refutation with it, and at least has had by the enquiry, the advantage of convincing one of the most interested of the complainants, who had the candor to avow his sense of the groundlessness of such an imputation. For unlike private asylums, the Medical Officers of a public Institution have no pecuniary interest in the number or detention of patients. Their professional interest, as has been justly observed, depends rather upon the cures than upon the number of patients. The Committee, however, cannot refrain from taking this opportunity of reciprocating the kindly expressions of good feeling towards themselves of the Medical Officers, as well as their hearty approbation of the general bearing and zeal of the Matron, the Steward, and indeed, of all the Officers of the Institution. Such unvaried kind conduct on the parts of the attendants to the patients can only proceed from a natural sense of

humanity, which is not, owing to the system now adopted, blunted by the unpleasent collisions which must necessarily be produced by the violence resulting from mechanical restraints and personal collisions.

The Committee have the gratification of acknowledging a further munificent donation of 50*l.* making with two previous contributions, the sum of 180*l.* towards the purposes of this Institution, from the Widow of our Founder, Joseph Ablett, Esq.,—for this continued interest in the prosperity of his good work, they return in the name of the Visitors most grateful thanks.

THE
MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT.

THE period has again arrived when we are called upon to make a report of the progress of the North Wales Asylum, for the past year.

During the year 1851, the admission of patients amounted to 72; the Recoveries 19; the Improved 5; the Deaths 11.

When it is considered that only three years and a few months have elapsed since the Institution was opened for the reception of patients, and that nearly all the hopelessly Insane belonging to the five Counties in Union, who had been for years confined in other Asylums, constituted a large proportion of our Inmates, the majority of whom still survive; and that several of those more recently admitted, were chronic and neglected cases—putting aside these poor creatures, and calculating our recoveries upon the data of recent admissions, our Tables will show as large a proportion of cures as most Institutions of a similar kind in the country.

Although we are most unwilling to approach the Visitors in a querulous spirit, after all the kindness and confidence we have experienced at their hands, yet we cannot upon the present occasion abstain from calling their most earnest attention to some of the leading defects, which considerably neutralize and obstruct our endeavours to render the North Wales Asylum what we could desire to see it, and to maintain our position in the race of improvement in the treatment of the Insane.

In our last Annual Report will be found the following paragraph:—

“ We are at all times most reluctant to propose any measure which will entail additional expense upon the Rate-payers of the Counties in Union. We must, however, impress upon the Visitors the absolute necessity of

supply the House with Gas: both as a matter of economy as well as of policy. With the present most inadequate method of lighting the Asylum, the patients are deprived of the means of occupation and amusement during the long winter evenings; and we are under the necessity of sending most of them to bed soon after dark. This is a source of great dissatisfaction and annoyance, and causes many of them to be restless and noisy, to the injury and disturbance of others."

Since the commencement of the present winter, we have become more and more convinced of the injury the Institution is suffering from the want of a proper mode of lighting the establishment. We have visited many Institutions of a similar kind since our last Report, and it has been with much mortification and regret that we have contrasted the brilliancy and comfort which pervades other Asylums, at night, with the gloom of that, over which we preside. We feel assured that a visit to our house between the hours of half-past four and nine o'clock, in the long winter evening would convince any one having the least regard for its prosperity, of the truth of our statement. Our long galleries and passages are nearly dark, and the sitting-rooms only enjoy the glimmer of an oil lamp, by no means adequate to give sufficient light for occupation of any kind. Were we supplied with Gas, our poor patients could usefully employ themselves in reading and other recreations during the dreary hours which intervene between dusk and bed time; and what a happy change would its bright and cheerful light afford to the "moody melancholic," after the gloom of a wet and dreary winter's day! The approach of evening would then be hailed as the most agreeable and cheerful part of the day—as it now is the most dreary. The increasing number of private patients cannot be expected to be progressive, unless we afford them the means of agreeable occupation during the long winter evenings.

One benevolent gentleman, who possesses a heart "to feel for other's woe," has been so shocked at the prospect of a continuance of this really cruel privation of light, that he has offered to place the munificent sum of £200 at the disposal of the Visitors as an inducement to them to remedy this grievous evil.

