

Twenty-eighth annual report of the directors of James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics, near Perth. June, 1855.

Contributors

James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics.

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TWENTY-EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DIRECTORS
OF
JAMES MURRAY'S ROYAL ASYLUM
FOR
LUNATICS,
NEAR
PERTH.

JUNE, 1855.

PERTH:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTORS,
BY THE PERTH PRINTING COMPANY: W. BELFORD, PRINTER.

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LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS,

1855-56.

WILLIAM PEDDIE, Esq. of BLACKRUTHVEN, *Chairman.*

Directors.

I.—EX-OFFICIO.

The Right Honourable the EARL of KINNOULL, Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Perth.
DAVID MURE, Esq. Sheriff of the County of Perth.
HUGH BARCLAY, Esq. Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Perth.
JAMES DEWAR, Esq. Lord Provost of the City of Perth.
JAMES MURRAY HONEY, Esq. Dean of Guild of said City.
JOHN KEMP, Esq. First Bailie of said City.
WILLIAM GREIG, Esq. President of the Society of Procurators.
JOHN MURDOCH, Esq. Convener of the Trades of Perth.
The Rev. ALEXANDER FALCONER, Minister of St. Paul's Church, Perth.

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ALEXANDER H. M. BELSHES, Esq. of Invermay.
JOHN BEATSON BELL, Esq. of Glenfarg.
ANDREW KELTY, Esq. M.D. Tayhill, Perth.

III.—ANNUAL DIRECTORS.

The Right Honourable the EARL of MANSFIELD.
JAMES CONDIE, Esq. Writer, Perth.
The Rev. JOHN ANDERSON, Minister of Kinnoull.
JOHN FLOCKHART, Esq. Writer, Perth.
Sir THOMAS MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, Bart.
WILLIAM THOMSON, Esq. of Balgowan.
DAVID CRAIGIE, Esq. Banker, Perth.
ROBERT KEAY, Esq. Jeweller, Perth.
Sir P. M. THRIEPLAND of Fingask, Bart.
The Viscount DUPPLIN.
JOHN MARSHALL, Esq. of Rosemount.
WILLIAM BLAIR, Esq. Manufacturer, Perth.

Committees.

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ANDREW KELTY, Esq. M.D.	WILLIAM THOMSON, Esq.
JOHN MARSHALL, Esq.	JOHN FLOCKHART, Esq.
DAVID CRAIGIE, Esq.	ROBERT KEAY, Esq.

II.—HOUSE VISITING COMMITTEE.

WILLIAM PEDDIE, Esq. JOHN MARSHALL, Esq. DAVID CRAIGIE, Esq.

WILLIAM MALCOM, Esq. M.D. *Physician.*
Dr. L. LINDSAY, *Superintendent and Resident Medical Officer.*
Mr. WILLIAM GLOAG, Commercial Bank, Perth, *Treasurer.*
Mr. DAVID MACKENZIE, Writer, Perth, *Secretary.*
The Rev. WILLIAM MURDOCH, *Chaplain.*
Miss MATILDA GIDDINGS, *Matron.*
Miss ANN MUIRHEAD SHEARER, *Housekeeper.*

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R E P O R T.

It is now the duty of the Directors to present the Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Institution.

From the last Annual Report, it appears that there were then in the House 171 Patients—92 Males and 79 Females. Since then, 36 Patients have been admitted—23 Males and 13 Females—making the total number of Patients under treatment during the year 207—115 Males and 92 Females. 59 Patients have been discharged—33 Males and 26 Females. Of these, 17 were cases of recovery—6 Males and 11 Females; 8 were removed by their friends or guardians much improved—7 Males and 1 Female; and 34 Pauper Patients were removed by the Parochial Boards—20 Males and 14 Females—with a view, it is understood, of being placed at a lower rate of board in private establishments. 15 deaths have occurred—7 Males and 8 Females. There now remain in the Asylum 133 Patients—75 Males and 58 Females—being a decrease on the number resident at the date of last Annual Report of 38—17 Males and 21 Females. The decrease is mainly due to two causes, namely, the high mortality and the unusual number of removals. For the principal causes of death, reference is made to the Medical Report, hereto subjoined.

