

Thirtieth annual report of the directors of the Dundee Royal Asylum for Lunatics : submitted, in terms of their charter, to a general meeting of the directors, 17th June, 1850 with the report of the medical officers.

Contributors

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78

THIRTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DIRECTORS
OF THE
DUNDEE ROYAL ASYLUM
FOR
LUNATICS;

SUBMITTED, IN TERMS OF THEIR CHARTER,

TO A

GENERAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS,

17TH JUNE 1850.

WITH THE

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

DUNDEE:
PRINTED AT THE ADVERTISER OFFICE.

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REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS
OF THE
DUNDEE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,
TO THE
ANNUAL GENERAL COURT,
17TH JUNE 1850.

THE thirtieth year of the Asylum closes to-day. The Directors, in presenting the following summary of the events which have transpired while discharging their trust, would premise that the past year has naturally afforded them occasion for much solicitude. It was feared that the resignation of Dr Mackintosh, and the consequent change in the superintendentship, might occasion some degree of danger and difficulty in the progress of the Institution. It was imagined that, upon such an event, both patients and attendants would experience a degree of panic at the breaking up of old attachments and friendly intercourse, and indulge the fear that settled and cherished habits would be changed, or privileges curtailed; that this state of feeling would complicate seriously the ordinary difficulties of the Asylum, and predispose to the occurrence of untoward events. Moreover, it was borne in mind that not only the comfort but the safety of the patients depended so

much upon the tact which local experience alone can give, that it is with feelings of sincere thankfulness the Directors have to report that, under the Divine blessing, no accident or escape has occurred during the year. This happy result, however, falls to be mainly attributed to that complete organization of the Asylum in all its parts which resulted from the long, devoted, and efficient labours of Dr Mackintosh and Mrs Kilgour; their efforts having established a system of management which has gained for this Asylum unqualified approbation, and won for both its patrons and the district a philanthropic fame. While making this just acknowledgment of the services of those who have been long connected with the Institution, the Directors have sincere pleasure in bearing their unqualified testimony to the zeal, ability, and attention displayed by Dr Wingett ever since his appointment to the office of Medical Superintendent; and in expressing their confident hope that, under his judicious management, and with the valuable assistance of Dr Nimmo as Consulting Physician, the Asylum will continue to maintain the high reputation which it has so long enjoyed.

The most casual reminiscence of the progress of this Institution cannot be made without recognizing the generous and important labours of the chairman, Mr Scott. He has superintended its whole career with a constancy and anxiety for its welfare which have induced the friends of the Institution to regard him as one of its most distinguished benefactors. And it must be acknowledged with gratitude that his labours and proposals have always been characterized by the conviction that the infirmities of the mind are among the most awful of the visitations of God; and that it was demanded of every one engaged in the work of protecting and relieving the sufferers, to be careful that they endowed their isolated home not only with the means of healing the curable, but the appliances also for ameliorating the condition of those who must unhappily regard an Asylum as their permanent home. May the generous enthusiasm which actuates Mr Scott be ever present with those who may be called upon to co-operate with him in the good work which has so long occupied his mind. The Directors deem it matter for congratulation that they have had the opportunity of testifying their grateful estimate of the services of Mr Scott by ordering his Portrait

to be painted, which has been most successfully accomplished by Mr Stewart, of Dundee, and is now placed in the Committee Room of the Asylum.

At the last Quarterly Court of Directors a letter was presented from the Parochial Board of Dundee, requesting that the rate of board charged for its pauper patients might be reduced ; the present low prices of provisions having been urged as the grounds of the application. The question was fully considered by the meeting, and it was judged that the many wants and liabilities of the Institution rendered any present reduction of the board of its pauper patients injudicious, if not impracticable. In deliberating upon this matter the Directors have been influenced by the consideration that, although it is undoubtedly their duty to charge the lowest possible sum for the pauper patients committed to their care, it is equally incumbent upon them to preserve the resources and appliances of the Institution intact ; to adopt all those means for alleviating suffering which have been pointed out and approved of by science and humanity, but which cannot be thoroughly accomplished unless they at the same time preserve the funds of the Institution as free from embarrassment as possible. The trust committed to their hands, as defined and inscribed upon the foundation stone of the Institution is —“ To restore the use of Reason—to alleviate suffering, and lessen peril where reason cannot be restored.” This is the task which, in humble dependence upon Divine aid, the Directors strive to accomplish ; and the present proposal to cripple the resources of the Asylum would prove a serious obstacle to its progress in the direction pointed out by its founders, who charitably subscribed the funds necessary for its origin. And it may be respectfully mentioned, that, since the promoters of this Asylum began their charitable labours, the population of Dundee has more than doubled ; in fact a new population has arisen, but the contributors to the funds of this Institution have not increased in like proportion. Had there been an approximation to this result the present application by the Parochial Board of Dundee would not have required to have been made. While, therefore, the Directors strive to provide for the necessities of the sufferers committed to their care, at the smallest possible expense, they earnestly trust that the poor of Dundee will not, without

grave cause, be deprived of the benefits of an Institution bequeathed to them by the charitable of their native town.

