

The fifty-eighth annual report of James Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth.

Contributors

James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics.
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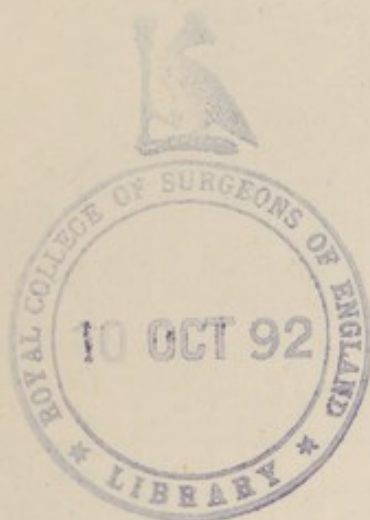
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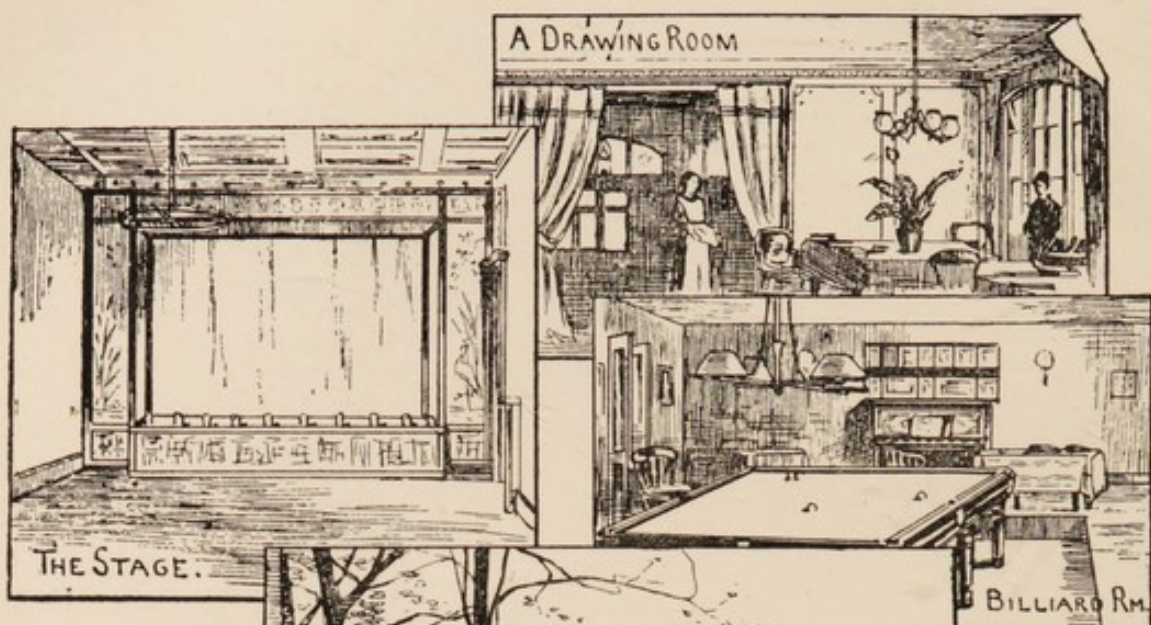
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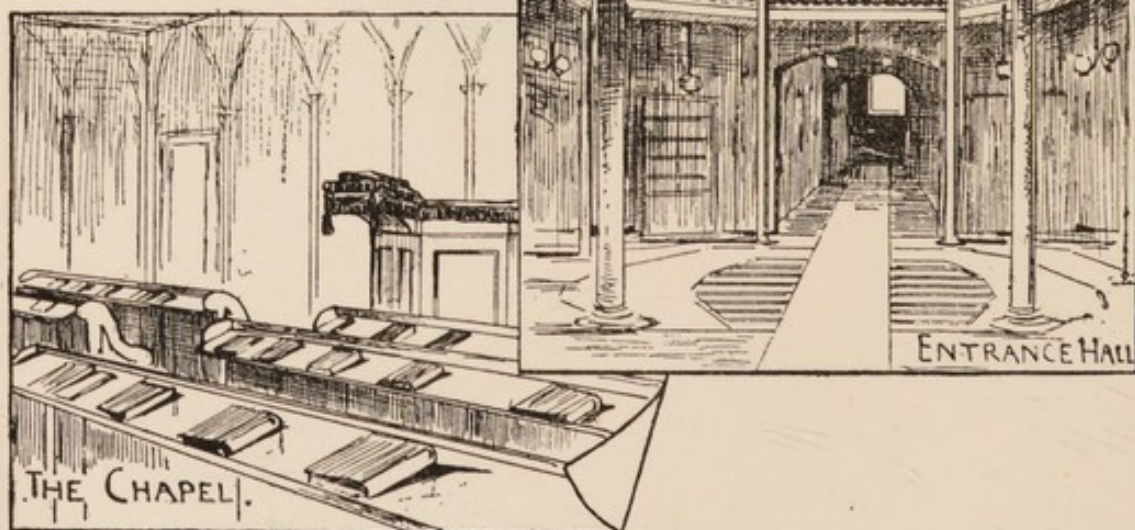
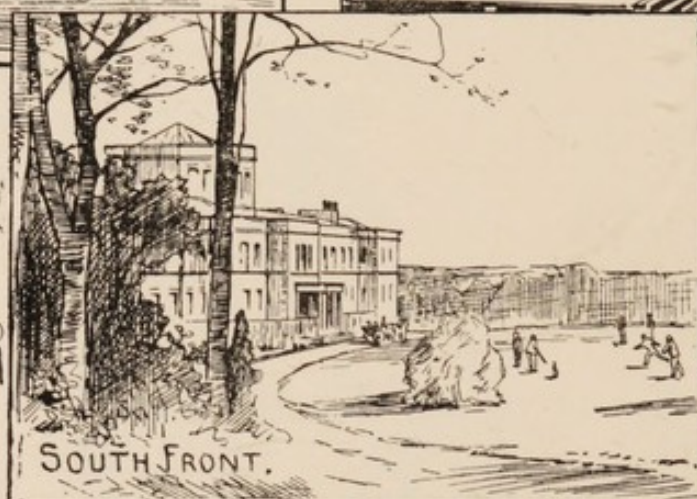