If we have expressed ourselves warmly upon the point, we trust we may be held excused, as we are pleading the cause of those who cannot plead

for themselves, and for whose comfort and prospects of recovery we are in great measure responsible. It is discouraging to us to find that all our anxious efforts to render the North Wales Asylum a model in the Principality, should be thwarted for the want of the ordinary appliances and remedial means possessed by almost every other Asylum in the Kingdom.

Another very leading defect in our Institution is the want of Workshops, placed and secured from the chances of escape. We are now obliged to set apart one of the day-rooms on the men's side of the house for a working-room for tailors and shoemakers. The rapidly increasing number of our patients will very soon oblige us to occupy this apartment as a day-room or a dormitory. One of our galleries is now used as a carpenter's shop, which being a thoroughfare, renders it open to much objection and danger. There are several patients who might be usefully and profitably employed as carpenters, joiners, &c., had we the means of occupying them in properly secured rooms. The situation and cold of the mangling-room continues a source of great complaint.

We have been frequently assailed and importuned by Parish authorities, in one instance publicly accused of detaining patients in the Asylum when they might be discharged and kept by their friends. In the instance referred to, however, the parish officers upon seeing and examining the patient readily confessed their mistake, and freely admitted that she was not fit to be at large. We trust that an inspection of our Tables of recoveries and discharges will satisfy the public, and the reasonable part of the Rate-payers of the Counties in Union upon this point. It is neither our interest nor our policy to detain patients beyond the period of their recovery. If we were likely to have a bias, it would be in favor of discharges to swell the number of our cures. This freedom from a motive to detain the patients improperly in a public Asylum is so graphically set forth by a nobleman, whose whole life has been devoted to the good of his fellow creatures, and whose labours in the cause of the Insane were so beautifully described by an eloquent senator, now no more, as "having added nobility to the name of Ashley, and made humanity one of the Shaftsbury characteristics," that we cannot resist the temptation of quoting a paragraph from a speech recently delivered by him at Stafford:—

"Now he spoke this from great and lengthened experience. Admitting for the sake of argument, that the proprietors of these private Asylums were distinguished for their

humanity, yet, they must remember that they had to live and to make a profit by their establishments; and when a man was tempted to make a profit it not unfrequently prevented him from adopting that kind of remedial treatment which was necessary to ensure the recovery of the patients, and which was afforded in an establishment such as this, where the only object was to cure the insane. There was another great advantage to be derived from the establishment of public Asylums, and not a greater advantage would be derived than this—and they might take his word for it, he spoke the language of truth—families would not be so apt to keep the affliction with which they had been visited a secret. Secrecy was altogether impossible, but in this vain attempt at secrecy, the wretched patient was subjected to the very worst treatment, and very worst neglect; and he must say, for true it was, and a disgrace to human nature, but nevertheless it was a fact, that in nine cases out of ten, that when an unhappy being was afflicted in this way by the hands of God, the great object of his relatives was to put him out of sight, and think as little as possible of his existence. He did hope that when the system of public Asylums was more general, the public would see the folly as well as the impossibility of keeping the affliction which had fallen upon a member of a family a secret; and that instead of endeavouring to put the patient out of sight, and taking care that his name was never mentioned, in fact, as far as possible, putting him out of existence, they would avail themselves of the advantages afforded them. As soon as the feelings to which he had alluded was done away with, great benefit would arise. When it was known that it was impossible to suppress the knowledge that a member of a family had been visited with insanity, and when, in addition to that, the cost of maintenance was considerably reduced, great benefit would arise by the patient being sent to an Asylum at the time of the attack. Good heavens! how many instances had he seen, and his friend Dr. Conolly had known thousands, when a member of a family had been attacked, and his friends kept him at home thinking some happy change might take place, and that it was unnecessary to incur the expense of sending him to an Asylum: but the malady strengthened day after day, week after week, and month after month was the patient kept at home, until the fatal twelve months had gone by, when all knew that it was scarcely within the compass of human science and skill to effect a radical cure. There was no temptation to keep a patient in a public Asylum longer than was necessary, the only object of those in charge was to cure the patients, and send them back into the world as soon as possible."

