Contributors

Dundee Lunatic Asylum.

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FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

Dundee Lunatic Asylum,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st May, 1824.

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REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

DUNDEE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

IN presenting an Annual Report to the public the Directors have three objects in view: They appear in the character of representatives, and they feel it a duty they owe their constituents to explain the manner in which they execute their trust: They are the Managers of an extensive charity, and they consider themselves bound to state the claims they have in support of their brethren : They come voluntarily forward also as the advocates of the most hapless and miserable portion of our race, and earnestly plead the cause of those who have the highest claim on our sympathy and aid. And while the Directors present their Fourth Report to the notice of the public, they have great pleasure in mentioning the increasing usefulness of the Institution, and the measures they have adopted for affording additional comfort and accommodation to the unhappy persons committed to their care. The annexed lists will shew that, during the last year, thirty-seven new patients have been admitted to the benefit of the Institution, many of whom were in a very high degree of mental excitement; and whose reception into the Asylum has not only materially increased their own comfort, but has afforded inexpressible relief to their relations, and to the whole of that society with

which they had been connected. It will likewise be observed, that within the year thirteen patients have been restored to society, and are now to be found at their ordinary occupations, and in the enjoyment of the comforts of domestic life. Seventy-four still remain in the house; and though no general description can apply to cases that must be almost infinitely diversified, yet, at this moment, it can be stated, that none of the patients are confined to their apartments;---that in fine weather they are generally found in the airing grounds, pursuing those avocations or amuse. ments to which they are directed by their former habits or taste-some are engaged in reading-some in playing on musical instruments-some in drawing-some are employed in manual labour in the garden-here a party is seen at cards-there a couple are intent at backgammon-some females are sewing-some knitting or spinning-some voluntarily engage in the work of the house-whilst it must be added with regret, that there are others from whom the eye of the keeper must not wander; and who, from mental imbecility or disorder, are unfit for engaging in those exercises-perhaps, in a melancholy hour, one may be found "etching on his little stick another day of misery;"-but they are all generally found in a state of freedom from restraint, and the whole coup d'ail presents a picture the most interesting and affecting that can be contemplated by the sensitive mind. If this establishment had never existed. few of its present inmates would have found their way into any other institution; and the extreme filth and wretchedness to which most of them were subject at their admission, compared with their present habits and appearance, is a sufficient proof of the daily benefit the public reap from the erection of this Asylum.

In exhibiting this establishment to the view of the public,

the Directors beg leave to say, that they are most anxious to disclaim every feeling of personal vanity. They are chosen annually by different public bodies in the town of Dundee and County of Forfar; and praise, were they disposed to offer it, would not fall on them, but on their predecessors in office. They wish, however, to found their appeal solely on the appalling nature of that evil which they attempt to cure or alleviate, and consequently on the necessity and utility of that institution of which they have been appointed the guardians for the present year, by the suffrages of their countrymen. Withdrawing themselves, therefore, altogether, personally from the public eye, as the founders and promoters of this establishment, and speaking only in the name of the office with which they have been invested, they can state with confidence, that there prevails throughout all the departments of this Hospital a degree of quietness, cleanliness, comfort, and freedom from restraint, which could not be conceived by a person who had never seen a similar institution; that the skill of the most eminent architect has been employed in the construction of the buildings ;- that every improvement which experience has sanctioned in the most celebrated hospitals has been adopted in this one;-that the recent discoveries of science have been directed to promote the grand object in viewthe comfort and recovery of the patient ;--- and that the success with which all these exertions have been accompanied will not suffer by a comparison with that of any similar institution. The Directors are happy in being able to announce, that they are still preparing means of greater comfort and accommodation to the patient, and consequently of more extended usefulness to the public. A north wing, consisting chiefly of office-houses, will soon be built-apartments for noisy patients will likewise be added-and the

airing grounds will be extended and divided so as to give a more complete classification of the patients than has hitherto been effected. The Directors take the liberty of intimating, that a number of the apartments that were fitted up for the accommodation of those who could afford to pay a high board, are yet unoccupied,—that the servants of such patients will either be admitted into the house, or suitable attendance will be given,—and all that privacy, quietness, and comfort will be enjoyed, that can be obtained in any private establishment.

