

Eighth annual report of the Argyll and Bute District Lunatic Asylum at Lochgilphead.

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EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARGYLL AND BUTE
DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM
AT
LOCHGILPHEAD.



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1871.

THE
DISTRICT


AND
DISTRICT



OF THE
DISTRICT

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REPORT
OF THE
DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD
TO THE
COMMISSIONERS OF SUPPLY
FOR THE COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

THE District Board has the satisfaction of reporting that the addition to the Asylum and relative structural alterations are on the eve of completion.

From the satisfactory manner in which the work has been executed, there is every reason to believe that the favourable anticipations expressed by Sir James Coxe, in his minute of 3rd June, 1869, will not be disappointed. Referring to the very serious difficulties under which the management of the house was conducted, arising from the extensive structural alterations and additions then in progress, by which the accommodation would be doubled, not by the mere addition of new buildings, but by the remodelling and enlarging of almost every part of the existing structure, he added, "The result is exceedingly satisfactory, and affords a very sure indication, that, when the alterations are completed, the district will possess an Asylum which will take high rank amongst similar institutions."

The lunatics belonging to the County of Bute were admitted in May last.

As it was found necessary to obtain an increased supply of water for the Asylum, arrangements were made for that purpose, and the works are now in progress. It is expected that they will be completed within two months from this date.

The District Board deemed it desirable to have the Asylum Buildings insured for the sum of £25,130.

Dr. Sibbald, who had been Superintendent of the Asylum since its opening, having been appointed a Deputy Commissioner in Lunacy, resigned in May last. The District Board appointed James Rutherford, Esq., M.D., formerly Assistant Superintendent of the Birmingham Asylum, to be his successor.

A reduction has been effected in the weekly cost of patients. From nine shillings and sixpence the charge has been reduced to eight shillings and ninepence a week for each patient. The yearly saving thereby effected, calculating on the number of patients at present in the Asylum, is upwards of £340.

It is recommended that an assessment yielding £1,500 should be made for the ensuing year, apportioned on the County and Burghs.

For further particulars, reference is made to the Medical Superintendent's Report, and to the entries made by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, on the occasions of their respective inspections of the Asylum.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL.
JOHN RAMSAY.
W. J. B. MARTIN.

LOCHGILPHEAD, 5th April, 1871.

ABSTRACT OF THE ACCOUNTS

OF THE

ARGYLL DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 15TH MARCH, 1871.

I.—MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AND SALARIES.

CHARGE.

BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF MAINTENANCE, 15TH MARCH, 1870, ...	£480	8	8
BOARD OF PATIENTS FOR YEAR, ...	4,240	2	2
ARREARS OF BOARD UNPAID AT 15TH MARCH, 1870, ...	191	17	3
INTEREST ON ARREARS OF BOARD AND BANK ACCOUNT, ...	15	6	4
ADVANCES REPAID, ...	21	17	11
BALANCE OF LAST YEAR'S ADVANCES REPAID, ...	1	19	9
SALES OF FARM PRODUCE, ...	64	14	10
FARM PRODUCE UNPAID AT 15TH MARCH, 1870, ...	29	5	0
FARM PRODUCE SUPPLIED TO ASYLUM, ...	724	6	6
AMOUNT RECEIVED BY FARM FROM NEW BUILDING ACCOUNT, ...	18	8	0
FOR CARTAGE, ...			
			<u>£5,788 6 5</u>

DISCHARGE.