The Law wisely protects the Pauper Lunatic from the injudicious interference of relatives, and the misplaced parsimony of parochial authorities. We have frequently to deplore the want of some such protection over the private Lunatic Patient. In one instance, a poor tradesman was prematurely removed from this Asylum. He soon became worse and unmanageable, and whilst his friends were deliberating about sending him back, the unfortunate man escaped from them and committed suicide. Another case was removed by his friends much improved in bodily health,

but by no means in a fit state to be outside the walls of an Asylum. Shortly after his discharge, he was allowed to ramble about the country, and in consequence of exposure to cold during three nights, when he lay in the fields—he died exhausted. In another instance, a highly respectable man, whose case was progressing favorably, was most injudiciously removed, and we fear he is now fast approaching the state which renders recovery very doubtful. Whilst passing through a sequestered part of the Vale of Clwyd a few days ago, we were requested to turn into a respectable farmhouse, and upon going up stairs we were horrified to find the farmer's wife with her hands secured, and a large cart rope tied round her body to keep her in bed. The room was strewed with the poor creature's ordure and her urine. We found she had been in this state for upwards of nine months and no proper remedial measures taken. Surely some protection should be thrown over such a sufferer!

The Bowling green is completed and the Skittle ground nearly so, by the labour of our patients and attendants. The Flower garden is in such a state of forwardness as to be fit for the amusement and occupation of the private patients during the ensuing Spring.

We append the last Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy:—

North Wales County Lunatic Asylum, Denbigh, June 14, 1851.

THERE are now 8 male and 6 female private patients, and 52 male and 68 female pauper patients, making an aggregate of 134. We have seen the whole of them, and have conversed with a large proportion of them, and found them with rare exceptions, orderly and comfortable. One female who was much excited, we found secluded in a padded room. Instrumental coercion has never been employed.

The bodily health of the patients is generally good.

Two males and 3 females we found in bed. Twelve are entered in the Register as being under medical treatment.

Since the visit of the Commissioners in Lunacy on the 25th October last, 33 new patients have been admitted. Within the same period 22 have been discharged. One had escaped, and 7 have died. Of those discharged 10 were recovered, 4 relieved, and 8 not improved. Of the deaths 2 were ascribed to phthisis, 2 to paralysis, 2 to diarrhœa, 1 to debility.

The different apartments are clean, well aired and in order. The bedding also is generally clean, comfortable and of good quality. Some of the beds, however, made of Coir would be improved by being re-stuffed.

We regret to find that the want of harmony between the Counties united for the Establishment of this Asylum, and the consequent difficulty and delay in providing the necessary funds, have prevented the prosecution of various minor improvements which have been for some time in contemplation, and which though in themselves apparently trifling and inexpensive, would materially contribute to the comfort and well being of the inmates, and the successful conduct of the Institution. It is very desirable that the utmost pains should be taken to provide the means of suitable out of door occupation and amusement of the pauper patient, and that every thing should be done to induce the inmates of that class to betake themselves to regular employment.

The diet appears to be liberal and the provisions of good quality; and the condition of the Establishment generally reflects credit on those to whom the management of the Institution is more immediately committed.

“Signed,

J. W. MYLNE.

J. TURNER.

In conclusion, we beg to reiterate the expression of our thanks to the Chairman and Committee of Visitors, for the liberal and kind support we continue to receive at their hands; and to tender our acknowledgements to Mrs. Shaw the matron, Mr. Robinson the clerk, and the attendants for the efficient co-operation we have experienced from them.

R. LLOYD WILLIAMS, *Visiting Physician.*
GEO. T. JONES, *Superintendent.*

THE FOLLOWING TABLES ARE GIVEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURNISHING STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECTS TO WHICH THEY REFER.

TABLE I.

