

Report on the Royal Lunatic Asylum of Montrose for 1876 : instituted 1782.

Contributors

Royal Lunatic Asylum of Montrose.
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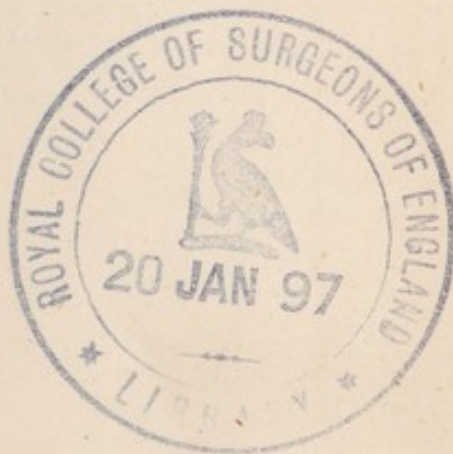


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REPORTS
ON THE
ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM
OF
MONTROSE,

FOR


1876.



~~~~~  
INSTITUTED 1782.  
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MONTROSE:
PRINTED AT THE "STANDARD" OFFICE, HIGH STREET.

—
1876.



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LIST OF DIRECTORS.

JUNE, 1876.

	The PROVOST and ELDEST BAILIE of Montrose.		
	The FIRST and SECOND MINISTERS of the Parish of Montrose.		} <i>ex officio.</i>
5	The Right Hon. the Earl of DALHOUSIE.		
	The Right Hon. the Earl of SOUTHESK, K.T.		
	Sir THOMAS GLADSTONE, Bart., of Fasque.		
	W. MACDONALD MACDONALD, Esq. of Rossie.		
	Sir JAMES CAMPBELL, of Stracathro.		
10	THOMAS RENNY TAILYOUR, Esq. of Borrowfield.		
	JOHN DUNCAN, Esq. of Sunnyside and Parkhill.		
	DAVID LYALL, Esq. of Gallery.		
	THOMAS MACPHERSON GRANT, Esq. of Craigo.		
	HERCULES SCOTT, Esq. of Brotherton.		
15	J. DUNCAN INVERARITY, Esq. of Rosemount.		
	The Rev. THOMAS MACINTOSH, Minister of St. Cyrus.		
	„ ALEXANDER FRIDGE, do.,	Lunan.	
	„ ARCH. BUCHANAN, do.,	Logie-Pert.	
	„ WILLIAM NIXON, do.,	Free St. John's, Montrose.	
20	„ JOHN LISTER, do.,	Free St. George's, do.	
	„ WILLIAM J. STEVEN, do.,	Melville Church, do.	
	„ JOHN WOODWARD, do.,	St. Mary's Chapel, do.	
	„ H. J. KNAPP, do.,	St. Peter's, do.	
	„ HENRY HYSLOP, do.,	Montrose.	
	„ W. R. FRASER, do.,	Maryton.	
	„ ROBERT SCOTT, do.,	Craig.	
	Messrs THOMAS BARCLAY, Montrose.		
	„ ROBERT WALKER, do.		
	„ JAMES M. PATON, do.		
	„ FRANCIS B. PATON, do.		
	„ DAVID MITCHELL, do.		
	„ CHARLES BIRNIE, do.		
	„ FRANCIS ABERDEIN, do.		
	„ JAMES SAVEGE, do.		
35	„ GEORGE C. MYERS, do.		
	„ THOMAS B. PATON, do.		
	„ EDWARD MILLAR, do.		
	„ ROBERT BARCLAY, do.		
	„ CHARLES BURNES, do.		
40	„ ALEXANDER MACKIE, do.		
	„ WILLIAM MITCHELL, do.		
	„ JAMES MUDIE, do.		
	„ JOHN MILNE, do.		
	„ JAMES M. ROSS, do.		
45	„ W. DOUGLAS JOHNSTON, do.		
	„ ALEXANDER LINDSAY, do.		
	„ ARTHUR DICKSON, do.		
	„ JAMES WILLIAM JAPP, do.		
49	„ THOMAS R. HECTOR, do.		

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,2nd TUESDAY OF JUNE.

MONTHLY MEETING,1st TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH,

AT TWELVE O'CLOCK NOON.

House Committee.

FRANCIS B. PATON.
T. RENNY TAILYOUR.
JAMES M. ROSS.
WM. D. JOHNSTON.
ALEX. LINDSAY.
MR PATON, *Convener.*

List of Officers.

JAMES C. HOWDEN, M.D.,.....MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.
J. BRUCE RONALDSON, L.R.C.P., & S.E.,...MEDICAL ASSISTANT.
DAVID JOHNSTON, M.D.,.....CONSULTING PHYSICIAN.
REV. ALEXANDER ANDERSON,.....CHAPLAIN.
JAMES NIDDRIE,.....STEWARD.
MRS GEDDES, ...HOUSEKEEPER.
MISS BURNES,.....HEAD FEMALE ATTENDANT.
GEORGE CRUICKSHANK,.....HEAD MALE ATTENDANT.
MISS BROWN,.....LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF GAYFIELD HOUSE.

Treasurer.

GEORGE C. CHALMERS.

Secretary.

ANDREW GREIG, SOLICITOR.

MONTRORSE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,
BALANCE ACCOUNT.

Dr.		Cr.	
1876.		1876.	
May 15.	To Seats in Parish Church, ...	May 15.	By The Royal Infirmary, ...
	" The Old Asylum, ...		" The Scottish Provident Institution, ...
	" The New Asylum, ...		" Patients' Work and Recreation Fund, ...
	" The Superintendent's House, ...		" The National Bank of Scotland, ...
	" Furniture, ...		" Stock, ...
	" The Brechin Gas Company, ...		
	" Boards, ...		
	" Farm and Household Stock, ...		
	" Clothing Stock, ...		
	" Cash Balance, ...		
	£29 10 0		£5000 0 0
	2424 5 7		4500 0 0
	22,693 10 10		220 0 0
	856 2 0		371 0 0
	2043 7 10		19,829 10 0
	160 0 0		
	53 4 0		
	1451 3 0		
	199 2 5		
	10 4 4		
	£29,920 10 0		£29,920 10 0

PROFIT AND LOSS.	
1876.	
May 15.	To Donation to Royal Infirmary, ...
	" Deterioration in New Asylum, ...
	" Do., in Furniture, ...
	" Do., in Superintendent's House, ...
	" Interest, ...
	" Balance Carried to Stock, ...