If this Institution has in the least degree lightened the heaviest burden to which our nature is subject, the Directors conceive that the subject of this report must be interesting to the public mind. The appeal which they now make, however, is not grounded merely on the accommodation which their establishment affords to the different classes in society-nor on the success with which their labours have been crowned-nor on the mild and tender treatment the patients receive-nor on any thing that refers to the case of the unhappy individuals committed to their care. They would urge a plea of a more general nature, as they offer a quiet and comfortable retreat to many whose presence must wound the heart of their relations, and be a source of grief to the whole circle in which they move. Humanity cannot witness a spectacle of deeper affliction, than one of our fellow mortals bereft of those intellectual faculties which constitute the only superiority of our species, and without which we would sink into the lowest scale of animal existence. This heaviest of all calamities scarcely ever takes place, without carrying along with it the most poignant sorrow, and deepest despair. The countenance of the unhappy patient generally bespeaks the anguish that preys upon his heart, and those gloomy phan-

toms that float before his imagination continually depress his spirit. But he suffers not alone. He is connected in society; there are others that are partakers of his calamity, and sharers in his grief. It is not possible to paint the feelings of dismay with which we observe the first symptoms of derangement in those to whom we are joined by the ties of affection-as these symptoms are generally marks of dislike and hostility to those who were formerly the objects of their fondest love. It forms a melancholy view of this disease, that it dissolves the ties of nature-that former joys are converted into sorrow-and that from sources of true enjoyment flow only streams of bitterness and pain. The patient can never be placed in such unhappy circumstances, as in the circle of his own family-in the presence of those very objects which fan the flame of disorder, and keep in constant excitement those passions over which reason has lost her controul. Does not every feeling of our nature revolt at the thought of applying to a near relative those restraints which may be necessary to his safety, and which cannot be withheld but at the danger of his life? Would not the hands of a child be totally unstrung if doomed to confine the instructor of his youth, the protector of his infant days? Would not the heart of a husband melt within him when exerting his physical strength to restrain her who is still the object of his dearest affection, and who had ministered to all his wants, and been the partner of all his sorrows? How desirable is it then in every point of view, that the unhappy sufferers be placed in some quiet and secure retreat, where they may enjoy the benefit of medical aid-the experience and attention of those to whom they have formed no aversion-and where their presence shall no longer wound the feelings of friendship, or embitter the comforts of domestic life.

The object the Directors have in view, and which they are most anxious to attain, cannot fail to meet with the good wishes and countenance of the public, as it is nothing else than to lighten the weight of human suffering—to divert the stream of human misery into a channel where it may be less destructive—it is to provide for the comfort and recovery of the most hapless of our race, and to remove that cloud of sorrow which they throw over the circle of their friends. It is an attempt from which they can anticipate no evil—it is an attempt that must be productive of more or less good—it is an attempt to which we are prompted by all the feelings of humanity, and all the principles of religion.

It is with feelings of no ordinary satisfaction that the Directors survey this establishment, erected by the hand of benevolence, and bear testimony to the comfort that generally reigns within its walls. But a brighter prospect meets their eye when they look into futurity, and discern this Hospital remaining as a monument of the sympathy and Christian spirit of the age in which it was reared; improved and enlarged by the superior knowledge and experience of posterity, and pouring comfort into the cup of human misery until the latest ages of the world. To realize these delightful anticipations the public aid must not be withheld. To be extensively useful the board of patients must be kept at a low rate; the extent of usefulness is therefore limited by the rate of board; the rate of board must of course be regulated by the state of the funds of the institution; and, in short, the degree of usefulness must ultimately rest on the countenance and support of the public. The Directors fondly hope, that their brethren will not lend a deaf ear to this appeal; that they will take under their fostering care this plant which has put forth its stems with such luxuriance,

that in due season it may bring forth all its fruit, and that the most wretched of our species may recline under its shade, when the present generation shall have passed away, and have their portion assigned them in the eternal world. Having thus candidly and honestly submitted their case to the consideration of the public, the Directors have only farther to add, that donations will be thankfully received by their Chairman, David Blair, Esq. of Cookston; or by any of the Office-bearers of the Institution.