In consequence of the high price of provisions, in June, 1854, the Directors found it necessary to raise the rate of Board payable for the Pauper or lowest class of Patients to 9s. per week. In doing so, they only followed the example of all other Public Asylums throughout the country. While altering this rate of board, the question occurred, whether the Directors would be warranted in receiving Pauper Patients from the Town of Perth at a lower rate than Patients of this class from the County of Perth or other Counties. Two eminent counsel were consulted, who were clearly of opinion, that, under the terms of the Royal Charter, the Directors would not be warranted in making any such distinction in the case of parties who have claims for parochial relief as paupers. By the above opinion it was also found, that, in fixing the rate of board for the class of patients just referred to, the Charter required that an uniform rate should be adopted whether the Patients came from Perth or from the other favoured Parishes of Dunbarney and Rhynd; from the County of Perth, or from other Counties. One uniform rate was accordingly adopted for the lowest class of Patients, in accordance with this opinion.

In consequence of the subsequent reduction in the price of provisions, the Directors were happy to have it in their power, in September, 1854, to reduce the rate of board for the Pauper or lowest class of Patients from 9s. to 8s. per week.

Notwithstanding the healthy situation of the Asylum, and the thorough cleanliness always maintained throughout the establishment, it was visited with cholera during the past season, and seven patients died of the disease, despite the use of all proper means for recovery. The best Institutions in the kingdom have also been visited with this sad disease, which shows how inscrutable its

character is, and that no circumstances, however favourable, can ensure entire exemption from its ravages.

In consequence of the appointment of Dr. Sherlock, the former Superintendent and Resident Medical Officer, to a similar situation in an Asylum in England, the Directors required to appoint a successor to him, and were fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Lauder Lindsay, from the Royal Crichton Asylum, Dumfries, who now discharges the important duties of that situation with the utmost zeal, efficiency, and success.

In regard to the advantages of an Institution like the present—the necessity of early application for admission—the occupation and amusements of the Patients, and other matters—it is unnecessary to enter here, as ample details on these and other interesting topics may be gathered from the Medical Report subjoined hereto, to which reference is made.

The different Officers of the Institution have during the last twelve months been assiduous in the discharge of their onerous and responsible duties, for which they merit the approbation of the Directors.

In conclusion, the Directors congratulate themselves and the community in possessing an Institution like the present, which has already conferred important benefits on a large number of the unfortunate class for whom it is intended; and they sincerely trust that through the Divine blessing on their exertions, it may be long maintained in thorough efficiency.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT

OF

JAMES MURRAY'S ROYAL ASYLUM, PERTH.

neral
sults.

AT the date of the last Annual Report, 171 patients—92 males and 79 females—were under treatment in the Asylum. During the year which has just expired, there have been admitted 36 patients—23 males and 13 females; making the total number of patients under treatment during the past year 207—115 males and 92 females. 59 patients have been discharged—33 males and 26 females. Of these, 17 were cases of recovery—6 males and 11 females; 8 were removed by their friends or guardians much improved—7 males and 1 female; and 34 paupers were removed by Parochial Boards—20 males and 14 females—with a view to being placed, at a lower rate of board, in private establishments. The discharges thus exceed the admissions by 23. 15 deaths have occurred—7 males and 8 females. There remain at present under treatment 133 patients—75 males and 58 females; being a decrease on the number resident, at the date of the last Annual Meeting, of 38 patients—17 males and 21 females. This decrease is mainly due to two causes—viz. the high mortality and the unusual number of removals. The average daily number of patients resident during the year has been 135.378.

missions.

