

Medical report of the Royal Lunatic Asylum of Aberdeen, for the year ending 31st December, 1858.

Contributors

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MEDICAL REPORT

OF

The Royal Lunatic Asylum

OF ABERDEEN,

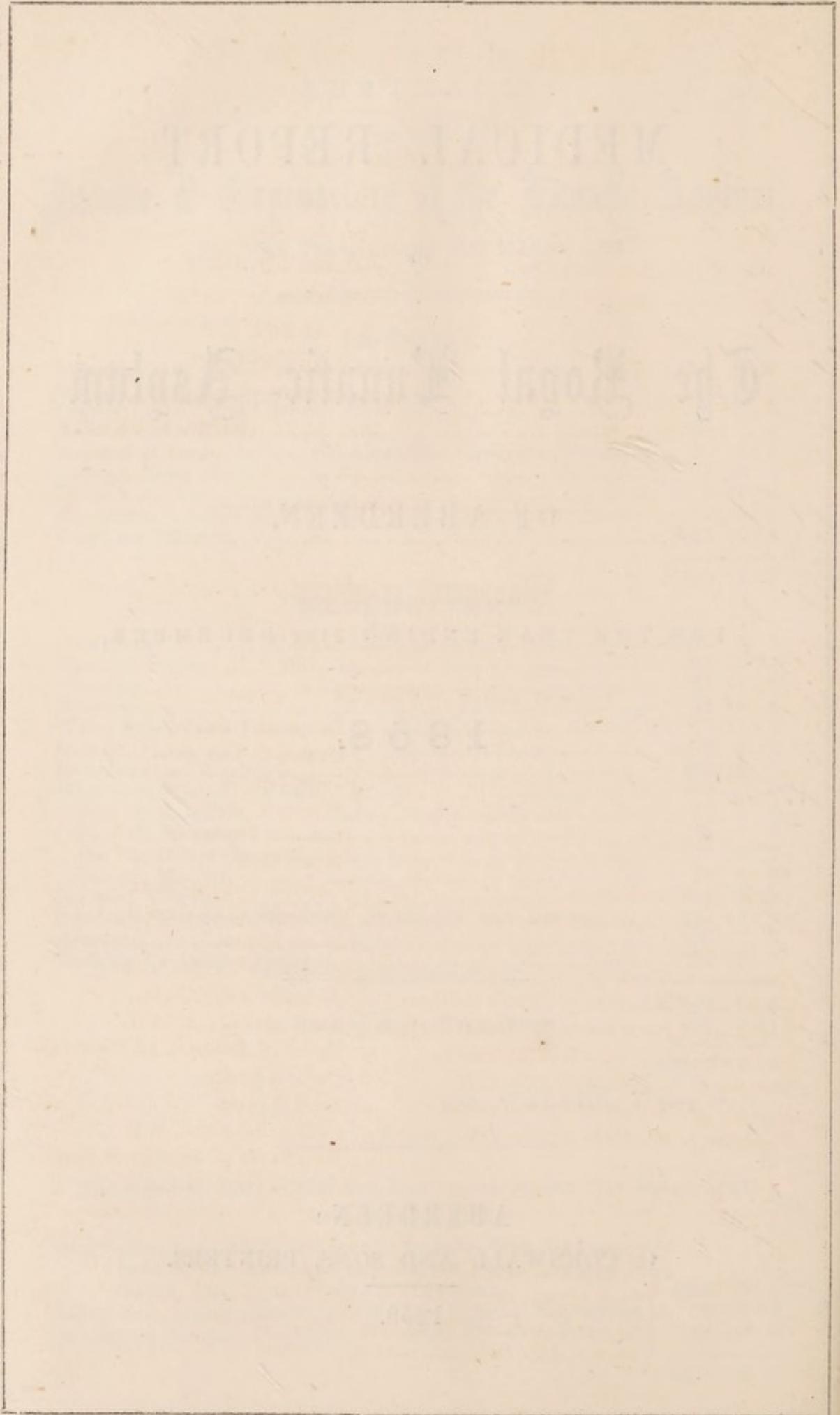
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER,

1858.

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1859

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MEDICAL REPORT.