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MURRAY'S
ROYAL
ASYLUM
PERTH,



S. Reid - fecit.


The
Fifty-Eighth
Annual Report
of
James Murray's
Royal Asylum,
Perth.



Perth:

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1885.



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James Murray's Royal Asylum.

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JOHN GRAHAME, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Perth.

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J. P. WHITTET, Esq., First Bailie, Perth.

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Auditors.

Messrs. J. & R. MORISON, Accountants, Perth.

ASYLUM STAFF.



Physician Superintendent.

A. R. URQUHART, M.D.

Chaplain.

Rev. W. D. KNOWLES, B.A., Perth.

Matron.

Miss GIDDINGS.

Housekeeper.

Miss CRICHTON.



REPORT

OF THE

PHYSICIAN SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 7TH JUNE, 1885.



HAVE the honour to present the *General Statistics.*
Fifty-eighth Annual Report of James
Murray's Royal Asylum for the year
ending 7th June, 1885.

On the 8th June, 1884, there were
87 persons on the Registers of the
Asylum, and of these 2 of either sex were voluntary
patients.

Thirty-two cases were admitted during the
year, of whom 13 were males and 19 females.

The total number under treatment was 119.

Sixteen were discharged during the year—8
men and 8 women.

The number of deaths was 5, of whom 2 were
males and 3 females.

The average number on the Books was 89.

The lowest number, 86, occurred on the 19th
June, 1884; and the highest, 98, on the 2nd
June, 1885.

There now remain on the Registers 48 males and 50 females; total 98. Two gentlemen and three ladies reside voluntarily in the Asylum.

The Admissions.

The admissions, 32, numbered 4 fewer than last year; but the higher rate over the annual average (22.7) for the last 21 years has been maintained. The number now resident caused considerable crowding, which the opening of the seaside house at Carnoustie has timeously relieved. I indicated in my Report for last year that the difficulties of management are unduly increased when the numbers rise above 90, and it will be remembered that Dr. Lauder Lindsay, in his Reports of 1864 and 1868, fixed the proper limit at 80. Since that time, however, various structural alterations have been carried out, which have enlarged the accommodation as above stated. The whole question, as raised by the Commissioners and as found necessary in working, will be dealt with in a Special Report to the Directors, which I hope to present on an early date, so that it is unnecessary to enter further into the matter on this occasion.

History of Admissions.

The previous history of the patients admitted cannot be regarded as satisfactory. As many as 16 were cases of long standing, and only 15 could be reckoned curable. The usual large proportion were labouring under bodily ailments of a severe or even hopeless character, and 3 were received in a dying condition.

Senile Cases.

