

## **Fifth annual report of the Argyll District Asylum for the Insane : 1868.**

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FIFTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
ARGYLL DISTRICT ASYLUM  
FOR THE INSANE.




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1868.

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

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THE District Board has much pleasure in again recording its satisfaction with the condition and management of the Asylum. The Board is also glad to be able to refer the County to the very satisfactory entries made by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, on the occasion of their official inspections of the Asylum.

It will be seen from the Report of the Medical Superintendent that the accommodation in the Asylum is now insufficient for the increasing demands of the County. Negotiations have been opened with the County of Bute with the view of enlarging the Asylum to such an extent as will accommodate their patients, as well as provide for the additional wants of Argyllshire. These negotiations are still in progress.

The weekly charge to Parishes for the year 1868-69 will be nine shillings and eightpence a-week for each patient.

The Board recommends that, for the ensuing year, an assessment yielding £2000 should be made, apportioned on the County and Burghs.

J. C. CAMPBELL.  
J. G. MACMILLAN.  
H. MACNEAL.

MARCH, 1868.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 15TH MARCH, 1868.

## CHARGE.

MAINTENANCE, 15TH MARCH, 1867, ... ..	£392	1	9
BOARD OF PATIENTS FOR YEAR, ... ..	3,386	13	2
ARREARS OF BOARD UNPAID AT 15TH MARCH, 1867, ... ..	208	2	4
ADVANCES REPAID, ... ..	13	3	1
RECEIVED FOR SUNDRIES, ... ..	5	14	3
SALES OF FARM PRODUCE, ... ..	109	18	8
FARM PRODUCE SUPPLIED TO ASYLUM, ... ..	409	1	6½
	<hr/>		
	£4,524	14	9½

Butcher Meat,	...	...	...	...	£372	5	0	
Fish, ...	...	...	...	...	58	12	3	
Flour and Oatmeal,	...	...	...	...	197	15	6	
Barley and Rice,	...	...	...	...	60	12	0	
Tea, Coffee, &c.,	...	...	...	...	45	19	2	
Sugar and Treacle,	...	...	...	...	59	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Cheese, Eggs, &c.,	...	...	...	...	19	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Butter,	...	...	...	...	80	12	8	
Sundry Groceries,	...	...	...	...	10	19	1	
Potatoes and other Vegetables,	...	...	...	...	201	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Bread,	...	...	...	...	312	10	6	
Milk, ...	...	...	...	...	196	6	8	
						£1.615	11	31

Medicine, .....	£13	9	3
Malt and Spirituous Liquors, .....	29	1	0
Tobacco and Snuff, .....	21	16	8
	<hr/>		
	64	6	11

Fuel, ... ..	£105	9	2
Light, ... ..	118	14	4
Soap, Soda, &c., ... ..	54	13	5
Earthenware and Glass, ... ..	15	11	1
Stationery, Printing, Postages, &c., ... ..	35	19	11
Books and Amusements, ... ..	23	7	11½
Freight and Cartage, ... ..	67	19	9
Incidental Expenses, ... ..	18	11	0
General Furnishings, ... ..	123	10	4½
Re-taking Patients, ... ..	6	16	1

CLOTHING, ... ..	570	13	1
SALARIES AND WAGES, ... ..	299	18	9
ADVANCES FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES, &c., ... ..	784	6	3
ARREARS OF BOARD UNPAID, ... ..	13	4	6
OUTLAY ON FARM AND GARDEN, ... ..	129	3	3
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF MAINTENANCE, ... ..	346	15	1
	700	15	8

£4,524 14 9½



## II.—ERECTING, FITTING-UP, &c.

## CHARGE.

Assessment imposed on Landward part of County								
and Burghs,	...	...	...	...	...	£2000	0	0
Balance against Erecting, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	276	13	8½
								£2,276 13 8½

