

Annual report of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the insane for the year 1850.

Contributors

Royal Edinburgh Asylum.
Pringle, Alexander.
Skae, David.

Publication/Creation

Morningside : Printed at the Asylum Press, 1851.

Persistent URL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL EDINBURGH ASYLUM

FOR

THE INSANE

FOR THE YEAR 1850.

MORNINGSIDE:

PRINTED AT THE ASYLUM PRESS.

MDCCCLI.

debt, and for accomplishing its further extension, shall have been disposed of by Parliament.

The Managers continue to regard the appointment of a Visiting Manager as having been attended with the best results, and desire that it should be continued. In consequence of this appointment, a more uniform supervision of the internal economy of the Institution has been maintained, and at the sametime, through Mr Mackay's constant Visits to the Asylum and his detailed Reports to the Monthly Meetings, numberless matters of greater or less importance, often most essential to the benefit of the Institution have been brought under the notice of the Managers, which otherwise might have escaped observation.

The improvements in the Eastern House mentioned in last Report have now been executed, and others are still in progress, which, when completed, will render that Department in every way comfortable.

The Managers have to state that in the course of last year, with the view of promoting economy, they came to the resolution of amalgamating the offices and duties of Secretary and Treasurer; and the following Report of their finance Committee, which was approved of, will shew the nature of the arrangements made on this subject.

"The Committee having proceeded to consider the subject of the Treasurer and Secretary's duties and emoluments, unanimously agreed to Report to the Managers as follows, viz.—

"That the offices of Secretary and Treasurer should be united, there being no apparent necessity for keeping them longer separate, but rather some disadvantage in having certain of the books and papers kept apart from the others. That therefore the name and office of Secretary should at the close of this year be joined to the Treasurer's present duties; but that consideration should be had of Mr Inglis's long and able services during the earlier progress of the Institution, and his assistance be if possible retained to it by electing him an ordinary Manager. That as Mr Scott has always declared his wish to have the allowance for his duties of Treasurer fixed on a very moderate scale, and has, in point of fact, during several years, charged less than his regulated commission of $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the receipts, (which last year would have amounted to about £300, whereas he only stated it at £250,) the committee are of opinion that he should for the future receive an allowance in whole of 250

guineas (£262 : 10.) of which *one-half* may be reckoned as the compensation for his personal trouble and responsibility, and the other as an allowance for his cash keeper and other clerks, and for office rent copyings, stationery, and incidents, not however including postages or printing, or such extra business of a professional nature as may occasionally arise, and that this allowance, although barely adequate, considering the number and amount of the sums passing through his hands, with the responsibility attending his office may, under present circumstances, and with reference to Mr Scott's own feelings on the subject, be deemed a fair remuneration on the scale adopted, so long as the Income of the establishment shall range between £10,000 and £15,000 per annum."

On the occasion of Mr Inglis thus retiring from the office of Secretary, the Managers unanimously resolved to present him a piece of plate, of the value of Fifty guineas, as a mark of their sense of his valuable services to the Asylum during a long period, in the earlier part of which they were rendered gratuitously.

The Managers may further state, that having, upon consultation with the Physician, ascertained that the Medical superintendence of the Patients could be fully overtaken by him with the aid of *two* assistants instead of three, as heretofore, they resolved, as soon as possible, to effect that reduction in the Medical Staff; but at the sametime, in consideration of the additional duties which would thus be thrown upon the second assistant, they thought it advisable that he as well as the senior assistant, ought to be allowed a small salary, and in consequence of the recent resignation of the second assistant, this arrangement may be considered to have already come into operation.

With regard to the proposed application for an Exchequer Loan to pay off the present debt, and defray the cost of completing the Asylum buildings, the Managers having found, on consultation with the Lord Advocate, that such a Loan would not probably be obtained, considered it advisable to revert to a plan for accomplishing these objects, which had been incidentally suggested by Mr Brand, at the meeting with his Lordship, and which seemed to be generally approved of by him, viz., to apply to Parliament for a special act, conferring upon the corporation, powers to borrow such a sum as will be sufficient for the desired purposes. Accordingly, after full deliberation, it was resolved that such a Bill should be brought before Parliament during the present session, for empowering the Managers,

on the property and income of the Institution, to raise a sum of £30,000, from an Insurance Company, or other parties willing to advance it, to be paid off by way of terminable annuities extending over such period as might be deemed advisable, the annuity however in no case to be higher than 7 per cent. on the total sum raised.

The application for this Bill seemed to present a good opportunity for legalizing certain changes, which have been made, or are deemed advisable, in the Constitution of the Asylum, as established by the Royal Charter,—and accordingly suitable clauses, with that view, have been introduced into the Bill. The objects thus sought to be accomplished are,—1st, To alter the name or title of the Corporation, in conformity with more recent usage; 2d, To add certain additional public officials to the List of Extraordinary Managers; 3d, To legalize the *rotation* which was some years ago agreed on, in the election of ordinary Managers; 4th, To sanction the agreements made with the Parochial Boards of Edinburgh and Leith, for receiving their Insane poor, in so far as regards the admission of representation from these Boards into the Asylum Board of Management; 5th, To define and extend the powers and duties of the Medical Board, which are at present quite undefined, and therefore nugatory; and 6th, To establish and regulate a separate Charitable Department for the Asylum, to be under the charge of a Standing Committee of the Managers, but subject to annual appointment and control of the general Board. In all other respects, the Charter of the Asylum is to be confirmed by the Act, and with the above additions or alterations, it seems quite sufficient for all necessary purposes of government; but as yet the Bill is only in proof, and will be further considered by the Managers before it goes into Committee in Parliament.

The main objects sought by the Act however, are the consolidation of the debt, with an arrangement for its gradual liquidation, and the completing of the Asylum buildings, objects which are both deemed essential to the well-being of the Asylum, and most important for the district to which it is appropriated.

The Reports by the Physician and Chaplain, which are hereto annexed, are referred to for information regarding the treatment of the patients, and other matters of detail falling within their respective departments.

ALEXANDER PRINGLE,

Chairman.

INCOME AND RECEIPTS—Brought over, £13,351 5 1½

EXPENDITURE, £14,163 19 11½

I. ORDINARY, £1170 1 6

(1) Disbursements for the Institution, viz—

1. Provisions, Coal, Gas, &c.,	£1376 19 4½
2. Repairs and Furnishings, including expenses of Cropping Grounds, &c.,	3837 12 5½
3. Public and Parochial Bursars,	140 15 8½
4. Tea-Daily, (less Inc. Daily,	324 9 0
5. Water-Daily,	50 0 0
6. Insurance against Fire,	23 8 0
7. Interest on Loans, &c.,	268 4 9½
8. Miscellaneous Payments,	155 3 10

ABSTRACT

OF THE

TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1850.