	£150 0 0
	700 0 0
	70 0 0
	30 0 0
	425 15 10
	1246 14 5
	£2622 10 3

MONTROSE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

REVENUE.

Boards from Private Patients,	£5951	3	9		
Do. from Pauper do.	8691	3	2		
				£14,642	6 11
Intermediate and Rebate Boards,				101	0 5
Farm Produce Sold and Used in House :—					
Milk,	575	7	10		
Grain,	95	8	10		
Pigs,	225	3	11		
Cattle and Horses,	137	4	0		
				£1033	4 7
Rents and Miscellaneous Items,				215	7 2
				£15,991	19 1

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries,	£1256	2	6		
Wages,	1588	19	2		
				£2845	1 8
Interest,				425	15 10
Donation to the Infirmary,				150	0 0
Deterioration—New Asylum,	£700	0	0		
Furniture,	70	0	0		
Superintendent's House,	30	0	0		
				800	0 0

HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES, VIZ.,

Butcher Meat and Poultry,	£1577	6	11		
Oatmeal and Flour,	1117	6	4		
Pease, Barley, and Rice,	108	9	3		
Milk,	575	7	10		
Butter and Eggs,	404	7	4		
Cheese,	53	4	2		
Fish and Salt,	145	3	4		
Tea and Coffee,	233	2	3		
Sugar and Syrup,	184	14	11		
Other Groceries,	48	15	2		
Beer and Porter,	315	15	11		
Wines and Spirits,	113	17	0		
Fruit, Potatoes, and Vegetables,	80	8	11		
Boards for Out Patients,	37	5	7		
Medicines,	54	14	2		
Snuff and Tobacco,	69	5	8		
Soap, Soda, and Starch,	92	16	7		
Coals,	747	10	1		
Gas and Candles,	225	19	10		
Water,	136	6	11		
Hardware and Stoneware,	269	1	6		
Plumber, Blacksmith, and Founder Work,	149	7	2		
Timber, Glazing, and Painting,	230	19	9		
Mason, Plaster, and Slater Work,	132	8	1		
Furniture and Carpeting,	276	4	1		
Bedding and Napery,	387	8	3		
Clothing,	507	19	8		
Carriages and Harness,	130	10	9		
Incidents,	252	5	0		
Rents, or Feu-Duty, Taxes, and Insurance,	599	17	10		
Printing and Stationery,	87	4	0		
Miscellaneous,	395	7	8		
Outlay of Patients Recovered in Boards,	783	15	3		
				£10,524	7 2
Balance—Surplus,				1246	14 5
				£15,991	19 1

MONTROSE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

FARM AND GARDEN ACCOUNT.

REVENUE.

Milk, Supplied House, ...	£575	7	10
Potatoes, do., ...	60	0	0
Fruit and Vegetables, do., ...	120	0	0
Poultry and Eggs, do., ...	50	0	0
Pigs sold, ...	225	3	11
Cows and Calves sold, ...	105	4	0
Horse, ...	32	0	0
Grain sold, ...	95	8	10
Stones sold for Road-Metal, ...	11	0	0
Hay and Corn supplied to Carriage Horses, ...	117	15	0
Carting Coals, ...	13	8	0
Stock on 14th May, 1876, ...	659	18	4
	<u>£2065</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Rents, ...	£307	4	0
Interest on Buildings, ...	35	0	0
Taxes, ...	13	7	0
Interest on Fences, ...	2	0	0
Manure and Lime, ...	84	8	10
Hay, Straw, Seeds, Draff, Bran, &c., ...	326	6	11
Implements, ...	16	10	0
Insurance, ...	2	2	6
Wages of Grieve, Ploughman, Cattleman, Gardener, and Dairymaid, ...	238	0	0
Cows and Horses bought, ...	196	6	0
Stock on 31st May, 1875, ...	590	0	0
Balance, ...	254	0	8
	<u>£2065</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>

REPORT
OF THE
House Committee of the Asylum,
JUNE, 1876.

The Committee have to refer with regret to the death in November last of Mr John Guthrie, who had acted since Mr David Walker's death as Convener, and had long been a useful member of Committee.

The number of patients in the Asylum on the 14th May last was 426, as against 445 on 31st May, 1875, showing a decrease of 19. The population at present corresponds as nearly as possible with the accommodation that the House can comfortably afford, and the decrease having mainly arisen on the female side, the relief has been more sensibly felt in the working of the Establishment.

In order that the payment of Boards for Pauper Patients might coincide with the date on which the subsidy accounts are rendered to Government by the Parochial Boards, the Committee have found it expedient to alter the termination of the financial year from 1st June, to 15th May, the latter date being in other respects more convenient for their arrangements.

The accounts shew a saving or profit for the past year of £1250, and since the annual balance in 1875, £2000 of the debt to the Scottish Provident Institution has been paid off. The Committee may add that the outstanding Boards as at 15th ult. only amounted to £53, of which a considerable part has been paid since that time.

The span-roofed Green-house erected, at a cost of £250, by Messrs M'Kenzie & Moncur of Edinburgh, has already been found most useful in providing at all seasons a supply of flowers for the corridors and the House generally, a boon which has been greatly appreciated by the inmates.

The capital outlay for the year is confined to the Green-house, but your Committee deem it proper to state that during the current year they will avail themselves of the sanction already received from

the Board to provide a new Wash-House and Laundry, the erection of which cannot longer be delayed.

The outlay for maintaining the fabric includes an expenditure of about £300 for renewal of flooring with pitch-pine, painting, papering, and glazing; about £150 for mason, plasterer, and slater work; £276 for furniture, carpeting, and linoleum; £387 for bedding and napery; and £149 for plumber and blacksmith work, in addition to the work contributed by our own employees.

Your Committee deemed it advisable to engage the services during the winter months of an upholsterer for the Establishment, an arrangement which has been found eminently useful in keeping up the repairs of furniture and bedding, &c.

The item of Wages, it will be observed in the statement of expenditure, is still on the increase, and amounts per head to £3 12s 4d, as compared with £2 17s 4d ten years ago.

Your Committee recognising the importance of retaining the services of efficient attendants, have sanctioned a liberal scale of wages, but their efforts will be continued to keep this item as moderate as efficiency will allow.

It having been long felt that the female attendants ought to have some uniform to distinguish them from the other inmates of the Asylum, it was decided last winter to provide them each with two dresses a year, which in future will be continued to them in addition to their usual wages.

The farm and grounds are now in a high state of culture, and produce satisfactory crops, while the yield of milk, proportionately to the number of cows, has been greater in the past than in the previous year.