## DISCHARGE.

Balance against Erecting, &c., 15th March, 1867, ...	£562	16	11½
Repairs of Building, ... ..	270	17	3
Erection of Farm Buildings, ... ..	1	16	6
Feu Duty and Taxes, ... ..	216	15	7
Insurance on Buildings and Furnishings, ... ..	28	0	0
Instalment on Loans, ... ..	533	6	8
Interest on Loans and Bank Account, ... ..	620	12	4
Arrears of Assessment unpaid by Burgh of Oban, ...	42	9	3
	<hr/>		
	£2,276	13	81

### III.—LOANS FROM SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Balance at 15th March, 1867,	...	...	...	...	£13,700	0	0
Instalment paid, 11th November, 1867,	...	...	...	...	533	6	8
					£13,166	13	4

## STATE OF THE FUNDS.

Balance in favour of Maintenance, 15th March, 1868,	£700	15	8		
Balance against Erecting, &c., 15th March, 1868, ...	276	13	8½		
				424	1 11½
Lodged in Union Bank of Scotland, 15th March, 1868, ...	...	...		£424	1 11½

**COST OF MAINTENANCE OF EACH PATIENT  
PER WEEK.**

									S.	D.
Provisions,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	10 $\frac{7}{8}$
Medicines, &c.,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2 $\frac{3}{8}$
House Expenses,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8 $\frac{6}{8}$
Clothing, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	10 $\frac{7}{8}$
Salaries and Wages,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4 $\frac{5}{8}$
									<hr/>	
									10	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct Profit on Farm,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
									<hr/>	
									9	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
									<hr/>	

**ARCHIBALD MACEWAN,**

*Clerk to the District Lunacy Board of Argyllshire.*



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT,  
FOR THE YEAR 1867,

PRESENTED TO THE ARGYLL DISTRICT BOARD OF LUNACY.

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THE Medical Superintendent has the honour of submitting to the District Board his Report for the past year.

The number of patients on the Asylum Register on 1st January, 1867, was 61 males and 65 females; but of these 2 males were boarded out on probation. There were admitted during the year 17 males and 22 females, being the same number of males, but 8 females more than had been admitted during the previous year. One of the male patients had formerly been treated in the Asylum.

General  
results.

Fourteen patients were removed from the Asylum, and 9 died. Of those removed, 7 males and 4 females had recovered. The deaths, as usual, occurred chiefly among the males, only 1 female having died during the year. The proportional number of deaths during the year to the average number of patients was 6 per cent., which is less than the mortality usual in asylums.

At the end of the year the number of patients on the Register was 143, 62 of whom were male and 81 female. Among these, however, are included 6 females who were boarded in private houses, some of whom have since been permanently discharged. The number, after deducting these, still leaves 2 males and 15 females more than the building is intended to accommodate. The average number resident during the year was 61 males and 68 females.



Boarding  
patients in  
private  
dwellings.

The Medical Superintendent has frequently, both in the Reports to the District Board, and elsewhere, expressed his belief that a large number of the insane may be suitably, and often with peculiar advantage, boarded with families in their own position in life. The experience of this system in Argyllshire has not, however, been altogether satisfactory. To give it a fair trial, the majority of the patients accommodated in this manner ought to be placed with families living within easy reach of the Asylum, so that a proper degree of supervision might be exercised. Local circumstances have, however, prevented this arrangement from being carried out in this neighbourhood. It is also much to be desired that the families to whom the care of the harmless insane is given over should be rather above the average in intelligence and civilisation, and it is much to be regretted that hitherto great difficulty has been experienced in persuading suitable persons to undertake this charge.

Addition  
to the  
Asylum.

The only practicable mode, therefore, of providing for the increasing requirements of the county is by adding to the present Asylum building. Such increased accommodation has been obtained in some asylums by the erection of cheap and simple buildings in connection with the farm, and also by building cottages for the families of the attendants, with sufficient extra room in each for the reception of a few of the more easily managed patients. These plans possess many considerable advantages; but it is necessary, in order to obtain these advantages fully and economically, that the central or parent institution with which these additions are connected, should be of considerable size. It is not likely that either system would be successfully carried out in an asylum containing fewer than 300 patients; and, as the present building is only intended to accommodate 120 inmates, it would consequently be by an enlargement on the same principle as the Asylum was originally constructed that the required increase could be most suitably obtained.