In 8 of the cases admitted, the form of insanity was Mania; in 8, Melancholia; in 9, Monomania; in 7, Dementia; in 2, General Paralysis; and in 2, Dipsomania. A suicidal propensity was exhibited more or less strongly

in 8 of these, or 22·2 per cent; in 10, or 27·7 per cent, the insanity assumed a religious type; in 2, a homicidal and mischievous tendency existed; and in 2, dementia was complicated with epilepsy. 4 cases were re-admissions, Re-admissions 3 being for the second time, and 1 for the third time. 1 case returned after an interval of 12 days; in 1, the interval was 3 months; and in the remaining two, $5\frac{1}{2}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ years respectively. One of the re-admissions is a painful but instructive commentary on a practice unfortunately Causes of Relapse. too common on the part of the friends of patients—that of premature removal. Guided by blinded or misdirected affections, or by a sordid and ill-timed economy, rather than by medical advice, they mistake a transient for a Premature Removals. permanent improvement, and commit an error, the result of which sooner or later appears in the form of relapses and re-admissions. On the other hand, one of the re-admissions is of peculiar interest, as illustrative of the acquirement of an attachment to the Asylum as a home, the comforts and enjoyments of which are voluntarily preferred to the society of relatives or the cares and troubles of the world. A young country girl, who had been ad- Attachment of Patients to the Asylum. mitted in a state of furious mania, and had been one of the most dirty, degraded, and violent patients in the house, had so far recovered her mental and physical health as to be judged capable of resuming some simple agricultural occupations in her native district. But, as a probationary step, she was boarded with a friend at a short distance from home. In a few days after her discharge, she became depressed, irritable, and indolent, and urgently requested to be sent back to the Asylum, where alone, she said, she could or would work or be happy, threatening suicide in the event of non-compliance. This threat she attempted to execute in a neighbouring river. She was immediately sent back to the Asylum, and is now one of the most cheerful, healthy, and industrious patients in the House.

The Recoveries constitute 47·2 per cent of the cases Recoveries. admitted; 12·59 per cent of the average daily number of

Advantages
of early Treat-
ment.

patients under treatment during the year; and 8·21 per cent of the total number under treatment. 6 cases had been under treatment about three months; 3 about five months; 1 six months; 2 nine months; and 2 about a year. This serves to illustrate what we have repeatedly, and we trust sufficiently, insisted on in former Reports—viz. the advantages of early treatment, and the more hopeful prognosis in recent and acute cases. We have been much gratified by the rapid and satisfactory recoveries made by several patients of both sexes, who—greatly to the credit of their friends or guardians—were placed under treatment within a few days after the first symptoms of mental unsoundness were manifested. On the other hand, one case had been resident $1\frac{1}{2}$ years; one 2 years; and a third 22 years. The latter shows, what has also been frequently pointed out—that though, as a general rule, acute and recent cases are most promising of favourable results, still, even after long periods, we are not justified in giving up hope. In 5 of the recoveries, the form of Insanity was acute Mania; in 1, chronic Mania; in 5, Monomania; in 2, Puerperal Mania; and in the remaining 4, Melancholia, in 3 of which the suicidal propensity existed.

Removals and
their Causes.

The Removals, other than recoveries and deaths, average 31·11 per cent of the mean daily number of patients resident, or 20·28 per cent of the total number under treatment during the year. Of the cases removed improved, 1 had been 3 months under treatment; two had been 5, one 6, one 7, and one 15 months; one had been $3\frac{1}{2}$, while another had been $12\frac{1}{2}$ years. 34 Pauper patients, as has been already mentioned, were removed by various Parochial Boards in the neighbourhood, for the purpose, we believe, of being placed in Private Asylums at a somewhat lower rate of board than is charged in this Asylum. They were removed chiefly between June and October, 1854. The majority were cases of chronic Mania and Dementia. Their ages, at the date of removal, ranged from 20 to 65, the average being 41. With the exception of 4, whose constitutions were more or less debilitated,

all were in the enjoyment of good physical health when removed. Many of them had been for long periods inmates of this Asylum; 3 had been resident for $24\frac{1}{2}$, 26, and 27 years respectively; 5 had been from 15 to 20 years; 6 between 10 and 15 years; 9 between 5 and 10 years; 10 between 1 and 5 years; and only *one* the short period of 3 months.