PROVISIONS—			
Butcher Meat, ...	£386	0	3
Fish, ...	70	15	10
Flour and Oatmeal, ...	201	14	1
Barley and Rice, ...	51	13	6
Tea, Coffee, &c., ...	60	6	4
Sugar and Treacle, ...	68	15	10
Cheese, Eggs, &c., ...	15	6	8
Butter, ...	118	2	1½
Sundry Groceries, ...	10	2	1
Potatoes and other Vegetables, ...	178	8	8
Bread, ...	346	17	6
Milk, ...	241	10	8
			<u>£1,749 13 6½</u>
MEDICINES, &c.—			
Medicine, ...	£25	12	0
Malt and Spirituous Liquors, ...	43	18	9
Tobacco and Snuff, ...	39	1	9
			<u>99 12 6</u>
HOUSE AND OTHER EXPENSES—			
Fuel, ...	£212	13	6
Light, ...	70	6	3
Soap, Soda, &c., ...	40	8	2
Earthenware and Glass, ...	6	18	2
Stationery, Printing, Postages, &c., ...	47	3	5½
Books and Amusements, ...	34	10	2
Freight and Cartage, ...	39	2	5
Incidental Expenses, ...	26	9	0
General Furnishings, ...	172	19	10
Re-taking Patients, ...	12	1	9
			<u>662 12 8½</u>
CLOTHING, ...			323 3 6½
SALARIES AND WAGES, ...			1,041 17 7½
ADVANCES FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES, &c., ...			21 17 11
OUTLAY ON FARM AND GARDEN, ...			741 0 8
ARREARS OF BOARD UNPAID—			
Parish of Kintfinichen, Mull, ...	£30	4	2
" Tyree, ...	30	5	7
" Contin, Ross-shire, ...	15	0	0
			<u>75 9 9</u>
FARM PRODUCE SOLD UNPAID, ...			12 13 3
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF MAINTENANCE, ...			1,060 4 11
			<u>£5,788 6 5</u>

II.—ERECTING, FITTING UP, &c.

CHARGE.

Balance in favour of Erecting, &c., at 15th March, 1870, ...	£953 18 2½
Assessment imposed on Landward part of County and Burghs, ...	1,500 0 0
Arrears of Assessment unpaid by Burgh of Oban, at 15th March, 1870, ...	49 0 4
Proportion of Repairs and Taxes payable by Bute District Lunacy Board for year, ...	59 14 1
	<u>£2,562 12 7½</u>

DISCHARGE.

Repairs of Building, ...	£33 11 4
Fen-duty and Taxes, ...	239 11 1
Insurance, ...	25 8 0
Instalment on Loans, ...	533 6 8
Interest on Loans, ...	534 10 6
Proportion of Repairs and Taxes chargeable to Bute District Lunacy Board for year, ...	59 14 1
Balance in favour of Erecting, &c., ...	1,126 10 11½
	<u>£2,562 12 7½</u>

III.—LOANS FROM SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Balance at 15th March, 1870, ...	£12,100 0 0
Instalment paid, 11th November, 1870, ...	533 6 8
	<u>£11,566 13 4</u>

STATE OF THE FUNDS.

Balance in favour of Maintenance, 15th March, 1871, ...	£1,060 4 11
Balance in favour of Erecting, &c., 15th March, 1871, ...	1,136 10 11½
	<u>£2,196 15 10½</u>
Balance at Credit in Union Bank of Scotland, 15th March, 1871, ...	<u>£2,196 15 10½</u>

STATE OF NEW BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Expenditure to 15th March, 1871, ...	£16,390 0 10
Amount received from District Lunacy Board of Bute, being their proportion of original Building and Furnishing, as per agreement, ...	£4,200 0 0
Amount received from District Lunacy Board of Bute, to account of their proportion of New Building and Furnishing, ...	2,731 11 0
	<u>6,931 11 0</u>
Balance due to Union Bank of Scotland, 15th March, 1871, ...	<u>£9,458 9 10</u>

COST OF MAINTENANCE OF EACH PATIENT PER WEEK.

	s.	d.
Provisions, ...	4	0½
Medicines, &c., ...	0	2½
House Expenses, ...	1	6¼
Clothing, ...	0	8½
Salaries and Wages, ...	2	4½
	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>
Deduct Profit on Farm, ...	0	3¼
	<u>8</u>	<u>7¾</u>

ARCHIBALD MACEWAN,

Clerk to the District Lunacy Board of Argyllshire.