During the year, the Asylum has been inspected by Sir James Cox, one of the Commissioners in Lunacy, whose report will, as usual, form part of the printed Annual Report of the Institution.

After anxious and protracted negotiations with the District Board in regard to the reception of pauper lunatics for the County, the Committee have at length arrived at what they hope will prove to be a fair basis for a new agreement. This basis in effect concedes the whole principle for which the Board have all along contended, and although it yet remains to be worked out in detail, the Committee

see no reason to doubt that a satisfactory arrangement will ere long be concluded.

Dr Howden and his staff have the entire confidence of the Committee, and they have much pleasure in stating that in their frequent inspections, their opinion is invariably borne out by the condition and comfort of the patients, and the satisfactory arrangements of the House generally.

The Board are greatly indebted, and have to record their thanks to the various musical associations of Montrose for concerts given during the winter months.

F. B. PATON, Convener.

Medical Superintendent's Report

FOR 1876.

Table I.—Showing the Admissions, Re-Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the year 1875-6 (less 17 days).

In Asylum on 31st May, 1875,	...	...	...	Males. 187	Females. 258	Total. 445
		Males.	Females.	Total.		
Admitted for first time during						
year, ... ..	...	36	48	84		
Re-admitted during year,	...	5	6	11		
		—	—	—	41	54
					228	312
						540
Discharged and dead—						
		Males.	Females.	Total.		
Recovered, ... ..	...	19	35	54		
Relieved, ... ..	...	3	7	10		
Not Improved, ... ..	...	3	8	11		
Not Insane, ... ..	...	—	1	1		
Dead, ... ..	...	16	22	38		
			—	—	41	73
						114
Remaining in Asylum on 14th May, 1876,	...			187	239	426
Average number residing during the year,	...			183·119	254·316	438·87
* * Error in this Table last year, a voluntary patient having been included.						

The resolution of this Board to terminate the financial year on 14th May, instead of 31st, affords a favourable opportunity of making a corresponding alteration in the statistical year. I have accordingly made the tables this year apply to 348, instead of 365 days. In future, of course, the year will run from 14th May to 15th May the following year, leaving a sufficient time between that date and the annual meeting on the second Tuesday of June to prepare the necessary statistics. On 31st May, 1875, the female side of the house was much overcrowded, there being then 258 women. On 14th May this year the number was reduced by 19 to 239; while the number of men was exactly as it was last year, viz., 187. The average number resident during the year were 183 men and 254 women

The reduction in the number of female patients is due partly to the smaller number of admissions, and partly to the larger proportion of recoveries and deaths.

ADMISSIONS.

The number of new cases admitted during the year was 84 ; of re-admissions, 11 ; making a total of 95, as against 128 in the previous year. This result is due entirely to the smaller number admitted from Forfarshire, there being only 55 this, as against 91 last year. Our refusal of patients from the parishes of Dundee, and Liff and Benvie accounts to a certain extent for this diminution ; but from the landward parishes there have been 23 fewer cases received than in the previous year.

It has been observed in some of the mining and manufacturing districts in England that the admissions into asylums were fewer when trade was dull than in times of commercial prosperity, when high wages fostered habits of intemperance in the working classes. I do not, however, think that this explanation applies to the landward part of Forfarshire. The proportion of recent cases of insanity caused by drinking in our district is comparatively small, but it so happens that this year it is greater than usual.

In a former report (1874) I alluded to the much greater frequency in the English than in the Scotch Asylums of a class of brain disease, which, rightly or wrongly, are commonly supposed to be induced by intemperate habits. Comparing for the past year the "forms of disease in the admissions" in the Montrose Asylum with that of Chester, which contains a similar population, we find that while four cases of general paralysis were admitted at Montrose, there were ten admitted at Chester. On the other hand, there was but one death at Montrose from general paralysis, while there were 26 from that cause during the same period at Chester ; and I believe that the higher death-rate of the English Asylums generally is due to the fact that their population contains a much larger proportion of patients suffering from general paralysis and epilepsy than ours do. Scotch Asylums drawing their patients from large cities, such as Edinburgh or Glasgow, show a larger proportion of these diseases ; but, taking the insane population overhead, there can be no doubt that general paralysis, as well as epilepsy, is much more common in

England than in Scotland. If it be true that the English are a more sober people than the Scotch, it is difficult to explain this greater frequency of general paralysis—a disease so commonly associated with intemperance; either the drink of the English labouring classes must have a more prejudicial effect on the brain, or the Scotch brain must be better stuff to begin with. I am disposed to think that though instances of intoxication may be seen more frequently among Scotch than English working men, there is a more constant use of stimulants with the latter, and that the constant daily soaking, within bounds of apparent sobriety, is far more injurious to the brain than an occasional outburst of intoxication.

DISCHARGES.

The most gratifying feature in the statistics of the year is the large number of recoveries—54 having been so discharged. Calculated on the total number of admissions, we have thus 57 per cent. of recoveries. Seeing, however, that 27 were quite incurable on admission, the percentage should rather be taken on the remaining 68. The percentage of recoveries thus calculated is close on 80 per cent. 42 recovered within a year's residence, 8 within two years, while 4 had been respectively three, four, five, and eight years in the Asylum. A reference to table 16, showing the weight on admission and on discharge, of those who have recovered, proves how closely mental improvement is associated with improvement in the physical condition. In only two cases had there been a loss of weight, while in the remainder there was an average gain of 12 lbs. The gain in weight in some cases was remarkable. Thus, one man gained 32 lbs. in eight months, another 28 in four months, another 23 lbs. in five months, while a fourth, who laboured under acute mania on admission, gained no less than 38 lbs. in four and a half months. Of the women, again, seven had gained between 28 and 30 lbs. whilst one gained 33 lbs. in 13 months, and another 34 lbs. in 10 months. Some years ago (report for 1873) I pointed out what seemed to be the usual change in weight in the course of an attack of acute mania. At first there is a rapid loss of weight. In this stage the patient is in constant excitement day and night, and rarely sleeps; the lungs, and in many cases the skin, give off more than the usual amount of waste, which is not repaired by the somewhat irregular and insufficient

amount of food taken. It is worth noting that at this stage, even when the appetite is good, and the quantity of food taken as great, or even greater, than normal, the patient still loses weight, owing in part, probably, to malassimilation, but mainly to undue waste. It might be supposed that in these circumstances the production of artificial sleep by narcotics would tend to shorten the wasting period of mania. As a rule, however, this does not seem to be the case; what is gained in one way is lost in another, and the injury to the digestive and nervous system by narcotics appears rather to retard recovery. If the disease is allowed to run its natural course the increase of weight is found to be simultaneous with the gradual return of natural sleep, and once the patient has turned the corner, it is remarkable how rapid the increase is. The same observations apply, though in a less marked degree, to melancholia. The following case may be quoted in illustration:—G. F. was admitted in April, 1875, in an emaciated condition, having lost flesh rapidly since the invasion of an attack of suicidal melancholia. His weight on admission was 96 lbs. The good food, regular habits and sense of security in the Asylum, soon told on him, his excitement abated, and his capacity for sleep returned; he rapidly gained in weight, and was discharged recovered in August, when he weighed 124 lbs., having gained 28 lbs. in four months. Owing to the unfavourable home surroundings he was no sooner discharged than a recurrence of his malady took place, the want of food and sleep and the too free use of stimulants rapidly lowered his condition, and he was brought back to the Asylum just nine days after his discharge. His weight was now 108 lbs., showing a loss of 16 lbs. in nine days. As on the former occasion he rapidly improved, and in three weeks he was found to have regained 10 lbs. of his lost weight.