This Institution has always had to struggle against pecuniary difficulties. Its debt is large. A portion of the female department remains to be built—its completion being a matter of much urgency; and many important conveniences and improvements are required. Now, the Directors consider that, seeing they have these difficulties to contend against, and that the Institution is a charitable one, they are entitled to hope that the blessings which Providence diffuses over the land in the form of cheapness and plenty may not be debarred from reaching this Asylum, but that it may receive a share of that benefit which its affairs stand so much in need of,—a relief which, if allowed to act upon the Asylum for a short time, will enable the Directors to accomplish the double object of securing the efficiency and prosperity of the Institution, and complying with the request of the Dundee Parochial Board.

The rate per week charged at present for the patients of the Dundee and other privileged parishes is 6s. This rate will bear favourable comparison with the charges made in all the asylums of Scotland; but it will be valuable to compare this charge with the following statement of the Commissioners in Lunacy of England relative to the charges made for pauper lunatics. “These estimates are formed from an observation of the weekly expenses per head of the insane in the different asylums, licenced houses, &c. These expenses differ very much from each other in amount. Thus, the expense of a pauper lunatic in the county asylums (with the single exception of the Chester Asylum, where the cost is as low as 4s 1d) ranges from 6s to 11s per week. In private asylums the expense is greater,—rarely falling below 8s, and in some cases exceeding 11s, per week. The exception mentioned in regard to the Chester Asylum, as charging so low a rate as 4s 1d per week, now no longer exists.” In the report of that Asylum for 1849 the following important statement occurs:—“The experience of the past year has added strength to the convictions of former years, that an ample supply of nutritious food and warm clothing are amongst the most successful agents in the cure of insanity, and the promotion of the comfort of the incurable. The present rate of charge for care and

maintenance of Cheshire paupers is 7s per week, exclusive of clothing, of which sum there is no reason to expect any reduction at present."

These facts justify the conclusion that, unless an asylum receive extraordinary aid in the shape of endowment or donations, it cannot provide for the necessities of pauper lunatics at a cheaper rate than is at present charged by this Institution, unless, indeed, cheapness be achieved by a retrograde movement in the method adopted for their care and cure. But public opinion will not tolerate this. The best sympathies of the public have been stirred on behalf of the lunatic; the erroneous treatment he suffered at the hands of his sane protectors has been brought to light and denounced; it is demanded that lunatic asylums provide their inmates with something more than mere food and custody; they must not be allowed to "live by bread alone;" and they cannot again be allowed to suffer in obscurity pangs which their fellow mortals have the power to alleviate.

There are twenty-five parishes having the privilege of placing their patients in the Dundee Asylum at the lowest rate of board. The number of lunatics at present in the Asylum, chargeable to these privileged parishes, is 116. The proposal to reduce the rate of board for so large a class of the inmates is, therefore, a very serious question.

The Reports made by the House Visitors, during the year, have been highly satisfactory. Mr George Thoms, Mr Keay, and the Rev. T. G. Torry Anderson officiated, and visited the Asylum alternately, at intervals of a few days, and have borne uniform testimony to the order and discipline pervading the management of the Institution, as well as to the efficiency of the means adopted for securing comfort, consolation, and protection to the afflicted. The various occupations provided for the patients, either as means of cure or of happiness, have been followed by their accustomed and well-known beneficial results; and the admirable airing grounds and gardens have afforded constant opportunities of healthy exercise to those who were incapable of manual occupation, or whose condition was otherwise unsuited to it. It is a pleasant feature of this Asylum that, when visited during fine weather, scarcely a

patient is to be seen in the wards. The industrious are in the workshops or laundry, and the excitable, the suicidal, and the imbecile, are in the open air under the care of their attendants; and at these times the Institution wears an aspect of composure which never fails to draw forth the commendation of the visitor upon the means which have achieved so much good. The disease, thus modified and assuaged by kindness and care, has lost all the reputed terrors of its aspect, in having preserved the form, feature, and fashion of humanity.

The mean number of patients resident in the Asylum during the year has been 200; viz. 107 males and 93 females. The male side of the House has been found to be sufficiently extensive for the accommodation of all the cases applying to be admitted into it during the year, no male patient having been refused admission on account of want of room. The case has been widely different upon the female side. Its accommodation has been completely occupied during the whole year, and it was necessary to refuse admission to 23 applicants. Among these were many cases of great urgency; and the incapability to admit them threw the friends of many of the patients into serious difficulty. It is, therefore, of much consequence to the public that the completion of the female side of the Asylum should not be delayed longer than is absolutely necessary. There have been admitted during the year 62 patients; viz. 30 males and 32 females. When to the females admitted are added those refused admission, it appears that the demand for accommodation for females has been to that for males nearly as 2 to 1. It is not, however, to be concluded from these figures that females are more subject to insanity than males, for it appears from a review of the statistics of this Asylum, during its whole career of thirty years, that the admission of males has exceeded that of females by 10 per cent. But it is probable that a somewhat different result would be arrived at if the calculation were made both upon the cases admitted and *refused* admission. Esquirol affirmed that women were more liable to insanity than men, in the proportion of 37 males to 38 females; but more accurate and extensive statistical investigations have negatived this conclusion, and shown that females have a decided advantage over males as to their liability to the disease.

