

Report of the directors of the Dundee Lunatic Asylum, for the year ending May 31, 1837.

Contributors

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REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

DUNDEE LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1837.

DUNDEE:
PRINTED AT THE CHRONICLE OFFICE.

M.DCCC.XXXVII.

REPORT
DIRECTORS
DUNDEE LUNATIC ASYLUM
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REPORT
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OF THE
DUNDEE LUNATIC ASYLUM,

For the year ending 31st May, 1837.

IN appearing before the public with their Seventeenth Annual Report, the Directors of the Dundee Lunatic Asylum, prompted by a feeling of respect for their late Chairman, David Blair, Esq. of Cookston, beg leave to refer to the heavy loss which this community has sustained by his melancholy death. It is now fully thirty years since the design was formed of erecting a Lunatic Asylum in Dundee, the necessity of such an erection having been long felt from the impracticability of getting a lunatic patient into any other Institution; but as there was no legacy or fund to encourage the commencement of such an undertaking, its progress must have been little indeed, if it had not been promoted by great zeal, activity, and perseverance. The associates of Mr Blair in this design were worthy of himself and the Institution; but as he was their Chairman, from their first meeting until he appeared before them in October last to take his final leave, and as several of the most active and influential of his early associates had, from time to time, fallen by his side, much of the business of the Asylum necessarily came through his hands,—and never was there an advocate who espoused a cause with greater earnestness, or endured the labours of

it with greater patience and assiduity. Such was the influence of his authority with the public, arising from the respectability of his character, and such was the earnestness of his importunity with his personal friends, that his success in obtaining subscriptions often exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and yielded a pure satisfaction to his mind, amid the many difficulties it was necessary to surmount. The erection of the Asylum has been a work of time—different parts of an extensive plan, not yet nearly completed, have been executed, as the funds increased and the public need required; and, consequently, there was a continued demand on the time, talents, and influence of those who administered the affairs of the Institution. The supporters of the charity willingly rallied around Mr Blair, encouraged his efforts, and cheerfully lent their aid in carrying his views into execution. In the year 1830, the Directors requested him to sit for his likeness; and a full-length portrait of him, by Colvin Smith, is suspended in the Committee Room, as a mark of respect to his memory, and a lasting memorial of the valuable benefits which have, through his influence and activity, been conferred on his fellow-men. The name of Mr Blair will descend to posterity associated with this excellent Institution, and hold a place in the list of our public benefactors—one of the ingredients which had much influence in sweetening the cup that was presented to him during his long journey through life, was the consciousness of having contributed to the welfare of the most hapless of our race; and the Directors having enjoyed much pleasant intercourse with him for many years, while engaged in the same labour, feel that they cannot let slip this, perhaps the last, opportunity of holding out to public approbation the character of one whose memory they revere in death—whom, in life, they venerated as a father and esteemed as a friend.

There has been a gradual addition to the number of patients ever since the House was opened: The number at present is 132; and the average of this year is greater

than that of any of the preceding ones. The Committee has likewise been compelled, from the want of accommodation, to refuse admission to patients who could not easily find access to any other Institution. The necessity of increasing the accommodation, especially for those paying the lower rates of board, has been generally felt and acknowledged. It would have been most desirable to have had the whole debt extinguished, and thus have effected a still farther reduction on the lowest rate of board, before any new expenditure on buildings had taken place; but, on the other hand, there were weighty objections to shutting up the House, and contracting the sphere of its usefulness in its present state. The desire of executing the whole plan of the architect, which is yet far from being completed; the wish of extending the limits of the charity in proportion to the increase of population, which of late years has been very rapid in this neighbourhood; the necessity of relieving the pressure arising from the crowded state of the patients in the House; the probability that the increase of income arising from the accommodation of a greater number of patients would be a fair return of interest on the sum expended; that the increase of income would at least be in proportion to the increase of debt,—all came under the consideration of the Directors, at their Quarterly Court in April last, and they unanimously concurred in the propriety of enlarging the buildings, and appointed a Committee to take immediate steps to have the work carried into execution. As the number of male patients is greater than the female, the necessity of increasing their accommodation was more immediate and urgent. The proposed addition is therefore on the west or male side, and extends from the south wing, already completed, to the centre of the building, including the centre day-room. This part of the building will be widened to the extent of $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and will receive an additional storey. The accommodation thus provided will consist of two new day-rooms and six sleeping apartments, and, if the day-rooms be in the meantime occupied as