In addition to those quite recovered, 10 were discharged relieved, of these 5 were private patients removed to the care of their relatives, 3 pauper patients were removed by minute of Parochial Board, and 2 were transferred to the lunatic wards of the Liff and Benvie Poor-house.

Of 11 patients who were removed not improved, 1 was transferred to the Inverness Asylum, 4 were taken out by minute of Parochial Board, while 6 were private patients.

One person was discharged as not insane.

DEATHS.

Sixteen men and 22 women have died. The percentage on the average number resident throughout the year was 8 per cent. The very trying weather throughout the year has told severely on the old and feeble portion of our population. The four months in which fewest deaths occurred were September, October, December, and January, during which there were 4 deaths; while the most fatal months were July, August, February, and March, which accounted for no fewer than 26 deaths. 26 of the 38 deaths were of persons of ages ranging between 50 and 90. No disease of an epidemic or contagious nature has visited the Institution, nor has any resulted from violence or accident. 10 deaths were caused by diseases of the nervous system, 13 by diseases of the lungs, 6 by heart disease, 5 by general tuberculosis or struma, 1 by diphtheria, and 3 by senile decay. While diseases of the lungs have been an unusually prolific cause during the year, it is worthy of note that there is not a single death from intestinal or other abdominal disease. Though the death rate has been above the average during the year, the severe weather in winter and spring has left a legacy of enfeebled health to many old patients, which will probably make a heavy mortality next year.

As was mentioned above, two of the deaths occurred in persons who were brought in a dying condition, from local Infirmaries. One was a female in a state of exhaustion from heart disease. She was kept alive a few days by the free use of stimulants. The other was a man, who, when in the Asylum, showed the usual symptoms of delirium before death, caused by advanced heart disease and cardiac dropsy.

I would here repeat a suggestion I formerly made (Report for 1873), viz., that local infirmaries should be provided with at least one small room suitable for the detention and treatment of transient forms of mania or delirium, arising either from serious bodily disease or drinking. For the first class much unnecessary suffering and annoyance might thus be avoided, and cases arising from the second cause might be temporarily treated there, though the medical attendants might be unable to certify them insane, and place them in the Asylum.

I am glad to report that no accident involving risk to life has happened during the bygone year, and that the general working of the establishment has been satisfactory. The report of the Commissioner in Lunacy renders it unnecessary for me to add more on these points.

The gradual substitution of polished pitch pine flooring for yellow pine, while it greatly improves the appearance of the wards, will, I believe, benefit the health of the inmates by rendering wet-scrubbing of the floors no longer necessary. The new green-house has added greatly to the cheerfulness of the day rooms, corridors, and dormitories, by furnishing an abundant supply of the best of all decorations—growing flowering plants—the use of which in Asylum decorations has scarcely a limit.

I would here take occasion to thank several friends for presents of green-house plants, especially Mr Keith of Usan, Mr James M. Paton, Mr Thomas B. Paton, and Mr Robert Barclay ; and may add that we have still plenty of room, and that donations of growing plants will be most acceptable. What we want chiefly is not rare specimens, but hardy free-flowering green-house plants, suitable for being temporarily placed in the wards.

The farm and garden continue to furnish abundance of useful and healthy occupation for the inmates ; and by whose labour also the pleasure grounds are yearly increasing in beauty and attractiveness.

For the future we still look anxiously for the means of further increasing the usefulness of the Institution by the provision of a suitable recreation hall, dining hall, improved laundry, and store accommodation.

I have to report my satisfaction with the manner in which the officers, attendants, and servants have performed their respective duties ; and, in conclusion, to thank the House Committee and the Managers generally for their continued consideration and support.

JAMES C. HOWDEN.

TABLES.

Table II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, from 31st May, 1857, to 14th May, 1876, inclusive.

	Males.	Females.	Total
Persons resident on 1st June, 1857,	107	144	251
Persons since admitted for first time,	914	1230	2144
Persons since re-admitted,	121	190	311
Total cases treated during 19 years,	1142	1564	2706
Discharged or Removed :—			
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Recovered,	335	539	874
Relieved,	104	149	253
Not Improved,	200	256	456
Not Insane,	1	2	3
Died,	315	379	694
	<u>955</u>	<u>1325</u>	<u>2280</u>
Remaining on 14th May, 1876,	187	239	426

Table III.—Showing Average Number Resident for each Month and for the Year (less 17 days).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1875-6.			
June,	185.5	257.9	442.14
July,	183.7	257.7	440.14
August,	181.5	257.2	438.7
September,	180	255.6	435.6
October,	182.3	253.4	435.7
November,	182.6	253.3	435.9
December,	182.4	256.3	438.7
January,	182.7	257.8	439.15
February,	182.3	257	439.3
March,	183.8	250	433.8
April,	184.4	245.5	429.9
May,	185.1	240.9	425.10
For the year (less 17 days),	183.119	254.316	438.87

Table IV.—Showing Ages of those Admitted and Dead.

	ADMITTED.				DEAD.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years,	3	3	6	...	0	0	0
From 20 to 30 years,	7	9	16	...	2	1	3
„ 30 to 40 „	9	18	27	...	0	3	3
„ 40 to 50 „	12	10	22	...	2	4	6
„ 50 to 60 „	4	5	9	...	6	6	12
„ 60 to 70 „	6	5	11	...	3	4	7
„ 70 to 80 „	0	4	4	...	3	3	6
„ 80 to 90 „	0	0	0	...	0	1	1
	<u>41</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>95</u>		<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>38</u>

Table V.—Showing 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.			Average Number Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admission.			Percentage of Deaths on Aver. Number Resid.		