During the late distressing visitation of cholera in Dundee much anxiety was felt on account of this Asylum, and all the precautionary measures recommended at the time were adopted. Thus communication with the suffering neighbourhood was suspended as completely as was practicable; ventilation and cleanliness were made as perfect as possible; the dietary and clothing of the patients were regulated with the greatest precision; every one was instructed to watch for and report the first approach of diarrhœa; and all kinds of fumigations and disinfecting agents were resorted to. But, with all these efforts to avoid the calamity, two cases of Asiatic cholera appeared in the Asylum. The first occurred upon the 5th August; the other upon the following day. Both the sufferers were female paupers; one of them died of the disease. At the time the disease appeared the female department of the Institution was not at all crowded, the number of female patients having been 93, whereas the average number of females resident during the previous year was 94. The disease did not appear in the male department. In the large asylums of Paris there was also a remarkable difference in the number of male and female lunatics attacked with cholera. Thus, at the Salpêtrière, an asylum receiving female lunatics only, the deaths from cholera from the month of March to the end of August were 22 per cent. of the patients resident; while at the Bicêtre, which is an Institution receiving male lunatics only, the deaths from cholera were only 5 per cent. of the patients resident.

At the time cholera appeared in the Institution, Dr Sutherland, the distinguished Inspector attached to the London Board of Health, was in Dundee, and he was immediately requested to visit the Asylum, with the view of giving an opinion as to whether there were any circumstances in the construction or arrangements of the Institution favourable for the origin or spread of cholera. He made a careful inspection of the Asylum, and the result was extremely satisfactory; he was unable to point to a single circumstance requiring to be obviated. He approved highly of all the precautionary and hygienic arrangements which had been made, and expressed himself at a loss to explain the *origo mali*.

It is right to mention that the two cases of cholera which ap-

peared in the Asylum were not treated in the wards where they occurred. They were immediately removed from among the other patients, and conveyed to a large unoccupied room at the northern extremity of the Laundry, isolated from the other parts of the Asylum, and which had been previously used as a depository for spare furniture and lumber. This room has since been fitted up as a small Infirmary, to be available should the Institution ever again be unhappily afflicted with grave epidemic disease. In the meantime, however, the apartment has been converted into a Billiard Room, for which it is well adapted, and it is ardently hoped that this may be its permanent use.

With a view to increased salubrity, no deposits of manure or offal are allowed to be formed upon any part of the Asylum grounds; and an arrangement has been entered into with the Police, for conveying away decomposing matters as soon as formed. To facilitate this the Piggery has been partly rebuilt and altered, and a new door-way opened in the wall adjoining it.

The late Mr Samuel Matters generously bequeathed to the Institution £150, payable 20 years after his death. This Legacy, amounting after deducting duty and expenses to £135 17s 2d, has been gratefully received this year.

The ministrations of the Chaplain, the Rev. Mr Stirling, continue to be zealously performed, and to be productive of the good effects described in former reports. The chapel is, however, far from being sufficiently large or commodious; and it would be a great boon to the patients if a larger and better Chapel were provided.

The following statement by the Treasurer exhibits the present condition of the Finances of the Institution.

A B S T R A C T
OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE
DUNDEE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

For the Year ending 31st March 1850.

INCOME.

Boards from Patients,	£4543	0	1
Patients' Labour,	108	12	7
Profit on Store,	90	16	0
Profit on Straw,	18	3	7
	£4760 12 3		

EXPENDITURE.

SALARIES—

Superintendent,	£200	0	0
Matron,	97	10	0
Physician,	100	0	0
Chaplain	40	0	0
Secretary,	30	0	0
Treasurer,	50	0	0
	517 10 0		
Less Fees from Patients,	49	7	0
	£468 3 0		
Interest,	£443	8	7
Servants' Wages,	527	15	6
Soap,	40	10	1
	£1011 14 2		
Carry forward,	£1011	14	2 468 3 0

	Brought forward,	£1011 14 2	468 3 0
Taxes,		32 12 10	
Advertising, Books, Printing, and Stationery,		67 17 9	
Coals and Firewood,		171 15 1	
Fire Insurance,		13 19 6	
Feu Duty,		61 3 0	
Gas,		42 2 0	
Incidents,		211 19 5	
Patients' Extras,		24 6 11	
		<hr/>	1637 10 8
Butcher Meat,		491 15 1	
Butter,		84 17 1	
Beer,		61 6 8	
Bread,		387 12 4	
Barley and Pease,		35 6 10	
Cheese,		13 15 5	
Eggs,		9 7 10	
Fish,		27 10 6	
Groceries,		35 6 4	
Milk,		310 6 0	
Meal,		158 8 4	
Medicines,		29 17 5	
Potatoes,		51 14 4	
Sugar,		73 18 0	
Tea,		73 19 0	
Water,		40 13 0	
		<hr/>	1885 14 2
Furniture,		89 2 1	
Grounds,		44 10 4	
Mason Work,		34 14 2	
Plumber do.,		14 8 4	
Plaster do.		10 6 7	
Painter do.,		36 18 9	
Slater do.,		1 9 9	
Smith do.,		52 7 8	
Wright do.,		42 15 3	
		<hr/>	326 12 11
			<hr/>
			4318 0 9
Excess of Income from Patients,			442 11 6
			<hr/>
			<u>£4760 12 3</u>

ABSTRACT VIEW OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE ASYLUM.

