Medical report of the Royal Lunatic Asylum of Aberdeen, for the year ending 31st December, 1857.

Contributors

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MEDICAL REPORT

OF

The Royal Aunatic Asylum

OF ABERDEEN,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER,

1857.

ABERDEEN:

Printed by

G. CORNWALL & SONS.

1858.

MEDICAL REPORT

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1888

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MEDICAL REPORT.

THE Report of the Medical condition of the Asylum now submitted to the approval of the Managers, while dealing with events in the history of the fifty-ninth year of the Institution, includes the particulars but of nine months in that period. The object thought to justify this curtailment of the length of time ordinarily reviewed in such documents is, the convenience likely to be obtained henceforward from making the commencement of the next medical year of the Hospital accord with the establishment of the authority of the Lunacy Act, and the date of the beginning of the various new registers and records required to be adopted under the direction of recent legislation.

This Report, short as it is, and more than usually brief the period to which it alludes, may yet seem to have a special interest connected with it, as summing up the results attained from a local provision made nearly sixty years ago, and since so efficiently developed and upheld, for the accommodation, treatment, and relief of those afflicted with what is, in the feelings of most, the saddest of human ailments.

At the time that parliamentary enactment first compelled an adequate degree of attention to be paid to the welfare of the Insane in Scotland, Aberdeen was found already possessed of a self-supporting Asylum, containing three hundred inmates, cared for by the services of a staff of about forty officials, attendants, and servants of various descriptions, and consisting of extensive buildings, in large part new, and set down in about twenty-five acres of ground, gradually acquired; that it contained upwards of two hundred of the pauper lunatics of the town and district, and nearly a hundred other cases, many of them of indigent but not parochial insane, accommodated through benevolent funds connected with the Institution at a low rate; that the treatment pursued in it was in harmony with the most advanced views; that the accommodation afforded to pauper and necessitous cases was, on investigation, admitted to be comparable to, and in respect of combined comfort and economy before, any other in Scotland at the date; and that, by the previous existence of the Hospital, the Lunacy Board for the district found on its establishment that it had it in its power to save the County from heavy and unlooked for assessment and taxation.

Such have been the economical and social gain to the community in this quarter from the past management of the Asylum; and though much interest would attach to the statistical details of the medical features of the cases accumulated in records which have been regularly kept during most part of the existence of the Institution, they could not be properly embraced in the limits of an Annual Statement of this kind, put together solely for the purpose of presenting to the general body of Managers, an account of the medical condition of the Asylum during the period of administration of the year's Committee of Management. However, some of the results derived from data more numerous than those of one year will be found given in the Tables, which are as usual to be found appended to this Report; but many others might have been worked out, with the convenience of spare time for such a task and any occasion justifying that labour.

It may be shortly stated, that the number of cases, inclusive of re-admissions recorded in the Books during the past years of the Hospital's history, has been 2628; and that of these, 511 have terminated fatally, the great majority of them however, after a lengthened residence, and from decay of natural force rather than from unsubdued malignity of cerebral disorder. The number of cases that have been dismissed recovered or relieved, after treatment more or less prolonged in duration, has been 1823, the recovered being in the proportion of 45 in the 100 admissions.

The experience of the months now reported upon, I am glad to say, has been very favourable to the character of the House as hitherto upheld by medical results, the admissions have been 84, the removals 82, the gross number under care and treatment 376, and the average resident number 299. The recoveries have been equivalent to nearly 60 per cent. on the admissions, and the deaths to 25. The former is a very high average—the highest indeed that has been recorded in the history of the Institution with the exception of the year 1854; the latter,

viz. the number of deaths is, however, rather above the average. It is worthy of being noticed, that a number equivalent to half of the patients admitted during a period embracing the last six years has, during that time, left the Hospital recovered; a ratio very remarkable as occurring in an Asylum admitting all descriptions of Insanity, even the most hopeless.