	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved																	
	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.
1781 to 1857.	(a)	(a)	1636	(a)	(a)	647	(b)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(a)	206	(a)	(a)	467	107	143	250	(c)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(c)
1857-58	35	53	88	13	30	43	(b)	(b)	(b)	12	16	28	17	13	30	100	137	237	199	139	338	37.1	56.6	39.5
1858-59	43	55	98	11	18	29	3	4	7	1	8	9	9	13	22	120	151	271	108	144	252	27.9	32.7	48.9
1859-60	107	119	226	39	35	74	2	2	4	6	4	10	14	21	35	167	206	373	146	184	330	36.5	29.4	30.6
1860-61	85	134	219	31	39	70	11	1	12	10	3	13	21	32	53	179	255	434	181	233	414	36.4	29.8	32.4
1861-62	101	165	266	23	52	75	8	12	20	4	5	9	32	36	68	211	315	526	199	302	501	27.7	31.5	28.2
1862-63	77	79	156	21	35	56	9	17	26	8	11	19	24	31	55	225	297	522	216	313	529	27.2	44.3	35.8
1863-64	67	90	157	18	35	53	9	12	21	34	30	64	22	28	50	207	282	489	230	302	532	26.8	38.8	33.8
1864-65	36	54	90	17	26	43	6	13	19	21	41	62	19	17	36	180	241	421	191	266	457	50.0	46.3	47.7
1865-66	41	41	82	16	15	31	1	6	7	8	28	36	12	25	37	187	209	396	179	217	396	30.0	36.6	38.0
1866-67	46	43	89	22	16	38	10	5	15	20	21	41	14	18	32	168	192	360	174	185	359	47.8	29.2	42.6
1867-68	52	60	112	13	18	31	4	4	8	13	21	34	14	13	27	175	196	371	172	198	371	25.0	30.0	27.0
1868-69	37	75	112	9	24	33	3	8	11	19	7	26	12	15	27	169	217	386	172	207	379	24.3	32.0	29.4
1869-70	50	70	120	17	35	52	2	4	6	10	6	16	16	22	38	174	220	394	172	217	390	34.0	50.0	43.3
1870-71	41	57	98	17	24	41	6	7	13	4	15	19	14	13	27	174	218	392	175	217	393	41.46	42.10	41.78
1871-72	42	46	88	11	22	33	7	16	23	4	3	7	19	13	32	174	208	382	175	218	393	26.19	47.82	37.5
1872-73	35	79	114	8	28	36	5	6	11	4	10	14	16	12	28	177	231	408	178	217	395	22.85	35.44	31.57
1873-74	47	71	118	18	34	52	7	10	17	11	13	24	9	14	23	179	233	412	180	231	411	38.72	47.88	44.07
1874-75	52	76	128	12	19	31	8	4	12	9	6	15	15	21	36	187	259	446	183	248	432	21.15	25.23	23.43
1875-76	41	54	95	19	35	54	3	7	10	3	8	11	16	22	38	187	239	426	183	254	438	46.14	64.44	56.80
Total, ...	1035	1421	4092	334	540	1522	104	138	242	201	256	663	415	379	1161									

(a) Sexes not distinguished during the first 76 years.
 (b) Previous to 1860-61, those discharged Relieved are included with the Not Improved, being registered as Uncured.
 (c) Average number Resident not ascertained previous to 1857-58.
 (d) The figures on this line apply to the period from 31st May, 1875, to 14th May, 1876.

Table VII.—Showing Admissions and Deaths for each Month.

	ADMITTED.			DEAD.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
June,	3	4	7	3	0	3
July,	4	3	7	4	2	6
August,	5	9	14	3	3	6
September,	3	3	6	0	1	1
October,	3	5	8	0	1	1
November,	3	5	8	1	2	3
December,	2	9	11	0	1	1
January,	3	2	5	0	1	1
February,	3	6	9	2	5	7
March,	7	3	10	2	5	7
April,	1	3	4	1	1	2
May (to 15th),	4	2	6	0	0	0
	41	54	95	16	22	38

Table VIII.—Showing the Curable and Incurable admitted.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Curable,	26	42	68
Incurable,	15	12	27
	41	54	95

Table IX.—Showing the Counties whence Patients have come.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Aberdeen,	1	2	3
Caithness,	7	6	13
Edinburgh,	2	5	7
Forfar,	24	31	55
Kincardine,	4	6	10
Perthshire,	1	1	2
Shetland,	0	3	3
Haddington,	1	0	1
Inverness,	1	0	1
	41	54	95

Table X.—Showing the Bodily Condition on Admission of those who died from 31st May, 1875, to 14th May, 1876,

[illegible]

Table XI.—Showing the bodily condition and diseases of those admitted.

BODILY CONDITION.							Males.	Females.	Total.
Good,	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	17	35
Indifferent,	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	20	31
Bad,	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	16	29
							—	—	—
							42	53	95
DISEASES.									
General Paralysis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Organic Disease of Brain,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Epilepsy,	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Cardiac Disease,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
Phthisis Pulmonalis,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Hernia,	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Amenorrhœa,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Pityriasis Versicolor,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Acne,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Varicose Veins,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Cataract,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Scabies,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
							—	—	—
							14	11	25

Table XII.—Showing Condition as to Marriage of those Admitted.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
I. Single,	24	31	55
II. Married,	14	15	29
III. Widowed,	3	8	11
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 54	<hr/> 95

Table XIII.—Showing period of Residence of those Recovered and Dead.

	RECOVERED.			DEAD.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 week, ...	0	0	0	0	1	1
" 2 " ...	0	0	0	1	0	1
" 3 " ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 1 month, ...	0	1	1	1	0	1
" 2 " ...	2	5	7	1	1	2
" 3 " ...	2	2	4	0	0	0
" 4 " ...	1	4	5	1	0	1
" 5 " ...	1	4	5	0	0	0
" 6 " ...	1	5	6	0	0	0
" 7 " ...	2	1	3	1	2	3
" 8 " ...	2	1	3	0	1	1
" 9 " ...	2	2	4	1	0	1
" 10 " ...	1	0	1	0	0	0
" 11 " ...	1	2	3	0	0	0
" 1 year, ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 2 " ...	2	6	8	2	3	5
" 3 " ...	0	1	1	1	2	3
" 4 " ...	0	1	1	1	2	3
" 5 " ...	1	0	1	2	0	2
" 8 " ...	0	1	1	4	0	4
" 9 " ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 10 " ...	0	0	0	0	3	3
" 11 " ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 13 " ...	0	0	0	0	2	2
" 14 " ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 19 " ...	0	0	0	0	2	2
" 20 " ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 25 " ...	0	0	0	0	2	2
" 39 " ...	0	0	0	0	1	1
	18	36	54	16	22	38

Table XIV.—Showing Causes of Death during the Year.