bed-rooms, may accommodate thirty additional patients, while the gallery below will be considerably enlarged, affording a supply of pure air to the rooms, and ample space for exercise to the patients in bad weather. A bath-house, with a boiler-house attached, has likewise been contracted for, which, being situated near the south wing, will be exceedingly convenient for the patients occupying this part of the House, and the high rate of board paid by them gives them a just claim to this accommodation. Mr James Paterson has agreed to give the requisite plans, specifications, and superintendence, for the sum of L.50. From contracts now entered into with the different tradesmen, it appears that the expense of the mason work, including the bath-house, will be L.789; of wright work, L.755; slater, plaster, and plumber work, L.219 8s.; and, with a reasonable allowance for new furniture, the whole amount will not be less than L.1800.

There can be no doubt that when this work is completed the comfort of the patients will be increased to a considerable extent, and the necessity of refusing admission to patients in urgent cases will be, for a time, prevented. There is every probability, however, that this addition will not long meet the demands of the public; and as a considerable part of the plan still remains to be executed, nothing but the scantiness of the funds, and the consequent danger of overwhelming the Institution with a load of debt, from which it might never be extricated, would prevent the Directors from proceeding to execute the other parts of the buildings with as little delay as possible. The whole plan would be a noble work—a scheme creditable to the benevolent feelings of this generation, the benefits of which must descend to, and can scarcely fail to be appreciated by, succeeding ages. As it was called into existence by the spirit of philanthropy—as it has been fostered and reared and brought into its present state of prosperity by the hand of charity—so it is to be hoped that the stream of public benevolence will be directed to it until its final completion; that as it has

already afforded protection and shelter to the most hapless and destitute of our race, it will continue to cause the heart of the disconsolate to sing for joy, until the trials of life terminate, and the Judge shall assign to each of us our portion in the eternal world.

As the female workshops were completed during the last year, the labour of the patients has been carried to its full extent during the period to which this Report refers; and it is believed that in no similar Institution have the labours of the patients been so diversified and extensive. If this fact be admitted, we have proof of the skill, management, and activity of the Matron and Superintendent, which has excited the surprise and obtained the commendation of every visitor; and if the ravings of the maniac can be calmed, and the scene of violence give place to industrious habits and peaceable occupations, who is it that will not contemplate the spectacle with feelings of delight? But it may be readily admitted that in this case, as in every other, there is an extreme; that if a Lunatic Asylum were converted into a Penitentiary or Work-house, it would be diverted from its proper object; that if the unhappy being who has felt the afflicting visitations of Providence were subjected to severe labour by the hand of man, such an act of cruelty would not be tolerated in a Christian land. Compulsory labour will always possess the aspect, if it has not the reality, of cruelty and oppression: Voluntary labour, however, is promptly undertaken and cheerfully undergone—is equally conducive to health of body and tranquillity of mind. The labours of the patients in the Asylum are altogether voluntary: They watch with anxiety the opening of the gates of the airing ground as a signal of freedom; they welcome that salutary labour which exercises their faculties and invigorates their frame; they rejoice in the prospect of a retreat in which they may shake off that ennui which preyed upon their spirits.

A person who has had the benefit of a liberal education, and whose faculties have been trained to regular and

diligent application, may get over the hours of vacation and confinement with less feeling of heaviness ; but the labourer, when restrained from the exercises to which he had been accustomed, and forced to fall back on his mental resources, is placed in a new element, in which he is excluded from the enjoyments he had tasted during his past life, and must feel his hours tedious and his spirit dejected. The lunatic—especially one whose mind labours under the burthen of some imaginary evil—is a most unfit subject for solitude and indolence. In the narrow precincts of the day-room and the airing ground, he broods without interruption over his own unhappy condition,—the comforts of home, the sweets of liberty, the pursuits of his former life, dwell on his recollection and destroy the relish of every gratification ;—the new condition in which he is placed, the new habits he must necessarily acquire, the new friends with whom he must associate, contrasted with the smiling countenances that once graced his family circle, fan the flame by which he is afflicted and consumed. The spade, the hammer, the hoe, the loom, the spinning-wheel, the needle, have been found most efficient expedients for dispelling this gloom, and diffusing serenity and contentment throughout the different departments of the establishment. The cheerfulness and alacrity with which the patients engage in these labours, is a proof of their anxiety to obtain relief from the burden of inactivity ; the pleasure with which they regard the fruits of their labours, and the attachment which they gradually form to the scene in which these exercises are performed, likewise indicate that their minds have been diverted from the evils by which they had been perplexed ; and as the introduction of labour into this Asylum has been followed by the happiest effects, it has been so far proved by experience to be a remedial measure of the greatest importance. A horse and cart also lately introduced, have afforded a novel attraction to the inmates, and have been found useful in the conveyance of the material of manufacture, in the repair of