FARM AND GARDEN ACCOUNT.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM 15TH MARCH, 1870, TO 15TH MARCH, 1871.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
To Sale of—			By Paid for—		
6 Cows, ...	...	£52 0 6	7 Cows, ...	...	£93 10 0
Hides, Skins, &c.,	...	12 14 4	123 Wedders, ...	...	161 8 0
			1 Leicester Tup,	...	5 0 0
To Charge against Maintenance Account—		£64 14 10	Seeds and Plants,	...	36 18 9
Butcher Meat, ...	...	£270 4 0	Implements, Harness, Smith Work, &c.,	...	49 8 10
Oatmeal, ...	...	44 2 0	Fencing, ...	...	39 19 5
Eggs, ...	...	4 1 4	Draining, ...	...	25 18 8
Butter, ...	...	13 10 0	Wages, ...	...	66 5 0
Milk, ...	...	241 10 8	Hay, Corn, Turnips and Sundries,	...	140 17 9
Potatoes and other Vegetables,	...	111 13 9	Manure, ...	...	22 0 1
Fuel Account (Cartage of Coals),	...	10 6 6	Rent, ...	...	79 14 2
Freight and Cartage, ...	...	2 17 6	Fuel for Gardener, Farm-man, Stable and	...	
Re-taking Patients, ...	...	2 12 0	Byre, ...	...	20 0 0
Clothing, ...	...	23 8 9			£741 0 8
			By Balance in favour of Farm,	...	118 1 6
To Charge against New Building Account—		724 6 6			
For Cartage of Building Material, Gravel, &c.,	...	18 8 0			
Increase in value of Stock, ...	...	51 12 10			
		£859 2 2			£859 2 2

VALUE OF STOCK ON FARM.

15TH MARCH, 1870.				15TH MARCH, 1871.			
14 Milk Cows, at £12 each, ...	...	...	£168 0 0	12 Milk Cows, at £13 10/, ...	...	...	£162 0 0
1 Two-year-old Stot, ...	...	...	8 0 0	2 Bulls, at £9, ...	...	...	18 0 0
2 Bull Stirks, at £4, ...	...	...	8 0 0	1 Two-year-old Quey, ...	...	...	9 0 0
2 Quey Stirks, at £3 10/, ...	...	...	7 0 0	2 One-year-old Queys, at £4, ...	...	...	8 0 0
2 Horses, ...	...	...	45 0 0	2 Calves, at 10/, ...	...	...	1 0 0
1 Colt, ...	...	...	20 0 0	80 Three-year-old Wedders, at £1 8/, ...	...	...	112 0 0
400 Stones Hay, at 1/, ...	...	...	20 0 0	2 Cross-bred Wedders (Fat), at £3, ...	...	...	6 0 0
15 Tons Turnips, at 16/, ...	...	...	12 0 0	24 Ewes in Lamb, at £1 2/, ...	...	...	26 8 0
4 Stacks of Corn, at £8, ...	...	...	32 0 0	3 Hogs, at 14/6, ...	...	...	2 3 6
57 Two-year-old Wedders, at £1, ...	...	...	57 0 0	1 Leicester Tup, ...	...	...	4 10 0
20 Three-year-old Wedders, at £1 6/, ...	...	...	26 0 0	3 Horses, ...	...	...	75 0 0
22 Yield Ewes, at 17/, ...	...	...	18 14 0	2 Stacks Corn, at £12, ...	...	...	24 0 0
13 Ewe Hogs, at 15/6, ...	...	...	8 2 6	370 Stones Hay, at 10d., ...	...	...	15 8 4
Increase in Value of Stock, at 15th March, 1871, ...	...	...	£429 16 6	250 Stones Straw, at 6d., ...	...	...	6 5 0
			51 12 10	1½ Tons Indian Meal, at £6 15/, ...	...	...	10 2 6
			...	2 Tons Turnips, at 16/, ...	...	...	1 12 0
			£481 9 4				£481 9 4

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS *of the* ARGYLL
DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the Eighth Annual Report on the condition and management of the Asylum.

During the past year 64 patients were admitted. These, with Admissions. 146 remaining in the Asylum at the end of 1869, form a total of 210 patients who were under treatment. Of those admitted, 42 belonged to the County of Argyll, 21 to the County of Bute, and 1 to the County of Inverness. There were 3 re-admissions, 2 being of one patient. The highest number resident at one time was 176, the lowest 145, the average daily number was 161.

Twenty patients left the Asylum—12 recovered, and 8 so far Discharges. improved as to be able to return to their homes. The proportion of recoveries,—19 per cent. on the admissions,—is small. This is owing to two circumstances: 1st. To the large number of chronic and incurable cases admitted—nearly all the patients belonging to the County of Bute having been transferred from other Asylums. 2nd. To the large number discharged recovered in 1869, which was greater than in any previous year. If, in any year, the proportion of recoveries, or of deaths, very much exceeds the average, it frequently happens that during the succeeding year the proportion is less.