If the negociation at present in progress for a union of the Lunacy Boards of the counties of Argyll and Bute should be successfully concluded, an opportunity would be afforded for the introduction of several improvements in the present building, and



the general superintendence could be more economically and efficiently arranged.

By reference to the statistical tables which accompany this Report, a general idea may be obtained of the character of the cases and the results of treatment. Particular attention, however, may be directed to the seventh table, which shows the duration of the mental derangement previous to admission to the Asylum in those cases which have been either admitted or removed within the year. The data from which this table is compiled are obtained chiefly from the statutory statements furnished by Inspectors of Poor in the papers which contain the order for admission. In some cases there appears to be considerable misapprehension in the minds of those from whom the information is derived as to what is meant by the duration of the disease. It is sometimes stated that a patient has only been insane for one or two weeks, when subsequent inquiry shows that the mind has been decidedly unsettled for more than twelve months. This misrepresentation is probably in most cases unintentional, and arises from the belief that insanity does not commence until there is absolute raving, or some other equally striking symptom. It is obvious how important a difference there must be in the estimate which is formed of two apparently similar cases, when one is reported to have been insane for a week and the other for a year. Perhaps the most useful general rule to be followed by those who fill up the statements, would be to date the insanity from the time when any decided change was first observed in the character or habits of the patient; and it is much to be desired that the utmost care should be employed in obtaining correct information.

As copies of this Report will probably be circulated through the county, it may be useful to allude to the subject of the early removal to the Asylum of those attacked by mental disorder. It is not the opinion of the Medical Superintendent that this is necessary for all such persons. There are many cases, indeed, in which recovery may be obtained more rapidly and satisfactorily by judicious treatment at home. But in the great majority of cases, immediate removal to an asylum is desirable, on account of the impossibility of carrying out elsewhere those measures

Duration  
of insanity  
previous to  
admission  
to the  
Asylum.

Importance  
of placing  
the insane  
under  
proper care  
at the com-  
mencement  
of the  
illness.



which are demanded by the welfare of the patient, and also on account of the absolute injury which is often inflicted by the injudicious efforts of relatives and others to promote recovery.

Evil effect  
of super-  
stition.

It is reported upon good authority, that a patient at present in the Asylum, and in whom recovery is now almost hopeless, was taken out to sea by her relatives, for the purpose of being thrown overboard, and kept under water until half drowned, in the hope that the returning animation might not be tainted with the evil influence under which she was supposed to suffer. This circumstance, which is founded on a mediæval superstition, is mentioned to show how desirable it is that all the insane should be placed under intelligent supervision as soon as possible after the commencement of the illness. There is also a less extreme,

Evil effect  
of mistaken  
medical  
theories.

though not less fatal error which is often committed by the relatives of the insane; and this is especially likely to occur in such cases as are remote from medical advice. When the insanity is accompanied by excitement and violence, it is supposed to be the result of an inflammation, which ought to be reduced by low diet and other such remedies supposed to have a depressing effect. The correct treatment in almost all such cases is, on the contrary, to supply as much easily digestible and nourishing food as the patient will take; and in many cases this will be considerably more than would be necessary in health. The appetite frequently furnishes a sufficiently correct guide in this matter. The error of attempting to starve down the excitement has generally the effect of increasing it, and often leads to a fatal result. Cases frequently occur in which a patient has been so much reduced in strength by the treatment adopted before sending him to an asylum, that he has died from want of power to rally from the bodily weakness.

Cost of  
mainten-  
ance.

In the management of the Asylum there has been no very important change during the year. The high price of provisions has increased the cost of maintenance somewhat beyond what it was last year; but this has been counterbalanced by the profitable return now obtained from the farm and garden. During the first years after the opening of the Asylum, considerable outlay was incurred in putting the land into a satisfactory



condition, and this was considered justly chargeable against the original expenses of the establishment. Now that the farm is self-supporting, or rather a source of profit, it will help to diminish the charge for maintenance; though, while provisions continue so high in price, it will probably be prudent to retain our present rate.