the walks, and in the cultivation of the ground. The success with which all these operations have been conducted, has exceeded the most sanguine expectation of the Directors; and while the scheme has met their full approbation, they cannot in justice withhold the meed of praise from the Matron and Superintendent, by whose suggestion the plan originated, and by whose skill and activity it has been so prudently and judiciously directed. The following table will show the variety and extent of the work executed; and the amount of profit is evidence that the interests of the Institution, in regard to income, have been essentially promoted.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Weaving linen for sheeting, cotton bagging, &c. | 13 | 5 | 17 |
| Picking oakum, | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Tailoring and mat-making, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cutting firewood, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Mangling clothes, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pumping water for the use of the establishment, | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Breaking metal for the turnpike road, and gardening, trenching, and laying out ground, | 21 | 0 | 21 |
| Domestic purposes, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Shoemaking and mending, | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Dressmaking, | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Shoe-binding, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Spinning, | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| Winding for weavers, | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Knitting, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Shirtmaking, | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Quiltmaking, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Upholsterers' work, | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Staymaking, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Flowering muslin, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Fringe-making, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Repairing bedding and clothes, | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Assisting in laundry, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| „ in scullery, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| „ in kitchen, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| „ in bed-rooms, | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Total, | 47 | 46 | 93 |

From 1st April 1836, to 31st March 1837.

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Work done by male lunatics.</i> | 39 Pairs drawers, mended. |
| 397 Webs of bagging, wove. | 16 Cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs. oakum picked. |
| 50 Do. of sheeting, vittry, and canvas. | 167½ Yards (cubic) metal broke. |
| 57 Pairs leather shoes and boots made in addition to many mended. | In addition, they made a large drain, and have rendered valuable assistance in laying out the ground lately reverted to the Asylum, as well as labouring in the garden, as before; but for these, no money is actually received. |
| 33 Pairs trowsers, do. do. | |
| 25 Waistcoats, cloth, do. | |
| 22 Flannel jackets, do. | |
| 27 Coats and jackets, do. | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <i>Work done by female lunatics.</i> | | 24 Bolster-cases, made. |
| 22 Short-gowns made. | | 48 Pillow-cases, do. |
| 30 Long-gowns do. | | 30 Pairs sheets, do. |
| 40 Aprons do. | | 150 Men's shirts, do. |
| 150 Caps do. | | 1 Cwt. oakum, picked. |
| 30 Petticoats do. | | 83 Webs sheeting, wove. |
| 48 Shifts do. | | 575 Spindles of hemp, span. |
| 32 Pairs stockings, knitted. | | 290 Handkerchiefs, hemmed. |
| 28 Mattrasses, made. | | Winding pirns for 530 webs. |
| CASH RECEIVED for weaving, | | £153 5 0 |
| Do. for spinning hemp, | | 18 15 10 |
| Do. for winding pirns, | | 18 11 11 |
| Do. for picking oakum, | | 19 2 9 |
| Do. for shirt-making, | | 4 16 1 |
| Do. for shoe-making, tailoring, &c. | | 21 10 7 |
| Do. for stone breaking, &c. | | 15 9 4 |
| | | £231 11 6 |

The lease of a part of the ground belonging to the Asylum expired at Candlemas last, and as it is now in cultivation by the patients, a wider field is opened to their operations for the time to come.