The Directors with much pleasure express their warmest thanks to the Physician, to the Superintendant and Matron, to the House Visitors, and Weekly Committee, to the Treasurer and Secretary, for their fidelity and attention to their duty. Also, to all the Benefactors and Contributors to the Asylum; and to the undermentioned persons for various services and useful articles presented by them to the Institution, viz.

Miss Stirling Graham of Duntrune, for Books.
Alexr. M. Guthrie, Esq. of Craigie, for his readiness on all occasions to promote the interest of the Asylum, and for several loads of Straw, &c.
Messrs John Patullo, Mylnfield, William Cobb, East Mains, John Allan, Pilmer,
Peter Arklay, Esq. of Cleppington, Rev. Mr Cannan, Mains, Peter Kidd, Balgray, George Kidd, West Craigie, Alexr. Rattray, Milltown of Craigie, John Patullo, Longhaugh, Mrs Guthrie of Guthrie, for Rags

ABSTRACT

OF THE

MEDICAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS.

AMIDST the great diversity of cases admitted into the Asylum, it is melancholy still to reflect that so large a proportion belong to those who have become victims to a blind and indiscriminate treatment at home, and have been sent to this as a last resort, after the most precious moments for their recovery have been wasted in fruitless or pernicious efforts.

The most zealous management, and the most unremitting care, in many such instances, can afterwards reach only to a limited improvement,—and can no longer repair the wide and permanent breach of the intellect.

It is therefore superfluous to expatiate on the advantage of early application, which requires no comment, as being uniformly supported by a direct appeal to the eivdence of facts, and the certain results of actual experience. Indeed no man of enlightened mind or of liberal principles—surely no man of candour, with any pretensions to professional knowledge, can hesitate a moment as to the best means of a speedy, effectual, or permanent recovery to the insane, on the invasion of this awful calamity; or can advise a temporizing and fallacious policy in such a dreadful emergency.

Prejudice, however, and ignorance, and false delicacy give way apace to the progress of light, and to the many proofs of practical benefit derived from a well-conducted and humane institution.

Wherever the patients have come to this house within a short period after the attack of disease, the amendment has been as rapid as the recovery has been complete. Some, no doubt, will continue to relapse from the recurrence of the original or fresh exciting causes, and more especially, when the predisposition is strongly implanted by nature; but even here, much will depend on the care and attention of friends and relatives, and the extent of self-controul, or that habitual command which the individual may possess over his appetites and passions. Too often these unhappy people are endued with a morbid sensibility which requires greater tenderness and delicacy of feeling than can fall to the lot of most of them on their return to their respective abodes.

Within the last twelve months there have been examples of the successful application of medicine in dispelling some of the most unhappy illusions of the senses and perversion of the natural feelings. One man having the idea of a consuming fire in his vitals, was rendered miserable beyond conception by this notion; which perpetually haunted his imagination, and had rendered him obstinate in refusing food or drink, as, in his estimation, adding only fuel to the flame within him. After the use of appropriate medicine in correcting great and manifest disorder of the stomach and bowels, this idea gave way to more correct thought.— He is now convalescent and happy.