From 1820 to 1850.

Amount of Income from 1821 to 1850, . . .	£93,780 12 6
Amount of Expenditure, 1820 to 1850, . . .	80,785 15 3½
Excess of Income,	12,994 17 2½
Add Donations and Legacies to 31st March	
1849,	£12,444 3 9½
Do to 31st March 1850,	135 17 2
	<hr/> 12,580 0 11½
	£25,574 18 2
Add amount of Debt due by Asylum, 31st March 1850,	8,182 3 11
Total Expenditure on Buildings and Furniture, . . .	33,757 2 1
Deduct sum written off for Depreciation,	455 18 0
Amount of Expenditure as per General Balance Sheet,	<hr/> <hr/> £33,301 4 1

AT THE
ANNUAL COURT OF DIRECTORS,
OF THE
DUNDEE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM

Held in the Town Hall of Dundee, on Monday the 17th June 1850,

PATRICK SCOTT, Esq., IN THE CHAIR,—

WILLIAM THOMS, Esq., read the Annual Report of the Directors.
JAMES BROWN, Esq., seconded by WILLIAM COBB, Esq., moved
“That the Report be adopted and printed,” which was unanimously
agreed to.

The following parishes, having contributed twenty pounds or upwards to the funds of the Asylum, are entitled to have their pauper patients admitted into class first, and are charged the lowest rate of board; but no other parish, since 1824, can claim this privilege. The parish of St Andrews was privileged, in 1837, to have one patient only in the Asylum at the lowest rate of board.

Airlie.	Kettins.
Alyth.	Liff and Benvie.
Arbroath.	Longforgan.
Auchterhouse.	Mains and Strathmartine.
Brechin.	Monifieth.
Dundee.	Monikie.
Dunnichen.	Murroes.
Forfar.	Newtyle.
Glammiss.	Rescobie.
Guthrie.	St Andrews, one patient only.
Inverarity.	Tannadice.
Kirriemuir.	Tealing.
Kinnettles.	

A B S T R A C T
OF THE
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

THE statistical results of the year are satisfactory. The tabular forms appended show that the average number of individuals have left the Asylum cured, and that the number of deaths has been below the average. The cures have been 45 per cent. of the admissions, and the deaths have been 5.5 per cent. of the mean number resident.

It is customary to judge of the efficiency of an Asylum by a reference to its tables of cure and mortality. The rule is, however, partial and unsatisfactory; for, although it may express fairly enough the therapeutic and hygienic resources of the Institution, it gives no expression whatever to the means in operation for palliating and soothing sufferings which admit of no radical cure. Thus, statistics may show that an Asylum is either a good or a bad hospital; but statistics cannot show what sort of a home it is to the incurably wretched and the helpless, and to what extent it is successful in administering the greatest amount of happiness to the greatest number. Figures cannot represent this class of facts, although of surpassing importance. The results are registered only in the consciences of those engaged in the duty; to whom the wise remark of Coleridge is especially applicable—that “he is the best physician who is the most ingenious inspirer of hope.” The best and most important details of an Asylum must always remain untold.

The principal medical fact of the year was the appearance of cholera; a disease which had never before visited the Institution. Two pauper females only were attacked; both suffered the disease in its most aggravated form, and one of them died. Why the disease should have confined itself to the female side of the Institution is a mystery, seeing that this department is remarkable for the little sickness which its inmates suffer; and, even this year, although it has sustained an attack of cholera, only three deaths have occurred, whereas seven male patients have died. Pulmonary consumption is a disease so rare upon the female side that, strange to say, there has not been a case there during the last thirteen years; whereas, upon the male side, 13 cases of the disease have run a fatal course during the same period. Moreover, when it is borne in mind that the mortality of insane males is always so much greater than that of insane females, being, in this country, upwards of 50 per cent. greater, one would imagine that this remarkable tendency to death which male lunatics present would indicate conditions in their state which would predispose them to the attacks of any epidemic influence.

This fact, of the greater mortality among male than female lunatics, should be considered in providing accommodation upon the two sides of this Institution. The mean annual mortality for the last twenty years has been 34 per cent. greater amongst the males than females. From whence it follows that a greater accumulation of cases is taking place upon the female than upon the male side, calling for a corresponding increase in the extent of its buildings; and that this accumulation becomes more sensibly felt as years run on. This affords an additional reason why the female side of the Institution should be completed with as little delay as possible.