In former Reports the effects of the introduction of public worship into the House have been amply detailed. Though to many the experiment appeared to be a hazardous one, the Directors never hesitated for a moment in adopting it, so soon as the circumstances of their Institution allowed, and their expectations, however favourable, have suffered no disappointment. No treatment is suitable to man which does not regard him as a being possessed of religious principles. If he can only be happy in society—if to deny him the exercise of his social affections be to extinguish life itself—if his mind without cultivation would be an unhewn block, like marble in the quarry,—must it not also be admitted, that if his religious principles were neglected or restrained in their proper exercise, that he would be sunk below the level of the brute creation? Even though he should be subject to some aberration of mind on topics of the greatest importance, can these illusions be more effectually opposed or dissipated by any other way than by keeping his mind familiar with the simple facts and interesting truths of Christianity? To withhold the use of the appointed means to let man know that he is a sinner—that there is an effectual remedy provided for this greatest of all evils;

that he is possessed of an immortal nature ; or to prevent him from appearing with his brethren to express his homage, reverence, gratitude, and allegiance, to the author of all his mercies and all his hopes, is surely a mode of treatment which should not be adopted to any of our own species, in whom reason, conscience, and social feeling are not totally extinguished, or in cases where the paroxysms of madness are so violent as to give disturbance to others. The number who now generally attend Chapel is about 120 ; and, as far as the experience of the Directors has gone, religious exercises serve to soothe and console and elevate, rather than excite, perplex, and depress the minds of the patients in this Institution.

Scarcely any thing has occurred in the course of the year to induce the Directors to revise their Rules, or to make such additions to them as may meet the new events that are frequently taking place. As it was not however contemplated, when the Regulations were framed, that the necessity would soon arise of refusing admission to patients into the House, some Regulations on this point seem now to be required for the guidance of the Committee. A judicious selection of the patients that are the most proper objects of this Charity, without compromising the rights of the parishes that contributed to the erection of the original buildings, is well worthy of the consideration and the interposition of the authority of the Quarterly Courts.

The expenditure has this year unavoidably increased. There has been a rise in the price of provisions—an increase in the salaries of some of the office-bearers, in the wages of servants, and the interest of the debt has been charged at 5 per cent. since Martinmas last. The expenditure has, consequently, exceeded that of the preceding year by L.304 15s. 4d. No allowance has been taken on the whole sum laid out, in consequence of furniture and buildings being liable to injury and decay, as was done last year. The surplus income for the year, including legacies and donations, is still L.619 3s. 9d.—a

proof that, notwithstanding the reduction in the board and the increased expenditure, the Institution has felt no derangement in its financial concerns. The number of patients at present in the House paying the lowest rate of board is 50 ; and the decrease of income, in consequence of the late reduction, for this year is L.130. The amount of the produce of patients' labour exceeds that of the preceding year by L.121 2s. 6d. Warned of the danger to which buildings of this description are exposed from fire, the Committee considered it advisable to increase the sum formerly insured by L.3,000 ; and the whole sum now insured on buildings, furniture, &c., in three different offices, amounts to L.8,375 ; and the annual premium to be paid is L.10 9s. 3d. Of course, the rent of the ground lately held in lease will no longer be received, and a higher feu-duty for the land last acquired will be charged for the future, the sum to be spent in the extension of the buildings has to be borrowed, and the interest of it annually paid ; and while the Directors are aware of an expenditure yearly increasing, they are fully sensible of the obligation of using all the means in their power of increasing the income, and administering, with the utmost economy, the affairs of the Institution.

It must be quite obvious that the best wishes of the Directors and their wisest counsels would have little influence in promoting the interests of the Asylum without the ready and hearty co-operation of the different office-bearers. This co-operation, however, has been conducted with perfect harmony and mutual satisfaction ; and the Directors have much pleasure in expressing their sincere thanks to all the office-bearers, including the weekly committee and house visitors, for the zeal, attention, and fidelity with which they have discharged their respective duties.

The Directors feel that they cannot close this Report without adverting to the present satisfactory state of the Asylum. From the smallest beginning, it has reached to a station of eminence among similar institutions ; it has

acquired a name by being favourably noticed in several respectable publications. For the period of seventeen years it has been advancing in public estimation. The ample experience and professional skill of the physician is fully acknowledged; the character of the Matron and Superintendent is known to be high in their several departments, and is rising still higher by farther experience; the treatment of the patients is skilful and humane; some of the keepers have been long in the house, are steady, trust-worthy, and attentive, and have obtained marks of public approbation. There is plenty without profusion, and order without bustle or severity, while neatness, simplicity, and good taste are happily blended in the *tout ensemble* of the establishment. And the Directors, in retiring from their public duties, hereby express their sincere wish and prayer, that the blessing of Him who knoweth all hearts, and directeth all events, may rest on this charity—that, while it affords shelter to the destitute, and a calm retreat to them from some of the ills of life, many may leave it no longer broken in heart or bowed down in spirit, to gladden the family circle, to discharge with cheerfulness the duties of social life, and, taught in the school of affliction, to have their eye fixed on that happier state where the sunshine of reason shall never be clouded, and the cup of enjoyment never embittered by disappointment or sorrow.