THE following Report, with its Appendices, gives the history of the Aberdeen Asylum during the twelve months subsequent to 1st January, 1858. At that date there were, as appears from recently published authority, 2380 insane persons under confinement in the eight Public Asylums of the Northern division of the kingdom ; 294, or just about an eighth part of the whole, being in the Aberdeen Asylum. Of these 294, 218 were Parochial cases, and 76 others were Private Patients at various rates of board. During the year, 102 new cases were admitted, of whom more than nine-tenths belonged to the County of Aberdeen, and about a third were received as Private Patients. There have been, it will be found, in all, nearly 400 cases under the treatment and care of the establishment during the period reported upon, and an average of about 295 daily resident.

The results at the end of the year have been, that 15 patients have died, and 91 have been removed ; 39 as recovered from their malady, and 52 in various states ; the unusually large number this year removed in an

uncured state being attributable to the bearing of the recent Act on the position of Pauper Lunatics residing in other than District Asylums, as well as to the strenuous endeavours of the Committee of Management to render the Hospital accommodation to the utmost available to the demands of Aberdeenshire Parishes.

In regard to Medical results, although the relative number of cures has not been equal to the high average of the past half-dozen years, it has yet been above the general average of the Scottish Asylums in reference to the period under review ; and, as respects the ordinary sanitary condition of its inmates, let it be sufficient to report, that it may be gathered from statements in the recently published Annual Report of the General Board of Lunacy Commissioners, that the rate of mortality in the Aberdeen Asylum has been less than in any Asylum within their jurisdiction, and very much, indeed, under the average of mortality in such like institutions even in Scotland ; for while, in the Private Houses, it has been nearly 8 per cent. on the mean number resident, and in the Public Asylums betwixt 8 and 9, at Aberdeen it has been little more than 3.

The year passed by without the occurrence of any accident worth noticing.

The only circumstance in its statistical features differing in any marked particular from corresponding statements in previous Annual Returns,—in addition to the exceptionally large number of inmates dismissed unrecovered as already referred to,—is, the larger number distinguishing females in the columns representing the relative proportion of sexes, for which no cause seems

attributable, other than the supposition that female lunatics had been hitherto,—that is, until the operation of the new law,—allowed, for the saving of expense, to accumulate in out-of-the-way country districts, as being comparatively less dangerous than male lunatics to be left at large, and more easy and less important to be provided for. This influx of incurables unfavourably affects the Medical statistics of the year, and will do so for some years to come.

Two statutory visits were made in 1858 by the Lunacy Commissioners to this establishment, at each of which all parts of the house were inspected, every patient seen, the history of certain cases investigated, and the legality and accuracy of warrants and registers examined, and various suggestions and critical remarks entered in the record of visit. Amongst the matters more particularly noticed with commendation were, the amount of personal liberty advantageously allowed, the domestic character of the hospital, the superior style of accommodation at very moderate rates now afforded to the private class of patients, the substitution of hair mattresses generally in place of chaff in the beds of the poorer class, the organization of an extended and improved system of night-watching, and the experimental addition of two detached cottages for occupation by some of the more orderly and aged class of female paupers.

Partly in deference to suggestions for further improvement, a slight addition has been made to the minimum diet of parochial cases, and it has been determined upon to proceed with a previously contemplated enlargement of the sitting-rooms in use by the inmates during

the day, to improve the condition of the airing-courts in several particulars, and to extend the present grounds of the Institution. Such an enlargement of space, besides being requisite for the adequate development of the Asylum to the necessities of the district, will allow many delayed improvements to be introduced, and afford an opportunity for the commencement of several important changes which have been brought under the consideration of the Managers, and which they have seen fit to determine on adopting.

ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D.,

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

13th June, 1859.

T A B L E S.

TABLE I.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, 1st January, 1858,.....	142	152	294
Admitted during the year,.....	37	65	102
Under care and treatment during the year,.....	179	217	396
<i>Removed during the year :—</i>			
Recovered,.....	13	26	39
Relieved,.....	11	16	27
Unimproved,.....	12	13	25
Dead,.....	5	10	15
	—	41	65
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st Dec. 1858,.....	138	152	290

TABLE II.

RELATIVE NUMBER OF PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL CASES.

	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
Private cases in Asylum, 1st						
Jan. 1858,.....	47	29	76			
Do. admitted during the year	15	20	35			
Total of Private cases } during the year, }				62	49	111
Parochial cases in Asylum, 1st						
Jan. 1858,.....	95	123	218			
Do. admitted during the year	22	45	67			
Total of Parochial cases } during the year, }				117	168	285
Total number of cases,.....				179	217	396

TABLE III.