The sanitary condition of the inmates—patients, officials, and servants—can be represented as having, on the whole, been very satisfactory, with the exception that it falls to the Report of this year to record the death of Mr. Leslie, for sixteen years the House-Steward of the Asylum, and since succeeded by the present wellqualified Steward, Mr. Edward Savage.

A fractured rib sums up all the ill consequences of a surgical kind occurring in this house of insane excitement and violence for the time reported on.

There were several attempts at escape, arising from the temptation of opportunities presented at out-field employments; and in one case the return of the patient, a convalescent, was not thought to be requisite.

The chief improvements in the House, and in furtherance of plans previously laid down, have been the re-furnishing of a large portion of the central building; the substitution in a great degree of hair mattresses for straw and chaff bedding in the dormitories of parochial patients; the introduction of shoemaking into the establishment, both as a measure of economy and as a means of employment for some of the inmates; the supply of bedding to patients of all classes, for a small additional amount to the quarterly charge for board; and finally,

as may be mentioned in this place, the adornment of the lately improved approach to the House by the tasteful arrangement of a variety of expensive trees, shrubs, and flowers.

In regard to every improvement, I have, in conclusion, to acknowledge the encouragement given to all such suggestions by the members of the Committee, and the readiness with which the means have been afforded by the Managers for realizing whatever has been considered fitted to advance the character of the Hospital amongst others of its class, or in the favour of the community.

ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D.,

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

TABLES.

TABLE I.

General Results of the Year.

	Males.	F	emales	3,	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, 1st April, 1857,	144		148		292
Admitted during the year,					84
Under care and treatment during the year,	. 179	~~~	197		376
Removed during the year:—					
Males. Females. Total.					
Recovered, 24 26 50					
Improved, 3 0 3					
Unimproved, 5 3 8					
Dead, 5 16 21-	- 37		45	*****	82
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st Dec. 1857,.	142		152	*****	294

TABLE II.

Classification of Admissions relative to Places of Residence.

	Males.		Females		Total.
From Aberdeen and Suburbs,	18	~~~	27	*****	45
From Aberdeenshire,	15		18	*****	33
From more distant localities,	2	~~~	4	****	6
	35		49		84

TABLE III.

Social Condition of Patients admitted.

	Males.		Females		Total.
Single,	20	*****	28	*****	48
Married,	15	~~~	12	*****	27
Widowed,	0	*****	9	*****	9
	35	*****	49	*****	84

TABLE IV.

Age of Patients admitted during the Year.

				Males.		Females.		Total.
From	10	to	20,	6		3		9
,,	20	,,	30,	6	~~~	8		14
,,	30	,,	40,	6	~~~	16		22
,,	40	,,	50,	8	~~~	11	****	19
,,	50	,,	60,	4	*****	8		12
,,	60	,,	70,	5		2		7
"	70	,,	80,	0	~~~	1	*****	1
				35	~~~	49	~~~	84

TABLE V.

Occupation or Station in Life of Patients admitted.

MALES.

Bookbinder,	1	House-carpenter, 1
Blacksmiths,		Hawker, 1
Brushmaker,		Herd, 1
Carters,		Paupers, 2
Crofters,	2	Pensioner, 1
Coast-guard,	1	Prisoner, 1
Combmakers,		Labourers, 4
Dancing-master,		Shipmasters, 2
Farmers,	5	Shore-porter, 1
Farm Servants,	2	Solicitor, 1
Fishermen,	2	Shoemakers, 2
Gardeners,	2	Seaman, 1
House-painter,	1	No occupation, 3

FEMALES.

Housekeepers, 2	Spirit Dealer, 1
Lodging-house Keeper, 1	Teacher, 1
Midwife, 1	Vagrant, 1
Paupers,11	Washer, 1
Sewing, 1	No occupation,13
Servants, 7	

TABLE VI.

Form of Insanity in Cases admitted.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Amentia,	1	*****	1	~~~	2
Mania,	11	*****	19		31
Dementia,	11		10		21
Melancholia,	7	*****	12	*****	19
Monomania,	5	~~~	7	*****	12
	35	~~~	49	*****	84

TABLE VII.