“Non ignara mali, miseris succurrere disco.”

ABSTRACT

OF THE

MEDICAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS.

19th JUNE, 1837.

YEARLY RETURN OF LUNATICS IN THE DUNDEE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

From 20th June 1836 to 19th June 1837.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|
| Remained 20th June 1836, . . . | 70 | 64 | 134 |
| Admitted during the above period, | 24 | 16 | 40 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, . . . | 94 | 80 | 174 |
| Discharged cured | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Ditto, improved | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Ditto, as admitted | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Ditto, by desire, | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Died, | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 22 | 21 | 43 |
| Remaining 19th June 1837, . . . | 72 | 59 | 131 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 94 | 80 | 174 |
| Daily average number of patients in } the House. | 74 | 61 | 13 |

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS ACCORDING TO THE CAUSES OF INSANITY,
SO FAR AS CAN BE ASCERTAINED.

| PHYSICAL CAUSES. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|
| Hereditary tendency, | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Childbirth, with hereditary predisposition, 0 | | 1 | 1 |
| Drunkenness, | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Depravity, with hereditary predisposition, 0 | | 1 | 1 |
| Apoplexy, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Immortality, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Fever, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 7 | 6 | 13 |

| MORAL CAUSES. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Fright, | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Disappointments, | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Ditto, with hereditary predisposition, 4 | | 2 | 6 |
| Domestic grief, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ditto, ditto, with hereditary pre- disposition, } | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Disappointed love, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Unexpected affluence, with here- ditary predisposition, . . . } | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Parental severity, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Excess of joy, with hereditary pre- disposition, } | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Religious apprehensions, | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Unknown. | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 17 | 10 | 27 |

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVE TO AGES.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| From 15 to 20 years of age, | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ 20 to 25 „ | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| „ 25 to 30 „ | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| „ 30 to 35 „ | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| „ 35 to 40 „ | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| „ 40 to 45 „ | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ 45 to 50 „ | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ 50 to 55 „ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| „ 55 to 60 „ | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| „ 60 to 65 „ | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| „ 65 to 70 „ | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 24 | 16 | 40 |

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVE TO AGES AND SEXES, CLASSED
ACCORDING TO THEIR FREQUENCY.

| Males. | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|----|
| From 25 to 30 years of age, | | | 5 |
| „ 35 to 40 „ | | | 5 |
| „ 20 to 25 „ | | | 3 |
| „ 30 to 35 „ | | | 3 |
| „ 15 to 20 „ | | | 2 |
| „ 40 to 45 „ | | | 2 |
| „ 45 to 50 „ | | | 2 |
| „ 50 to 55 „ | | | 1 |
| „ 65 to 70 „ | | | 1 |
| | | | — |
| Total, | | | 24 |

| Females. | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|----|
| From 25 to 30 years of age, | | | 5 |
| „ 20 to 25 „ | | | 2 |
| „ 30 to 35 „ | | | 2 |
| „ 50 to 55 „ | | | 2 |
| „ 15 to 20 „ | | | 1 |
| „ 40 to 45 „ | | | 1 |
| „ 45 to 50 „ | | | 1 |
| „ 55 to 60 „ | | | 1 |
| „ 60 to 65 „ | | | 1 |
| | | | — |
| Total, | | | 16 |

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVELY TO THE VARIETIES OF INSANITY.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Monomania, | 13 | 8 | 21 |
| Mania, | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Dementia, | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Idiotcy, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 24 | 16 | 40 |

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVELY TO THE CIVIL CONDITION.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Unmarried, | 17 | 8 | 25 |
| Married, | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Widowers, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Widows, | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 24 | 16 | 40 |

TABLE OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVE TO THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| From June to July, | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| „ July to August, | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| „ August to September, | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| „ September to October, | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ October to November, | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| „ November to December, | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| „ December to January 1837, | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| „ January to February, | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ February to March, | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| „ March to April, | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| „ April to May, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| „ May to June 19th, | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | — | — | — |
| Total, | 24 | 16 | 40 |

TABLE OF OLD CASES, VIZ. OF MORE THAN TWELVE
MONTHS' DURATION.