While it is impossible to look with satisfaction on the advent of a patient in the last stages

of senility, labouring under symptoms rendering him dangerous to himself and an intolerable burden on his family, it is not easy to indicate how such persons, especially if belonging to the poorer middle class, can be better cared for than in such an Institution as this. I may instance a case in point—J. H., who was admitted at the age of 78, suffering from senile mania, disease of the heart, and fractured rib. She had no near relative except a daughter, who earned her living in a way that precluded her from giving her time to the care of her mother; but she had saved a little money, and, in that sturdy spirit of independence that is not yet extinct in Scotland, she decided to send her mother here, instead of handing her over to the parish authorities. The case was considered by the Directors to be worthy of help, and the charitable aid of the Institution was extended to her. During the five weeks this patient survived, her presence in a house of moderate size would have rendered it uninhabitable for ordinary inmates. Even here she was treated in a remote room, and was waited upon night and day by nurses whose sole duty it was to do what was possible to mitigate the troubles of her disorder.

No fewer than 10 of the admissions were received suffering from over-strain of the mind, caused by business worries, family trials, or over-pressure at school. The last mentioned cause was directly responsible for two cases, but in both there was a predisposition to neurotic ailments. A distinct history of hereditary pre-

*Causes of
Insanity.*

disposition was obtained in 8 cases; but information on such points as this is in many cases defective or faulty. The religious excitement of recent occurrence in this neighbourhood does not appear to have affected the admissions in more than one case.

Five of the patients received had been formerly in other Asylums, and nine had suffered from previous attacks of insanity. Five were re-admitted for the second, one for the third, and one for the fourth time.

*Former
Residences of
Admissions.*

Those admitted came from the following localities:—Two from Perth, nine from the County of Perth, five from Fife, three from Edinburgh, two from Glasgow, five from Dundee, and six from other parts of Scotland. The Rates of Board received from the Perth patients were £52 each, and all applications for admission from the City and County were carried into effect.

*Average
Numbers.*

The average numbers on the books of the Asylum during the year were—certificated male patients, 41.43; female, 43.28. Voluntary male, 2.00; female, 2.55. Total, 89.28.

The Recoveries.

The number of patients who have recovered is extremely low—only 3 men and 2 women. The very unfavourable nature of the cases received during the last twelve months is sufficient to account for the low recovery rate—23.07 for males; 11.1 for females,—total, 15.62. Even of the five above recorded it is only too likely that four of them will return sooner or later to asylum care, for all were the victims of an hereditary neurosis, and two had had previous attacks.

Of those discharged unrecovered, six went out relieved and five not improved. Of the former two have since completed their recovery at home, and two were removed prematurely by their friends with untoward results. Three patients were discharged in the hope that a change of Asylum might benefit them, and four transferred to other Asylums, where they were received at lower rates of board than they had been paying here. None of these patients belonged to this locality. *The Removals.*

All the deaths occurred in cases of senile decay. The average age was 74, and the percentage of deaths on the average numbers resident 4.82 for males, 6.95 for females—mean 5.60. Three women and one man died from organic brain disease, and the only patient who had been resident for any considerable length of time died somewhat suddenly of heart disease. *The Deaths.*

The year has not been eventful from a medical point of view. There has been no entry in the Accident Book. A case of erysipelas occurred, and every precaution was taken, by isolation and disinfection, to prevent a spreading of the disease. Although this case happened in a crowded part of the house, I did not attribute it to that cause so much as to the unhealthy life the patient led. *General Health*

The nursing of the cases who were suffering from senile mania was particularly exhausting, and it was found necessary to give two nurses somewhat lengthened sick leave.

In the course of the year there is but one entry *Restraint and Seclusion.*

in the Register of Restraint and Seclusion. It refers to the use of gloves in the case of a woman of extremely suicidal tendency. Her constant endeavours to put an end to her existence were most ingenious and unexpected. On one occasion she succeeded in biting the bowl off an eggspoon at breakfast time, and swallowing it there and then, and the buttons of her clothing similarly disappeared. Such determined attempts at suicide can only be met by extreme measures; and, to my mind, the use of mechanical restraint in such a case is not only justifiable, but compulsory.

The Staff.

The Matron was subjected to a violent attack by a patient, but fortunately assistance was promptly rendered, and no serious consequence resulted. I have not found that these occurrences are causative of so many changes in the staff as might be expected, although, of course, the harassing and constant wear and tear to which attendants and nurses are exposed often becomes insupportable. Only one, during the past year, committed the unpardonable offence of striking a patient. This attendant was a recent comer, and the blow did not seem to warrant any action on the part of the Procurator-Fiscal. He was dismissed on the spot.

It will be necessary for the Directors to consider whether some improvement in the accommodation for nurses and attendants can be made, and whether they can be relieved of the housemaids' work, to which so much of their time is at present devoted, so that their whole attention may be given to the patients, and to them alone. I do not think that there can be a satisfactory

solution of the difficulty of procuring and retaining attendants and nurses until they are relieved from the repulsive and toilsome drudgery that is now their portion.

The general life of the Establishment has run in the same grooves as formerly. The house at Carnoustie is a welcome change to large numbers of the patients; and many excursions have been made by both ladies and gentlemen.