3. Consulting do.,	25 4 0
4. Stationery,	100 0 0
5. Chaplain,	80 0 0
6. House Steward,	60 0 0
7. Gardener,	60 0 0
8. Gate Keeper,	30 0 0
9. Honorarium to Mr. Mackay,	105 0 0
10. Secretary,	327 0 0
11. Treasurer's Commission,	327 0 0
12. Wages of Attendants, &c.,	1370 19 11½

I.—INCOME AND RECEIPTS.

1. ORDINARY.

Amount of Board for Patients, (exclusive of one Patient in the Institution whose Board was redeemed by a single payment,) - - -	£13,351 5 1½
Rents of Grounds, &c., - - -	£51 19 0
And Produce, &c., sold, - - -	214 4 10
Sundries, (Furnishings made to Patients, &c.,) - - -	266 3 10
	546 11 0
	<hr/>
	£14,163 19 11½

2. EXTRAORDINARY.

Subscriptions and Legacies paid, - - -	£1170 1 6
Money Borrowed, - - -	4500 0 0
	<hr/>
	5670 1 6
	<hr/>
Total Receipts,	£19,834 1 5½

I.—INCOME AND RECEIPTS—Brought over, £19,834 1 5½

II.—EXPENDITURE.

1. ORDINARY.

(1.) Disbursements for the Institution, Viz.—

1. Provisions, Coal, Gas, &c.,	-	£4576	19	4½
2. Repairs and Furnishings, including expense of Cropping Grounds, &c.,		3637	12	5½
3. Public and Parochial Burdens,	-	140	15	6½
4. Feu-Duty, (less Income-Tax,)	-	384	9	0
5. Water-Duty,	-	50	0	0
6. Insurance against Fire,	-	23	8	0
7. Interest on Loans, &c.,	-	568	4	9½
8. Miscellaneous Payments,	-	155	5	10
		<u>£9536</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11½</u>

(2.) Salaries, &c., Viz.—

1. Resident Physician,	£350	0	0
2. Assistant do.,	80	0	0
3. Consulting do.,	25	4	0
4. Matron,	100	0	0
5. Chaplain,	80	0	0
6. House Steward,	60	0	0
7. Gardener,	60	0	0
8. Gate Keeper,	30	0	0
9. Honorarium to Mr Mackay,	105	0	0
10. Secretary and Clerk,	26	5	0
11. Treasurers Commis- sion on Receipts,	327	0	0
12. Wages of Attendants, &c.,	1326	14	8½
	<u>£2570</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8½</u>

Add—

Extra Allowances to Officers,	57	5	0
And Mr Hughes' Retired Al- lowance, (Half Year.)	29	2	6
	<u>2656</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2½</u>

£12,193 6 2½

2. EXTRAORDINARY.

Loans paid off,

4900 0 0

Total Payments,

£17093 6 2½

Surplus Receipts,

£2740 15 3

	Surplus Receipts brought over,	£2740 15 3
From which deduct---		
Balance due to Treasurer at 31st December, 1849.	- £925 18 4½	
Under Deduction of Arrears of Board at same date,	- £395 17 1	
Less ditto at 31st December, 1850,	- 111 17 3	
	<u>283 19 10</u>	
		641 18 6½
Balance due by Treasurer at 31st December 1850.		<u>£2098 16 8½</u>

ABSTRACT

OF THE

ORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Amount of Ordinary Receipts as before,	- -	£14163 19 11½
do. do. Payments, do,	- -	12193 6 2½
		<u>£1970 13 9</u>

STATE OF FUNDS AT 31st December, 1850.

I. DEBTS.

1. Amount of Debt on Promissary Notes, &c.,	- -	£15500 0 0
2. Accounts for the Quarter ended,	- -	2149 6 1½
3. Outstanding Accounts and proportion of current Feuduty, Interest, Taxes, &c ,	- -	250 0 0
		<u>£17899 6 1½</u>

II. ASSETS.

1. Balance due by Treasurer, as before,	£2098 16 8½	
2. Arrears of Board,	111 17 3	
3. Provisions and Stock on hand,	772 13 11	
	<u>2983 7 10½</u>	
Deficiency,	-	<u>£14915 18 2½</u>

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, &c., OBTAINED IN 1850.

Earl of Stair, -	- -	£2 2 0
Mr H. M. Gibb, (annually,) -	- -	1 0 0
Miss Dundas, (annually,) -	- -	1 0 0
Miss Cumming, 17 Ainslie Place, -	- -	5 0 0
John Euman, Warper, Innerleithen, -	- -	1 2 6
Legacy from the late Mr Daniel McIntosh, bookseller, -	- -	97 0 6
Do. from the late Dr Somerville of Capetown, -	- -	162 16 6
Do., from the late Walter Lothian, Esq., Hope Park, -	- -	50 0 0
City's Subscription, (balance,) -	- -	850 0 0
		<u>£1170 1 8</u>

STATEMENT OF WORK DONE AT THE R. E. ASYLUM DURING THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1850.

(The value of the Work done in the following Statement, is calculated by adding the cost of the materials to Journeyman's wages, at the current rates.)

BY WRIGHTS—

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

Extraordinary.

Wardrobe, Tables, and fitting up Scul-			
lery, - - - - -	£26	9	6
Cart Shed, fitting up Stable and Court-			
Yard Gate, - - - - -	15	0	0
Pailing in High Garden, Fancy Rail-			
ing, and fitting Front Gate, - - - - -	10	15	0
Fitting up Sink, and Water Closet in			
Low Rooms, - - - - -	3	12	0
New Press, and fitting up Crockery			
Store, Window Breasts, and Mountings, - - - - -	7	17	0
	£63	13	6

Ordinary.

Repairs to Tables, Chairs, Sofas, and			
Doors, - - - - -	21	14	3
Painting and Glazing, - - - - -	147	5	4
Coffins, - - - - -	28	17	0
	197	16	7

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

Extraordinary.

Desk, Presses, fitting up Meat and			
Steward's Stores, - - - - -	9	2	0
Wardrobes, Press, Tables for Laundry			
and Seating Chapel, - - - - -	14	0	0
Fitting Ventilators, Water Closet, Lin-			
ing Doors in Female Separate Build-	12	18	8
ing, - - - - -			
Repairs, and altering Pigery, Flooring			
Washing-house, Clothes Boxes for			
Laundry, - - - - -	26	10	0
Counter and Presses for Surgery, Win-			
dows in Balcony, - - - - -	11	19	3
Shelving Shoemaker's Shop, Board and			
Table for Tailor's Shop, - - - - -	22	3	9
Painting and Glazing, - - - - -	128	6	10
	225	0	6

Ordinary.