Thirteen deaths occurred during the year, being 8 per cent. on Deaths. the average number resident. Among the causes of death, General

Paralysis takes the lead, no less than four of the five males having died of it—the fifth died of an equally intractable and hopeless form of disease, viz., Cancer of the liver. Of 8 females, 2 died of Pulmonary Consumption—in both cases the disease was far advanced on admission, the one having been only three months, and the other four days in the Asylum—1 died of Apoplexy, 1 of Heart Disease, 1 of Disease of the Bones of the leg, 1 of Cerebral Disease (Melancholic Decay), 1 of Old Age, and 1 from the secondary effects of the accidental swallowing of some Carbolic acid. The average age at death was for males 31, for females 52; for the first time in the history of the Asylum the female mortality has exceeded that of males.

General
Health.

The Bodily Health of the patients, generally, was very good throughout the year; no epidemic prevailed amongst them, and the occurrence of acute disease was very unfrequent.

New
Building.

During the past year the new day-rooms and dormitories have been completed, and are all now occupied by the patients. The new day-rooms, particularly, are admirably suited for their purpose; they are spacious apartments, well lighted and ventilated, and commanding a cheerful outlook. Very little now remains to be done towards furnishing. In this the aim has been to give the wards a comfortable, homelike aspect. Large, cheerful, comfortably furnished apartments have undoubtedly a tranquillising and, consequently, a beneficial effect upon the inmates; for whatever tends to contentment and a feeling of comfort must promote improvement and recovery.

Employ-
ment.

The Employment of the patients has been carried on very much as in previous years. There is no point of greater importance in the treatment of insanity, than such an occupation as will tend to divert the mind of the patient from its morbid ideas. For the attainment of this end various means are in constant operation. Of these, in the case of the males, the chief is out-door employment, which has a more salutary effect, both on the bodily health and on the mental condition of the insane, than any other, and none is more easily carried out where, as in this Asylum, there is sufficient scope for it. The cultivation of the farm and garden, the making of roads and laying out the grounds, have afforded full employ-

ment for about one half of the male patients, and will continue to do so for years to come. For the females, needle and housework must necessarily constitute the chief means of occupation. About twenty are regularly employed in the laundry and kitchen.

The means of Amusement and Recreation have been well maintained. Chief among these ranks the weekly ball, which, during the winter months, affords hearty entertainment on each occasion to about half the inmates. The weekly psalmody class, conducted by the precentor, continues to be a source of enjoyment to the better class of patients and the attendants. During the winter, several interesting and amusing readings were given by the Rev. Mr. MacKichan, which were listened to attentively, and seemed to give pleasure. I confidently hope that, during next winter, when the new hall will afford increased facilities for such recreation and amusement, that, amongst those resident in the district, some will be found who will kindly aid us in this good work. Recreation.

Morning prayers and the chaplain's weekly service have been regularly attended by an average of about 75 patients, which is as many as the present room will accommodate. Apart from the higher influences which religious services may exert on the minds of the insane, the habits of self-restraint and decorum imposed during their attendance, cannot fail to exert salutary and beneficial effects, which do not pass off with the conclusion of the service. Religious Services.

The cost of maintenance during the past year has been at the rate of 8s. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. a week for each patient. The farm continues to be a source of profit to the Institution, and great benefit to the inmates. The land under cultivation has been added to by the labour of the patients, who have been employed in draining and trenching a portion of the recently acquired ground. Facilities for work of this description cannot be too highly estimated. It is in a great measure attributable to this that no form of restraint or seclusion has even been thought of during the year. Cost of Maintenance.
Farm.

The labours and anxieties of the officials connected with the establishment have been greatly increased, in consequence of the extensive enlargement and alterations, now nearly finished; and it is gratifying to say that, under the circumstances, these have

been carried through without any unhappy occurrence due to them, happening among the patients. Praise is due to the Steward, the Housekeeper, and the attendants and servants, both for the cheerful and ready way in which they met and overcame many inconveniences, and for the highly satisfactory manner in which they discharged the duties of their respective departments. My own labours and anxieties have been much lightened by their ready co-operation, as well as by the efficient and orderly state in which the Asylum was handed over to me by my predecessor, Dr. Sibbald.

In conclusion, I have to thank the members of the District Board for their courtesy and kindness, and for their effective support in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RUTHERFORD, M.D.

ARGYLL AND BUTE DISTRICT ASYLUM,

5th April, 1871.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE I.

SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS, RE-ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND
DEATHS DURING THE YEAR, 1870.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Asylum, 1st January, 1870, (inclusive of absent on trial, 1 male,) - - - - - }	62	84	146
	M.	F.	T.
Admitted for the first time during the year, - }	27	35	62
Re-admitted during the year, - - - - - }	0	2	2
Total admitted, - - - - -	27	37	64
Total under care during the year, -	89	121	210
Discharged or Removed: M. F. T.			
Recovered, - - - - -	6	6	12
Relieved, - - - - -	2	5	7
Not insane, - - - - -	1	0	1
Died, - - - - -	5	8	13
Total discharged and died during the year, - - - - - }	14	19	33
Remaining in Asylum, 31st Dec., 1870, } (inclusive of absent on trial, 1 male & 5 females,)	75	102	177
Average number resident during the year, - - - - - }	68·6	92·7	161·3

TABLE III.—Showing 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. of each year.			Average Numbers Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Numbers Resident.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered			Relieved.			Unimproved.			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.															
From the Opening of the Asylum, 9th June, to 31st Dec., 1863,.....	53	42	95	1	2	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	48	40	88	40	33	73	2	5	3	10	0	5	
1864,.....	20	23	43	2	3	5	1	3	4	0	1	1	5	1	60	55	115	52	47	99	10	13	12	9	3	6	
1865,	14	13	27	6	2	8	1	0	1	0	1	1	6	4	10	61	61	122	56	56	112	43	15	29	10	8	9
1866,	17	14	31	5	5	10	7	1	8	1	2	3	3	2	5	62	65	127	55	63	118	29	36	32	5	3	4
1867,	17	22	39	7	4	11	2	1	3	0	0	0	8	1	9	62	81	143	61	68	129	41	18	28	13	1	7
1868,	19	17	36	3	6	9	4	7	11	0	1	1	12	8	20	62	76	138	61	74	135	16	35	25	19	11	15
1869,	19	25	44	10	11	21	3	2	5	1	0	1	5	4	9	62	84	146	63	80	14	53	44	48	8	5	6
1870,	27	37	64	6	6	12	2	5	7	1	0	1	5	8	13	75	102	177	68	93	161	22	16	19	7	9	8
Totals and Averages for the 7½ years,	186	193	379	40	39	79	22	19	41	3	5	8	46	28	74	61	71	132	57	64	121	23	20	21½	10	5	7½

TABLE IV.—Showing the History of the Annual Admissions since the opening of the Asylum, with the Discharges and Deaths, and the Numbers of each Year remaining on the 31st December, 1870.

YEAR.	ADMITTED.						OF EACH YEAR'S ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGED AND DIED IN 1870.						TOTAL DISCHARGED AND DIED OF EACH YEAR'S ADMISSIONS, TO 31ST DEC., 1870.						Remaining of each Year's Admissions, 31st Dec., 1870.		
	New Cases.		Re-lapsed Cases.		Con- genital Cases.		Transfers from other Asylums.		Total.		Recovered.		Relieved.		Unim- proved.		Died.		Total.		Total.
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males
1863	8	6	3	1	0	2	42	33	95	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	21
1864	10	9	3	5	0	0	7	9	43	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	14
1865	10	7	1	3	0	0	3	3	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7
1866	14	11	1	0	0	0	2	3	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	7	11
1867	12	14	4	6	0	1	1	1	39	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	7	8
1868	10	8	2	3	3	3	4	3	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	11
1869	16	20	1	1	0	1	2	3	44	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	6	6	12	8	16
1870	12	12	5	11	2	0	8	14	64	4	5	9	2	2	1	0	4	5	9	19	47
	92	87	20	30	5	7	69	69	379	6	6	12	2	5	7	1	13	8	79	75	177

SUMMARY OF TOTAL ADMISSIONS, 1863-70.				Males.		Females.		Total.	
Percentage of Cases Recovered,	.	.	.	23.		20.		21.5	
Relieved,	.	.	.	12.		10.		11.	
Unimproved,	.	.	.	1.		2.		1.5	
Dead,	.	.	.	25.		14.		19.5	
Remaining,	.	.	.	39.		54.		46.5	
				100.		100.		100.	

TABLE V.