One of the patients admitted during the year was rendered insane by the fear of cholera. This young man lived in a constant state of terror that he would take the disease; at length it was reported to him that one of his intimate friends had fallen a victim to the malady; he instantly fell down in a fainting fit. When consciousness returned, however, the alarming discovery was made that his reason was perverted. At the time of his admission into the

Asylum he presented all the features of hopeless insanity. To understand why his condition was judged of so gloomily, it will be necessary to explain that when there occur together the two symptoms of an exaltation of ideas in regard to wealth, rank, and prospects, with an impediment, however slight, of speech, there is no room for hope. The course of the disease is rapid and deplorable. This patient was joyous and loquacious; entertained extravagant and exalted ideas of his own rank, powers, and property. He affirmed that he had lately come to the possession of immense sums of money; and that he intended to proceed forthwith to the House of Commons, for the purpose of introducing a measure, providing that the labouring classes shall work no more than three days a week, and no more than eight hours each day. His ambition and benevolence were unbounded. His speech was sensibly embarrassed; many of his words having been almost unintelligible from the difficulty he experienced in articulating certain letters, and his lips underwent an unusual degree of motion during conversation. The mobility of both the upper and lower extremities was perfect. This array of symptoms called for the most gloomy prognosis. Nevertheless, the mental symptoms gradually disappeared, and he became quite rational, industrious and attentive, and kind to his fellow patients. The embarrassment of his speech was the only remaining symptom of his malady. Still no hope was entertained of his ultimate recovery. The return of the mental symptoms was fully expected; such remissions in the course of the disease being common. At the end of three months, however, it was discovered that the embarrassment of the speech was of 23 years standing; that it was the sequela of fever which he suffered when a boy. The discovery of this fact altered both the diagnosis and prognosis, and shows how necessary it is that full and detailed histories of patients should be furnished. This patient left the Asylum; but the result shows how sensitive and ill-adapted to bear the turmoil and disappointments of life an attack of insanity often leaves the individual. He continued to occupy himself creditably at his trade for three months, when, having been severely reprimanded by his employer for some omission of duty, his mind again suddenly broke down, and he became torpid, timid, melancholy, feared the police, and was

incapable of occupation, and was brought back to the Asylum, his condition contrasting in a most remarkable and distressing manner with that of his previous illness. The paralytic symptoms have not increased; he has suffered no epileptic fits or attacks of cerebral congestion; his present condition is simple melancholia, and he promises to recover. Nevertheless, the embarrassed speech continues, and makes the case simulate in a remarkable manner one of general paralysis; which disease, if it be really present, will be undistinguishable until other motor lesions have supervened.

Although it would not be proper, in a Report such as this, to notice all the cases admitted during the year, it is of consequence to record some of the features of the most important of them, and to state some of the principles guiding the treatment. This is the only way, in fact, by which the public can be informed of the true objects and duties of an Asylum; of the sufferings which seek refuge within its walls; and of the claims which such Institutions have upon their sympathy and assistance.

A case of deep distress was that of the father of a large family, and who was brought to the Asylum at his own request, labouring under an impulse, which he had long combated, which was increasing in force, and which was now almost irresistible, to destroy his wife and children. When he entered the Asylum he exclaimed, with tears in his eyes, "Oh, Doctor, never let me home again. I am possessed with a Devil. I am sair tempted to murder my family." He stated that the impulse had been smouldering in his breast for years; varying much in force and intensity from time to time; and that it was always aggravated upon reading accounts of murders or suicides in the newspapers. He had acquired the habit of drinking deeply, and found respite from his torments only when stupified by its influence. Symptoms of delirium tremens now became superadded to his sufferings; he was unable to sleep; and he had the hallucination that Devils came to him through the night, and tempted him in a variety of ways to commit the deed which filled him with such horror. Previously to the appearance of the lesions of the senses, his malady was one of pure Homicidal Mania; his intellect remaining clear, he was enabled to observe correctly

the progress of his awful propensity, and his unclouded conscience made him recoil in a phrenzy of horror from the contemplation of his unnatural desire. How applicable to his case are the words of St Paul—"To *will* is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. Oh, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me!"

An attack of insanity frequently leaves the mind in a state of great sensitiveness, and incapability to bear the ordinary routine duties of life. A female was admitted in a demented, apathetic state. She recovered and left the Asylum. A few weeks afterwards, however, she called at the Asylum, imploring to be re-admitted, complaining that she felt miserable from the conviction that she was about to become again insane, and fearing that some accident might happen to her if she became insane out of the Asylum. She had lost completely all confidence in herself, and craved to be placed again under the protection and care which she had formerly trusted to with so much comfort. She was sent away with some kindly assurances that her malady would not return, and she should be re-admitted if this became likely, and she has continued to keep well up to this time.

Another illustration of the security and confidence which patients occasionally feel in an Asylum, and the dread with which they contemplate a return to the bustle and business of life, occurred in a man who was originally of a strong and speculative mind and of active habits, who had been plunged into a state of deep melancholia by a series of vexatious disappointments and losses in his business. He recovered after a few months' residence in the Asylum, but always became very uneasy and alarmed when his departure from the Asylum was talked about; and although he felt the strongest desire to return home, on account of his affection for his family, he had the presentiment that his disease would return when he left the Asylum; and when the time for his departure was about to be fixed, he became so miserable and excited that it was considered advisable not to remove him; nevertheless, his friends thought that the change might possibly be beneficial, and they accordingly removed him. The result was good. The remains of

his malady passed away immediately after his return home. His original disease had apparently passed away, and he was suffering only from the fear of its return when he left the Asylum.