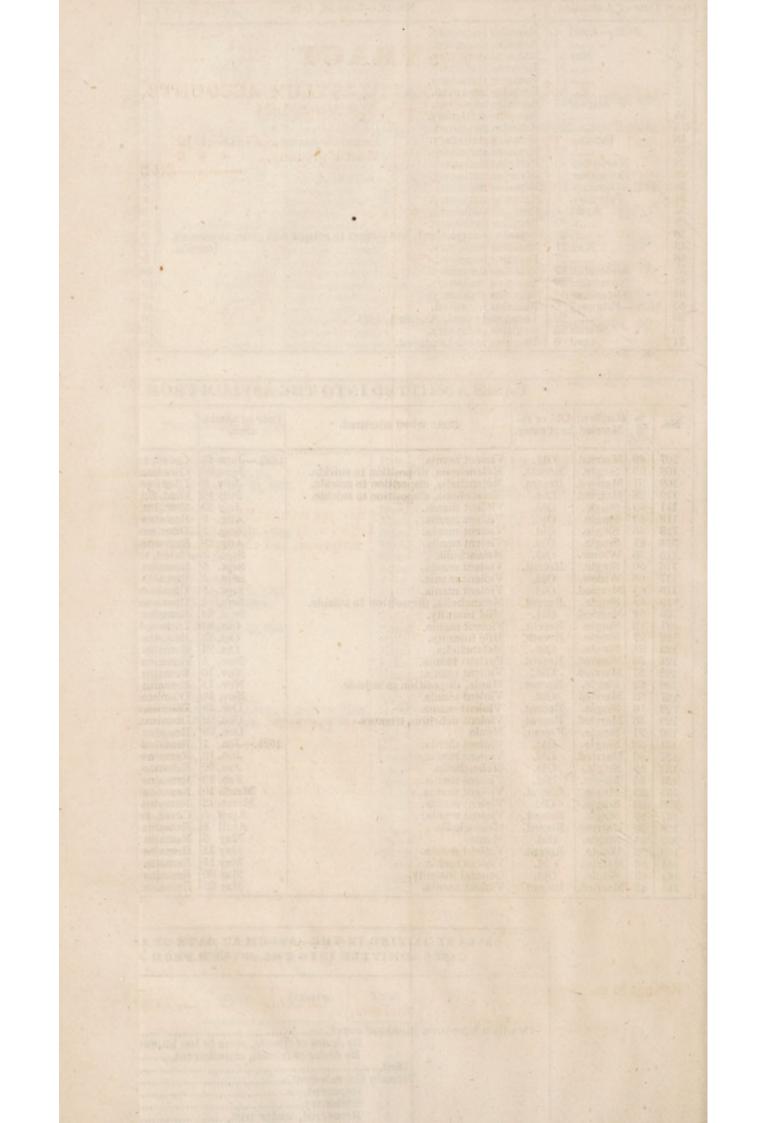
The influence of moral, as well as of physical causes over derangement of mind, forms an interesting subject of study, and demands much discrimination and experience in di recting the agency of either in the cure of a complaint so complex and so abstruse. Here there are many very curious and instructive examples of the different varieties of the disease, requiring peculiar or even opposite methods of treatment.

While all the moral sensibilities of our nature, in this disease, are often highly increased, and the power of volition, or the command of the will, is weakened or lost, it is a mistake to suppose that therefore a maniac in general is no longer susceptible of those influences which act on the mind of a rational being—that he is no longer sensible to kindness or cruelty—no longer capable of reasoning or of acting from rational motives—that his judging faculty is annihilated because it is partially deranged :—nothing is farther from the truth. Many seem in some degree sensible of the illusions to which they are liable, and endeavour to resist them with effect; and all are subject, in the wanderings of intellect, to the beneficial influence of a firm and decisive, but discreet and gentle controul.

No.	the same the subscription of the same time to be a subscription of the same time time time time time to be a subscription of the same time time time time time time time ti	ASES REMAINING IN THE ASYLUM AT DATE (Event.—June 18, 1824.	1.1.1.1	Date of Admission.	REPORT, JUNE 18, 1823. No. 54. EventJune 18, 1824.
$\begin{array}{c} 1\\ 3\\ 5\\ 5\\ 6\\ 7\\ 8\\ 8\\ 13\\ 14\\ 15\\ 18\\ 19\\ 92\\ 2\\ 5\\ 31\\ 36\\ 8\\ 39\\ 43\\ 6\\ 65\\ 66\\ 65\\ 66\\ 66\\ 65\\ 66\\ 66\\ 65\\ 66\\ 66$	October 1 	Remains stationary. Remains stationary.	$\begin{array}{c} 73\\75\\78\\79\\80\\81\\83\\84\\86\\88\\89\\91\\92\\93\\94\\99\\99\\99\\99\\100\\101\\102\\103\\104\\105\\106\end{array}$	1822.— April 17 June 27 August 5 October 4 	Remains stationary. Remains improved. Remains much improved. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Dismissed cured, June 30, 1823. Remains cured. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Dismissed cured, September 27, 1823. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary.