CLASSIFICATION OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVE TO PLACES OF RESIDENCE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From Aberdeen and Suburbs,.....	18	33	51
From Aberdeenshire,.....	15	27	42
From more distant Localities,.....	4	5	9
	37	65	102

TABLE IV.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single,.....	21	38	59
Married,.....	12	22	34
Widowed,.....	4	5	9
	37	65	102

TABLE V.

AGE OF PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING THE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 10 to 20,.....	4	4	8
,, 20 ,, 30,.....	10	15	25
,, 30 ,, 40,.....	11	12	23
,, 40 ,, 50,.....	7	18	25
,, 50 ,, 60,.....	3	7	10
,, 60 ,, 70,.....	1	5	6
,, 70 ,, 80,.....	1	4	5
	37	65	102

TABLE VI.

OCCUPATION OR STATION IN LIFE OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

M A L E S.

Architect,.....	1	Lamplighter,.....	1
Blacksmiths,.....	4	Officer in Army,.....	1
Cattle Dealer,.....	1	Paupers,.....	3
Commercial Traveller,.....	1	Pensioner,.....	1
Clerk,.....	1	Ropemaker,.....	1
Coopers,.....	2	Sailor,.....	1
Druggist,.....	1	Shepherd,.....	1
Exciseman,.....	1	Spirit Dealer,.....	1
Fisherman,.....	1	Weaver,.....	1
Farm Servants,.....	5	Wright,.....	1
House Painter,.....	1	Warehouseman,.....	1
Labourers,.....	5		

F E M A L E S.

Bootbinder,.....	1	Lodging-house Keeper,.....	1
Carpenter's Widow,.....	1	Mill Worker,.....	1
Crofter's Wife,.....	1	Masons' Wives,.....	2
Carter's Wife,.....	1	Paupers,.....	14
Dressmakers.....	2	Servants,.....	11
Farmer's Wife,.....	1	Sempstresses,.....	2
Farmer's Daughter,.....	1	Ship Carpenter's Wife,.....	1
Factory Worker,.....	1	Shopkeeper's Wife,.....	1
Fish-seller,.....	1	Teacher's Wife,.....	1
Gardener's Wife,.....	1	Toll-keeper's Wife,.....	1
Housekeeper,.....	2	Weaver's Wife,.....	1
Hand-loom Weaver,.....	1	Wrights' Wives,.....	2
Knitter,.....	1	Washerwoman,.....	1
Labourer's Wives,.....	2	No occupation,.....	9

TABLE VII.

FORM OF INSANITY IN CASES ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Delirium,.....	1	2	3
Amentia,.....	2	4	6
Mania,.....	14	25	39
Dementia,.....	10	12	22
Melancholia,.....	7	13	20
Monomania,.....	3	9	12
	37	65	102

TABLE VIII.

COMPLICATION OF CASES ADMITTED WITH NERVOUS DISEASE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Epilepsy, with Dementia,	1	0	1
Epilepsy, with Mania,	2	1	3
Paralysis, with Dementia,	2	1	3
	—	—	—
	5	2	7

TABLE IX.

COMPLICATION OF CASES ADMITTED WITH DISEASED IMPULSE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Suicidal Impulse, with Melancholia,	2	5	7
Suicidal Impulse, with Monomania,	0	1	1
Suicidal Impulse, with Mania,	1	1	2
	—	—	—
	3	7	10

TABLE X.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NATURE OF CAUSES ASSIGNED IN CASES ADMITTED.

Causes assignable, in about.....	69	Ψ	Cent.
Moral cause, in	13	"	
Physical cause, in.....	56	"	
Moral and Physical causes combined, in	5	"	
Causes unknown, in.....	33	"	
Hereditary predisposition, in.....	28	"	
Previous attack, in.....	25	"	

TABLE XI.

CASES ADMITTED SUPPOSED ATTRIBUTABLE TO MORAL CAUSE.

No.	EXCITING CAUSE.	Sex.	Age.	FORM OF DISEASE.
1	Death of sister,	F.	25	Melancholia.
2	Death of relatives,	F.	28	Mania.
3	Death of husband,	F.	45	Monomania.
4	Death of infant child,	F.	48	Dementia.
5	Death of son,	F.	58	Mania.
6	Fright,	M.	14	Dementia Epilept.
7	Overstress of mind,	M.	28	Mania.
8	Poverty,	F.	45	Monomania.
9	Disappointment in love,	M.	29	Melancholia.
10	{ Injudicious treatment after recovery from insanity, }	M.	46	Mania.