The statistical details, which render reports of this kind valuable, will be found in the tabular forms appended. The treatment which has been pursued in fulfilling the objects of the Institution has been, of necessity, various and complex. And although it has been, in many instances, especially blessed in its application, so much of suffering always remains unrelieved and unrelievable, that those using the means constantly deplore the comparative impotency of art, and ardently desire the possession of a power which they trust will yet be revealed to man. The treatment has been both medical and moral. The disease has been attacked by appealing to the mind directly; it has also been sought to act upon the mind through the body. Insanity may have either a moral or a physical cause; it may have also a moral or a physical cure. To choose and apply the physical remedy successfully, it is required to know perfectly the physical constitution and idiosyncracies of the patient. To select the course of moral medicine it is essential to know the disposition, tastes, prejudices, education, habits, modes of thought, and the turmoil of sentiment or passion which may have operated as causes of the disease. This is, in many instances, a difficult task. It must be accomplished, however, and the power to do this constitutes the secret of that powerful influence over certain sufferers which some curators of the insane possess.

PATRICK NIMMO, M.D.

T. T. WINGETT, M.D.

MEDICAL STATISTICAL TABLES,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 17TH JUNE 1850.

(The year ending on the third Monday of June, agreeably to Charter.)

TABLE I.

YEARLY RETURN OF LUNATICS IN THE DUNDEE LUNATIC ASYLUM,

From 18th June 1849 to 17th June 1850.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Remained 18th June 1849, . . .	102	93	195
Admitted during the above period, . . .	19	25	44
Ditto, re-admissions,	11	7	18
Total,	132	125	257
Discharged cured,	13	15	28
Ditto, improved,	3	7	10
Ditto, by desire,	1	3	4
Died,	8	3	11
Total,	25	28	53
Remaining 17th June 1850,	107	97	204
Total,	132	125	257
Daily average number of patients in the House,	107	93	200

II.—TABLE OF CAUSES OF DISEASE OF PATIENTS.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Hereditary,	2	2	4
Drunkenness,	6	3	9
Predisposition from previous attack,	0	1	1
Fever,	0	0	0
Injury of head,	1	0	1
Childbirth,	0	2	2
Masturbatio,	1	0	1
Epilepsy,	1	0	1
Misfortunes,	1	0	1
Grief,	3	4	7
Disappointment,	4	2	6
Fright,	2	2	4
Mental Fatigue,	1	0	1
Unknown,	8	16	24

III.—TABLE OF AGES OF PATIENTS.

	Males.	Females	Total.
From 20 to 25	3	0	3
... 25 to 30	3	6	9
... 30 to 35	3	6	9
... 35 to 40	4	3	7
... 40 to 45	2	6	8
... 45 to 50	2	7	9
... 50 to 55	7	2	9
... 55 to 60	4	1	5
... 60 to 65	1	1	2
... 65 to 70	0	0	0
... 70 to 75	0	0	0
... 75 to 80	1	0	1
Total,	30	32	62

IV.—TABLE OF FORM OF DISEASE OF PATIENTS.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Mania,	10	8	18
Monomania,	16	14	30
Dementia,	4	10	14
Idiocy,	0	0	0
	30	32	62

V.—TABLE OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVE TO THE CIVIL
CONDITION.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Married,	17	6	23
Unmarried,	11	21	32
Widows,	0	5	5
Widowers,	2	0	2
	30	32	62

VI.—DURATION OF THE DISORDER IN THE 62 CASES ADMITTED.

Duration.	Males.	Females	Total.
Not exceeding 1 month, . . .	13	9	22
... 3 months, . . .	8	3	11
... 6	3	4	7
... 9	1	0	1
... 1 years, . . .	0	2	2
... 2	5	4	9
... 3	0	3	3
... 4	0	2	2
... 5	0	1	1
... 8	0	1	1
... 22	0	1	1
... 28	0	1	1
Unknown,	0	1	1
Total,	30	32	62

VII.—TIME OF TREATMENT OF THE 28 PATIENTS
DISCHARGED CURED.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Not exceeding 1 month, . . .	1	0	1
... 3	5	6	11
... 6	5	5	10
... 9	2	4	6
... 1 year,	0	0	0
Total,	13	15	28

VIII.—CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Senile exhaustion,	2	0	2
Marasmus,	0	1	1
Asiatic cholera	0	1	1
Pulmonary consumption,	2	0	2
General paralysis,	1	1	2
Bronchitis,	1	0	1
Apoplexy,	1	0	1
Disease of heart,	1	0	1
Total,	8	3	11

IX.—TABLE OF CURES AT DUNDEE ASYLUM FROM 1820 TO 1850.

Admitted from 1st April 1820 to 17th June 1850.	Cured.	Per Cent.
Number of Lunatics, 1358,	612	45

X.—RETURN of PATIENTS annually admitted into the DUNDEE ROYAL ASYLUM, from its opening on the 1st April 1820, to the 17th June 1850, including re-admissions, together with the Cures, Discharges, and Deaths.

(The years ending on the 3d Monday of June agreeably to Charter.)

N.B.—Under the head "Relieved," patients discharged at the request of friends, &c., are included.