Repairs on Doors, Windows, Presses,			
and Benches, - - - - -	64	10	9
Work done for Gardener, - - - - -	4	4	0
Work done for Smith, - - - - -	3	4	6
	71	19	3
Total of Wright Work, - - - - -	558	9	10

			Brought over,	£558 9 10		
BY UPHOLSTERERS—						
Sea-Grass Mattresses and Pillows made,	39	4	6			
Straw Mattresses and Repairs,	18	0	0			
Chairs and Sofas covered and repaired,	30	0	0			
Carpet-Bags and Braces made,	15	3	8			
				102	8	2
BY TAILORS—						
Clothes made,	358	3	1			
Clothes repaired,	63	8	5			
				421	11	6
BY SHOEMAKERS—						
Shoes made,	250	16	1			
Shoes repaired,	49	4	11½			
				300	1	0½
BY PRINTER'S WORK,				72	2	0
BY SMITHS—						
Gas-Fitting and Plumber Work,	172	3	10½			
Repairs on Steam Pipes and Boilers,	68	9	3			
Repairs on Iron Beds, &c.,	16	8	7			
				257	1	8½
By MASONS for Eastern and Western Departments,				218	16	1
By PLASTERERS, do. do.				14	1	6
By FEMALES, in Western Department—						
Shirts and Stockings made and repaired	55	11	6½			
Gowns, Shifts, Stays, and Caps made						
and repaired,	49	5	8			
Petticoats, Straw Bonnets, &c.	16	8	0			
				121	5	2½
Total Work done,				£2065	17	0½
Value of Goods in Store,—						
Provisions, Soap, &c.,				£73	13	7
Blankets, Bed Covers, Mattresses, and Pillows,				45	18	0
Shoes,				55	9	6
Made Clothes				207	16	6
Stockings,				5	17	4
Prints, Derry, Gingham, and Cotton,				48	3	2
Dowls, Canvass, and Packsheet,				36	8	0
Tapes and Pirns,				38	10	11
Carpet Bags, and Straw Bonnets,				19	6	0
Plaiding, Flannel, and Tartan Neckkerchiefs,				39	3	6
Iron, Lead, Gas-fitting, and Ironmongery,				49	14	4
Crockery, Glass, and Brushes,				33	18	6
Wood,				58	15	7
Pigs, valued at				59	19	0
				£772	13	11

VEGETABLES USED IN THE R. E. ASYLUM DURING THE YEAR 1850.

DESCRIPTION.	EASTERN DEPARTMENT.					WESTERN DEPARTMENT.					TOTAL IN BOTH DEPARTMENTS.
	Mar. 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	Total.	Mar. 31.	June 30.	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	Total.	
Brocoli,	176	614	—	—	790	—	—	—	6	6	796 heads.
Beetroot,	—	—	—	25½	26	—	—	—	3	3	29 bundles.
Brussel Sprouts,	2	—	—	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	10 gallons.
Beans,	—	—	17	—	17	—	—	16	—	16	33 pecks.
Cabbages,	324	3306	696	546	4872	920	1308	5064	4896	12188	17,060 heads.
Cauliflower,	—	—	459	500	959	96	—	12	14	26	985 "
Carrots,	212	—	60½	—	272½	—	—	—	—	96	368½ dozen.
Celery,	162	—	—	283	445	—	—	—	—	—	445 heads.
Currants,	—	—	32	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	32 pints.
Cherries,	—	6	8	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	14 "
Greens,	354	382	—	—	736	1180	313	—	960	5272	6008 heads.
Gooseberries,	—	27	53	—	80	—	2	—	—	2	82 pints.
Kidney Beans,	—	—	34	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	34 "
Leeks,	291	70	—	—	468	418	—	—	304	722	1190 dozen.
Onions,	10½	—	—	107	18	80	—	—	1	81	99 pecks.
Do.,	25	191	239	7½	573	128	1065	478	78	1749	2322 bundles.
Potatoes,	730	593	469	718	2510	2725	455	1597	2860	7637	10,147 pecks.
Parsley,	20	19	25	43	107	—	120	132	—	252	359 bundles.
Pease,	—	2	545	—	547	—	—	430	—	430	977 pecks.
Plums,	—	—	11	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	11 dozen.
Pears,	—	—	54	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	54 "
Radishes,	—	44	—	—	44	—	4	—	—	4	48 bundles.
Rhubarb,	—	67	—	—	67	—	6	—	—	6	73 dozen.
Red Cabbage,	—	—	—	66	66	—	—	—	—	—	66 heads.
Savoy,	1349	90	—	804	2243	6720	3240	—	84	10044	12,287 heads.
Spinach,	—	87	—	—	87	—	5	—	—	5	92 gallons.
Strawberries,	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3 pints.
Turnips,	185	121	360	279	945	182	129	449	579	1339	2284 dozen.

PHYSICIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE ROYAL EDINBURGH ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, FOR THE YEAR 1850.

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the Contributors, held on the 27th January 1851.)

THE commencement of another year calls for the accustomed annals of this Asylum. The retrospect of the past year, will be found, I believe, to be an agreeable one. It will afford a record of much suffering alleviated, of many cures effected, of activity and progress in the use of all the means adapted for those ends, and of great financial prosperity, with the cheering prospect, I trust, of an enlarged sphere of usefulness.

General results. The general results of the year are here thrown into a tabular form:—

TABLE I.—*General Results of the Year.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of inmates at the close of 1849,	224	251	475
Admitted during the year 1850,	126	127	253
Total number under treatment,	350	378	728
Discharged,	M. 78 F. 88 = 166		
of whom were Cured,	M. 47 F. 64 = 111		
Uncured,	31 24 = 55		
Died,	26 38 = 64		
	104	126	230
Total number at the close of 1850,	246	252	498

Average number resident during the year 1850:—
Males, 241·5. Females, 255·6. Total, 497·1.

The number admitted during the year (253) is 12 less than there were the previous year, but the average number residing in the house (497) is considerably greater. In 1849, the average number resident was 473.

It is worthy of remark, that during the past year all the pauper patients for whom applications were made have been admitted, with the exception of one or two cases deemed unsuitable. This has not occurred before. In 1849, I refused many applications. In 1848 I refused still more; and in 1847, upwards of 130 were denied admittance from the want of accommodation. Is it to be inferred that the frequency of insanity in the country is diminishing? I fear not. The diminished number of applications is, I believe, due to other causes;—first, to the large number of insane poor, who are still permitted, from a short-sighted economy, to be boarded with their own friends and neighbours,—and, secondly, to an increase in the number of licensed madhouses, which hold out to parishes the inducement of lower rates of board than are charged in this and other public Asylums. A considerable number of the cases entered in the preceding table as removed uncured were of the kind mentioned. They were either transferred to private Asylums, on account of the rate of board being less, or sent to reside with their own friends. In one case of the latter kind, an epileptic female, although at times highly dangerous, was removed from the Asylum and boarded with an aged and infirm father and mother, the former of whom is obliged to be absent from home during the week to attend to his work, leaving the mother alone with her insane daughter. When removals of this kind are permitted, it is not to be wondered at that such frightful incidents as occurred in this county and in Perthshire during the past year, should occasionally take place.