SHOWING THE CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
CEREBRAL OR SPINAL DISEASE :			
Apoplexy, - - - - -	0	1	1
General Paralysis, - - - - -	4	0	4
Decay of Melancholia, - - - - -	0	1	1
THORACIC DISEASE :			
Heart Disease, - - - - -	0	1	1
Pulmonary Consumption, - - - - -	0	2	2
ABDOMINAL DISEASE :			
Cancer of Liver, - - - - -	1	0	1
DECAY OF OLD AGE, - - - - -	0	1	1
CARIES OF BONES, - - - - -	0	1	1
ACCIDENT, - - - - -	0	1	1
Total, - - - - -	5	8	13

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN THOSE DISCHARGED
RECOVERED, AND IN THOSE WHO HAVE DIED DURING THE
YEAR.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month, - -	0	0	0	1	1	2
From 1 to 3 months, -	1	2	3	0	1	1
" 3 " 6 " -	2	2	4	2	0	2
" 6 " 9 " -	1	2	3	0	0	0
" 9 " 12 " -	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 1 " 2 years, -	1	0	1	1	0	1
" 2 " 3 " -	0	0	0	0	1	1
" 3 " 4 " -	0	0	0	0	1	1
" 4 " 5 " -	0	0	0	0	2	2
" 5 " 6 " -	1	0	1	1	0	1
" 6 " 7 " -	0	0	0	0	1	1
" 7 " 8 " -	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total, - -	6	6	12	5	8	13

TABLE VII.—Showing the Duration of the Disorder on Admission, in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year.

CLASSES.	DURATION OF DISEASE ON ADMISSION, IN FOUR CLASSES.											
	On Admission.			Recovered.			Removed Not Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
FIRST CLASS: First attack, and within three months on admission, - - }	5	7	12	5	2	7	2	2	4	0	2	2
SECOND CLASS: First attack, above three and within twelve months on admission, - - - - }	1	7	8	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
THIRD CLASS: Not first attack, and within twelve months on admission, - - - - }	4	8	12	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	0	1
FOURTH CLASS: First attack or not, but of more than twelve months on admission, - - - - }	17	15	32	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	6	8
Total, - - - - -	27	37	64	6	6	12	3	5	8	5	8	13

TABLE VIII.—Showing the Ages of the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year.

AGES.	THE ADMISSIONS.			THE DISCHARGES.						THE DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered.			Removed not Recovered.			Males.	Females.	Total.
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
From 15 to 20 years,	2	1	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 20 " 30 "	5	7	12	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	3	3
" 30 " 40 "	6	9	15	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	4	4
" 40 " 50 "	8	6	14	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	1
" 50 " 60 "	5	9	14	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	4	4
" 60 " 70 "	1	4	5	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
" 70 " 80 "	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
" 80 " 90 "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, - - -	27	37	64	6	6	12	3	5	8	5	8	13

TABLE X.—Showing the Number of Cases in which Hereditary tendency to Insanity was ascertained to exist, or in which attacks of Insanity had previously occurred, in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths of the Year.

	THE ADMISSIONS.			THE DISCHARGES.						THE DEATHS.				
				Recovered.			Not Recovered.							
				Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.				Males.	Females	Total.
HEREDITARY TENDENCY :—														
Existing,	8	10	18	2	1	3	2	2	4	0	2	2	6	5
Not existing,	12	14	26	3	3	6	1	3	4	3	3	3	6	5
Unascertained,	7	13	20	1	2	3	0	0	0	2	3	3	5	5
RELATION TO PREVIOUS HISTORY OF INDIVIDUAL :—														
First attack,	17	23	40	4	3	7	3	2	5	3	8	11	2	0
Not first attack,	9	12	21	2	2	4	0	3	3	2	0	2	0	0
Unascertained,	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL,	27	37	64	6	6	12	3	5	8	5	8	13	13	13

ENTRIES

BY

HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

ARGYLLSHIRE DISTRICT ASYLUM,
June 8th, 1870.

THE patients resident at this date are 70 males and 99 females ; besides whom, 2 males and 1 female are absent on probation. The changes in the numbers since the visit of August 7th, are :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admissions, - -	19	31	50
Discharges, - -	7	8	15
Deaths, - -	3	5	8

These figures show a considerable increase, which is mainly due to the admission of a considerable proportion of the patients chargeable to Buteshire, who have been removed from other Asylums. Of the patients discharged, 12 had recovered ; of the deaths, 2 were caused by consumption, and 1 by each of the following maladies : cardiac hypertrophy, cerebral disease, inflammation of brain and membrane, scirrhus of liver and stomach, general paralysis and apoplexy. The average age at death was about 53 years.