The amusements have been varied and successful. Our best thanks are due to our friends in Perth who give so much time and trouble to our entertainment. Mrs. Hempel gave her annual concert; Mr. Henry Coates a magic lantern entertainment; the Messrs. Pullar sent their band to give an open-air concert; and the kindly help of many others is fresh in our recollection. *The Amusements.*

Mrs. Gowanlock, the gardener's wife, died in January; and his long connection of fifty-one years with this Asylum was closed on the 31st March by his retiring on a pension of £70 per annum. *Pension.*

The agitation for new measures in lunacy in England has resulted in a Bill now before the House of Lords. It is, in effect, an attempt to assimilate the law of England to that of Scotland, and will not be applicable to the latter country, except in regard to certain measures for legalising the recapture of a certified lunatic who shall have escaped into Scotland or Ireland, and *vice versa*. The whole measure was considered by the Medico-Psychological Society, when I took the opportunity to endeavour to have it declared that *The New Lunacy Bill.*

medical certificates granted in England should be valid in Scotland and Ireland, and contrariwise, and to secure legal permission for certified lunatics to travel in any of the three countries for the benefit of their health or other valid reason.

*Habitual
Drunkards.*

It is to be regretted that provision for the treatment of habitual drunkards did not receive the attention of Government at the same time. The state of the Lunacy Laws in England is highly satisfactory, compared with the inadequate permissive Act of 1879 in reference to these cases. We have still to deplore the ruin of individuals and families in consequence of the want of means to ensure the compulsory reformation of those whose want of will prevents them from permitting themselves to be rescued. It would be only too easy to multiply instances in support of such a claim for State intervention, and the extended experience of Asylum Physicians of these terrible cases is my reason for commending the subject to your consideration, although the introduction of dipsomaniacs into an hospital for the treatment of mental diseases is not by any means desirable.

*Structural
Improvements
and Alterations.*

The past year has been noteworthy on account of the extensive structural alterations on the Asylum and its immediate surroundings. The chief of these were involved in the improving of the airing-courts on the east side of the house, to complete the plan followed out on the west, although it might have been desirable from some points of view to have undertaken fewer concurrent alterations.

The details of these works are as follow :—
The three airing-courts have been levelled up and the walls removed to the south. In their present state they form a terrace at the level of the base course of the main building, and have been laid out in grass and shrubbery.

Along the west wall of the laundry buildings a verandah has been built, and the old circular towers are retained.

Under the terrace a tunnel was made, in which the steam, water, and gas pipes are contained, so as to be easy of access.

The underground water-tank is retained as a reservoir in case of any stoppage of the supply from Perth.

The sewerage system is now completed within the policies. It has been designed with special safeguards against obstruction, has been freely ventilated, and made easy of inspection throughout.

A new steam boiler has been placed in the laundry buildings, and the old one retained for use when necessary. It has been found quite satisfactory to keep the old boiler full of water with the steam connection from the new one slightly open, so that a gentle heat is maintained. On examination last month, the old boiler was found to be perfectly free from all signs of rust.

The apparatus for the extinction of fire is now under complete control, and Dr. Sibbald reports that "it may be said that no other Asylum in Scotland is better, if so well, protected."

The old museum has been converted into a dining-room for the use of the higher class patients, who dine there along with the Matron. This arrangement has been attended with success,

and is highly esteemed by patients and their friends.

Furnishings.

It will be observed that there is a charge for new furnishings against the capital account, as well as a considerable sum for furnishings renewed under the head of ordinary expenditure. The additions have been mainly in connection with the Galleries and Rooms for higher class patients, in the endeavour to render them bright and home-like. Our thanks are specially due to Miss Meta Dickson for the labour she has bestowed in painting the panels of the drawing-room over-mantels.

The Farm.

In consequence of the application of the tenants of the Farm to be relieved of their lease, the Directors decided to lay it down in grass and fence it for pasturage, acting under the advice of Mr. Ritchie, C.E. An inconsiderable part of that expenditure is included in the past year's accounts. At the same time it was found advisable to place the Engineer in the Lodge and the Gardener in the Farm-house. The buildings at the Farm have been put in thorough repair, and the work in hand on the Farm is now nearly completed. It will add to the amenity of the Institution in many ways, and the result may be considered satisfactory.