The Mortality constitutes 11·1 per cent of the mean daily number of patients, or 7·24 per cent of the total number under treatment during the year. Of 15 deaths, 7 occurred from cholera alone, or 46·6 per cent, which may be increased to 66·6 per cent if we add 3 deaths from choleraic diarrhœa. Of the remaining fatal cases, the cause of death in one was organic disease of the heart; in one, apoplexy; and in another, typhoid broncho-pneumonia, which was aggravated by protracted abstinence, self-mutilation, and exposure to cold. In the remaining 2 cases, death occurred from senile exhaustion. One of the patients, a male, was upwards of 80 years of age, and had been bedridden for months prior to his decease. The other, a female of 58, had also been bedridden for some weeks; her constitution had been shattered by a long-continued course of dissipation, and by severe chronic rheumatism. 4 of the fatal cases had been resident in the Asylum upwards of 20 years; 2 between 10 and 20 years; 4 between 5 and 10; 2 between 1 and 5; and 3 between 1 and 6 months. One patient was at the date of his decease, upwards of 80 years of age; 3 were between 70 and 80; 3 between 60 and 70; 4 between 50 and 60; 1 between 40 and 50; and 3 between 30 and 40. 6 were cases of chronic Mania; 1 was acute Mania; 4 were Dementia; 3 suicidal Melancholia; and 1 religious Monomania. The majority were Paupers. 6 of the deaths occurred in August, and 4 in September, 1854—the period during which Cholera was prevalent in and around Perth. The high mortality was therefore mainly attributable to epidemic Cholera. During the period just cited, 11 cases of decided Cholera occurred in the Asylum, of

Mortality and
its Causes.

epidemic
cholera.

which 7 were fatal, or 63·6 per cent of those attacked. Besides these cases of developed cholera, however, the epidemic constitution of the atmosphere showed itself in the production of a considerable number of cases of more or less severe Diarrhœa among both patients and attendants. This Diarrhœa, which was epidemic for a few weeks, may, from its concomitants, be set down as Choleraic in its nature and origin. The cause and amount of mortality have not been altogether unexpected. In the last Annual Report a statement was made to the effect, that the proportion of chronic and incurable cases—of aged patients with shattered or enfeebled constitutions—was gradually but surely increasing in the Asylum, and that should any epidemic, of what nature soever, break out among the inmates, there was every reason to dread a comparatively high rate of mortality. It is important to guard against a dangerous and somewhat prevalent popular error in regard to Cholera—viz. that its presence necessarily indicates a deficiency of proper sanitary regulations. This is disproved, so far as it can apply to Cholera in Hospitals for the Insane, by the simple facts, that it has occurred in the best regulated Asylums in this country, notwithstanding the most complete sanitary arrangements, in the cleanest and best ventilated galleries and rooms, among the highest class and best-fed patients, and in circumstances where the most careful prophylactic and preventive measures had been resorted to.

MORAL
TREATMENT
three-fold :

Deeply impressed with the conviction that we possess no more powerful moral medicines wherewith to “minister to a mind diseased” than Occupation, Recreation, and Education, we have endeavoured, during the past year, considerably to extend and vary the modes formerly in use of employing, amusing, and instructing the patients according to their capacities or requirements.

OCCUPA-
TIONS.

linery.

In the Female Workroom, which, under the immediate supervision of the Matron, is devoted to all departments of Millinery and Needlework, is made and mended a large quantity of the clothing required by the patients. The

average number of workers is 15 ; but besides these, about 30 females, who for various reasons do not associate with the others in the common workroom, are supplied with needlework in their respective galleries. Of the latter, about one-third are regularly employed. In the Shoemakers' department, two patients have made and repaired a large proportion of the boots and shoes required in the House, besides braces and other minor articles. The goods made up in the Milliners' and Shoemakers' departments have been supplied to patients, as required, at an average commercial value, and a small sum has also in many cases been charged for repairs. The money thus accumulated—after deducting the expenses of raw materials and apparatus—constitutes a small fund which the Directors have most liberally placed at the disposal of the Officers for the recreation and education of the patients. The proceeds of the labour of the patients is thus appropriated to increase their own comforts and enjoyments ; and we will venture to predict, that when they find, that, in proportion to the value of their labour, so are their means of amusement and instruction multiplied and varied, they will endeavour to increase this fund by working more earnestly, cheerfully, and regularly. In the Carpenters' department, one man, an old resider, has made a large quantity of useful furniture for the Asylum, besides doing the greater part of the jobbing and repairs which are constantly necessary in a large establishment. The Garden and Grounds give daily and healthy occupation to an average of from 20 to 30 males, under the superintendence of the Gardener and two assistants. It is unnecessary to reiterate here the advantages accruing to the patients from this species of manual labour. The Laundry affords regular employment to from 7 to 10 female patients, and the Kitchen to 2 or 3. 16 patients—eight of either sex—assist the attendants in their ordinary household duties, and prefer this kind of employment to any other. It will thus be seen that a large proportion of the convalescents, or of patients labouring under