TABLE XII.

CASES ADMITTED ATTRIBUTED TO COMBINED MORAL AND PHYSICAL CAUSES.

No.	MORAL CAUSE.	PHYSICAL CAUSE.	Sex.	Age.	FORM OF DISORDER.
1	Fright,	Intemperance,	M.	58	Mania.
2	Devotional excitement,	Hereditary tendency	M.	19	Mania.
3	Accident to husband,	Nursing,	F.	44	Dementia.
4	Fright,	Childbirth,	F.	30	Dementia.
5	A quarrel,	Hereditary tendency	F.	48	Mania.

TABLE XIII.

CASES ADMITTED ATTRIBUTED TO PHYSICAL EXCITING CAUSE.

No	CAUSE.	Sex.	Age.	FORM OF DISEASE.
1	Childbirth,	F.	19	Mania.
2	Childbirth,	F.	20	Mania.
3	Childbirth,	F.	23	Mania.
4	Childbirth,	F.	25	Mania.
5	Childbirth,	F.	29	Mania.
6	Childbirth,	F.	29	Mania.
7	Childbirth,	F.	25	Melancholia.
8	Childbirth,	F.	35	Dementia.
9	Nursing,	F.	30	Mania.
10	Nursing,	F.	33	Melancholia.
11	Nursing,	F.	41	Melancholia.
12	Change of Life,	F.	49	Melancholia.
13	Fever,	F.	30	Delirium.
14	Thoracic Disease (acute), . . .	M.	45	Delirium.
15	Injury of Head,	M.	50	Monomania.
16	Cerebral Disease,	M.	30	Mania.
17	Cerebral Disease,	M.	36	Dementia paralytica.
18	Cerebral Disease,	M.	64	Melancholia
19	Epilepsy,	M.	35	Mania.
20	Epilepsy,	M.	42	Mania.
21	Chloroformization,	F.	44	Mania.
22	Spermatorrhea,	M.	27	Melancholia.
23	Intemperance,	M.	30	Monomania.
24	Intemperance,	M.	34	Delirium.
25	Intemperance,	M.	38	Mania.
26	Intemperance,	M.	40	Monomania.
27	Intemperance,	M.	41	Mania.
28	Intemperance,	M.	60	Mania.
29	Intemperance,	M.	60	Dementia.
30	Intemperance,	F.	34	Monomania.
31	Intemperance,	F.	44	Mania.
32	Intemperance,	F.	46	Dementia.
33	Intemperance,	F.	64	Monomania.
34	Intemperance,	F.	70	Mania.

TABLE XIV.

CASES DISCHARGED RECOVERED.

No.	Sex.	Form of Mental Disorder.	Causes of Disorder.	Duration of Residence.
				M. W. D.
1	M.	Delirium,	Intemperance,	3 3 0
2	M.	Delirium,	Thoracic Disease,	2 3 0
3	M.	Mania,	Epilepsy,	11 0 0
4	M.	Mania,	Hereditary tendency,	5 1 0
5	M.	Mania,	Hereditary tendency,	2 2 4
6	M.	Mania, . . . . .	. . . . .	2 2 5
7	M.	Mania, . . . . .	. . . . .	3 0 0
8	M.	Mania,	Poverty and hereditary tendency, . . .	14 5 1
9	M.	Mania, . . . . .	. . . . .	6 0 4
10	F.	Mania, . . . . .	. . . . .	9 1 3
11	F.	Mania,	Intemperance,	1 3 0
12	F.	Mania,	Intemperance and dissipation,	8 0 0
13	F.	Mania,	Intemperance,	6 3 0
14	F.	Mania,	Hereditary tendency,	4 2 2
15	F.	Mania,	Childbirth,	1 3 4
16	F.	Mania,	Distressed filial affection & her. ten.	10 1 0
17	F.	Mania,	Childbirth and desertion,	3 0 0
18	F.	Mania,	Hereditary tendency & prev. attack,	3 0 0
19	F.	Mania,	Domestic disagreement & do.	12 0 0
20	F.	Mania,	Dissipation,	17 1 1
21	F.	Mania,	Childbirth,	1 1 6
22	M.	Dementia,	Poverty and hereditary tendency, . . .	25 2 2
23	F.	Dementia,	Intemperance,	1 3 4
24	F.	Dementia,	Nursing and death of infant,	3 1 2
25	F.	Dementia,	Nursing and previous attack,	3 3 6
26	M.	Melancholia (suicidal), . . .	Cerebral disease,	3 2 0
27	M.	Melancholia (hypochond.),	Cerebral disease & previous attack,	13 3 0
28	M.	Melancholia (hypochond.)	. . . . .	15 1 5
29	F.	Melancholia,	Change of life and hereditary ten. . .	8 2 3
30	F.	Melancholia (suicidal), . . .	. . . . .	5 1 2
31	F.	Melancholia,	Pecuniary anxiety,	6 3 2
32	F.	Melancholia,	Abuse of opium,	26 2 3
33	F.	Melancholia,	Change of life,	2 2 0
34	F.	Melancholia,	Change of life,	4 0 0
35	F.	Melancholia,	Intemperance and hereditary tend..	19 2 0
36	F.	Melancholia,	Hereditary tend. and prev. attack, . . .	5 2 1
37	F.	Melancholia,	Nursing,	2 3 5
38	F.	Monomania, . . . . .	. . . . .	5 1 0
39	F.	Monomania,	Intemperance,	1 3 2