Removal of
gerous Pati

The average number (57) of inmates in the department for the higher classes, has been greater during the past year than in any previous one. Indeed, I have been compelled from the want of suitable accommodation, to get two gentlemen removed, and to refuse admission to several others, whose friends offered the highest rate of board.

The number of patients discharged cured was 111, being in the ratio of 43·9 per cent. to the number of admissions, and of 22·65 per cent. to the mean number resident.

Per Centage
Cures.

The total number of patients admitted into the Asylum, since its foundation, is 2,432. The number dismissed cured is 989,—being in the ratio of 40·6 per cent. to the whole, or 51·1 per cent., deducting those still under treatment.

I repeat here a table, similar to one in last year's Report, shewing as I did there, the period of residence of those removed uncured :—

TABLE II.—*Period of Residence of those removed Uncured.*

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month,	-	-	3	—	3
" 2 "	-	-	1	1	2
" 3 "	-	-	3	4	7
" 4 "	-	-	1	1	2
" 5 "	-	-	1	—	1
" 6 "	-	-	2	1	3
" 1 year,	-	-	9	8	17
" 2 "	-	-	3	4	7
" 3 "	-	-	3	3	6
" 5 "	-	-	3	1	4
" 6 "	-	-	—	1	1
" 9 "	-	-	2	—	2
Total,	-	-	31	24	55

For the purpose of repeating the statement, that of these cases a large proportion would, in all probability, have recovered, had they been longer under treatment ;—35 of them had been less than a year in the Asylum ; and an extended series of observations, has shewn that one-half of those who recover, have done so after the first year.

The following table, shews the ages of those admitted, and also of those discharged cured :—

TABLE III. *Ages of those Admitted, and of those discharged Recovered.*

	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED CURED.			Per Centage of Cures
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
From 10 to 20,	4	5	9	1	3	4	44.4
" 20 to 30,	24	21	45	6	15	21	47
" 30 to 40,	50	42	92	24	25	49	53.2
" 40 to 50,	26	33	64	11	13	24	37.5
" 50 to 60,	13	13	26	2	5	7	27
" 60 to 70,	7	6	13	1	3	4	30
" 70 to 80,	2	1	3	2	—	2	—
" 80 to 90,	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Total,	126	127	253	47	64	111	

Two of the patients admitted were at a very early age,—one a boy, was only 14 years of age, and laboured under acute mania when admitted.

The other, a girl, was only 11 or 13. She had lost her parents

and was removed to the Workhouse. Whether distress for the loss of her parents, or fear and dislike for the altered habits of life to which she was now introduced, or a weak and scrofulous habit of body, or all these causes combined to induce the disease, I cannot say, but she was seized with an uncontrollable desire for death, and attempted to commit suicide in a variety of ways. After being saved from strangulation, she was rescued from drowning, having spent some considerable time in the water-cistern, in ineffectual attempts to drown herself.

This table, of the ages of the patients, exhibits both extremes ;— 17 of the admissions, were upwards of 60 ; 3 of them upwards of 70 ; and one, 84 years of age, when admitted. Most of them were, of course, labouring under the second childhood of old age ; of the others, however, hopeless as such cases necessarily must be, 6 recovered, and were sent home well ; and of these one (aged 75) had previously recovered from 13 distinct attacks.

TABLE IV.—*Form of disease in Those Admitted..*

	Males,	Females,	Total.
Moral Insanity,	3	2	5
Mania,	28	41	69
Chronic Mania,	5	10	15
Periodic „	3	—	3
Puerperal, „	—	5	5
Mania with Epilepsy,	3	—	3
Dementia with General Paralysis,	13	3	16
Dementia with Epilepsy,	1	2	3
Dementia,	19	23	42
Melancholia,	13	17	30
Monomania of Fear,	4	4	8
„ Suspicion,	13	14	27
„ Pride	—	4	4
„ Superstition	6	1	7
„ Unseen Agency,	2	1	3
Delirium Tremens,	11	—	11
Idiocy,	2	—	2
Total,	126	127	253

Of the four cases of Moral Insanity included in the preceding table, Moral Insanity. one presented some features of peculiar interest, in a medico-legal point of view. It was that of a female, labouring under a powerful homicidal impulse. She had no disorder of the understanding, nor perversion of her intellectual powers,—and, in particular, she la-

Homicidal Im-
pulse.

laboured under no delusions or hallucinations. She had a simple abstract desire to kill, or rather, for it took a specific form, to strangle. She made repeated attempts to effect her purpose, attacking all and sundry, even her own nieces and other relatives,—indeed, it seemed to be a matter of indifference to her who she strangled, so that she succeeded in killing some one. She recovered, under strict discipline, so much self-control as to be permitted to work in the washing house and laundry, but she still continued to assert that she “must do it,” that she was “certain she would do it some day,” that she could not help it, that “surely no one had ever suffered as she had done,”—was not hers “an awful case;” and, approaching any one, she would gently bring her hand near their throat, and say mildly and persuasively, “I would just like to do it.” She frequently expressed a wish that all the men and women in the world had only one neck, that she might strangle it. Yet this female had kind and amiable dispositions, was beloved by her fellow patients, so much so that one of them insisted on sleeping with her, although she herself declared that she was afraid she would not be able to resist the impulse to get up during the night, and strangle her. She had been a very pious woman, exemplarily in her conduct, very fond of attending prayer-meetings, and of visiting the sick, praying with them, and reading the scriptures, or repeating to them the sermons she had heard. It was the second attack of insanity. During the former she had attempted suicide. The disease was hereditary, and it may be believed that she was strongly predisposed to morbid impulses of this character, when it is stated that her sister and mother both committed suicide. There could be no doubt as to the sincerity of her morbid desires. She was brought to the Institution under very severe restraint, and the parties who brought her were under great alarm upon the restraint being removed. After its removal, she made repeated and very determined attacks upon the other patients, the attendants, and the officers of the Asylum, and was only brought to exercise sufficient self-control by a system of rigid discipline. This female was perfectly aware that her impulses were wrong, and that if she had committed any act of violence under their influence, she would have been exposed to punishment. She deplored, in piteous terms, the horrible propensity under which she laboured.

I have in previous reports, recorded similar cases to this. They belong to the class of Moral Insanity, or insanity without delusion,

for which no place has yet been found in the legal definitions of this malady, and which do not therefore, exculpate from responsibility for crimes committed under its influence.