OCCUPATION

Shoemaking.

Work-fund
and its Appr
priation.

Carpentry.

Garden.

Laundry.

Kitchen.

OCCUPATIONS. the milder forms of Insanity, minister to the comforts of their less fortunate companions, and assist materially in maintaining the efficiency of the Establishment. Many of them are entrusted with positions of responsibility among their fellows, and are allowed considerable latitude and liberty in the discharge of their duties; and seldom is there cause given to regret the confidence thus placed in them. The occupations above enumerated, however, are confined almost exclusively to the lower classes of patients. A walk through the upper galleries of the Asylum will show us how the higher or educated classes employ their time and opportunities. On the male side, one patient may be seen acting as book-keeper or amanuensis, busied amidst an infinity of accounts and calculations, transcribing music, arranging a lecture, or writing the account of a pic-nic or concert; a second is drawing some ornamental designs with great taste and accuracy; a third is intent on the manufacture of fishing lines; and a fourth is eliciting music from the cords of the violin or Jew's harp. Several gentlemen—the politicians of our community—are devouring with avidity the brilliant pen-photographs of the Crimean war contained in the columns of the *Times*, criticising with much sarcasm or satire the proceedings of some local magistracy, or scanning with eager curiosity the list of “Births, Deaths, and Marriages” in the London or local newspapers; others are grinning with delight at the engravings of the *Illustrated London News*, or the caricatures of *Punch*. A considerable section devote their attention chiefly to reading of the most varied kinds, as the books, which lie scattered on the side-tables, sufficiently testify; others, in busy groups, direct their energies to victories in bagatelle, chess, or cards; while a few perhaps are penning epistles to their friends, or invocations to the Sheriff to help them out of all their difficulties. On the female side, several ladies are perhaps engaged at the piano; others are occupied in needlework, reading, or writing; one or two may be spinning; one is manufacturing wax flowers or match

Among
higher classes.

boxes; while few are idle, or feeding on their own morbid fancies.

The introduction of Recreations among the insane can no longer be regarded as an experiment; their success has been fully established by the experience of the best asylums in this country, on the continent, and in America. They are not to be looked upon as mere transient gratifications, or as frivolous, and tending to dissipate, degrade, or pervert the mental energies or moral feelings of the insane. Our own experience of their curative value has been most encouraging. We have frequently observed the first symptoms of improvement in the form of a smile, a laugh, a critique, or a mark of applause, at a ball or a concert; we have seen the most fatuous, apathetic, and indolent patient—the melancholic and suicidal, as well as the proud monomaniac—delighted with some lively or familiar music, or dancing with the greatest vivacity at the weekly balls. One gentleman, it is understood, was sent to this asylum, in preference to others, in consequence of his friends being gratified by the programme of amusements; and another, a suicidal melancholic, dates the beginning of his recovery from having been present at a concert in the asylum at which he was much pleased by the performances of some fellow-patients. The whole amusements have been the result of the unassisted labour of the patients and officers working harmoniously together towards a common end; no extra-mural aid has been asked or given.

Five concerts were given during the winter, in presence of between 40 and 70 patients. The performances included every variety of vocal and instrumental music, and the performers—composed of a mixture of patients and officers—numbered from 10 to 20. No audience could have been more attentive, delighted, or grateful; none could have behaved with greater propriety. The beaming countenances, the time-beating feet, the peals of applause, and the subsequent critiques and remarks, gave abundant evidence that these entertainments were

II. RECREATIONS.

Their Curative results.