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	CASES ADMITTED INTO THE ASYLUM FROM JUNE 18, 1823, TO JUNE 18, 1824. No. 37viz.										
No	Age	Single or Married.	Old or re- cent cases.	State when admitted.	Date of admis- sion.	Event.—June 18, 1824.	Apparent causes.				
100 100 100 111 111 111 111 111 111 111	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Single. Single. Single. Single. Widow. Single. Married. Single. Single. Single. Married. Single. Singl	Recent. Recent. Old. Old. Old. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old. Recent. Old. Old.	Violent mania. Violent mania. Melancholla, disposition to suicide: Mild insanity. Violent mania. Mild insanity. Melancholia. Furious mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent delirium, tremors. Mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Melancholia. Mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Melancholia. Mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania. Violent mania.	Nov. 13 Nov. 19 Dec. 18 Dec. 23 1824.—Jan. 19 Jan. 22 Feb. 13 March 10 March 13 April 5 April 5 May 15 May 15 May 15 May 13 May 15	Dismissed cured, September 30, 1823. Died, September 2, 1823. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains inproved. Cured, remains under trial. Remains fully convalescent. Remains fully convalescent. Dismissed cured, November 7, 1823. Dismissed cured, March 80, 1824. Remains inproved. Remains inproved. Remains inproved. Remains inproved. Remains interpoved. Remains stationary. Dismissed cured, April 1, 1824. Dismissed improved. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains stationary. Remains improved. Remains improved.	Hereditary disposition, intemperance. Hereditary disposition i false views of religion. Hereditary disposition, inebriety. Hereditary disposition, exciting cause unknown. Disappointment in love. Misfortune, disappointed love. Intoxication, hereditary disposition. Wound on the head at sea, hereditary disposition. Dometic misfortune, adversity. Adversity. False views of religion. Habitual inebriation. Hereditary disposition ; no exciting cause known. Gause unknown. Hereditary disposition, pride, and violent passion. Disappointed love, pride. Hereditary disposition, jealousy, violent passion. Habitual intoxication ; irregular habits. Domestic affliction ; ill treatment. Irregular habits. Hereditary disposition., terror. Intoxication ; domestic broils. Hereditary disposition. Disappointment in love. Hereditary disposition. Cause unknown. Hereditary disposition. Hereditary disposition.				

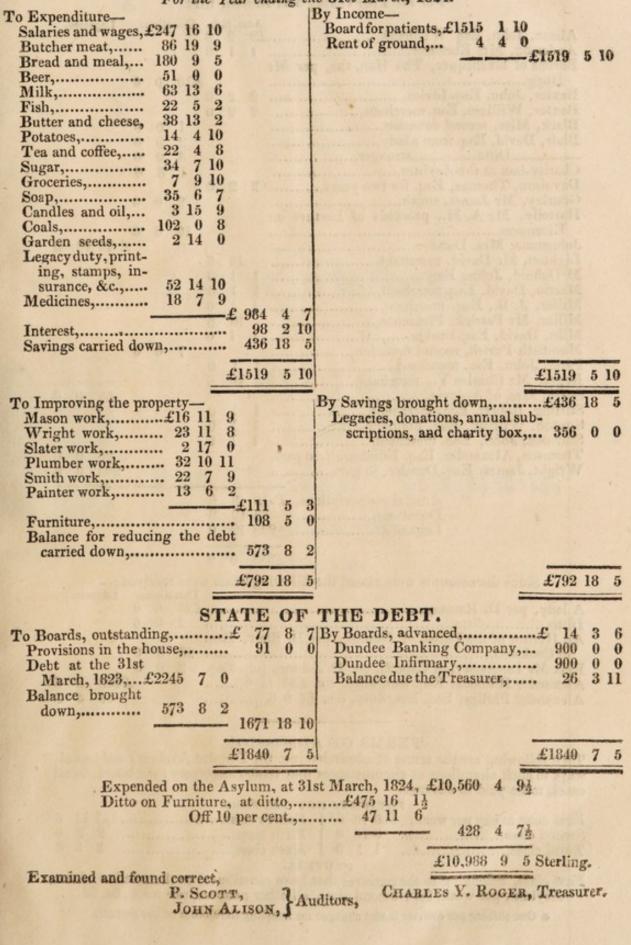
		1		
	Males.	. Females.	Total.	91
Of whom have been dismissed cured, By desire of friends, more or less improved, By desire of friends, convalescent, Died, Remain Convalescent, Improved, Stationary, Recovered, under trial,	8 1 0 1 15 20	5 1 1 1 3 8 21	13 2 1 1 4 23 41	