Showing the admissions, discharges, and deaths, during the Year.

| | In House Jan 1, 1851 | Admitted during the Year. | DISCHARGED— | | | Rmvd. to other Asylums | Es- caped. | Dead | Rmg. 31, Dec. 1851. |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------|---------------------------|
| | | | Cured. | Improv- ed. | Unim- proved. | | | | |
| Private—males | 7 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | .. | .. | 9 |
| „ females | 4 | 4 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| Pauper—males | 59 | 25 | 8 | .. | 1 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 63 |
| „ females | 65 | 29 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 6 | 78 |
| | 135 | 72 | 19 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 1 | 11 | 156 |

TABLE II.

Showing the form of disease in 72 cases admitted.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|-------|---------|-------|
| Mania acute | 10 | 13 | 23 |
| „ „ attempted suicide | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| „ chronic | 20 | 11 | 31 |
| „ acute with general paralysis | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Epilepsy | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Dementia | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Melancholia | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 39 | 33 | 72 |

TABLE III.

Showing the duration previous to admission.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Under one month | 11 | 9 | 20 |
| „ two ditto | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| „ three ditto | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| „ six ditto | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| „ nine ditto | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| „ one year | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| „ five ditto | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| „ ten ditto | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Unknown | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Total | 39 | 33 | 72 |

TABLE IV.

Showing form of disease in the 19 cases discharged and cured.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Mania acute | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| „ chronic | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Melancholi | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 12 | 7 | 19 |

TABLE V.

Showing the duration of disease in the 19 cases, discharged, cured, previous to admission.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Under two weeks | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| „ one month | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| From one to two months | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Uncertain | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Total | 12 | 7 | 19 |

TABLE VI.

Showing the duration of treatment in the Asylum of those cases discharged cured.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Under one month | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ two ditto | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ three ditto | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| „ six ditto | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| „ one year | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 12 | 7 | 19 |

TABLE VII.

Showing the form of disease in 11 cases of death.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Mania chronic | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| „ Epilepsy | .. | 2 | 2 |
| „ general paralysis &c | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Total | 5 | 6 | 11 |

TABLE VIII

Showing the cause of death and duration of disease, prior and subsequent to admission.

| Age. | Sex. | DURATION OF DISEASE. | | Cause. |
|-----------|------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Prior | Subsequent. | |
| 34 | F. | 17 years | 6 weeks | epilepsy |
| 55 | M. | 5 weeks | 2 years | diarrhœa |
| Not known | F. | Not known | 2 ditto | phthisis |
| Ditto | F. | Ditto | 2 ditto | ditto |
| 68 | M. | 1 month | 2 ditto | diarrhœa |
| 46 | F. | 1 week | 2 ditto | phthisis |
| 63 | M. | 6 ditto | 1 ditto | paritonitis |
| 52 | M. | 5 months | 1 ditto | phthisis |
| Unknown | F. | Not known | 2 ditto | debility |
| Ditto | F. | Ditto | 2 ditto | epilepsy |
| 42 | M. | 6 weeks | 1 ditto | softening |

R. LLOYD WILLIAMS, *Visiting Physician.*

GEO. T. JONES, *Superintendent.*

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

(Not presented at the Annual Meeting.)

THE Chaplain of the North Wales Asylum, feeling that, from the nature of his office, he could not have much to report, that would either be interesting to the Board of Visitors to learn, or proper for him to dilate upon; and finding that it was not usual at similar institutions for the Chaplain to report at all, had intended deviating from the practice of his predecessor, and, this year not troubling the meeting with any observations whatever. It having, however, been intimated to him that an opinion prevailed at the General Meeting, that it was desirable the Chaplain should write a report, and a request to that effect having been conveyed to him, through the Superintendent, the Chaplain—having said thus much in explanation why his report was not presented at the Annual Meeting on the 13th inst.,—now proceeds to offer the following remarks:—

Since his appointment to the office in May last, the Chaplain has endeavoured, as far as he is able, both in Chapel, and in his intercourse with the patients in the wards, to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, whose judicious bearing in a post certainly requiring both tact and judgment, has been fortunate enough to secure the approbation of those in authority at your Institution, and to conciliate the good will of the unhappy objects of his spiritual care.