In the other female labouring under this form of mental disease, it manifested itself in a total disregard for all those restrictions which morality and the pride and honour of the sex commonly impose. This existed along with high mental cultivation, and superior natural abilities, and without any impairment or perversion of intellect.

In two of the males, the moral perversion consisted in an insane and incontrollable impulse for the insatiable use of spirituous liquors leading to excitement and violence in their conduct, which rendered confinement necessary both for their own safety and that of others. Some of the cases classed under Delirium-tremens were similar in their nature, differing only in this, that self-indulgence had terminated in attacks of this disease, during the invasion of which they were sent to the Asylum. Cases of this kind are perhaps amongst the most perplexing which medical practitioners have to contend with, or the superintendents of asylums to manage. The difficulty is almost always great of determining when the propensity to intemperance amounts to a disease, or when, in other words, the craving for stimulants is such that the individual has lost all self-control—is no longer a moral agent, and, therefore, a fit object for restraint. Such cases, when admitted into an Asylum, are generally troublesome, almost always unsatisfactory. They soon become too sane to be confined, and yet too weak to be at large, full of self-reliance and good resolutions, but utterly unable to control their appetites when exposed to trial. Their anxieties about business, which must go to wreck without their presence—their solemn vows of temperance, and other considerations, generally weigh so much with their friends, that in a very short time, before the force of habit has been substituted for the cravings of a morbid appetite, they are removed to the world, only in general to run again the same course of dissipation and wretchedness. Relapses in such cases are frequent, I might almost say constant : and yet how few can be convinced of the overwhelming power of a morbid appetite, sprung it may be from hereditary predisposition or constitutional peculiarities, but nurtured into a second nature by the force of habit. Such an instinct is not to be controlled by the highest intellectual or moral attainments, the sin-

cerest aspirations, or most solemn resolutions. Many months of physical and moral training can alone eradicate the disease and establish a cure. One of the cases of Delirium-tremens admitted during the year, affords a melancholy comment upon the truth of these remarks. The gentleman was a person of high character, and great amiability and intelligence, and of considerable scientific attainments, and was engaged in an extensive and flourishing business. He was admitted for the third attack, and on his recovery from the immediate effects of it, he was, at his own urgent solicitation, chiefly on considerations connected with his business, removed by his friends. Within a few weeks after his removal, he terminated his existence by shooting himself.

General Paralysis.

The number of individuals admitted, labouring under that most hopeless malady General Paralysis, continues to be unusually great. In 1849, 18 patients were admitted, affected with this form of disease, and during the last year, 15. Of these 15, 3 were females,—a somewhat remarkable fact, as the disease is very seldom met with in that sex.

Monomania.

It would be a curious and interesting task to analyze the delusions and hallucinations of the Monomaniacs admitted during the year, and of those resident in the Asylum. This would be altogether beyond the limits of such a Report as this. But it may be interesting to mention, as showing how far the prevailing delusions of the insane derive their character from the most engrossing topics of the current events of the day, that not to mention such persons as the Princess of Persia, or Prince George of Cambridge, or several male claimants to the throne of these realms, there are at present in Morningside no less than seven queens, of whom three claim to be Queen Victoria, and three to be Empress of the World. Three of those admitted during the year became insane at the time of the Queen's latest visit to Scotland, and their insanity was by their friends ascribed partly at least to the excitement occasioned by that event. In one of them, a case of puerperal mania, the female believed that, in consequence of her confinement having taken place on such a remarkable occasion, she must have given birth to a person of royal or divine dignity. The religious excitement of the times gave at least its colouring to the conceptions of many of those affected, although it may be safely asserted, that in a majority, if not in all, the disease originated in physical ailments, or exciting causes of a

more material kind. In one lady recently admitted, the papal aggression was assigned as the cause of her malady. Ten of the inmates believe, or have believed, themselves to be divine personages, of whom two have maintained, with much ingenuity, that they are the Saviour on the occasion of his second advent, and a third, that he is the fourth person in the Trinity. Mesmerism, some years ago, performed its part in affording imagery and colouring to the fancies of the insane. The renewed interest which has of late been excited on this subject, has been the means of bringing one individual within the walls of the Asylum, where he finds refuge from his imaginary foe. He believes that he has discovered the true principle of electrobiology and mesmerism; but his discovery awakened fears within his breast that some one would take advantage of this new power to exercise undue influence over himself. He imagined that by continuing to mesmerise an individual for a long time, so complete an electric or mesmeric relation would be established between the operator and the other party, that the operator could continue to exercise an entire and permanent control over his victim, either for good or evil purposes, and might destroy him. For his protection, he provided himself with a brace of pistols to shoot the first electrician he should meet. Who his first victim might have been it is impossible to say, as the Procurator Fiscal cut short his discoveries and exploits, by sending him into his present retreat.

One of the most remarkable of the cases classed under the head of Monomania of Unseen Agency, was that of a lady who believed that a neighbour of hers had constructed an instrument by means of which he could read her thoughts, and see into her inside. He had extracted her brains with it, and changed the position of her head and bowels. She also believed that he had constructed an emblem of her, and by means of this emblem, although separated from him by many miles of land and water, she still believed he could read her thoughts, and dissect her body, and fill her with all possible pains and fancies. The case reminds one of the evidence sworn to by the alleged witches of past centuries, who, by means of fetishes or of emblematic figures and enchantments, could torture the bodies of those whom they chose to punish.

The following table illustrates the tendency to suicide in those admitted :

Suicide
puls

TABLE V. *Illustrative of Suicidal Tendency in those Admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have attempted Suicide,	15	17	32
Have meditated Suicide,	10	8	18
Total,	25	25	50
Forms of Insanity during which Suicide was attempted,—			
Mania,	3	4	7
Melancholia,	6	8	14
Dementia with General Paralysis,	—	1	1
Dementia with Epilepsy,	2	—	2
Dementia,	1	2	3
Monomania of Superstition,	1	—	1
„ Fear,	1	2	3
Delirium Tremens,	1	—	1
Total,	15	17	32
Forms of Insanity during which Suicide was meditated,			
Moral Insanity,	—	1	1
Mania,	1	1	2
Periodic Mania,	1	—	1
Melancholia,	3	1	4
Dementia with Epilepsy,	—	1	1
Dementia,	2	1	3
Monomania of Suspicion,	1	2	3
„ Superstition,	—	1	1
Delirium Tremens,	2	—	2
Total,	10	8	18
Means used in the Attempts Made,—			
Suspension,	2	—	2
Strangulation,	—	2	2
Drowning,	—	3	3
Precipitation,	4	3	7
Cutting Throat,	4	5	9
Cutting Throat,	1	1	2
Starvation,	1	1	2
Poison,	—	1	1
Beating Head against wall,	3	1	4
Unknown,	—	—	—
Total,	15	17	32

Of these, several had made repeated attempts, and by a variety of means, one attempted suicide, both by cutting and strangulation,—one, by cutting, poisoning, and drowning. One, cut herself on

several occasions with knives and scissors ; another, cut her throat on four different occasions, and, lastly, one attempted to hang, choke, strangle, and smother himself, and afterwards dashed his head against the wall and the ground, struck his head with a pickaxe and a spade, and continued to make daily and hourly attempts, by every means in his power.