The occupations and amusements of the patients have been carried on as usual; and our thanks are again due to those who have assisted us in either.

Some improvements have been introduced in minor details in the building, and a good deal of the plumber work which had given way has been repaired or replaced. From the increase in the number of patients, several additional articles, such as benches, have required to be provided.

The entries made by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy are, as usual, appended to the Report.

The Medical Superintendent takes this opportunity of acknowledging the uniform kindness of the District Board to himself, and of thanking it for the confidence shown in his management. He has also pleasure in thanking those associated with him in the service of the Institution, who have cordially and efficiently performed their duties.

JOHN SIBBALD, M.D.,  
*Medical Superintendent.*

MARCH, 1868.



TABLE I.

SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS, RE-ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND  
DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Asylum, 1st January, 1867, (inclusive) of absent on trial, 2 males,) - - - - - }	62	65	127
M. F. T.			
Admitted for the first time during the year, }	16	22	38
Re-admitted during the year, - - - - - }	1	0	1
Total admitted, - - - - -	17	22	39
Total under care during the year,	79	87	166
Discharged or Removed: M. F. T.			
Recovered, - - - - -	7	4	11
Relieved, - - - - -	2	1	3
Died, - - - - -	8	1	9
Total discharged and died during the year, - - - - - }	17	6	23
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st Dec., 1867, (inclusive of absent on trial, 6 females,) }	62	81	143
Average number resident during the year, - - - - - }	61	68	129

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS, RE-ADMISSIONS, AND DISCHARGES,  
FROM THE OPENING OF THE ASYLUM TO THE PRESENT DATE,  
31ST DECEMBER, 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Persons admitted during the period } of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, - - - - - }	118	110	228
Re-Admissions, - - - - -	3	4	7
Total of cases admitted, - - -	121	114	235
Discharged or Removed: M. F. T.			
Recovered, - - - - - 21 16 37			
Relieved, - - - - - 13 5 18			
Not improved, - - - - - 1 4 5			
Died, - - - - - 24 8 32			
Total discharged and died during } the $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, - - - - - }	59	33	92
Remaining, 31st December, 1867, - -	62	81	143
Average numbers resident during the } $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, - - - - - }	53	56	109



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 Num- bers Resident.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered.		Relieved.		Unim- proved.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Males.	Females.	Mean.			
				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	2	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	6	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
Totals and Averages for the 4½ years, .....	121	114	235	21	16	37	13	5	18	1	4	5	24	8	32	60	58	119	53	56	109	17	14	16	9	2	6



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, 1867.

YEAR.	ADMITTED.										OF EACH YEAR'S ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGED AND DIED IN 1867.										TOTAL DISCHARGED AND DIED OF EACH YEAR'S ADMISSIONS, TO 31ST DEC., 1867.										Remaining of each Year's Admissions, 31st Dec., 1867.			
	New Cases.		Relapsed Cases.		Congeni- tal Cases.		Transfers from other Asylums.		Total.		Recovered		Relieved.		Unim- proved.		Died.		Recovered		Relieved.		Unim- proved.		Died.									
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
1863	8	6	3	1	0	2	42	33	95	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	5	5	10	8	3	11	0	2	2	13	4	17	27	28	55
1864	10	9	3	5	0	0	7	9	43	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	2	7	2	1	3	0	0	0	5	3	8	8	17	25
1865	10	7	1	3	0	0	3	3	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	3	5	9	14
1866	14	11	1	0	0	0	2	3	31	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	10	9	19
1867	12	14	4	6	0	1	1	1	39	2	4	6	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	6	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	12	18	30
	54	47	12	15	0	3	55	49	235	7	4	11	2	1	3	0	8	1	9	21	16	37	13	5	18	1	4	5	24	8	32	62	81	143

## SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL ADMISSIONS, 1863-67.

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
Percentage of Cases Recovered, . . . . .	17.4		14.0		15.7	
Relieved, . . . . .	10.7		4.4		7.7	
Unimproved, . . . . .	.8		3.5		2.1	
Dead, . . . . .	19.9		7.0		13.6	
Remaining, . . . . .	51.2		71.1		60.9	
	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
Cerebral Softening, - - - - -	1	0	1
General Paralysis, - - - - -	3	0	3
Maniacal Exhaustion, - - - - -	1	0	1
THORACIC DISEASE :			
Pulmonary Consumption, - - -	3	0	3
Total, - - - - -	8	1	9

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	0	1
From 1 to 3 months, -	1	2	3	0	0	0
" 3 " 6 " -	0	2	2	1	0	1
" 6 " 9 " -	2	0	2	0	0	0
" 1 " 2 years, -	1	0	1	3	0	3
" 2 " 3 " -	1	0	1	0	0	0
" 3 " 5 " -	2	0	2	3	1	4
Total, - - -	7	4	11	8	1	9





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

AGES.	THE ADMISSIONS.			THE DISCHARGES.						THE DEATHS.		
				Recovered.			Removed not Recovered.			Males.	Females	Total.
				Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.			
From 15 to 20 years,	3	3	6	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
" 20 " 30 "	5	4	9	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
" 30 " 40 "	4	5	9	3	0	3	0	1	1	3	0	3
" 40 " 50 "	1	3	4	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
" 50 " 60 "	2	6	8	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	2
" 60 " 70 "	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
" 70 " 80 "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total, - - - -	17	22	39	7	4	11	2	1	3	8	1	9

TABLE IX.—Condition as to Marriage in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year.

CONDITION IN REFERENCE TO MARRIAGE.	THE ADMISSIONS.			THE DISCHARGES.				THE DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered.		Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.		Males.	Females.	Total.
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.		
Single, - - - - -	13	15	28	5	2	7	2	0	0	2
Married, - - - - -	4	4	8	1	2	3	0	1	0	1
Widowed, - - - - -	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total, - - - - -	17	22	39	7	4	11	2	1	8	9









# VALUE OF STOCK ON FARM.

16TH MARCH, 1867.

7 Cows, at £12 15/ each,	...	...	£89	5	0
4 Two-year old Highland Cattle, at £6,	...	...	24	0	0
1 Do. Ayrshire do.,	...	...	6	0	0
2 Do. do. Stirks, at £4,	...	...	8	0	0
1 Calf, ...	...	...	2	0	0
1 Horse, ...	...	...	20	0	0
6 Bolls Oats, for Seed and Feeding purposes,	...	...	7	16	0
550 Stones Hay, at 1/2,	...	...	32	1	8
			<hr/> £189 2 8 <hr/>		

15TH MARCH, 1868.

8 Milk Cows, at £12 10/ each,	...	...	£100	0	0
2 Two-year old Ayrshire Queys, at £9,	...	...	18	0	0
1 Six-quarter do. Quey,	...	...	5	0	0
2 Quey Stirks, at £3 10/,	...	...	7	0	0
700 Stones Hay, at 1/2,	...	...	40	16	8
4 Bolls Oats, at 21/,	...	...	4	4	0
10 Tons Turnips, at 20/,	...	...	10	0	0
			<hr/> £185 0 8 <hr/>		

Decrease in value of Stock,	...	4	2	0
		<hr/> £189 2 8 <hr/>		

# ENTRIES

BY THE

## COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

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APRIL 11, 1868.

THE patients on the register at this date are 62 males and 66 females. Of these 2 males and 3 females are absent on probation; and there is thus on the female side an excess of 3 in the numbers resident above what the establishment is calculated to accommodate. One of these supernumerary patients sleeps in the infirmary dayroom, one in the servants' bedroom, and the third in the Medical Superintendent's house. No great inconvenience is experienced from this arrangement, and one or two additional patients may be disposed of in a similar manner; but all such supplementary accommodation will soon be exhausted, and the evils of over-crowding experienced, unless some measures be adopted to meet the demands for admission, either by the removal of chronic cases, or the extension of the buildings.