Concerts.

RECREATIONS

Balls.

Hallowe'en
and Christmas
festivities.Magic
lantern.
Evening Re-
unions.Excursions
and Pic-nics.

fully appreciated, that the wished-for results were being obtained. Recitations of selections from the English poets were interspersed by way of variety among the musical performances. The Weekly Ball continues to be a source of infinite gratification to a large number of the patients. The average number present is between 30 and 60. Several patients frequently occupy in rotation the post of honour at the piano, and one acts as master of the ceremonies. All the usages of polite society are observed, and the whole proceedings take place under the immediate supervision of several of the officers. Three Dress Balls have been held; one on Halloween, and two during Christmas; at these from 70 to 90 patients were present. At the first, the usual games and festivities of Hallowe'en rendered the ball-room the scene of much mirth and gaiety. After the second, the patients sat down to a festive Christmas supper, given in one of the galleries, which was tastefully decorated with evergreens, variegated lamps, and ornamental work for the occasion. In the centre of the supper-table stood a handsome Christmas tree, laden with prizes which were subsequently allocated by lottery. The third was a Bal costumé for the higher class patients; the room was decorated with floral wreaths and festoons, and illuminated by Chinese lanterns. The *tout ensemble* resembled some of the descriptions of the fabled "Arabian Nights," rather than the gallery of a Lunatic asylum. One magic-lantern entertainment was given, and a series of evening re-unions was held during the winter, devoted to social enjoyments. The average number present was from 20 to 30, and the amusements consisted chiefly of music, dancing, bagatelle, backgammon, chess, or cards. In addition to these, dinner and tea parties of a still more private and select kind were occasionally given by the officers to the higher class patients. While the recreations of winter consisted principally of balls, concerts, and parties, those of summer are principally Pic-nics, athletic games, and fêtes champêtres. During last

summer there were several fishing excursions among the gentlemen to Loch Freuchie, besides mixed pic-nics to Kinnoull Hill, and other places of scenic interest in the immediate neighbourhood. This summer two pic-nic parties of 14 persons—seven of each sex—have already been despatched; the first to Dunkeld, the second to Invermay. The day was spent amid the beautiful scenery of Strathbraan in the one case, and the “Birks of Invermay” in the other; and the parties returned in the evening highly delighted with their excursions, and full of jokes, remarks, and critiques, on the scenes and persons they had seen or met. Glenfarg, Campsie, Birnam, Rossie Priory, and the Carse of Gowrie, are the projected scenes of future pic-nics during the present summer. The Queen’s Birthday was celebrated by a Fête Champêtre, at which between 50 and 60 patients were present. 50 persons sat down to tea on the bowling green, and the amusements which followed consisted of cricket, bowls, quoits, leaping, dancing, and music; the proceedings being appropriately concluded by the Queen’s Anthem, sung in chorus by the assembled company. Similar fêtes are held occasionally. The Saturday afternoons are devoted, during summer, to various athletic games, such as cricket, bowls, quoits, or football, and to promenades. In addition to daily exercise in the grounds, weather permitting, pedestrian excursions are frequently made by the gentlemen to various places of interest in the immediate vicinity of the town, while a few of the ladies occasionally go a-shopping in Perth. Parties have also been sent into town to be present at various public concerts, the exhibitions of the “Wizard of the North,” the Highland Games, and the annual races.

The ministrations of the Chaplain—public and private—continue to be generally appreciated and eagerly sought after. Divine service is held in the Chapel three times a week; on Sunday the average attendance is from 50 to 60. During a great part of the winter a patient officiated

RECREATIONS

Fête champêtre.

Athletic Games.

Patients visiting Town.

III. EDUCATION.
Chapel.

EDUCATION. with great acceptance and success as preceptor; and, when from any cause prevented occupying this useful post, his place was frequently supplied by another patient.