Complication of Cases admitted with Nervous Disease.

	Males.		Females		Total.
Epilepsy, with Dementia,	4	*****	0	*****	4
Epilepsy, with Mania,	0	*****	1	20004	1
Paralysis, with Dementia,	3	*****	0		3
Paralysis, with Mania,	1		0	*****	1
			-		-
	8	*****	1	*****	9

TABLE VIII.

Complication of Cases admitted with Diseased Impulse.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Suicidal Impulse, with Melancholia,	1	*****	2	*****	3

TABLE IX.

Classification of admission in relation to history and previous Duration of the Case.

First attack, and under 3 months' previous duration,15.47	P Cent.
First attack, above 3 months' but under 1 year's do.,10.71	"
Not first attack, under 1 year's previous duration, 9.52	"
Cases above 1 year's previous duration,25.20	,,
Cases of unrecorded duration,	22

TABLE X.

Classification of the Nature of Causes assigned in Cases admitted.

Mental cause, in	9.54	P Cent.	
Physical cause, in	.38.28	,,	
Mental and Physical causes combined, in	.16.56	,,	
Causes unknown, in	.35.62	"	
Hereditary Predisposition, in	.27.32	,,	
Previous attack, in		22	

TABLE XI. Cases supposed attributable to Moral Cause.

No.	EXCITING CAUSE.	SEX.	Age.	FORM OF DISEASE.
1	Loss of employment,	M.	42	Mania (Paralysis).
2	Disappointment in love,	F.	32	Monomania.
3	Disappointment in love,	F.	33	Melancholia.
4	Pride,	F.	40	Dementia.
5	A quarrel,	F.	35	Mania.

TABLE XII.

Cases admitted attributed to Physical Exciting Cause.

No.	CAUSE.	Sex.	Age.	FORM OF DISEASE,
No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Childbirth, Change of life, Change of life, Epilepsy, Epilepsy, Epilepsy, Epilepsy, Injury of head, Intemperance, Intemperance, Intemperance, Intemperance, Intemperance,	F. F. M. M. M. M. M. M. M. M. M.	29 50 39 16 45 30 20 19 46 40 24 54 50 31	Dementia. Mania. Melancholia. Dementia. Dementia. Mania. Mania. Dementia. Mania. Melancholia. Melancholia. Melancholia. Monomania. Monomania. Monomania.
15 16 17	Intemperance,	F. M. F.	44 62 21	Mania. Mania. Melancholia.

TABLE XIII.

Cases admitted attributed to combined Moral & Physical Causes.

No.	MORAL CAUSE.	PHYSICAL CAUSE.	Sex.	Age	FORM OF DISORDER
1	A quarrel,	Hereditary tendency,	M.	66	Mania.
2	Domestic quarrel,	Nursing,	F.	44	Mania.
3	Want of training,	Poverty,	M.	19	Dementia.
4	Poverty,	Over-nursing,	F.	40	Melancholi
5	Poverty,	Change of life,	F.	45	Melancholi
6	Pecuniary anxiety,	Previous attack,	F.	45	Melanchol
7	Disappointed affection,	Dissipation,	F.	39	Mania.
8	Distressed filial affection,	Hereditary tendency,	F.	20	Mania.
10	Broken-off marriage,	Hereditary tendency,	F.	36	Monomani
11	Grief for husband's death,	Hereditary tendency,	F.	41	Monomani
12	Death of brother,	Hereditary tendency,	F.	40	Dementia.
13	Sudden death of sister	Hered, tendency, prev. attack,	F.	33	Mania.
14	Death of brother,	Spinal disease,	F.	28	Dementia.

TABLE XIV.

Cases Discharged Recovered.