No	Years.	Remained.			Admitted.			Total.			Cured.			Discharged.			Relieved.			Died.			Remaining in Asylum 17th June 1850.			
		M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
1	1820	22	28	50	22	28	50	3	5	8	1	4	5	8	1	4	5	2	0	2	1	1	3
2	1821	16	21	37	12	12	24	28	33	61	5	8	13	4	4	8	13	4	4	8	0	0	0	1	0	
3	1822	19	19	38	19	13	32	38	32	70	4	4	8	2	2	4	8	2	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	
4	1823	32	22	54	17	20	37	49	42	91	8	5	13	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	0		
5	1824	40	34	74	28	24	52	68	58	126	14	15	29	8	2	10	10	8	2	4	4	3	3	6		
6	1825	43	38	81	28	29	57	71	67	138	15	13	28	3	7	10	10	3	1	1	2	2	0	2		
7	1826	51	47	98	24	10	34	75	57	132	10	11	21	4	6	10	10	4	2	3	2	1	2	3		
8	1827	59	37	96	20	15	35	79	52	131	8	3	11	9	6	15	15	9	0	2	0	3	1	4		
9	1828	60	43	103	17	14	31	77	57	134	10	9	19	5	3	8	8	6	4	6	4	2	0	2		
10	1829	56	41	97	15	18	33	71	59	130	8	7	15	6	4	10	10	2	2	4	2	0	1	1		
11	1830	55	46	101	15	18	33	77	64	134	8	8	16	5	3	8	8	5	2	2	1	1	1	2		
12	1831	55	52	107	21	16	37	76	68	144	2	4	6	5	5	6	6	5	3	8	5	2	0	2		
13	1832	67	54	121	23	24	47	90	78	168	11	13	24	7	4	11	11	7	4	7	3	2	2	5		
14	1833	65	58	123	22	18	40	87	76	163	9	8	17	2	6	8	8	6	4	6	4	2	2	3		
15	1834	70	58	128	19	21	40	89	79	168	9	13	22	6	3	9	9	4	4	6	4	1	1	3		
16	1835	70	59	129	20	18	38	90	77	167	7	4	11	7	7	9	9	6	6	7	2	2	1	2		
17	1836	70	64	134	24	16	40	94	80	174	8	8	16	9	8	14	14	6	2	6	2	3	3	6		
18	1837	72	59	131	30	12	42	102	71	173	13	3	16	2	2	17	17	5	5	8	5	5	0	5		
19	1838	80	64	144	26	27	53	106	91	197	14	9	23	4	4	11	11	3	3	11	5	6	3	9		
20	1839	82	70	152	29	28	57	111	98	209	23	20	43	3	3	18	18	7	7	11	8	3	2	5		
21	1840	80	71	151	33	25	58	113	96	209	6	16	22	3	5	8	8	3	5	8	7	2	2	8		
22	1841	98	74	172	34	19	53	132	93	225	16	11	27	4	8	7	7	4	3	7	5	3	2	5		
23	1842	100	78	178	29	32	61	129	110	239	21	10	31	8	2	10	10	8	2	2	2	2	4	6		
24	1843	94	89	183	25	22	47	119	111	230	6	14	20	9	7	16	16	10	4	7	4	4	8	12		
25	1844	95	88	183	34	26	60	129	114	243	9	9	18	8	8	15	15	8	2	8	2	2	6	8		
26	1845	105	91	196	24	26	50	129	117	246	15	15	30	8	7	15	15	6	6	8	6	5	3	8		
27	1846	100	93	193	28	29	57	128	122	250	7	19	26	10	11	21	21	5	2	7	5	8	6	14		
28	1847	106	90	196	23	29	52	129	119	248	13	13	26	1	6	7	7	14	5	19	5	7	7	14		
29	1848	101	95	196	22	24	46	123	119	242	11	14	25	3	7	10	10	7	5	12	5	7	5	12		
30	1849	102	93	195	30	32	62	132	125	257	13	15	28	4	10	14	14	8	3	11	3	17	18	35		
					713	645	1358	306	306	612	155	159	314	147	81	228	107	97	204							

XI.—THE TIMES OF THE PATIENTS' DEATHS AFTER THEIR
ADMISSION INTO THE ASYLUM, FROM THE OPENING
OF THE INSTITUTION TO THE 17TH JUNE 1850.

Times of Deaths.				Males.	Females	Total.
Within 1 fortnight,	.	.	.	10	8	18
... 1 months,	.	.	.	7	2	9
... 3 ...	.	.	.	15	10	25
... 6 ...	.	.	.	10	4	14
... 9 ...	.	.	.	9	4	13
... 1 years,	.	.	.	7	2	9
... 2 ...	.	.	.	23	11	34
... 3 ...	.	.	.	11	3	14
... 4 ...	.	.	.	13	5	18
... 5 ...	.	.	.	4	2	6
... 6 ...	.	.	.	7	4	11
... 7 ...	.	.	.	6	3	9
... 8 ...	.	.	.	2	4	6
... 9 ...	.	.	.	3	3	6
... 10 ...	.	.	.	1	3	4
... 11 ...	.	.	.	1	1	2
... 12 ...	.	.	.	2	2	4
... 13 ...	.	.	.	0	1	1
... 14 ...	.	.	.	5	1	6
... 15 ...	.	.	.	2	0	2
... 16 ...	.	.	.	1	1	2
... 17 ...	.	.	.	0	2	2
... 18 ...	.	.	.	2	0	2
... 19 ...	.	.	.	2	1	3
... 20 ...	.	.	.	0	0	0
... 21 ...	.	.	.	0	1	1
... 22 ...	.	.	.	1	0	1
... 23 ...	.	.	.	0	1	1
... 24 ...	.	.	.	1	1	2
... 25 ...	.	.	.	0	0	0
... 26 ...	.	.	.	0	0	0
... 27 ...	.	.	.	0	0	0
... 28 ...	.	.	.	0	1	1
... 29 ...	.	.	.	1	0	1
... 30 ...	.	.	.	1	0	1
Total,				147	81	228

XII.—ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS

FROM 13TH JUNE 1830 TO 17TH JUNE 1850.