Since the visit of 19th October, 17 patients have been admitted, 3 have been discharged, and 7 have died, giving an increase of 7 in the numbers on the register; but, in consequence of discharges of probation, of only 2 in the numbers resident. Of those admitted, 4 were transferred from other establishments, and 13 brought directly from their homes. The mental affection was dementia in 3 cases, mania in 6, acute mania in 2, melancholia in 4, and delusional insanity in 2. Of those discharged, 1 was transferred to another asylum, 1 had recovered, and 1 was removed at the request of relatives. The causes of death are registered as general paralysis in 2 cases, cerebral disease in 2, and renal disease, phthisis, and acute mania in 1 case each.

The house was found in excellent order. The wards were clean and well ventilated, and presented an aspect of cheerfulness



and comfort, which is being gradually increased by the additional supply of articles of interest and decoration. The bedding was sufficient, in good condition, and beautifully clean. The day clothing of both sexes was substantial, clean and comfortable.

Considerable repairs of the building and fittings have from time to time to be undertaken. The brick arches which support the hearth-stones have, in one or two instances, been found to be insecure, and precautions are being taken to afford them additional support. In the male refractory day-room, a serious accident was narrowly escaped by the brick arch beneath the hearth-stone of the room above falling during the absence of the patients. Owing to the difficulty of keeping the water-closets in proper repair, a modified arrangement is at present being tried. The wood-work in the sculleries is suffering from the action of the water, and should be protected by lead or zinc, or replaced by slate.

The sanitary state of the establishment is at present favourable. Only 1 male and 3 females were in bed from sickness or debility, and most of these cases had been long bedridden. Some temporary excitement was produced among the females by the inspection, but otherwise perfect order and tranquillity prevailed. No one was in seclusion, and it appears from the register that recourse to this mode of repression is had only on rare occasions, for purposes of discipline, and for periods which seldom exceed two hours. The entries since last visit are 7 in number. Two patients wear locked boots; with this exception no special contrivances in dress are in use. Dinner was served during the visit in a very neat and orderly manner. The food was abundant, of excellent quality, and well cooked.

Twenty-five males and 26 females are registered as industrially employed. The state of the weather has, however, of late considerably interfered both with out-door work and exercise. Nevertheless, steady progress, although necessarily slow, is being made in reclaiming land, making roads, and finishing the airing courts. Extended exercise in the general grounds is taken by every patient physically able.

Amusement and recreation meet with due attention, and the supply of periodicals is liberal.

The arrangements in bedding for wet patients continue to give satisfaction. The numbers registered as belonging to this category



are 8 males and 5 females, but attention in raising them keeps the actually wet considerably within these limits. Economical reasons interfere with the appointment of night nurses, which would have the effect of further improving the condition of these patients, and affording solace to the sick and wakeful.

Since last visit 1 male attendant has been discharged for intoxication, and 1 female for the use of improper language. Two females left for reasons not affecting their character. A general reduction has been made in the money wages of the female attendants, and two dresses given instead, with the view of checking extravagance in the purchase of clothing.

There has been no accident.

The various registers were found carefully and accurately kept. One patient was admitted on a certificate of emergency, and removed before the Sheriff's order became necessary.

(Signed) JAMES COXE,  
*Commissioner in Lunacy.*

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11TH AND 12TH DEC., 1867.

Since the last statutory inspection, 11th April, there have occurred 3 deaths. This small mortality is referred in two cases to phthisis, in one to general paralysis. The ages at death were respectively 76, 39, and 59. Twelve patients have been discharged, 11 as recovered, 1 as relieved. Seven of the number were admitted during the current year. In the same period, 28 patients have been admitted, all belonging to the district. The inmates now registered are 63 males and 79 females. Of the latter, however, 5 are absent on probation. The residents being 13 in excess of the calculated number of females, and 3 of that of males. That the house is full to overflowing is indicated in various ways, and at many points. Additional beds, and a greater number than what was originally intended, have been placed in almost all the dormitories for females; beds have been introduced



into lavatories; a portion of a lavatory has been boarded off as a wardrobe, so as to make a room used as such disposable; the population seemed dense in one of the day rooms for males, and in other places, and was positively crowded in the dining hall. It is not supposed that the required breathing space has as yet been encroached upon—the good health of the community speaks to this—but the superficial space available is obviously insufficient. As intimately connected with the amount of accommodation, it is to be kept in view that of the cases under treatment 33 are acute.