CEREBRAL AND SPINAL DISEASES—			Males.	Females.	Total.
General Paralysis ...	...	...	1	0	1
Organic Disease of Brain ..	...	...	2	1	3
Apoplexy ...	...	...	0	2	2
Paralysis ...	...	...	3	1	4
THORACIC DISEASES—					
Phthisis Pulmonalis ...	...	...	0	7	7
Pericarditis ...	...	...	1	0	1
Cardiac Disease ...	...	...	4	1	5
Pneumonia ...	...	...	0	2	2
Congestion of Lungs ...	...	...	0	2	2
Emphysema of Lungs ...	...	...	0	1	1
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	0	1	1
OTHER CAUSES—					
Struma ...	...	...	1	0	1
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	2	2	4
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	0	1
Senile Decay ...	...	...	1	2	3
			16	22	38

Table XV.—Showing Weight on Admission and on Discharge, or on 14th May, 1876, of those Admitted during the year.

MALES.									
Number in Register.	Form of Insanity.	Age	Physical Disease on Admission.	Weight in lbs. on Admission.	Weight in lbs. on Discharge or on 14th May, 1876.	Months Resident.	Gain in lbs. Weight.	Loss in lbs. Weight.	Mental State on Discharge or on 14th May, 1876.
2296	General Paralysis ...	60	General Paralysis	...	195	11½	...	...	Not Improved
2299	Acute Mania ...	45	Scrofula ...	123	127	6½	4	...	Recovered
2305	Monom. of Suspicion	55	None ...	134	136	10	2	...	Not Improved
2307	Melancholia ...	63	Do. ...	122	147	9½	25	...	Do.
2308	Do. ...	55	Do. ...	142	158	8	16	...	Recovered
2309	Do. ...	30	Scabies ...	117	128	9½	11	...	Not Improved
2312	Imbecility ...	19	Epilepsy ...	112	129	9½	17	...	Do.
2315	Acute Mania ...	34	Cataract ...	124	147	5½	23	...	Recovered
2314	Melancholia ...	64	None ...	134	141	6½	7	...	Not Improved
2320	Mania ...	39	Do. ...	108	118	8½	10	...	Relieved
2323	Monom. of Suspicion	44	Do. ...	160	182	8½	22	...	Not Improved
2324	General Paralysis ...	35	General Paralysis	138	153	7½	15	...	Do.
2325	Alcoholism ...	68	Hernia ...	118	131	7½	13	...	Relieved
2329	Melancholia ...	46	None ...	108	101	3	...	7	Not Improved
2330	Mania ...	21	Do. ...	155	...	7½	...	...	Relieved
2331	Alcoholism ...	25	Do. ...	116	130	7	14	...	Do.
2337	Melancholia ...	42	Do. ...	126	142	6½	16	...	Not Improved
2338	Do. ...	29	Do. ...	136	141	6½	15	...	Do.
2340	Monom. of Pride ...	34	Do. ...	146	150	6	4	...	Relieved
2345	Monom. of Suspicion	40	Syphilis ...	141	142	5½	1	...	Not Improved
2352	Mania ...	28	None ...	140	147	4½	7	...	Do.
2356	Monom. of Suspicion	43	Do. ...	135	123	4½	...	12	Do.
2357	Imbecility ...	33	Epilepsy ...	117	136	4½	19	...	Do.
2358	General Paralysis ...	43	General Paralysis	186	152	4	16	...	Do.
2360	Imbecility ...	30	None ...	136	143	3½	7	...	Do.
2363	Monom. of Suspicion	46	Do. ...	127	136	2½	9	...	Recovered
2365	Do. ...	48	Do. ...	126	127	1½	1	...	Do.
2369	Mania ...	56	Do. ...	138	146	2½	8	...	Not Improved
2371	Do. ...	62	Cardiac Disease	...	...	2½	...	...	Do.
2372	Idiocy ...	16	None ...	136	146	2½	10	...	Do.
2373	Melancholia ...	32	Do. ...	128	138	2½	10	...	Relieved
2374	Dementia ...	68	Do. ...	188	197	2	9	...	Not Improved
2376	Mania ...	51	Hernia ...	98	113	1½	15	...	Recovered
2377	Do. ...	19	Epilepsy ...	115	118	1½	3	...	Relieved
2380	Monom. of Suspicion	38	None ...	132	131	1½	...	1	Not Improved
2382	Do. ...	48	Do. ...	121	125	1	4	...	Do.
2386	Delirium Tremens ...	30	Do. ...	123	130	1½	7	...	Relieved
2387	Dipsomania ...	27	Fistula in Ano ...	137	139	1½	2	...	Do.
2388	Melancholia ...	36	None ...	133	130	1½	...	3	Not Improved
2389	Epileptic Dementia	20	Epilepsy ...	117	119	1½	2	...	Do.

FEMALES.

Number in Register.	Form of Insanity.	Age	Physical Disease on Admission.	Weight in lbs. on Admission.	Weight in lbs. on Discharge or on 14th May, 1876.	Months Resident.	Gain in lbs. Weight.	Loss in lbs. Weight.	Mental State on Discharge or on 14th May, 1876.