Conversations. During the earlier months of winter, *Conversazioni* were occasionally held, at which, in addition to ordinary amusements, the "Wonders of the Microscope" were demonstrated to a select number of the higher class patients—averaging 20. The objects presented for examination, and described, were at once simple and attractive—such as the

Microscopical demonstrations. structure of the bodies of insects and of the tissues of common vegetables. The demonstration of the complex and beautiful structure of an object apparently so insignificant and simple as the eye or foot of the common fly is of itself full of the most important and instructive lessons. It serves to point out how the finger of God pervades and directs everything, however humble and despised—to indicate how infinitely superior are the meanest works of nature to the grandest achievements of man—and hence is well calculated to create a higher appreciation of God's bounties, and to awaken the mind of the observer more fully to the grand truths of natural religion. During the

Scientific Lectures. later winter months, a course of Lectures on Economic Botany, or the applications of Botany to common life, was delivered on the Saturday evenings to an average audience of 30 persons, belonging chiefly to the higher classes of patients. By means of presenting objects of natural history and scientific information under an attractive guise, we have found the insane become accurate observers, apt students, and frequently acute reasoners. The remarks made at the *Conversazioni* following each Lecture showed that the patients present had not been mere passive or quiet listeners, but that their minds had laid hold of many facts which not only served as nuclei for present reflection, but formed solid increments to their stock of knowledge. The gradual acquisition of scientific information by the insane not only tends to lead to habits of correct observation—stimulate to the study of the good and beautiful in nature—furnish the mind with the highest and purest

subject-matter for contemplation, and attract attention from the gross and degrading pleasures of the world—but it may become of infinite service to them in after life, when they recover their mental equilibrium and resume their places in society. As an immediate and gratifying result of these scientific meetings, four lectures were delivered by two patients to the same audience, the subjects being respectively “The Beauties of Nature,” “Antiquities of Perth,” “Comicalities,” and “Superstitions of the Highlands.” These lectures were treated in such a way as to render them popular and attractive; and a cordial vote of thanks was awarded by the audience in approbation of the useful though unpretending labours of their authors. The preparation of such discourses is not only valuable by diverting attention from morbid fancies and unpleasant associations; but the amount of reading necessarily involved cannot fail to leave a lasting and useful impression. Our limited community cannot vie with the larger sister Asylums of Scotland by supporting an Asylum periodical, otherwise the lucubrations of the inmates might occasionally fill a goodly broad sheet. Two patients, however, have contributed to cotemporary Asylum literature. A meeting is held weekly, under the superintendence of the matron, for the practice of sacred music; meetings for the practice of secular music, in preparation for the concerts, have occasionally been substituted. The patients are thus encouraged and stimulated to exercise and cultivate their tastes and talents alike for their own improvement and for the gratification or instruction of their companions. A class for the elements of Dancing, as a preparation for the Christmas festivities, was instituted and superintended by a patient, by whom also classes for the theory of Music, Writing, and Arithmetic, are projected as part of the business of next winter. About 50 per cent of the higher classes of patients, and about 15 per cent of the lower classes, devote a considerable portion of their time to Reading in some form. The Directors have generously placed at the command of the patients a Library of 60

EDUCATION

Lectures by Patients.

Literary contributions.

Psalmody.

Classes for Dancing, Music, &c.

Reading.

Asylum Library.

EDUCATION.

volumes, selected by the Chaplain, from the publications of the "London Religious Tract Society." Many patients, in addition, avail themselves most fully of the shelves of the Perth library. The books chiefly read during the past winter have been of a religious nature ; next to these rank works in biography, history, fiction, and science. Not a few of the patients have been hard students as well as busy readers ; and, while some have merely endeavoured to dissipate ennui by the novels of Scott, Bulwer, or James, others have laboured to master such works as Brewster and Whewell on the *Plurality of Worlds*, Quintilian's *Institutes of Eloquence*, or Abercrombie *On the Intellectual Powers*. Several newspapers—London and local—are regularly supplied to the Asylum, and circulated among the patients ; and, in addition, several of the inmates have newspapers, serials, and books, forwarded by their friends for their individual use. The newspapers and serials most regularly received are the *Times*, *Globe*, *Perthshire Courier*, *Chambers' Journal*, *Scotsman*, and *North British Advertiser*. No class of reading is so generally acceptable to all classes of patients, and to both sexes, as that of the public newspapers ; the narrative of the present war is a source of great interest and constant discussion ; and even the deciphering of the extraordinary advertisements, which occasionally appear in the *Times*, furnishes occupation and amusement to some. The study of the beautiful, and a familiarity with the works of nature, is further fostered by the introduction of a succession of flowering plants into the various galleries—by covering the trellis work of the balconies, during summer, with showy climbers—by encouraging the formation of bouquets among the ladies—and by the cultivation of fine varieties of florist's flowers in the garden.