The house was admirably clean, and, except the dining hall and scullery, well aired. The latter, and the water-closets, are grave defects in the structure. To remedy, as far as possible, what greatly affects the comfort and perhaps the health of the patients, metal boxes, containing carbolic acid largely diluted with water, have been added to the *lieux d'aisance*. Various improvements are going forward, both in the direction of usefulness and ornamentation. Valances to the windows have been more generally introduced; the walls of the staircase in the male department have been boarded; and two rooms are in process of being papered, with what promises to produce a cheerful effect.

The bedding was beautifully pure, and well arranged and sufficient. The dress and personal appearance of the patients of both sexes indicated constant attention to cleanliness and tidiness. It appears that the supply of water has necessitated four individuals to use the same bath; and that now, in consequence of the obstruction of the pipes, the same water serves for twelve.

Forty-nine men and fifty-nine women partook of dinner during the visit. It consisted of broth, salt fish and potatoes. There was a slight degree of excitement produced by the detention of certain restless patients, that they might be identified; but, on the whole, the meal was characterised by great sobriety and propriety of demeanour. The cheerfulness of the assemblage would be greatly enhanced by more ample space and a better supply of light and air.

The cultivation of the grounds goes on, and with a fair amount of success. The airing-yards are still unfinished, and in addition to the completion of the terraces, &c., of that for females, it will be expedient to lay the walks, which are at present soft and miry,



with slag or asphalte. This might be extended with advantage to that of the males, which had been cut up by wheelbarrows, &c., but appeared pulpy. A weather shade is about to be erected here, which it is proposed should likewise serve the purpose of a skittle alley.

Twenty-one men are employed, chiefly as labourers. The industrial women amount to forty. Of these the majority sew, or spin, or scrub; but nine assist in the kitchen, and twelve in the laundry.

The amusements are attended by 29 men and 49 women. Every Monday evening there is a public reading by the Medical Superintendent; every Tuesday evening there is instruction in music by the Precentor; and on Thursday takes place the weekly dance. Besides these, Hallowe'en, New-Year's-Day, and other anniversaries are observed.

Ninety-four attend public worship.

The registers, orders, &c., were examined.

Night watching has not as yet, except in the case of the sick, been resorted to; but an attendant now occupies a bed in every dormitory. Seclusion has been very rarely used. Except slight contusions, no accident is reported to have taken place subsequent to admission. One attendant has been dismissed for intoxication.

The foregoing observations suggest the following recommendations:—

1. That as the economisation of the available space cannot go farther, some means be considered for providing the accommodation which will inevitably, and at a very early period, be required.

2. In September, 1864, it was most judiciously suggested that the Superintendent should be enabled to leave his duties for brief periods, and to mingle in society. He cannot do this with perfect rest to his own anxieties, and with perfect safety to his charges, as matters now stand. It may be difficult to determine the precise number of patients that call for the services of a Medical Assistant in an Asylum; but the actual and increasing population of this establishment obviously point to an addition to the medical staff.

3. The state of the water-closets, and the ingenious makeshifts resorted to, are not in keeping with the other arrangements of the institution, and should forthwith be attended to.

4. The speedy completion of the airing-yard for females.

5. It is understood that contracts have been entered into for



laying new (lead) water pipes, so that a sufficient supply of water may be obtained. Promptitude in carrying out this plan is very necessary.

The general impression carried away, from a careful examination into the management of this establishment, is highly favourable to the judgment and carefulness of the officers. This feeling has been produced as much by the anxiety to obviate difficulties as to take advantage of the real capabilities of the house.

(Signed) W. A. F. BROWNE,  
*Commissioner in Lunacy.*