TABLE XV.
DEATHS.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Mental Disorder.	Causes.	Duration of Residence.	Cause of Death.	
					V.	M.	w.
1	F.	47	Mania,	Death of husband, hereditary tendency,~~~	0	3	1
2	M.	73	Melancholia,	~~~	2	3	3
3	F.	41	Melancholia,	~~~	0	3	4
4	M.	38	Dementia,	Ill treatment in youth,~~~~~	11	6	2
5	M.	43	Dementia,	Intemperance and hereditary tendency,~~~	3	7	1
6	M.	52	Dementia,	Intemperance,~~~~~	1	4	4
7	M.	61	Dementia,	Intemperance,~~~~~	0	5	2
8	F.	35	Dementia,	Childbirth and cerebral disease,~~~~~	0	7	3
9	F.	40	Dementia,	Cerebral disease from anxiety & overwork,	0	11	0
10	F.	41	Dementia,	Cerebral disease, hereditary tendency,~~~	13	8	2
11	F.	48	Dementia,	Intemperance,~~~~~	7	8	2
12	F.	50	Dementia,	Cardiac disease and hereditary tendency,	6	0	1
13	F.	61	Dementia,	Heredity tendency,~~~~~	0	5	3
14	F.	68	Dementia,	Heredity tendency,~~~~~	3	0	0
15	F.	30	Delirium,	Exposure to cold,~~~~~	0	0	3
							Fever.

TABLE XVI.

RESULTS, AT PRESENT DATE, OF ADMISSIONS OF 57 YEARS.

Year.	Admitted.	Recovered.	Relieved, &c.	Dead.	Remaining Dec. 31, 1858.
1800-20	387	303		83	1
1821	55	28	19	7	0
1822	44	21	12	11	0
1823	39	12	15	12	2
1824	38	20	12	4	1
1825	52	23	19	19	2
1826	41	22	10	7	1
1827	36	15	13	7	3
1828	32	16	8	5	1
1829	46	16	18	11	1
1830	59	30	12	16	1
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	11	14	1
1838	53	23	10	17	3
1839	75	32	18	18	6
1840	48	25	11	8	4
1841	56	21	15	14	6
1842	51	22	14	8	7
1843	71	38	16	13	4
1844	74	34	19	14	6
1845	93	47	21	19	6
1846	67	29	20	12	5
1847	95	48	19	18	10
1848	83	41	23	13	6
1849	81	36	20	13	12
1850	69	35	12	14	18
1851	85	37	22	13	13
1852	95	48	27	9	11
1853	107	47	22	23	15
1854	65	26	16	10	13
1855	61	37	7	6	11
1856	103	52	13	12	26
1857	84	30	16	10	28
1858	102	30	8	3	57
	2730	1914		526	290

TABLE XVII.
General Results of the last 29 years.

Year.	Mean Number Resident.	Admitted.	Recovered.	Dead.	Recovered per cent. to Admissions.	Recovered per cent. to mean No. Resident.	Deaths per cent to Admiss.	Deaths per cent. to mean No. Resident.
1830	102	59	27	8	45·77	26·57	13·56	7·84
1831	100	33	14	12	42·42	14·00	36·36	12·00
1832	106	33	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	199	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	9·46	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
1858	295	102	39	15	38·23	13·22	14·70	5·08
Sum and Average of 29 years.	5478	1961	888	398				
	188·89	67·62	30·62	13·72	45·29	16·31	21·28	

TABLE XVIII.