The services in Chapel during the last year, have been the same as heretofore, viz:—prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays, and an afternoon service, with a sermon, on Sundays. The only point in which your Chaplain has ventured upon an innovation, was by the introduction of Chanting on

Sundays—a style of singing understood by some of the patients, and as far as can be gathered from the attempt to join in the music, and the opinions expressed on the subject, out of Chapel, gratifying to the congregation generally. And here your Chaplain would venture to express a hope that the day is not far distant, when the Board of Visitors will, by the erection of an organ in the Chapel, enable those who have the conducting of this part of our devotional services, greatly to improve our church music. For the singing at present, however hearty, is, it must be confessed, but rude; but there is no reason why the poor inmates of your Asylum should not, by practice, be taught to offer up their praises to Almighty God, if not with all the science of a Cathedral Choir, still with as much correctness and harmony as we find in the generality of parish churches. And your Chaplain knows of nothing that would more conduce to this very desirable end, and as a consequence, to impress the minds of the patients with a due feeling of the solemnity of our church service, than the erection of an organ in our Chapel; while the advantages that would accrue from a more general introduction of vocal and instrumental music among them, are so many and palpable that any remarks of this head must be quite unnecessary.

The number of patients male and female, who attend divine service on Sundays is about 80; on week days not more than half that number are present, several of them being otherwise engaged.

It may here be remarked, that the attendance in chapel, being in no case compulsory, the very regular observance of their religious duties, by such as are permitted to come—as far as *being present* goes, is an interesting proof, that, however perverted and distorted the mind may be in other respects, a sense of duty to, and dependence on God are too deeply implanted in the human breast to be easily eradicated. Had we the appliances to render our church services more inviting and effective, by the introduction of good music, there is no doubt but that it would greatly enhance, in the eyes of the patients, the privilege of attending divine worship.

With regard to the class of patients who are in the habit of attending the religious services provided for them, and who alone of all the inmates, are capable of enjoying, and benefiting by such intellectual pursuits and re-

creations as singing, reading instructive and entertaining books, &c.—and it is with this class only that your Chaplain feels he has any concern at all—it is a matter of regret, that, however much such pursuits might tend to their speedy recovery, they are at present debarred from following them almost entirely, from the following causes:—Your Board is aware that this class of patients are during the day, usefully and healthfully employed, either in the house, or on the grounds. The imperfect manner in which the house is lighted up at night, precludes any attempt at mental improvement or amusement, after the labours of the day; and it is to be feared, consigns many of the inmates to the sleeping wards, at an hour, when, but for this defect, they might be both happily and beneficially engaged. Had it not been for this difficulty, your Chaplain would, ere this, with the sanction and concurrence of the Superintendent, have made application to the House Committee for such appliances—books, chess and draught boards, &c., as would have afforded occupation and amusement to the patients during the long and tedious winter's evenings. And he trusts that the time is not far off, when the adoption of Gas, or of some other mode of lighting up the wards—so essential to the comfort and happiness of the patients—will justify him in making an application of this kind to the Committee of Management.

Your Chaplain feels conscious, that in alluding to this *vexata questio*, he may be thought by some to have travelled out of his province. If he has done so, it has been under a strong conviction, that however great your care for the comfort and restoration to society of the unhappy tenants of your Asylum—however laudable the humanity that has banished the strait-waist coat and the manacle from its wards, and would rule by the “law of kindness”—as long as the house remains in the miserable state of “darkness visible” which it now presents during the long evenings of the winter months, your medical officers may bring to bear all the improvements that science has suggested in the treatment of the insane, your Chaplain may use his best endeavours, in preaching, both in and out of chapel, the duty and advantage of resignation, under a system of restraint, which at best, must be irksome, your attendants may exercise the utmost forbearance and kindness; all must be in a great measure in vain.

In conclusion, your Chaplain, in his intercourse with the patients, has seen much of the benefit of that system of kindness upon which your institution is conducted. At the same time he cannot be blind to the bad effect the unavoi-

able confinement to the night wards, for so many hours more than nature requires for the purpose of sleep, must have upon them. He trusts therefore that no difficulties will be permitted to deter the Board of Visitors, ere another winter comes round, from fully carrying out what has been so well begun. It is thus only that your Officers can discharge their important duties with satisfaction either to themselves, or the country at large

R. J. ROBERTS, CHAPLAIN.