	Physical Cause.	Hereditary tendency. Previous attack. Hereditary tendency and inflitemperance, [temperance.] Intemperance, prev. attack. Intemperance. Anxiety in business. Shock of contusion. Hereditary tendency. Hereditary tendency. Hereditary tendency. Hereditary tendency.
covered.	Moral Cause.	Supposed attempted En- [listment, Disappointed affection, Death of wife, death of brother, Disappointment in a matrimonial engagement,
The state of the s	Duration of Residence.	7 months, 10 weeks, 18 months, 5 months, 5 weeks, 13 year, 6 months, 6 years, 6 months, 194 months, 195 months, 2 months, 2 months, 3 months, 9 weeks, 9 weeks, 9 weeks, 9 weeks, 9 weeks, 2 yrs. 7 wks 9 months, 2 months, 2 months, 6 months, 6 months,
	Duration previous to Admission.	10 days, 2 weeks, 1 week, 5 months, 6 weeks, 1 week, 1 week, 1 week, 1 week, 2 months, 6 years, 1 week, 1 week, 1 week, 1 week, 1 week, 1 week,
	Form of Disorder.	Mania,
	Age.	81 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22
-	Sex.	HE HE HEEKEREEKEEKE
	No.	19847.00 113847.00 123 844
		. 17

TABLE XIV.—(Continued.)

Cases Discharged Recovered.

Physical Cause.	Nursing. Injury of head. Previous attack. Previous attack. Hereditary tendency. Hereditary tendency. Previous attack. Fever. Farturition. Hereditary tendency. Nursing and intemperance. Over-nursing. Previous attack. Hereditary tendency. Intemperance. Intemperance. Hereditary disposition.
Moral Cause.	Domestic quarrel,
Duration of Residence.	2 months, 3 months, 7 months, 9 years, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 13 months, 14 years, 15 months, 16 months, 17 weeks, 18 months, 19 months, 10 weeks, 10 weeks, 10 weeks, 10 weeks, 10 weeks, 11 weeks, 12 months, 13 months, 14 months, 15 months, 16 months, 17 months, 18 months, 18 months, 19 months, 10 weeks, 10 weeks, 10 weeks, 110 w
Duration previous to Admission.	2 months, 10 days, 8 months, 3 weeks, 10 days, 10 days, 2 weeks, 7 weeks, 7 weeks, 7 weeks, 7 weeks, 7 weeks, 7 weeks, 8 months, 9 ars, 7 weeks, 9 anoths,
Form of Disorder.	Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania, Melania, Dementia, Dementia, Dementia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Monomania, Monomania, Monomania, Monomania, Monomania, Monomania, Monomania, Monomania, Monomania,
Age.	444 452 460 471 472 473 473 474 474 474 475 475 476 477 477 477 477 477 477 477 477 477
Sex.	医民民民民民民民政政政政政政政政政政政政政
No.	25 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

TABLE XV.

	CAUSE OF DEATH.	Exhaustion. Paralysis. Phthisis. Cancer. Jaundice. Epilepsy. Paralysis. Paralysis. Phthisis. Disease of Brain. Consumption. Exhaustion. Ileus. Gradual decay. Phthisis. Disease of Heart. Exhaustion. Gradual decay. Phthisis. Disease of Brain. Disease of Brain. Disease of Brain.
	Duration of Residence.	7 days, months, 18 months, 20 years, months, 23 years, months,
Deaths.	CAUSE,	Hereditary tend. and prev. attack, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Parturition, Death of brother, Pride, Grief for death of child, Intemperance, Intemperance, Injury of head, Previous attack,
	FORM OF DISORDER.	Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania, Mania (Epilepsy), Mania (Epilepsy), Dementia, Dementia, Dementia, Dementia, Dementia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Melancholia, Monomania, Monomania,
	Age.	66 68 68 68 68 68 68 68 68 68 68 68 68 6
-	Sex.	城京京京京京京京京京京京京京
	No.	1 2 8 4 7 5 9 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
		10

TABLE XVI.