*Financial
Details.*

The amount of extra expenditure on the items above detailed has been :—

East Terrace,	...	...	£144	11	0
Verandah and Summer-house,	...	...	102	17	0
			<hr/>		
Carry forward,	...	...	£247	8	0

Brought forward,	...	£247	8	0
Sewerage,	...	155	13	0
New Boiler and Alterations,	...	336	1	9
Improvements on Steam Apparatus,	...	163	1	1
Fire Mains, &c.,	...	274	5	5
New Dining-Room,	...	81	4	9
New Furnishings,	...	80	3	7
Coach-House,	...	39	10	4
Carriage Account,	...	103	18	6
Fencing on Farm,	...	27	19	0
<hr/>				
Sum,	...	£1509	5	5

The financial results of the year must be regarded as satisfactory. The sum received from patients' boards amounted to £6272, which exceeds last year's results by £291. The average of other years since 1864 is £4696. The ordinary expenditure was £5244, the total expenditure £7079; the total income £6525—thus leaving a deficit of £554. But the result of last year's transactions was £1046 in favour of the Institution; and, in view of the heavy expenditure then contemplated, that surplus was kept to be applied in aid of the revenue for the year, so that the net result is a balance in favour of the Institution of £492 on the two years' transactions.

The rates of board for the admissions were—

1	at	...	£350	...	£350
2	„	...	150	...	300
2	„	...	120	...	240
3	„	...	100	...	300
8	„	...	84	...	672
1	„	...	80	...	80
1	„	...	60	...	60
14	„	...	52	...	728
<hr/>					

32 at an average of £85 6s 3d—Total, £2730

The rates of those discharged and died amounted to £2364. The yearly income per patient was £70 9s 5d. The cost, excluding alterations, &c., but including repairs, £58 18s 5d; and including the former, £79 10s 10d. The weekly cost per patient on the ordinary expenditure was £1 2s 7d—1s 4d more than last year. To-day the patients on the Registers of the Asylum together pay £6988.

Seventeen patients are maintained at lower rates than the ordinary minimum—eleven pay £40 and six pay £30.

The Reports of the Visiting Commissioners in Lunacy will be found annexed to this.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I beg once more to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the kindness and confidence of the Directors.

A. R. URQUHART, M.D.



TABLE

Showing Changes in the Population of the Asylum during the year ending 7th June, 1885.

		Certificated		Voluntary.		TOTAL.	Certificated		Voluntary.		TOTAL.
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
9th June, 1884.	Resident in the Asylum, ...	...	...	...	...	...	43	33	2	1	79
	Remaining on Pass, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Remaining at Carnoustie, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	7
	Total No. on Asylum Books, ...	...	...	...	...	...	43	40	2	2	87
Cases admitted—											
	First admissions, ...	11	13	...	1	25					
	Not first admissions, ...	2	5	...	...	7					
Total Cases admitted during the year,		...	...	...	...	...	13	18	...	1	32
Total Cases under care during the year,		...	...	...	...	...	56	58	2	3	119
Cases discharged and died—											
	Recovered, ...	3	2	...	...	5					
	Relieved, ...	2	4	...	...	6					
	Not Improved, ...	3	2	...	...	5					
	Voluntary Patients left, ...	...	...	...	...	...
	Died, ...	2	3	...	...	5					
Total Cases discharged and died during the year, ...		...	...	...	...	...	10	11	...	...	21
7th June, 1885.	Total No. on Asylum Books, ...	...	...	...	...	...	46	47	2	3	98
	Remaining on Pass, ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3
	Remaining at Carnoustie, ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
	Resident in the Asylum, ...	...	...	...	...	...	40	46	2	2	90

		Certificated.		Voluntary.		TOTAL.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Average numbers on Books during the year,	...	41.43	43.28	2.00	2.55	89.28
Lowest number resident, 19th June, 1884,	...	41	41	2	2	86
Highest number resident, 2nd June, 1885,	...	46	47	2	3	98
Persons under care during the year,	...	56	58	2	3	119
Persons admitted during the year, ...	...	13	18	...	1	32
Persons discharged recovered during the year,	...	3	2	...	...	5
Transferred from other Asylums, ...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Transferred to other Asylums, ...	...	3	4	...	...	7
Percentage of Recoveries on admissions, ...	...	23.07	11.1	...	...	15.62
Percentage of Deaths on average numbers resident,	...	4.82	6.95	...	...	5.60