| | | | | Males. | Females. | total. |
|----------------------------|---|----|----|--------|----------|--------|
| Remained 20th June 1836 | . | . | . | 64 | 56 | 120 |
| Received from table | } | M. | F. | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| of recent cases | | | | | | |
| Admitted since, | | 10 | 6 | 16 | | |
| | | — | — | — | 11 | 9 |
| | | | | | 20 | |
| | | | | — | — | — |
| Total, | . | . | . | 75 | 65 | 140 |
| Discharged cured, | . | . | . | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Do. improved, | . | . | . | 3 | 1 | |
| Do. as admitted, | . | . | . | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Do. by desire, | . | . | . | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Died, | . | . | . | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| | | | | — | — | — |
| Total, | . | . | . | 11 | 10 | 21 |
| Remaining, 19th June 1837, | . | . | . | 64 | 55 | 119 |
| | | | | — | — | — |
| Total, | . | . | . | 75 | 65 | 140 |

TABLE OF RECENT CASES, VIZ. OF THOSE UNDER TWELVE
MONTHS' DURATION.

| | | | | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|----------|--------|
| Remained, 20th June 1836, | . | . | . | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Transferred to preceding table, | . | . | . | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | — | — | — |
| Total, | . | . | . | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Admitted since, | . | . | . | 14 | 10 | 24 |
| | | | | — | — | — |
| Total, | . | . | . | 19 | 15 | 34 |
| Discharged cured, | . | . | . | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Do. improved, | . | . | . | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Died, | . | . | . | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | — | — | — |
| Total, | . | . | . | 11 | 11 | 22 |
| Remaining, 19th June 1837, | . | . | . | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| | | | | — | — | — |
| Total, | . | . | . | 19 | 15 | 34 |

TABLE OF DEATHS FOR THE PAST YEAR, TOGETHER WITH THEIR DISEASES.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Of Apoplexy, or of its consequences, . | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Consumption of the Lungs, | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Exhaustion, | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total, | 5 | 5 | 10 |

THE AGES ATTAINED BY THE CASUALTIES ARE :—

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| From 20 to 30 years of age, | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| „ 30 to 48 „ | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| „ 50 to 60 „ | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| „ 60 to 70 „ | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| „ 70 to 80 „ | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| „ 80 to 90 „ | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total, | 5 | 5 | 10 |

NUMBER OF EPILEPTICS AMONG THE LUNATICS AT PRESENT IN THE ASYLUM.

| In Asylum. 131 Lunatics. | Mania. | | Monomania. | | Dementia. | | Total. | |
|-----------------------------|--------|----|------------|----|-----------|----|--------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Epileptic. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |

Since last June, the system of treatment which has already proved so beneficial to the patients, as well as to the Institution, has been again brought to the test of experience; and the results, we are happy to say, continue to be most gratifying to all concerned.

ADMISSIONS.—The number of new cases this year is greater than that of last year. Nearly one-half of them have been above twelve months' duration, and several much longer. Some improper cases were admitted. One of these was a congenital idiot, perfectly harmless, but unable to stand or speak. The Committee, at our request, discharged him "as admitted." Two of the female lunatics were of depraved habits, and belonged to the worst class of society. They are both, but one particularly, much improved. A few of the most remarkable cases were read to the Annual Court of Directors, although not inserted here.

DEATHS.—Only two of the recent cases died, and when admitted neither were expected to live many days.

The influenza was very prevalent in the House, but it was chiefly confined to the females, between thirty and forty of whom were confined to bed with this disease in the latter part of December; and, with the exception of two, they all speedily recovered. Some were more than once attacked. The symptoms of the complaint were quite the same as those by which it was characterized in other places—viz., sore throat, oppression in the chest, and pain in the head, considerable fever, lassitude, and prostration of strength. The pulse was generally accelerated and weak, the thirst was urgent, the tongue foul, the evacuations defective, and a running was observed from the nose and mouth. Absolute rest, warmth, purgatives, emetics, sudorifics, anodynes, diluents, and baths, were the remedies employed. Bleeding, either locally or generally, was inadmissible. Notwithstanding the prevalence of this disorder, had the two improper patients who died not been admitted, the number of deaths this year would have been precisely the same as last.

In some cases we have had occasion to regret the injudicious conduct of the friends of patients. Some have unadvisedly insisted to see their insane relatives when their visit was most improper, and others have removed patients before their cure was confirmed. Time after time have many persons returned and expressed their sorrow for doing so, but, of course, when it was too late. The placing a patient in an Asylum, is placing him where security and safety can alone be found, and where proper medical and moral treatment can alone be applied; and no personal feelings should stand in the way of giving the patient the full benefit of this isolation.