2297	Imbecility ...	40	Anchylolysis of both knee joints	...	...	11 1/2	...	...	Not Improved
2298	Mania ...	23	None ...	83	92	11 1/2	9	...	Do.
2301	Melancholia ...	35	Do. ...	125	113	3 1/2	...	12	Recovered
2302	Dementia ...	64	Do. ...	121	114	10 1/2	...	7	Relieved
2303	Monom. of Suspicion	39	Do. ...	122	115	2 1/2	...	7	Not Improved
2304	Mania ...	40	Do. ...	137	140	1 1/2	3	...	Do.
2306	Monom. of Suspicion	60	Do. ...	133	...	10	...	...	Do.
2310	Melancholia ...	30	Cardiac Disease	136	142	9 1/2	6	...	Relieved
2311	Mania ...	47	None ...	90	106	1 1/2	16	...	Recovered
2313	Senile Mania ...	76	Brain Disease ...	103	...	6 1/2	...	...	Not Improved
2316	Moral Insanity ...	38	Stomach Disease	125	178	9 1/2	53	...	...
2317	Epileptic Imbecility	13	Epilepsy ...	123	154	9	32	...	Not Improved
2318	Alcoholism ...	33	None ...	109	...	3 1/2	...	...	Recovered
2319	Dementia ...	47	Phthisis ...	90	...	8 1/2	...	...	Not Improved
2321	Mania ...	34	None ...	106	97	8 1/2	9	...	Do.
2322	Melancholia ...	30	Amenorrhœa ...	124	149	3 1/2	25	...	Recovered
2326	Imbecility ...	23	None ...	93	...	5 1/2	...	...	...
2327	Melancholia ...	69	Do. ...	100	...	6	...	...	Not Improved
2328	Mania ...	26	Pity. Versicolor	124	148	5 1/2	24	...	Recovered
2332	Mania ...	30	None ...	...	140	7	...	...	Relieved
2333	Monom. of Suspicion	46	Do. ...	181	163	7	12	...	Do.
2334	Monom. of Pride ...	53	Phthisis ...	91	116	7	25	...	Not Improved
2335	Mania ...	23	None ...	106	122	1 1/2	16	...	Recovered
2336	Dementia ...	25	Scrofula ...	105	109	6 1/2	4	...	Not Improved
2339	Mania ...	19	Curv. of Spine ...	99	114	4	15	...	Recovered
2341	Dementia ...	52	None ...	110	125	6	15	...	Not Improved
2342	Melancholia ...	56	Do. ...	110	122	4 1/2	12	...	Recovered
2347	Dementia ...	63	Do. ...	...	...	4 1/2	...	...	Not Improved
2344	Monom. of Suspicion	24	Do. ...	111	112	3	1	...	Do.
2346	Do. ...	26	Do. ...	98	109	5	11	...	Recovered
2347	Dementia ...	35	Do. ...	112	113	3	1	...	Not Improved
2348	Monom. of Suspicion	30	Do. ...	125	142	5 1/2	17	...	Do.
2349	Senile Mania ...	75	Do. ...	...	...	5 1/2	...	...	Do.
2350	Silliness ...	17	Do. ...	114	120	5	6	...	Do.
2351	Melancholia ...	41	Do. ...	170	166	5	...	4	Do.
2353	Mania ...	53	Do. ...	99	112	1 1/2	13	...	Recovered
2354	Do. ...	45	Do. ...	115	134	5 1/2	19	...	Relieved
2355	Melancholia ...	22	Hernia ...	147	149	2	2	...	Recovered
2359	General Paralysis ...	31	General Paralysis	126	99	4	27	...	Not Improved
2361	Mania ...	44	None ...	115	129	2	14	...	Recovered
2362	Monom. of Suspicion	38	Do. ...	102	125	3	23	...	Do.
2364	Melancholia ...	46	Anchyls. of left hip joint	112	...	3 1/2	...	...	Do.
2366	Chronic Mania ...	63	None ...	102	...	3	...	...	Not Improved
2367	Mania ...	36	Do. ...	104	...	2 1/2	...	...	Relieved
2368	Melancholia ...	70	Cardiac Disease	...	...	...	...	...	Not Improved
2370	Mania ...	33	Conjunctivitis ...	105	116	2 1/2	11	...	Do.
2375	Monom. of Suspicion	24	None ...	163	158	2	...	5	Recovered
2378	Mania ...	35	Do. ...	113	124	1 1/2	11	...	...
2379	Melancholia ...	58	Do. ...	105	106	1 1/2	1	...	Not Improved
2381	Mania ...	42	Anchyls. of left hip and elbow joint	114	107	1 1/2	...	7	Do.
2383	Monom. of Suspicion	70	None ...	118	100	...	...	18	Relieved
2384	Do. ...	34	Do. ...	117	105	...	...	12	Not Improved
2385	General Paralysis ...	35	General Paralysis	117	120	...	3	...	Do.
2390	Acute Mania ...	40	None ...	146	136	...	...	10	Do.

XVI.—Weight on Admission and on Discharge of those Recovered.

M A L E S .							
No. in Register	Form of Insanity.	Age.	Weight in lbs. on Admission.	Weight in lbs. on Discharge.	Months Resident	Gain in lbs. Weight.	Loss in lbs. Weight.
2313	Mania ...	24	137	157	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	2
2285	Alcoholism ...	34	131	133	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	
2241	Melancholia ...	40	160	158	8		
2236	Dementia ...	19	131	163	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	32	
2247	Monom. of Suspicion	36	132	144	7	12	
2283	Melancholia ...	39	96	124	4	28	
2174	Mania ...	61	172	186	14	14	
2256	Dementia ...	29	129	150	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	
2284	Mania ...	50	121	159	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	
2182	Acute Mania ...	60	142	159	16	17	
2277	Dementia ...	16	112	123	9	11	
2299	Acute Mania ...	45	123	127	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	
2315	Do. ...	34	124	147	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	
2272	Melancholia ...	37	136	145	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	
1912		29	123	138	49	15	
2308	Melancholia ...	55	142	158	8	16	
2365	Monom. of Suspicion	48	126	127	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	
2363	Monom. of Suspicion	46	127	136	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	9	
2376	Mania ...	57	98	113	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	
F E M A L E S .							
2279	Mania ...	38	106	120	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	14	12
2240	Do. ...	20	106	127	6	21	
2271	Melancholia ...	24	100	108	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	
2172	Mania ...	29	106	139	13	33	
2273	Do. ...	21	112		5		
2066	Hysterical Mania ...	22	122	128	24	6	
2229	Mania ...	22	123		8 $\frac{1}{4}$		
2260	Do. ...	21	118	135	5	17	
2276	Do. ...	21	119	121	5	2	
2274	Melancholia ...	49	136	147	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	11	
2318	Alcoholism ...	33	109		5 $\frac{3}{4}$		
2311	Mania ...		90	106	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	16	
2237	Monom. of Suspicion	60	114	148	10	34	
2301	Melancholia ...	35	125	113	3 $\frac{1}{4}$		
2290	Acute Mania ...	30	101	113	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	
2221	Mania ...	49	126	146	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	
2146	Do. ...	43	106	116	20	10	
2322	Melancholia ...	30	124	149	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	25	
2335	Mania ...	23	106	122	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	16	
2289	Melancholia ...	38	96	123	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	27	
2223	Mania ...	25	131	156	15	25	
2353	Do. ...	53	99	112	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	
2355	Melancholia ...	22	147	149	2	2	
2339	Mania ...	19	99	114	4	15	
2328	Do. ...	26	124	148	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	
2293	Do. ...	27			10 $\frac{1}{4}$		
2361	Do. ...	44	115	129	2	14	
2342	Melancholia ...	56	110	122	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	
2378	Mania ...	35	113	124	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	
1836	Do. ...	28	130		60		
2157	Do. ...	43	111	134	24	23	
2346	Monom. of Suspicion	26	98	109	5	11	
1958	Acute Mania ...	27	109	128	44	19	
2362	Monom. of Suspicion	38	102	125	3	23	
2201	Mania ...	16	114	133	20	19	

REPORT

ON THE

MONTROSE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

BY SIR JAMES COXE.