Results, at present date, of admission, of 56 years,

Year.	Admitted.	Recovered	Relieved,	Dead.	Remaining, Dec. 31, 1857.
1800-20	387	30	03	83	1
1821	55	28	19	7	î
1822	44	21	12	11	o
1823	39	12	15	12	0
1824	38	20	12	4	
1825	52	23	19	19	2
1826	41	22	10	7	2
1827	36	15	13	7	1
1828	32	16	8	5	3
1829	46	16	18	11	1
1830	59	30	11	16	2
1831	33	13	8	11	1
1832	33	15	6	11	1
1833	42	19	14	9	0
1834	50	19	23	6	2
1835	42	22	7	10	3
1836	41	17	12	9	3
1837	43	17	10	14	2 3
1838	53	23	10	17	3
1839	74	32	17	18	7
1840	48	25	11	8	4
1841	56	21	15	14	€
1842	51	22	14	8	7
1843	71	38	13	13	7
1844	74	34	19	13	8
1845	93	47	21	19	6
1846	67	29	20	12	6
1847	95	48	19	18	10
1848	83	41	23	13	6
1849	81	36	18	13	14
1850	69	35	12	12	10
1851	85	37	17	13	18
1852	95	48	22	9	16
1853	107	47	17	22	21
1854	65	26 37	15	9 6	15 13
1855 1856	103	50	10	9	34
1857	84	15	3	9	57
1001	04	10	-		-01
	2628	18	23	511	294

TABLE XVII.

General Results of the last 28 years.

Year.	Mean	ed.	d.					
-	Number Resident.		Recovered.	Dead,	per cent. to Ad- missions.	Recovered per cent. to mean No. Resident.		Deaths per cent, to mean No Resident.
1830	102	59	27	8	45.77	26 57	13 56	7.84
	100	33	1	12	42.42	14.00	36.36	12:00
1831 1832	106	33	14 15	10	45 45	14.15	30 30	9.43
1833	107	42	23	14	54.76	21.51	33 33	13.08
1834	114	50	16	6	32.00	14.91	12 00	5.26
1835	116	42	20	11	47.61	18:10	26.19	9.48
1836	109	41	24	5	58 53	22.02	12 19	4 59
1837	113	43	16	8	39 53	14.16	18 60	7.08
1838	124	53	20	14	37.73	16.13	26 41	11.29
1839	140	74	26	10	35.13	18.57	13:51	7.14
1840	144	48	25	19	52.08	17:36	39.58	13.19
1841	150	56	22	10	39.29	14 66	17.86	6.67
1842	152	51	26	11	50.98	17.10	21.57	7.24
1843	167	71	28	12	39.44	17.18	16.90	7.19
1844	183	74	30	7	40.54	16.39	9 43	3 83
1845	200	93	41	13	44.09	20.05	13.98	6.50
1846	213	67	29	12	43.28	13.14	17 91	5.63
1847	222	95	40	23	42.10	18 02	24.21	10 36
1848	229	82	47	17	57:31	20.52	20.73	7 42
1849	229	83	36	16	43.36	15 70	19.27	6.98
1850	230	69	32	17	46.37	13.91	24 91	7.39
1851	245	85	32	20	37 64	13.06	23.53	8:16
1852	263	95	42	18	44.21	15.97	18.94	6.84
1853	280	107	54	21	50.46	. 19.28	17.75	7 50
1854	281	65	39	19	60.00	13.87	29.23	6.75
1855	274	61	31	9	50.82	11.31	14.75	3.29
1856	291	103	44	20	42.72	15.12	19.41	6.87
1857	299	84	50	21	59.52	16.79	25.00	7.02
100,					0002			
Sum and	5183	1859	849	383	THE REST			
Average of 28 years.	185.10	63.93	30.32	13.67	45.66	16.39	20.60	7.03

TABLE XVIII.

Abstract of Daily Returns, showing Occupation, &c., of Patients remaining in the Hospital.