ABSTRACT OF DAILY RETURNS, SHOWING OCCUPATION, &c. OF PATIENTS
REMAINING IN THE HOSPITAL.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Number of Patients in the Asylum, 31st Dec. 1859,	138	152	290
" in Front House,.....	22	22	44
" in Back House,.....	49	35	84
" in East Wing,.....	0	75	75
" in West Wing,.....	67	0	67
" in Barkmill House,.....	0	10	10
" in Gate Cottage,.....	0	10	10
Number of Patients Sick, 31st Dec. 1858,.....	1	6	7
" Employed,.....	42	105	147
" Unemployed, except in exercise or amusement,.....	96	43	139
" Attend Chapel,	71	98	169

TABLE XIX.

ARTICLES OF CLOTHING MADE AND REPAIRED, FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1858,
TO JANUARY, 1859.

	Made.	Repaired.		Made.	Repaired.
Aprons,.....	256	484	Habit Shirts,.....	35	56
Beds,.....	0	10	Jackets,.....	13	150
Bed Gowns,.....	48	156	Linders,.....	226	1327
Bed Covers,.....	38	28	Neckerchiefs,.....	229	88
Bed Ticks,.....	16	18	Petticoats,.....	192	605
Bed Quilts (Strong),.	0	8	Pillow Slips,.....	150	218
Bolster Slips,.....	90	269	Pillow Ticks,.....	16	28
Bolster Ticks,.....	24	36	Sheets,.....	160	311
Blankets,.....	50	38	Stays,.....	0	15
Coats,.....	37	322	Slips,.....	10	16
Collars,.....	43	23	Shifts,.....	152	568
Caps (cloth),.....	3	24	Shirts,.....	91	704
Caps (day)	186	312	Stockings (Pairs)...	113	6261
Caps (night),.....	149	283	Table Cloths,.....	15	32
Carpets,.....	2	8	Towels,.....	58	38
Dresses (Strong),...	0	6	Trousers,.....	68	425
Drawers,.....	70	863	Vests,	56	282
Frocks,.....	0	89	Wrappers,.....	43	59
Gowns,.....	137	453			

Royal Infirmary,

13th June, 1859.

*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 ap-
proved of, and ordered to be printed and circulated, along
with an Abstract of the Income and Expenditure.*

JOHN WEBSTER, Provost, P.

A B S T R A C T
OF THE
Income and Expenditure of the Lunatic Asylum,
FOR ONE YEAR, ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1859.

I N C O M E.

Bedlam Fund,.....	£30	0	0
Legacy by Dr. Dun (Income from it)	33	19	5
Ground under Crop,.....	188	16	3
Bequest—George, James, and Alexander Chalmers, Turriff,..	30	0	0
Joiner's Account,.....	1	14	2
Shoemaker's Account,.....	15	17	4
Board for Patients,.....	6494	19	0
	£6795	6	2

E X P E N D I T U R E.

Provisions,.....	2951	6	2
Fire and Light,.....	393	19	9
Washing,.....	52	4	0
Medicines,.....	20	1	5
Wine, Spirits, and Porter,.....	73	3	3
Repairs,.....	262	3	5
Furniture and Bedding,.....	226	18	9
Salaries to Medical Officers,.....	450	0	0
Do. to Chaplain,.....	50	0	0
Do. to Treasurer,.....	130	0	0
Do. to House Steward,.....	72	10	0
Do. to Matron,.....	70	0	0
Servants' Wages,.....	613	12	4
Incidents, Insurance, Printing, Stationery, and Annuity,.....	381	19	3
Interest,.....	258	12	3
Clothing for Pauper Patients,.....	323	9	8
	£6330	0	3
Income above Expenditure,.....	465	5	11
	£6795	6	2

W.M. WALKER, *Treasurer.*

*The following LEGACY has been received betwixt 31st March, 1858,
and 1st April, 1859 :—*

Mrs. Helen Catto or Stewart Gordon, per George Walker, Esq. advocate,.....	£103	12	0
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G. CORNWALL & SONS, PRINTERS, ABERDEEN.