The house is still in the hands of the workmen, but sufficient progress has been made in the alterations and additions to meet all the demands for admission. Those parts which are finished fully meet the expectations which were formed of the cheerfulness

of the accommodation, and of the convenient and appropriate nature of the arrangements. The wards which have been taken into occupation for their permanent purposes presented an appearance of very considerable domestic comfort; and the fittings and appliances of the refractory department are in no respect inferior to those of the wards occupied by the more quiet and manageable patients. The furnishings of the sick rooms are particularly comfortable, and beds have been provided which permit of the use of the bed-pan and of the changing of the mattresses without disturbing the patient. The lavatories and water-closets were in excellent order, and free from offensive odours; and proper attention is given to habits of cleanliness. The arrangements in connection with artificial lighting are calculated to improve the ventilation, and the gas-fittings are neat and appropriate. Indeed, in all directions, there is evidence of very careful and judicious consideration of matters of detail.

As might be expected from the long-continued building operations, the grounds and airing courts are in great disorder, but the exercise and occupation of the patients have not suffered in consequence. On the contrary, the impossibility of using the airing courts has confirmed the belief that they may be entirely dispensed with, not only without injury, but with positive benefit to the community.

The patients of both sexes were neatly, comfortably and appropriately clothed, and clean and tidy in person. The bedding was in good condition, although, from want of facilities at present for teasing hair, some of the mattresses were lumpy and uneven. Three males and four females are registered as of rather dirty habits, but from the partial night attendance which is in use, there are frequently nights in which no wet beds occur. The bedding of such patients was found perfectly clean.

The sanitary state of the establishment is and has been favourable. The mortality has been small, and from causes over which medicine exercises little influence. At present, three females only are confined to bed from disease or debility. The general appearance of the patients affords evidence of an adequate dietary, and the meals are served in a very neat and comfortable manner.

Indeed, when the antecedents of the great mass of the community are borne in mind, the quiet and decorum which prevail at table cannot fail to excite surprise.

The patients in both divisions were free from excitement. No special appliances of dress are in use, and seclusion has not been necessary in any instance since last inspection. Every patient, unless physically disabled, takes exercise in the general grounds, and even with the most excited cases, and with the grounds occupied by workmen, and broken up by building operations, there has been no cause to lament the impossibility of airing court exercise. The numbers engaged in active industrial employment are about 41 men and 52 women, but industrial occupation is at present carried on under very considerable difficulties. When the new farm buildings are completed, a small dormitory will be occupied by four working patients, who will have the chief charge of the animals and of the home work of the farm. At present there are 9 cows in milk, which fully supply the wants of the house.

Proper attention continues to be given to amusement and recreation; and objects of interest and decoration—such as flowers, singing-birds, and framed prints—adorn and enliven the wards, and react favourably on the mental condition of the inmates. About 37 males and 47 females attend the chaplain's ministrations.

The various registers are fairly kept. Minute inventories are also kept of all the furnishings of the Asylum, and of the articles of clothing and bedding, by the attendants and steward; and complete and detailed lists of all the articles supplied for consumption. The rate of maintenance has been increased from 9s. to 9s. 6d. a week; but this has arisen almost entirely from the increased consumption of coal during the winter, rendered necessary partly by the open nature of the house, arising from the alterations, and partly by the damp plaster of the new rooms. No attendant has been discharged for misconduct. The staff consists at present of 5 males and 7 females.

Two accidents of a somewhat serious character have occurred, but involving no blame to the attendants—viz., fracture of the

coracoid process of the scapula, and fracture of the neck of the thigh bone in an old bedridden woman, apparently while shifting her in bed.

Under all circumstances, the condition of the Asylum would be pronounced satisfactory; it is eminently so, considering the disadvantages under which its management has recently been conducted.

JAMES COXE,

Commissioner in Lunacy.

ARGYLLSHIRE DISTRICT ASYLUM,

12th and 13th October, 1870.