cultivation of
lowers.

T A B L E

SHOWING THE GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR 1854-5.

	Males.	Fem.	Total.
Patients admitted from 1827 to 1854,	475	464	939
	Males.	Fem.	Total.
Of these Recovered,	174	227	401
— Removed Improved,	55	51	106
— — Unimproved,...	51	42	93
— Died,	103	65	168
Number of Patients remaining, June, 1854,			
Number of Patients admitted dur- ing the year, June, 1854, to June, 1855,			
Total Number under Treatment during the same period, ...			
Of these Recovered,	6	11	17
— Removed Improved,	7	1	8
— — Unimproved,...	20	14	34
— Died,	7	8	15
Number of Patients remaining, June, 1855,			
Average daily Number of Patients under Treatment during the year 1854-5—1853-78.			

TABLE
SHOWING THE OCCUPATIONS OF THE PATIENTS, AND THE
NUMBER EMPLOYED.

NATURE OF OCCUPATION.	Number Employed.	
	Males.	Females
I. LOWER CLASSES.		
CHIEFLY PAUPER PATIENTS.		
I. GARDENER'S DEPARTMENT.		
Pump-working,	10	
Field-dressing,	8	
Flower-dressing,	2	
Grass-cutting,	2	
Wood-cutting,	2	
Cow-feeding,	1	
Cow-herding,	1	
Pig-feeding,	1	
Average number of Males employed,	20-30	
II. MILLINER'S DEPARTMENT.		
Stocking-darning,		30
Stocking-knitting,		11
Clothes-mending,		18
Muslin-flowering,		5
Cap-making,		4
Shirt-making,		4
Dress-making,		2
Average number of Females employed in Workroom,		15
Do. do. in Galleries,		30
of whom one-third work regularly.		
III. LAUNDRY DEPARTMENT.		
Washers,		6
Ironers,		6
Stokers,		1
Average number of Females employed, ..		7-10
IV. KITCHEN DEPARTMENT.		
Store-room Assistants,	1	1
Slide-worker,	1	
Average number employed, 2—1 Male and 1 Female.		

TABLE OF OCCUPATIONS—*Continued.*

NATURE OF OCCUPATION.	Number Employed.	
	Males.	Females
V. SHOEMAKER'S DEPARTMENT.		
Making and Repairing of Boots, Shoes, Braces, &c.— Average number of Males employed,	2	
VI. CARPENTER'S DEPARTMENT.		
Upholstery, Jobbing, &c.—average number employed,	1	
VII. MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT.		
Gallery Assistants,	7	7
Window-cleaning,	2	
Painting,	2	
Spinning Yarn or Thread,		4
Housemaids' Assistants,	1	1
Book-keeper and Clerk,	1	
II. HIGHER CLASSES.		
PRIVATE WORK OR AMUSEMENT IN THEIR GALLERIES AND SITTING-ROOMS.		
Music, <i>a.</i> Instrumental—		
Pianoforte,		8
Violin,	4	
Flute,	1	
Jew's Harp,	2	
<i>b.</i> Vocal,	6	10
Reading—Newspapers,	30	10
Books,	10	12
Needlework—Fancy Work,		5
Tailoring,	2	
Writing—Composition,	4	
Correspondence,	16	1
Book-keeping,	1	10
Arithmetic,	2	
Transcribing Music,	1	
Drawing,	1	
Games—Cards,	14	
Backgammon,	8	
Bagatelle,	4	
Chess,	4	
Fishing-line making,	1	
Wax-flower making,		1