FINANCIAL RESULTS SINCE 1873.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Year.	Average No. of Patients.	Revenue from Patients' Board.	Ordinary Expenditure.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.	Excess of Receipts.	Excess of Payments.	Yearly Income per Patient on Column 3.	Yearly Cost per Patient on Column 4.	Yearly Cost per Patient on Column 6.
1876	72	£ s. d. 4818 18 4	£ s. d. 5269 3 7	£ s. d. 5011 1 6	£ s. d. 5427 16 11	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 416 15 5	£ s. d. 66 18 7	£ s. d. 73 3 8	£ s. d. 75 7 8
1877	72	5080 15 11	5172 5 4	5263 13 9	5334 17 9	.....	71 4 0	70 11 4	71 16 9	74 1 10
1878	69	4958 3 0	4988 15 3	5142 0 3	5163 11 6	.....	21 11 3	71 17 1	72 6 0	74 16 7
1879	66	4604 9 9	4262 18 1	4785 5 11	5369 19 10	.....	584 13 1	69 15 3	64 11 9	81 7 3
1880	71	4672 3 11	4222 19 1	4853 0 1	5060 3 6	.....	207 3 5	65 16 1	59 9 6	71 5 4
1881	81	5385 12 7	4372 12 1	5546 5 11	4719 12 8	826 13 3	.....	66 19 9	53 19 7	58 5 4
1882	80	5660 17 9	4770 0 1	5817 1 5	5287 4 2	529 17 3	.....	70 15 2	59 12 6	66 1 9
1883	79	5366 17 0	4680 2 10	5527 3 8	5521 4 1	5 19 7	.....	67 18 8	59 4 10	69 17 7
1884	86	5981 6 3	4755 17 10	6127 12 8	5080 19 2	1046 13 6	.....	69 11 0	55 6 0	59 1 7
1885	89	6272 18 1	5244 9 4	6525 8 6	7079 16 11	.....	554 8 5	70 9 7	58 18 5	79 10 10



REPORTS
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY
FOR THE YEAR.

REPORT BY DR. SIBBALD.

PERTH ROYAL ASYLUM,
10th January, 1885.

THERE are 40 gentlemen and 43 ladies at present resident in the Asylum as certificated patients, and there are 2 gentlemen and 3 ladies resident as voluntary inmates.

Since last visit the following changes have taken place :—

	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Admissions,	4	6	10
Discharges Recovered, ...	3	2	5
Discharges Unrecovered, ...	2	3	5
Deaths,	1	1	2

There have been no cases of the use of restraint or seclusion since last visit, and there has been no accident. The general health of the inmates is satisfactory; only three patients are confined to bed.

Great tranquillity prevailed among the patients during the visit; and there was evidence everywhere that the patients live in great comfort and have careful consideration given to all their requirements.

Much attention continues to be given to such arrangements as have for their object to introduce variety and interest into the daily life of the community. Useful occupations of various kinds are provided for all who are able and willing to engage in them. Only one of the gentlemen and four of the ladies who are not incapacitated by their mental or bodily conditions refuse to employ themselves. Out of the 31 gentlemen who engage in work 18 are employed in the garden and grounds. The work of the ladies consists chiefly in needlework and knitting. The resources for the amusement of the patients have been further developed since last visit by the furnishing of the ballroom, so as to make it available as a large drawing-room, and general parties are frequently held there. The occupying of the energies of the patients, not only in recreation, but also in useful work, gives an additional value to the recreation; and Dr. Urquhart has added greatly to the curative and ameliorative resources of the Institution by the judicious manner in which he apportions the two kinds of occupation. The statement that all play and no work is wearisome is as true as that all work and no play conduces to dulness.

Several important additions have been made to the comfort of the Establishment during the past year. Articles of furniture have been added in various parts of the house, which increase the

home-like aspect of the rooms. Many of the rooms have been re-papered; curtains have been more freely introduced; new carpeting has been laid down; and a new organ has been placed in the chapel. The most important improvement of this kind, however, is the fitting up of what was formerly one of the open-air galleries as a dining-room for a superior kind of *table d'hôte*. The room is comfortable and elegantly decorated, and it is furnished with two service windows, which open upon the passage and are provided with hot-plates.

A complete reconstruction of the system of drainage, which has been for some time in progress, is now nearly completed. The drains have been exceedingly well planned, and as they are ample in size and easy of inspection, it may be anticipated that they will give satisfaction in every way.

Improvements have also been made in the heating apparatus. A larger boiler has been fitted up, which not only supplies steam for use in the main building, but also drives an engine for working machinery in the laundry. It was observed with pleasure, as affording a noteworthy indication of the feeling for neatness and order which pervades all the arrangements of the Establishment, that the walls of the boiler-house have been tastefully painted and decorated, and that the boilers, and all the apparatus connected with them, are kept in a clean and tidy condition. It is also deserving of note, as illustrating the satisfactory manner in which the new arrangements are carried out, that the pipes communicating with the boiler-house and the main building are carried

in a tunnel, which is easily accessible through its whole length.