(The years ending on the third Monday of June, agreeably to Charter.)

Years ending 3d Monday of June.	Average number of Patients.			Number of Deaths.			Percentage of Deaths.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
1830	57	44	101	2	2	4	3.51	4.52	3.95
1831	55	48	103	2	1	3	3.63	2.08	2.91
1832	61	52	113	2	5	7	3.27	9.61	6.19
1833	65	59	124	7	3	10	10.76	5.08	8.06
1834	70	58	128	6	4	10	8.57	6.89	7.81
1835	68	58	126	4	4	8	5.88	6.89	6.34
1836	70	59	129	6	2	8	5.57	3.39	6.20
1837	74	61	135	5	5	10	6.75	8.19	7.48
1838	77	60	137	7	1	8	9.09	1.66	5.83
1839	84	66	150	6	5	11	7.19	7.57	7.33
1840	87	70	157	5	2	7	5.74	2.85	4.45
1841	89	75	164	5	3	8	5.61	3.99	4.87
1842	102	77	179	8	2	10	7.84	2.59	5.58
1843	96	84	180	5	4	9	5.20	4.80	5.00
1844	97	90	187	10	2	12	10.31	2.22	6.41
1845	100	90	190	8	6	14	8.00	6.66	7.37
1846	105	96	201	6	2	8	5.70	2.08	3.90
1847	105	95	200	5	2	7	4.70	2.01	3.05
1848	103	94	197	14	5	19	13.61	5.30	9.60
1849	104	94	198	7	5	12	6.70	5.30	6.00
1850	107	93	200	8	3	11	7.47	3.2	5.5
	1776	1523	3299	128	68	196			

Average annual mortality from 1830 to 1850, inclusive:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
7.2.	4.4.	5.97.

XIII.—RETURN OF SOME OF THE WORK DONE BY MALE PATIENTS.

Bagging Wove,	.	.	.	.	Yards	13,920
Sheeting "	.	.	.	.	"	10,150
Mattresses, canvas, made,	.	.	.	.		20
Boots and Shoes made,	.	.	.	.	Pair	2
Do. mended,	.	.	.	.	"	530
Hemp and Zealand ropes teased,	.	.	.	.	Cwt.	109
Metal for Roads,	.	.	.	.	Many tons.	

N.B.—Gardening, &c., cannot be inserted here.

XIV.—RETURN OF SOME OF THE WORK DONE BY FEMALE PATIENTS.

Gowns,	.	.	.	.	.	66
Petticoats,	.	.	.	.	.	45
Slips,	.	.	.	.	.	20
Shifts,	.	.	.	.	.	90
Bedgowns,	.	.	.	.	.	28
Stays,	.	.	.	.	Pair	10
Aprons,	.	.	.	.	.	60
Caps,	.	.	.	.	.	160
Pockets,	.	.	.	.	.	30
Habit-shirts,	.	.	.	.	.	6
Handkerchiefs hemmed,	.	.	.	.	.	266
Shirts,	.	.	.	.	.	60
Flannel Jackets,	.	.	.	.	.	78
Drawers,	.	.	.	.	Pair	65
Stockings and Socks knitted,	.	.	.	.	.	186
Pillow Cases,	.	.	.	.	.	20
Mattresses,	.	.	.	.	.	12
Sheets,	.	.	.	.	Pair	26
Tablecloths hemmed,	.	.	.	.	.	12
Window Blinds,	.	.	.	.	.	30
Bed Quilts,	.	.	.	.	.	8
Towels,	.	.	.	.	.	196
Slippers worked,	.	.	.	.	Pair	3
Bags of various kinds,	.	.	.	.	.	18
Sheeting wove,	.	.	.	.	Yards	11,943
Winding Weft for Sheetting,	.	.	.	.	Spds.	1,160
" " Bagging,	.	.	.	.	"	240

In addition to the mending of the clothes, &c., and darning the stockings of all the inmates of the House.

QUANTITIES OF THE PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS, &c.,
PURCHASED FOR THE ASYLUM,
IN THE YEARS 1848-9 AND 1849-50.

	1848-9.	1849-50.
Coals	215 tons.	258 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons.
Butcher Meat,	20,742 lbs.	20,141 lbs.
Bread,	17,318 loaves.	17,683 loaves.
Sugar,	2800 lbs.	3808 lbs.
Tea,	351 lbs.	436 lbs.
Butter,	2279 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	2128 lbs.
Cheese,	741 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	643 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Meal,	374 bolls.	182 bolls.
Barley,	51 cwt.	60 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt.
Split Pease,	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Potatoes,	33 bolls.	65 bolls.
Beer,	1557 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.	1404 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.
Milk,	8760 galls.	8760 galls.
Soap,		2673 lbs.