	Males.	Females	Total
Number of Patients in the Asylum,	142	152	294
,, in Front House,	25	20	45
in Back House,	52	37	89
,, in East Wing,		85	85
,, in West Wing,	65		65
in Barkmill House		10	10
Number of Patients employed,	58	100	158
" in Gardening,	42		42
" in Workshops,	10		10
,, in Needlework,		39	39
,, in Knitting,		9	9
,, in Laundry Work,		20	20
,, in Domestic Work,	6	32	38
Number of Patients in Bed,	3	9	12
,, in Seclusion,	1		1
Number of Patients attending Chapel on Week Days,	43	59	102
Number of Patients attending Chapel on Sundays,	71	81	152

TABLE XIX.

Articles of Clothing Made and Repaired from 1st April, 1857, to 31st December.

Articles.	Made.	Repaired.	Articles.	Made.	Repaired	
Coats,	43	428	Shoes (Pairs),	181	307	
Vests,	56	493	Shifts,	169	361	
Jackets,	6	52	Petticoats,	170	555	
Linders,	185	899	Gowns,	101	399	
Drawers,	88	969	Neckerchiefs,	185	326	
Strong Dresses,	19	97	Aprons,	211	535	
Beds,	1	46	Day Caps,	219	333	
Sheets,	177	288	Night Caps,	196	463	
Towels,	171	113	Bedgowns,	86	138	
Bolster Slips,	58	192	Slips,	16	12	
Pillow Slips,	81	195	Wrappers,	58	74	
Carpets,	8	12	Habit Shirts,	74	44	
Trousers,	65	595	Collars,	42	12	
Shirts,	116	688	Bed Covers,	46	101	
Stockings (Pairs),	144	6122	Bed Ticks,	54	108	
Caps,	1	30	Bolster Ticks,	39	78	
Table Cloths,	16	22	Stays,	1	14	
Bed Quilts,		18	Blankets,	39	33	

Royal Infirmary,

14th June, 1858.

At a Quarterly Court of the Managers held here this day, the Medical Report of the ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM having been read by Dr. Jamieson, was approved of, and ordered to be printed and circulated, along with an Abstract of the Income and Expenditure.

LEWIS SMITH, Preses.

ABSTRACT

OF THE

Income & Expenditure of the Lunatic Asylum,

FOR ONE YEAR, ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1858.

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IN			VI I	
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INCOME.			
Legacies,	£25	0	0
Bedlam Fund,		0	0
Legacy by Dr. Dun (Income from it),	35	1	1
Ground under Crop,	239	7	8
Bequest-George, James, and Alexander Chalmers, Turriff,	30	0	0
Cottage, Mary Place,	9	16	9
Joiner's Account,	1	17	ő
Shoemaker's Account,	7	15	5
Board for Patients,	6653		4
Doard for Tadelles,	0000	10	*
	£7032	17	3
	21002	11	9
EXPENDITURE.			
Provisions	2794	6	5
Provisions,	370		11
Washing	57	13	5
Washing,	38	10	8
Medicines,	70	17	8
Wine, Spirits, and Porter,	73	-	2
Repairs,	413	0	0
Furniture and Bedding,	236	12	-
Salaries to Medical Officers,	400	0	0
Do. to Chaplain,	50	0	0
Do. to Treasurer,	130	0	0
Do. to House Steward,		10	0
Do. to Matron,	70	0	0
Servants Wages,	568	7	10
Incidents, Insurance, Printing, Stationery, and Annuity,	233	11	3
Interest,	339	17	0
Clothing for Pauper Patients,	279	10	0
	-		-
	£6133	9	4
Income above Expenditure,	899	7	11
	-	-	
	£7032	17	3

WM. WALKER, Treasurer.

£270 0 0

The following LEGACIES have been received betwixt 31st March, 1857, and 1st April, 1858:—

Grant allocated by Mr. Ferguson's Trustees from his Legacy of £50,000 for charitable purposes, &c. by the hands of John Smith, Esq. Irvine, factor to the estate, ... £200 0 0 Right Rev. Bishop Skinner, per William Skinner, Esq. advocate, 25 0 0 Mr. James Moncur, coachman, Woodhill, £50—less Duty, £5, 45 0 0