The number of suicidal attempts nearly corresponds with those of the two previous years, but differs in this respect, that of the whole a much larger proportion were males than during either of the former years.

Repeated and very determined attempts to commit suicide, have been made by several of the inmates during the year. One patient who was not known to cherish any suicidal propensities, under the influence of a sudden impulse, made the attempt in the shoemaker's shop with the knife with which he was working, but was prevented by the prompt interference of the attendant. A female threw herself into the curling pond, from the shallows of which she was immediately extricated. One man who has long laboured under extreme despair, has made unwearied and innumerable efforts to destroy himself in a great variety of ways, by refusing his food, by strangulation by dashing his head against the wall or ground and otherwise.

Notwithstanding the frequency and prevalence of such attempts during the year, fortunatly no accident from this cause has occurred. This has been due in some measure to the security afforded by the patients sleeping in dormitories where they watch and protect each other, and in great part to the care and vigilance of the attendants.

The most frequent cause, as seen in all previous tables of this kind, is shewn to have been intemperance. Deducting those cases in which the cause was unknown, 25 per cent. of the cases were attributable to this cause, and, if the males only are taken 33·3 per cent., or one third of those admitted owed their malady to this prevailing cause of evil. Two cases were ascribed to the excessive use of strong tea ; two to the excitement occasioned by her Majesty's visit to Edinburgh, and one to the still more exciting topic of Papal Aggression. As in many of the other cases included in the following table, the cause assigned in these was probably but the accidental or exciting one : the more important condition being the disordered state of the bodily health, resulting from the operation of many and long continued causes.

Caus

The following table is the

TABLE VI.—*Causes of Disease in those Admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Anxiety, - - - - -	6	4	10
Terror, - - - - -	—	1	1
Grief, - - - - -	—	8	8
Chagrin, - - - - -	6	5	11
Remorse, - - - - -	—	2	2
Disappointed Affection, - - - - -	7	6	13
Reverses of Fortune, - - - - -	7	9	16
Mental Fatigue, - - - - -	4	2	6
Religious Excitement, - - - - -	12	6	18
Destitution, - - - - -	4	5	9
Disease of Heart, - - - - -	1	1	2
Epilepsy, - - - - -	4	2	6
Intemperance, - - - - -	34	14	48
Injury of Head, - - - - -	2	—	2
Coup de Soliel, - - - - -	1	—	1
Tropical Climate, - - - - -	2	—	2
Nursing, - - - - -	—	2	2
Child-Bearing, - - - - -	—	6	6
Amenorrhœa, - - - - -	—	3	3
Menorrhagia, - - - - -	—	2	2
Fever, - - - - -	4	1	5
Sudden Disappearance of Eruption, - - - - -	—	1	1
Queen's Visit to Scotland, - - - - -	2	—	2
Suicide of Sister, - - - - -	—	1	1
Juniper-green Homicide, - - - - -	1	—	1
Deficient Nourishment, - - - - -	1	—	1
Papal Aggression, - - - - -	—	1	1
Idiocy, - - - - -	2	—	2
Unknown, - - - - -	27	45	72

One of the cases illustrates the force of sympathy in developing and giving form to the disease, the individual belonged to Juniper Green and was discharged from the Asylum quite well, it being the second attack from which he had recovered. The occurrence of the melancholy homicide at that place by the maniac Pearson, so alarmed and unhinged him that he came spontaneously, to the Asylum begging to be re-admitted, as he was afraid he himself might not be able to restrain his hands from committing some similar outrage. This man had on no occasion exhibited violence during his previous attacks, which were characterised chiefly by great depression. The next table shews the form of the disease in those who were discharged cured.

TABLE VII.—*Form of Disease in those discharged Recovered.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Acute Mania, - - -	14	29	43
Chronic „ - - -	—	1	1
Periodic „ - - -	1	—	1
Puerperal „ - - -	—	5	5
Moral Insanity, - - -	1	—	1
Delirium Tremens, - - -	7	—	7
Demonomania, - - -	1	—	1
Melancholia, - - -	4	8	12
Monomania of Fear, - - -	6	4	10
„ Suspicion, - - -	4	4	8
„ Pride, - - -	—	2	2
„ Superstition, - - -	1	—	1
„ Unseen Agency, - - -	2	—	2
Dementia, - - -	4	10	14
„ with Epilepsy, - - -	2	1	3
Total,	47	64	111

It shews the usual results. The cures being most numerous in the different forms of Mania, next in Monomania, and least of all, in Dementia.

The curability of the cases is also to a very great extent affected by the duration of them previous to admission. Upwards of 70 per cent. of the cases cured, as will be seen from the subjoined table, having been sent to the Institution within the first three months.

TABLE VIII.—*Duration of disease previous to Admission in those discharged Cured.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 Month, - - -	27	37	64
„ 3 „ - - -	5	9	14
„ 6 „ - - -	5	3	8
„ 1 Year, - - -	2	3	5
„ 2 „ - - -	1	1	2
„ 4 „ - - -	1	1	2
„ 5 „ - - -	1	—	1
„ 9 „ - - -	—	1	1
Unknown, - - -	5	9	14
Total,	47	64	111

This table is also interesting as shewing that not a few cases recovered even after several years duration. One female recovered speedily and perfectly after her admission, although she had been insane for a period of nine years.

TABLE IX.—*Period of Residence of those discharged Cured.*

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 Month,	-	-	-	-	4	—	4
" 3 "	-	-	-	-	14	17	31
" 6 "	-	-	-	-	14	15	29
" 1 Year,	-	-	-	-	12	23	35
" 2 "	-	-	-	-	2	4	6
" 3 "	-	-	-	-	—	3	3
" 4 "	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
" 5 "	-	-	-	-	—	1	1
Total,					47	64	111

Of 111 recoveries 99 occurred within 12 months after admission. Twelve had been inmates of the Asylum for periods varying from 2 to 5 years. One of these cases afforded a most gratifying illustration of the beneficial influence of employment.

The person referred to was a land-surveyor, and had been actively employed in the construction of one the railways at time of his seizure, upwards of four years ago. He continued in the Asylum for more than three years, without any improvement, labouring under a variety of delusions and great depression of spirits. He was ultimately induced to commence a survey and plans of the grounds and Asylum buildings, which he executed with great accuracy. From this moment, his recovery commenced and proceeded steadily, while he continued, during his convalescence, to make a variety of plans and drawings for my use, and to assist the Gardener and others in book-keeping, and clerking. He is now I believe usefully and profitably employed.