The arrangements for protection from fire are now complete, and they appear to be adequate in every respect. Indeed, it may be said that no other Asylum in Scotland is better, if so well, protected. The house having been originally constructed as a fire-proof building, it possesses an advantage in this respect over most modern establishments. The arrangements recently made for extinguishing a fire, should such occur, are, however, sufficient in themselves to minimise the danger of its spreading. A four-inch main is carried round the exterior of the house, which is fitted at intervals with hydrants; and three-inch branches, inside the house, are led up the centre and the back building, fitted with hydrants on every floor and on the roof. Sufficient lengths of hose are kept ready for use at every hydrant. Chemical hand-grenades are also kept in all the galleries for immediate use; but, under present arrangements, very few minutes would elapse after the discovery of a fire before the hose would be brought into operation. The water supply would be ample; for, in addition to the ordinary supply, a tank containing about 140,000 gallons is kept in reserve. In addition to all these precautions, telephonic communication with the Perth Fire Brigade is being made. A fire-escape has also been provided for the use of the Institution.

Among the out-door improvements the following deserve notice. A large curling pond has been recently finished, the making of which has been chiefly accomplished by means of the labour

of the gentleman patients; and what was formerly the area occupied by female airing-courts is now thrown open to the front, and the ground has been terraced so as to bring it into harmony with the neighbouring pleasure-ground.

There is one direction in which the accommodation afforded by the Asylum must still be regarded as inadequate; that is, its hospital section. The present sick-rooms are on the basement floor, and, from their situation and construction, they are amongst the least cheerful rooms in the building. The desirability of providing more suitable sick-rooms is therefore strongly recommended to the consideration of the Directors. Such accommodation ought to be specially cheerful and airy, and should be furnished with all the appliances of a good hospital. A small addition to the total accommodation of the Asylum which would be thus obtained appears to be justifiable by the recent increase in the number of patients. During the past year the average number of certificated patients has been 83, and the average number for the previous ten years was only 73. If the amount of accommodation offered by the Asylum is augmented, there is therefore good reason, from the experience of the past, to expect that it would be quickly followed by an equivalent increase in the number of patients; and the high character which the Asylum has attained under Dr. Urquhart's superintendence affords an additional reason for anticipating such an increase.

The Books and Registers were examined and were found accurately kept.

JOHN SIBBALD,
Commissioner in Lunacy.

REPORT BY DR. MITCHELL.

PERTH ROYAL ASYLUM,
18th and 20th June, 1885.

There are 47 ladies and 46 gentlemen on the Register of the Asylum as certificated patients, and 3 ladies and 2 gentlemen as voluntary inmates—the whole number on the register being thus 98. The Asylum may therefore be regarded as full. Any addition to the number of the inmates would be the commencement of overcrowding, unless steps of some kind are taken to increase the accommodation.

Six of the gentlemen are at present residing at Carnoustie, another gentleman is absent on probation, and one of the ladies is absent on pass.

Since last visit nine gentlemen and nine ladies have been admitted, one gentleman and four ladies have been discharged, and two gentlemen and one lady have died. These are the changes which have occurred among the certificated inmates. Among the voluntary inmates no changes have occurred.

The death rate has been low. The ages of the three patients who died were 84, 76, and 69.

No accident is recorded. In the Register of Restraint and Seclusion there are two entries—one referring to the restraint of a suicidal patient, and the other to the seclusion of a patient labouring under erysipelas.

Forty of the patients are on parole—22 of them being on parole beyond the grounds, and 18 of them on parole within the grounds. Of the 22 who are on parole beyond the grounds 11 are gentlemen and 11 are ladies. These figures reflect most creditably on the management.

All the walled airing-courts have been entirely removed. The courts are now large pleasure gardens, surrounded by low ordinary garden fences. The walled courts cannot fail to be suggestive of imprisonment, and experience shows that they are not needed, and that their removal leads to diminished excitement and increased contentment and trustworthiness.

If the Directors of the Asylum aim at leading it to further prosperity and greater usefulness, it seems scarcely possible that they can much longer delay the erection of hospital wards. The want of these is already much felt. Even a small increase of the number of patients who are acutely insane, or of suicidal patients, would make the management of the Institution extremely difficult, and it would seriously interfere with the comfort and well-being of the inmates generally. It is therefore strongly recommended that the propriety of erecting hospital wards should at once be considered. During the time occupied in erecting them, it would be a great advantage to rent an ordinary dwelling-house near the Asylum—such, for instance, as Kincarrathie,—and to place in it some of the patients now in the Asylum, so as to obtain more accommodation there for patients whose condition gives anxiety, or who for any cause need hospital care and treatment.

Such wards as are now recommended would increase the accommodation of the Asylum to a small extent, and the growing demand for the admission of patients appears to indicate that such an increase is at once desirable. In the event, however, of any greater increase of accommoda-

tion being needed at some future time—which, in view of the rising reputation of the Asylum, seems more than probable,—it is almost certain that the Directors would be advised to obtain it by purchasing, building, or renting ordinary residences more or less like Kincarrathie. The central building, when properly equipped with a hospital, would require no further enlargement, even if the population of the Asylum grew considerably.