It will be observed, from the preceding tables, that many of the recent cases have been cured, but only one of the old ones,—showing strongly the necessity of placing patients in an Asylum at the commencement of the disease. If the friends of lunatics could be convinced of the truth of the fact, that few ever recover who have not been so treated at the beginning of the disorder, or have not been allowed to remain in the Asylum till the cure was completed, and would act accordingly, it would be of the utmost advantage, not only to themselves, but to their friends and society at large: To society and their friends, by restoring many individuals who, by the contrary proceeding, have very little chance of ever being benefited; and to themselves, even in a pecuniary point of view, besides the gratification arising from being again able to associate with their friends as intelligent beings.

Many lunatics, when first received, are noisy; and many of those constantly in the House are filthy, and experience repeated paroxysms of fury. During the night, by their cries they prevent the convalescents—many of whom are working patients, from sleeping—and harrow the feelings of the timid and melancholy; but were separate and distinct apartments erected for such patients, with other conveniences, they would make an effectual separation, and add greatly to the comfort of the House.

ABSTRACT

OF THE

DUNDEE LUNATIC ASYLUM

ACCOUNTS,

For the year ending 31st March, 1837.

| EXPENDITURE. | | | INCOME. | | |
|---|-------|----------|--|-------|------|
| Salaries, | £661 | 15 0 | Boards, | £3042 | 6 8 |
| Butcher Meat, | 232 | 10 7 | Profits on Store and Patients' Labour, | 231 | 11 6 |
| Incidents, | 256 | 3 9 | Donations and Legacies, | 87 | 0 0 |
| Bread, | 139 | 18 4 | | | |
| Butter, Cheese, and Oil, .. | 93 | 2 0 | | | |
| Milk, | 162 | 17 0 | | | |
| Sugar, Tea, and Groceries, | 115 | 15 11 | | | |
| Coals, | 116 | 17 2 | | | |
| Potatoes, | 124 | 2 3 | | | |
| Meal and Barley, | 232 | 4 4 | | | |
| Beer, | 72 | 8 0 | | | |
| Soap, | 54 | 3 1 | | | |
| Medicines, | 16 | 11 0 | | | |
| Fish, | 8 | 10 0 | | | |
| Rental, | £66 | 9 10 | | | |
| Less rents received, 28 11 4 | | | | | |
| | | 37 18 6 | | | |
| Interest, | £242 | 18 3 | | | |
| Deduct received on deposits and out-standing accounts, 28 4 1 | | | | | |
| | | 214 14 2 | | | |
| | £2539 | 11 1 | | | |
| To Plumber Work, £27 10 7 | | | | | |
| „ Painter ditto, 4 7 9 | | | | | |
| „ Smith ditto, 23 0 6 | | | | | |
| „ Manufact. utensils, 33 18 0 | | | | | |
| „ Wright Work (old account), 106 7 0 | | | | | |
| „ Mason Work, 5 11 9 | | | | | |
| „ Furniture, | 1 | 7 9 | | | |
| | | 202 3 4 | | | |
| | £2741 | 14 5 | | | |
| Excess of Income .. | 619 | 3 9 | | | |
| | £3360 | 18 2 | | | |
| | | | | £3360 | 18 2 |

STATE OF THE DEBT.

| | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|---|-------|------|
| Provisions in the House, 31st March, | £207 | 14 0 | Dundee Banking Company, per Bond, | £5000 | 0 0 |
| Boards outstanding, | 339 | 9 9 | Kirk-Session, | 841 | 19 3 |
| Store Account, | 24 | 10 8 | Isobel Crichton, | 231 | 0 0 |
| Dundee Banking Company, .. | 247 | 14 3 | Boards advanced by Patients, | 60 | 7 6 |
| Mr Mackintosh | 2 | 8 3 | | | |
| Mrs Hunter, | 6 | 1 8 | | | |
| The Treasurer, | 27 | 17 3 | | | |
| Debt, | 5277 | 10 11 | | | |
| | £6133 | 6 9 | | | |
| | | | | £6133 | 6 9 |

ALEX^r. BERRY, *Treasurer*.

1837, June 16th.—We have examined the books, of which the above is an ABSTRACT, and have found the same correct.

(Signed) JAMES THOMSON.
DAVID BLAIR.