Of the 4 cases in the preceding table removed within one month after admission, the whole relapsed; two of them were sent back to the Asylum, and a third, destroyed himself, as already mentioned.

Of those removed within three months several relapsed, and were sent back.

These facts, sufficiently illustrate the impropriety of early removals, and, the great importance of obtaining if possible, a confirmed and satisfactory convalescence.

Mortality. The mortality, during the past year, has been very considerably less than it had been for the three previous years. On those years, it was successively 15, 14, and 16 per cent. to the average number resident; during the last year, it has been only 12·7 per cent., or 8·8 per cent. to the entire number under treatment.

This mortality is still somewhat high, but not perhaps higher than might be expected in an hospital where patients are admitted from a large city without any reference to their condition, many of them being brought to the Asylum in a dying state.

The following table exhibits the causes of death:—

TABLE X.—*Causes of Death.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
General Paralysis, - - -	13	2	15
Maniacal Exhaustion, - - -	1	5	6
Senile Exhaustion, - - -	—	3	3
Epilepsy, - - -	1	1	2
Phthisis Pulmonalis, - - -	3	15	18
Pleuro Pneumonia, - - -	3	3	6
Bronchitis, - - -	1	—	1
Dysentery, - - -	3	6	9
Chronic Diarrhœa, - - -	—	1	1
Peritonitis, - - -	—	1	1
Encephaloid Tumour of Uterus, - - -	—	1	1
Phagedœna of Scrotum, - - -	1	—	1
Total,	26	38	64

Of these 64 it may be said that 26 died of Insanity, and 18 of one of its most frequent complications, Phthisis Pulmonalis. The number affected with Dysentery and Chronic Diarrhœa, has diminished greatly during the past year, and the mortality from these causes has proportionably diminished. These results are doubtless in part due to the absence of cholera, or any epidemic affection of this kind, but in part also, I believe, to the use of a liberal and nutritious diet. The number of deaths, 15, arising from that incurable complication, General Paralysis, exceeds materially that of any former year in the history of the Asylum.

TABLE XI.—*Ages of Patients deceased.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 20 to 30 years of age, - - -	1	7	8
„ 30 „ 40 „ - - -	10	10	20
„ 40 „ 50 „ - - -	8	9	17
„ 50 „ 60 „ - - -	4	5	9
„ 60 „ 70 „ - - -	—	5	8
„ 70 „ 80 „ - - -	—	1	1
„ 80 „ 90 „ - - -	—	1	1
Total,	26	28	64

TABLE XII.—*Period of Residence of those deceased.*

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 Week,	-	-	-		1	2	3
„ 1 Month,	-	-	-		4	2	6
„ 4 „	-	-	-		3	3	6
„ 3 „	-	-	-		2	3	5
„ 4 „	-	-	-		—	1	1
„ 6 „	-	-	-		4	4	8
„ 1 Year,	-	-	-		2	2	4
„ 2 „	-	-	-		2	3	5
„ 3 „	-	-	-		1	5	6
„ 4 „	-	-	-		—	2	2
„ 5 „	-	-	-		2	2	4
„ 6 „	-	-	-		3	1	4
„ 7 „	-	-	-		1	1	2
„ 8 „	-	-	-		—	4	4
„ 9 „	-	-	-		1	2	3
„ 25 „	-	-	-		—	1	1
Total,					26	38	64

These tables call for few comments. From the former, it will be seen that a few of the patients died at an advanced age, and from the latter, that one of the oldest inmates of the Asylum was removed during the past year. She had been in the House for 25 years, and suffered periodically from an attack of Mania, which continued generally for 8 or 10 months. While insane, she was incessantly abusive, noisy, destructive, and violent, but during the brief remissions which she enjoyed, she was the most gentle, humble, and amiable of all the inmates.

Three patients died within a week, and six within a month of their admission. Such cases increase the average mortality of this Institution, as compared with that of others, where all cases in a dying condition, or labouring under serious bodily illness, are regularly refused admission. One of the patients admitted, had been kept in a barn for six months previous to being sent to the Asylum. On admission, she was in a state of extreme exhaustion. Another was sent to the Institution, labouring under acute peritonitis or inflammation of the bowels; and several of the others were in a dying condition when brought to the Asylum.

Post-mortem examinations were made in 31 cases. These were conducted with care. Microscopic observations, measurements, and weights were taken, and the results may be briefly summed up as follows :—

Of the cases examined, 5 had been cases of Mania, 4 Monomania, 8 Dementia, 11 General Paralysis, 2 Epilepsy, and 1 Idiocy; and the morbid appearances were as follows:—

Congestion of Membranes, in 9; of which 2 were Mania, 5 General Paralysis, and 2 Epilepsy.

Opacity of Arachnoid, in 14, viz., 1 Mania, 1 Monomania, 5 Dementia, and 7 General Paralysis.

Sub-Arachnoid Sero-Albuminous Effusion, in 11, viz., 2 Mania, 4 Dementia, and 5 General Paralysis.

Adhesion of Membranes to Calvarium, in 4, viz., 2 Dementia, 1 General Paralysis, 1 Epilepsy.

Adhesion of Membranes to Cortical Substance, in 8, viz., 1 Dementia, and 7 General Paralysis.

Vessels of Pia Mater and Cortical Substance were *Granular*, in 3, viz., 2 Dementia, 1 General Paralysis.

Congestion of Hemispheres, in 5, viz., 1 Mania, 3 General Paralysis, 1 Epilepsy.

Effusion of Serum into the Sac of the Arachnoid, in 15, viz., 3 Mania, 4 Dementia, 7 General Paralysis, 1 Idiocy.

Increased Density of Brain, in 1, a case of Dementia.

Softening of Substance of Brain, in 10, viz., 1 Mania, 2 Dementia, 7 General Paralysis.

Absence of Diploe, in 1, a case of Epilepsy.

Ossific Deposit on Dura Mater, in 1, a case of Monomania.

Deficient Developement of Brain, in 1, a case of Idiocy.

Calvarium Thickened, in 2, cases of General Paralysis.

No Morbid Appearances were observed in 4, viz., 2 Mania, 1 Monomania, 1 Epilepsy.

The utmost attention has continued to be paid during the past year to the occupation of the patients. Of all the agencies that can be brought to bear upon the insane, I believe that in a large majority of cases, occupation, particularly in the open air, is the most beneficial in promoting recovery. For the more perfect developement of the resources of the Asylum in this respect among the male inmates, the Head Attendant of the Western Department was, with your approbation, made Master of Works, and under his management a still larger amount of work has been executed during the past than any previous year. In the abstract which accompanies this report, the value of the useful work done in the house, Occupation.

has been carefully estimated, by adding to the cost of materials the estimated expence of journeyman's wages for the articles made. In this way, it has been calculated that the value of work done in the Asylum exceeds £2000.