SINCE the last visit, on the 8th of June, Dr. Sibbald has resigned his position as Physician Superintendent of this Asylum, having been appointed one of the Deputy Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland. Dr. Rutherford now fills his place, and there is every reason to believe that the District Board have been fortunate in their choice of a successor. Dr. Rutherford has for some months been discharging his duties, which he undertook under difficult circumstances—at a time when the Asylum was undergoing very extensive structural changes.

Considerable progress has been made with the erection of the new buildings, and there is evidence of continued activity in the work. Much, however, remains to be done, and it is not probable that the whole will be ready for occupation before February or March of next year. In the meantime, the changes have reached that point in their progress which leaves the Asylum more open and unguarded than it has yet been. The labours and anxieties of the officers, therefore, must at present be very great; and it is

creditable to the past and present management that no accident, or untoward event of any kind, has occurred. Indeed, when among the patients, there is no sign or feeling of confusion or disorder, and at no time do their comforts and safety appear to have been better secured. In every part of the Institution great tranquility, order and contentment prevailed during the visit, which occupied the greater part of two days. It is satisfactory, also, that the sanitary condition of the inmates has not suffered. They appeared to be in excellent health. Only two patients were in bed—one from extreme old age, and the other from chronic rheumatism. Nor has it been thought necessary to resort to restraint or seclusion in the exceptional state of the Asylum; no patient was found either in seclusion or under any form of restraint; no special dress of any kind was in use. Exercise in the open air is freely taken by nearly every patient in the establishment; and there can be no one confined to the airing courts, because, at present, there are no such courts, and it is not intended to create new ones.

Between 50 and 60 women were found industriously occupied. About 40 of these were in the Argyll day-room, which presented a busy and cheerful scene. All the worsted required in the establishment for stockings is spun by the female patients, and when they make more than is needed for this purpose, it is manufactured into plaiding. About 50 men were seen actively and profitably working outside, and many patients who could not work themselves were taking exercise in the neighbourhood of the workers.

It was observed with satisfaction that, as soon as the day-rooms and dormitories are ready for occupation, efforts are immediately made to furnish and adorn them, and render them as comfortable and homelike as possible. In this direction, of course, not a little will have to be done after the main contracts are finished. No money has been wasted on the external ornamentation of this Asylum, but its internal arrangements and appointments, which are of much greater importance to the patients, will bear favourable comparison with more ornate structures; and it is believed that the patients placed in it could not be under more favourable

conditions anywhere, whether their care or their treatment be in question.

It is proper to add here that the amusements, as well as the occupations of the patients, have not been interrupted. The dances go on as usual. The supply of newspapers, periodicals and books appears to be abundant; and it is in contemplation to have a reading-room and library when the new buildings are finished.

The execution of the works in connection with the new reservoir has been contracted for, and it is expected that the supply of water from it will be available before the dry weather of next year. Till that time it is thought that the present supply will be sufficient.

It is recommended that two open verandahs should be constructed—one for the men, and the other for the women. This will not involve a great outlay, and is almost necessary in an Asylum conducted as this one is. It would be well to have them erected while workmen are on the premises. The wall of the old female airing-court might be used in the construction of one, and the other might abut on the wall of the building in front of the coal cellars.

About 80 of the patients meet every day for prayers, which are conducted by Dr. Rutherford, and which occupy from ten to fifteen minutes. A more orderly and attentive meeting than that which was witnessed, it would be difficult to find anywhere.

Since last visit there have been 20 admissions, 9 discharges, and 5 deaths. All the patients admitted were chargeable to the parishes of the County of Argyll. Of the patients discharged, 4 were cured, and one was sent back to prison for trial. The deaths occurred chiefly among patients resident for some time in the Asylum, and were caused by general paralysis, heart disease, phthisis, and caries of the bone of the leg.

The number of patients in the house at present is 174, consisting of 75 men and 99 women. This does not include 5 absent on probation, and 1 absent on pass. As the Asylum, when completed, is calculated to hold 275 patients, there will thus be about 100 vacant beds—for 60 men and 41 women. In this respect,

therefore, the Asylum is in a position very different from that of most Asylums, which, instead of having vacant beds, are generally overcrowded.

Altogether, the visit left a very pleasing impression as regards the past and present management of the Asylum, and also as regards its prospects in the future, and the position it is likely to hold among the Asylums of the country.

ARTHUR MITCHELL,

Commissioner in Lunacy.