MONTROSE ROYAL ASYLUM,
October 29, 1875.

The number of patients has undergone a slight diminution since the visit of the 19th March, owing to the mortality having been above an average, and also to a higher ratio of recoveries. The following are the changes which have taken place:—

				Private.		Pauper.		Total.
				M.	F.	M.	F.	
Admissions,	...	...	...	10	9	15	29	63
Discharges,...	...	...	...	6	5	10	23	44
Deaths,	...	...	...	1	3	13	9	26

No patients are now admitted from Dundee, but no steps have been taken for the removal of patients chargeable to Dundee parishes already in the house, and none is contemplated. The relations between the Asylum and the District Board remain in the unsettled state alluded to in last report, and, indeed, at the present time all the patients chargeable to the County of Forfar are resident on sufferance. This is in various ways an unsatisfactory state of matters. In the first place, the District Board fails in its statutory duty to secure accommodation for the pauper lunatics of the district; and in the second place, the Asylum is prevented, by the uncertainty of its position, from undertaking those extensions and improvements which are recognised as desirable for the welfare and comfort of the inmates. Such are, for instance a dining hall, and a new amusement hall. The present arrangement for meals show what can be done under adverse circumstances to relieve the wards from the confusion and disorder which the serving of food in them necessarily entails; but these arrangements can be regarded only as temporary expedients, for it is impossible to recognise a flagged and imperfectly lighted basement corridor as a fitting dining-hall for so important an Institution. Nor can an amusement hall, which is much too small, and is, moreover, inconveniently situated, be regarded as properly fulfilling its purpose. The accommodation may be regarded as at present fully occupied, and to meet the demands that have been made upon it a considerable number of patients have been placed in out-lying buildings.

But this resource is now exhausted, and further demands for admission must be met either by refusal or by renewed building. As the Asylum is under no obligation to receive the patients of the district, it would be so far justified in declining the reception of patients beyond its capability of accommodation; but this course might be attended by very serious consequences to the district, and it is therefore extremely desirable that a fresh agreement should without delay be concluded with the District Board. In justice to the Asylum, this agreement should define the responsibilities which it requires the Institution to undertake; and this could best be done by a division of the district, and attaching certain portions to the Asylums of Dundee and Montrose respectively. Should, however, this suggestion not meet with approval, some other calculated to carry out the provisions of the statute should at once be considered and submitted to the General Board for their approval.

Of the patients discharged since last visit, 32 had recovered, 2 were removed to lunatic wards of Poorhouses, 2 were transferred to other Asylums, and 8 were placed in private dwellings.

The deaths have been numerous and from a variety of causes not indicative of any special influence beyond that of general decay. Of the 26 who died, all, except 3 men and 4 women, were in bad health on admission, and all, except one man and one woman, were invalids for months or years before they died. The man died of diphtheria and the woman of congestion of the lungs. Many of the patients had been many years in the Asylum, and the mortality was spread pretty equally over the whole period. The severe cold of last winter did not seem to produce any immediate effect on the health of the community, but, it may be, the increased number of deaths during the spring and summer was nevertheless to some extent connected with it. The general mortality of the Asylum, as a rule, is favourable; and it is probable that the usual satisfactory average will be regained by a decrease in the number of deaths in coming year. It has, however, to be taken into account that the Asylum appears to be becoming more and more a refuge for persons of decayed mental and bodily powers, for whose proper care nothing but nursing is required. Accordingly, among the present inmates are many persons in very feeble and broken health, and the number of wet cases on both sides is considerable. The house was in excellent order, and the patients were in every part free from excitement. Various indications were noted of progressive improvement in the accommodation, and the fittings and decorations of the whole of the wards are advancing *pari passu*. Linoleum is being extensively laid down, and the floors are being varnished and waxed to limit as much as possible the use of wet scrubbing. It is strongly recommended to place mirrors of some size above the chimney-pieces of the wards occupied by the

more exciteable females, as calculated to lead them to be more orderly and more interested in their personal appearance. The provision of a new large greenhouse, which has just been finished, will afford abundant means of supplying the wards throughout the year with the best and most interesting kind of decoration.

The bedding and day-clothing were in a creditable state. It might, however, be considered whether hair mattresses should not more largely replace those of chaff and straw. In the long run they would not be found more expensive, and they are more cleanly and more tidy in appearance. Their introduction would seem to be one of the consequences of the improved aspect of the accommodation in other respects.

The dietary appears to be abundant and appropriate, and care is taken to supply extra diet and cordials in all necessary cases. Seclusion has been used with tolerable frequency in one case since last visit, on account of violence and excitement; but no one was in seclusion during the two days of the inspection, and it is only in rare and exceptional cases that this mode of treatment is resorted to. In a few chronic cases such remedies as chloral and bromide of potassium are given to promote sleep; but the exhibition of narcotics of any kind in recent cases, and for curative purposes, is not regarded with favour. In very few cases is exercise restricted to the airing courts, and many patients of both sexes enjoy the privilege of going about on parole both within and beyond the grounds. Of the men about 110, and of the women 120, are industrially employed. The occupations of the former are—in the grounds, 87; in the workshops, 11; and the rest in the wards, kitchen, laundry, and stable. Of the latter, 64 are employed in sewing, knitting, and darning, 12 in the kitchen, 9 in the farm or garden, and 25 in the wards.

The general use of house shoes for workers and non-workers is recommended both for the comfort of the wearers and the tidiness of the wards.

The accommodation afforded by Gayfield House for a few ladies is of a most comfortable kind.

Considerable difficulty is experienced in securing and retaining the services of good attendants; but this is a difficulty which is very generally felt, and is dependent on causes which increase of pay would only very partially meet. Five accidents of some severity are recorded since last inspection. In two cases attendants were injured by patients, in one case a patient was injured by a patient, and in two cases the injuries were accidental.

The various registers are carefully kept.

(Signed)

JAMES COXE,
Commissioner in Lunacy.