The amount of work executed in the Shoemakers and Tailors' workshops, has been so much more than sufficient to supply the patients, that I have been compelled to make efforts to find some other market for the goods. An order for shoes, sent through the kindness of Dr Browne, was executed for the Southern Counties Asylum. The officers, attendants, and servants have been permitted to get their shoes and clothing made in the house, at moderate charges. A number of carpet-bags, and a set of harness were made for sale. From these sources, a considerable profit has accrued from the labour of the patients, which might be greatly increased, could any of the public charities of the city be induced to contract with the Asylum for some of the articles made.

In other departments of labour, the activity displayed has been equally great. A large proportion of the Attendants in the Western Department are tradesmen, each of whom has his staff of patients, who work under his direction, and with his assistance. In this way, all the necessary repairs of the house are executed, and many improvements made, or new furnishings supplied. We have thus Carpenters, Masons, Plasterers, Painters, Plumbers, and Gas-fitters, Blacksmiths, Upholsterers, Printers, &c., constantly engaged.

Among the principal works executed during the year, in addition to ordinary repairs, may be mentioned the completion of a coal-house commenced at the close of the previous year, and built in conformity with the general design of the Asylum; the erection of a large and, handsome wall and gateway to a new court-yard, lately opened; the building of a large room, to be occupied as a billiard room and reading-room, for the use of the gentlemen of the Eastern Department. At this room, the carpenters and plumbers are at present busily occupied with the roof, and an ingenious worker in stucco is preparing, along with the plasterers, stucco ornaments for the ceiling.

A large portion of the Eastern House has been tastefully and elaborately painted by the patients, and having been in great part re-furnished, the comfort and appearances of the interior is very much improved.

The proportion of patients employed in the grounds, has continued Garden. to be as great as formerly, averaging about 75 daily. In addition to the ordinary gardening and cropping, a very large amount of levelling was executed in front of the house, and the grounds were extensively trenched and drained in various parts.

The weekly ball and concerts, have been continued with unabated Amusements. interest. During the last six months, through the kindness of the Messrs Mackenzie,—the Messrs Wallace,—Nisbet, Ross, and other professional musicians, the music has been of a very superior description, and has added much to the interest and spirit of the ball, as well as to the enjoyment afforded by the private musical parties occasionally given at the Eastern House.

A lecture on Ventriloquism was delivered to the inmates, by Mr D. Macmillan, which created much interest. Halloween and New Year's day, were celebrated with the usual formalities and enjoyments; and the weekly balls, throughout the year, were occasionally enlivened by the introduction of recitations, Highland dances, ventriloquism, slight of hand, and such variations of the amusements, as circumstances permitted.

In the month of January, the patients enjoyed curling on the pond daily, during nearly the whole month. Cricket became a very favourite game during the summer months, and was joined in by a large number of the patients of all ranks. The active exercise of this game was especially beneficial, and two or three of the patients attributed their recovery to this cause. The bowling-green and skittle ground had also their regular visitors. The former, in particular, was a great favourite amongst the older and more sedate of the inmates.

Among the in-door amusements, I may enumerate billiards, bowls, chess, cards, draughts, bagatelle, drawing, and music, both vocal and instrumental, in which some of the inmates took regular instructions—recitations, fencing, &c. To these may be added the constant source of enjoyment and occupation afforded by the Library, and the liberal supply of periodicals with which the House is now supplied.

I have on various occasions had to acknowledge the kindness of friends in presenting books to the Library. It now consists of about 800 volumes, the greater part of which have been presented to the Institution. Some of the inmates who are great readers have, I

believe, perused the greater number of the books several times. I have no doubt that it only requires to be generally known, that the Library is such a source of happiness to many of the inmates, to induce some benevolent individuals to contribute old volumes, or duplicates out of their Libraries.

The monthly periodical, "THE MIRROR," is now in its sixth year, and continues to afford occupation and amusement to an increasing number of contributors and readers. It chronicles many of the more interesting events of the House, and the contributions of friends to the Library. The profits drawn from the sale of it are devoted to the purchase of periodicals, music, and occasionally new works of interest.

During the summer season, the patients enjoyed the advantages hitherto afforded to them in occasional excursions to the surrounding country, with even more than former liberality. Among these may be mentioned six large excursions to Habbie's Howe,—one to Carlisle, one to the falls of Clyde, two fishing excursions to the Heriot, and one to Melrose; one to Fife, and repeated visits to the seaside, for sea bathing. Parties were also sent to the various promenades,—the Zoological and Experimental Gardens,—to the races, cricket-matches, and reviews which took place; to see the Queen's arrival, to visit Donaldson's Hospital, and in general to such public sights as created a general interest, and were likely to prove beneficial, by interesting the mind, or diverting from morbid into healthy trains of thought. Drives into the adjoining country, have also been enjoyed almost daily by several of the ladies, and walks over the neighbouring hills by the gentlemen. Small parties have been permitted to visit the city, to attend concerts,—the circus, the theatre,—Mr Bunn's lectures, and Mrs Kemble's readings, and such other entertainments, as were thought likely to do them good.

Religious
Services.

The Chaplain has requested me to notice the extreme regularity with which the attendants and domestic servants attended the service in the chapel, and their decorous and exemplary demeanour.

It has been to him, as it has also been to me, a subject of great interest, that several of the patients exhibited, on their death-beds, a remarkable degree of intelligence, received with avidity and gratitude, the consolations of religion, and contemplated their approaching end with tranquility and resignation. Some of them had been previously quite inapproachable, full of suspicion and distrust of

the officers of the Asylum, but during their last illness became gentle, and grateful for every attention shewn. The attendance of the patients at the public services, has also been very gratifying to the Chaplain, and to his friends who have occasionally officiated for him. They have expressed themselves in the highest degree gratified by the decorum and attention manifested by all present, and the patients on the other hand have expressed the greatest interest in the ministrations of those occasional visitors.

It is with extreme gratification, that I bear testimony to the general steadiness and efficiency of the whole staff of officers, attendants, and servants, connected with the Asylum, during the past year. I believe it would be difficult to find in any Institution, a body of servants more anxious to discharge their duties efficiently. They appear to be animated by a common ambition to further the interests of the House,—to carry into operation with avidity any plans designed for the improvement, or for the welfare of the inmates. The success which has attended the Institution, during the past year, could never have been attained but for the ready co-operation of all in carrying out my wishes, and the pride which each one has displayed, in his own sphere, in effecting the greatest amount of work, and in doing that work well. I believe, also, that in every department of the House, the utmost economy has been exercised consistent with the welfare of the patients, and the efficient execution of the operations and designs which have been carried out.

DAVID SKAE, M.D.