ABSTRACT

OF THE DUNDEE LUNATIC ASYLUM ACCOUNTS,

For the Year ending the 31st March, 1824.



CONTRIBUTIONS, For the Year ending 31st March, 1824.

	Alizan John For Wellbank	An		b.	Dona	ation	15.	Lega	icies	1	
	Alison, John, Esq. Wellbank, Anderson, Mrs Ebenezer,	1	21	0							
4	Barons of Exchequer, The Hon. the, per Mr										
	Hogg,		-		£10	0	0			1	
	Baxter, John, Esq. Idvies,	2	22	0							
	Baxter, William, Esq. merchant,	2	2	0	T	0	0				
	Black, Miss, second donation, Blair, David, Esq. from a lady,				123	0	0				
	Ditto,stranger,				3	00	õ				
	Charity-box at the Asylum,				ĩ	8	6				
	Davidson, Thomas, Esq. for two years,	2	2	0							
	Gourlay, Mr James, smith,				2	0	0				
	Hartelly, Mr A. M., proceeds of Lecture on					124					
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	Johnstone, Mrs, Dundee,		10	c				E 19	19	U	
	Lighton, Mr David, merchant, M'Donald, John, Esq	1	10	60							
	Martin, David, Esq. merchant,	î	î	ŏ							
	Millar, J. B., Esq. merchant,	î	î	õ							
	Millar, Mr Patrick, Pleasance,		10	6							
	Miln, David, Esq. banker,	1	1	0		****					
	Monifieth Parish, second donation,			~	7	0	0				
	Peter, John, Esq. merchant,	1	1	0							
	Roger, Mr Charles Y., merchant,		10	6							
	Speid, Mrs, of Ardovie, Stirling, Robert, Esq. merchant,	1	1	0				55	U	U	
	Straton, William. Esq. Foundry,	î	î	ŏ							
	Sturrock, John, Esq. merchant,	i	ī	Õ							
	Thomson, Alexander, Esq. Edinburgh, in part,							25	0	0	
	Wright, James, Esq. Dundee, in part,							200	0	0	
	Annual Culture C	10	0						-	-	
	Annual Subscriptions, £	19 36		6							
	Donations, 2			0							
	Liegutto, minimum 2			_							
	£3	56	0	0							
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		-			Dons			Tán	nine		

Since the accounts were closed the following suits	were.	rece	iveu	-		
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A lady, per Dr Ramsay,				Dure		
A lady, per Di Ramsay,	220	0	U			
Ditto,ditto,	2	0	0			
An Heritor of the Parish of Dundee, per D. Blair, Esq.			Stores .			
of Cookston,	26		0			
Rev. Mr Innerarity, of Caputh, per D. Jobson, jun. Esq.	. 2	0	0			
Alexander Riddoch, Esq. less, duty, &c. £51 11 6,			£44	8 8	1	6
Alexander Philips, Esq. less, duty, &c. £5 0 6,			4	5 4	1	B

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

THE following are the terms of admission into the Dundee Asylum ; subject al-ways to such alterations as circumstances may render necessary : the board, in all cases, to be paid in advance.

			NOT PAUPERS.			
First class to pay per week,	L.0 10	0 6*	Fourth class,I	4.1	11	6
Second class	0 1	50	Fifth class	2	2	0
Third class	11	0	Sixth class,	3	3	0
A CALL AND A			PERS.			

First class, belonging to the parishes that have contributed to the erection of the Asylum, per week, 7s.; second class, all other paupers, per week, 8s. 6d.

* One shilling per quarter is also charged for mending the clothes of the patients.