The sewage arrangements and the arrangements for the extinction of fire, which are now very complete and satisfactory, were noticed in the last entry, as also were various other important improvements, which have recently been carried out with thoroughness, but, at the same time, with a careful avoidance of the unnecessary expenditure of money. Improvements of a minor character are being constantly made, and many of them were observed at this visit. They all tend to increase the comforts of the patients, and to make their treatment more successful. The resumption of the Farm, the laying it out in grass, and the removal of the piggeries to the farmstead, are all changes in a desirable direction. They will make it possible, for instance, to keep cows, and to have a long, sheltered, pleasant walk within the grounds.

The Books and Registers were examined, and were found to be correctly kept.

ARTHUR MITCHELL,
Commissioner in Lunacy.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

MURRAY ROYAL ASYLUM, PERTH.

FOR PRIVATE PATIENTS ONLY.

This Asylum is healthily situated on the Hill of Kinnoull, in the immediate vicinity of Perth, and commands unrivalled views, extending over the Valley of the Tay to the range of the Grampians. The central position of Perth and its picturesque surroundings are well known.

No expense has been spared to render the Institution an efficient Hospital, as well as a comfortable Home, for all classes of Private Patients. The arrangements are of a domestic character, ample means of occupation and amusement are provided, a seaside residence and carriage exercise are available, and the utmost liberty, with due regard to safety, is accorded.

The Institution contains no Paupers, and no publicity is implied in the proceedings connected with the admission of Patients, nor in the term "Royal Asylum."

Trained Attendants can be sent to bring a patient to the Asylum at any time.

Reference may be made to the Reports of the Commissioners in Lunacy.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

Applications for Admission should be addressed to the Physician Superintendent, Dr. URQUHART, MURRAY HOUSE, PERTH, from whom may be obtained the statutory forms to be completed before Patients can be received.

These are indispensable in every case :—

- a.* Petition to the Sheriff of the County, and accompanying Statement by a Relative or Guardian of the Patient.
- b.* Two Medical Certificates by duly qualified Practitioners.
- c.* Order granted by the Sheriff of the County in which the Patient resides, or in which the Asylum is situated.
- d.* Letter of Obligation for Payment of Board, &c., to be signed by a responsible Male Person.

In a case of Urgency, however, the Certificate of Emergency (in proper legal form), granted by any Medical Man, is sufficient for the detention of a Patient for three days, during which time the ordinary papers can be filled up.

When the other documents are complete, Dr. Urquhart will obtain the Sheriff's Order, if so desired. These papers are private and confidential, and no publicity is implied in getting the Sheriff's Order.

Dr. Urquhart will arrange for the transfer of Patients from other Asylums to this, or *vice versa*, on receiving instructions to that effect.

Epileptic and Paralytic Patients are received only on special terms; and the admissibility of, and rates of Board for, all Patients are determined by Dr. Urquhart.

The Board is payable Quarterly, and in Advance, to the Secretaries and Treasurers, Messrs. Mackenzie and Dickson, 61 George Street, Perth.

Every patient must be provided with suitable and sufficient Clothing. An accurate list of every article brought with the Patient must, on admission, be delivered to the Asylum Official in charge, and the name fully marked on each garment. Unless this Regulation is complied with, no responsibility will

be incurred by the Officials of the Institution, and in no case can they be held answerable for the safe keeping of articles of Jewellery. If any necessary part of Dress should not be supplied after eight days' intimation has been given that it is wanted, it will be furnished by the Institution, and the cost of it charged against the Patient.

The Friends of Patients are invited to make frequent visits to the Institution at suitable hours every day, Sundays excepted; but only those who are duly authorised can be permitted to avail themselves of this Regulation.

All communications regarding Patients must, in every case, be sent to Dr. Urquhart; and it is requested that due notice be given to him before a Patient is admitted or removed.

Every information regarding the admission of Voluntary Patients can be obtained from Dr. Urquhart.

RATES OF BOARD.

The Rates of Board vary according to the Accommodation, Attendance, &c., required. They are the subject of special arrangement in each case, and include all expenses except clothing, repairs to clothing, wine account, extra attendance, carriage exercise, amusements, and excursions beyond the grounds. Terms to include these items may be proposed.

The ordinary rates for Patients are £52, £84, £100, and £120 per annum. A private bedroom cannot be secured under the £84 rate. Patients paying higher rates have private rooms and special attendants, as well as the use of the general sitting-rooms. These Rates vary from £150 to £350 a year and upwards.



