

Twenty-ninth annual report of the directors of James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics, near Perth. June, 1856.

Contributors

James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics.
Murdoch, William.

Publication/Creation

Perth : Printed by order of the directors by C.G. Sidey, 1856.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f7jqj6ku>

License and attribution

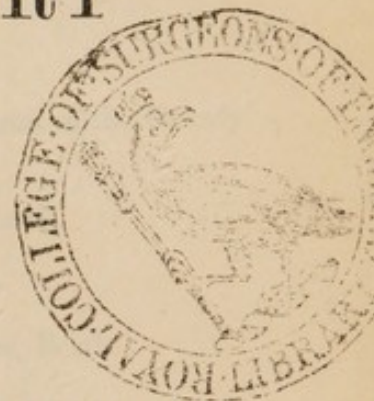
This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

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



JUNE 1856.

PERTH:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTORS,
BY C. G. SIDEY, POST-OFFICE, PERTH.

MDCCCLVI.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS,

1856-57.

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.

WILLIAM IMRIE, 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.

JOHN CONNING, Esq., President of the Society of Procurators, Perth.

GEORGE BRUCE, Esq., Convener of the Trades of Perth.

The MINISTER of St Paul's Church, Perth.

II.—LIFE DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM PEDDIE, Esq. of Blackruthven.

ALEXANDER H. M. BELSHES, Esq. of Invermay.

JOHN BEATSON BELL, Esq. of Glenfarg.

ANDREW KELTY, Esq., M.D., Tayhill, Perth.

III.—ANNUAL DIRECTORS.

Sir THOMAS MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, Bart.

WILLIAM THOMSON, Esq. of Balgowan.

DAVID CRAIGIE, Esq., Banker, Perth.

Sir P. M. THRIEPLAND of Fingask, Bart.

The Viscount DUPPLIN.

JOHN MARSHALL, Esq. of Rosemount.

WILLIAM BLAIR, Esq., Manufacturer, Perth.

Sir JOHN S. RICHARDSON of Pitfour, Bart.

General JOHN MURRAY BELSHES, Invermay House.

Dr BRUCE A. BREMNER, Woodlands.

ROBERT BUIST, Esq., Session-Clerk, Perth.

Committees.

I.—WEEKLY COMMITTEE.

WILLIAM PEDDIE, Esq.

ANDREW KELTY, Esq., M.D.

JOHN MARSHALL, Esq.

DAVID CRAIGIE, Esq.

WILLIAM BLAIR, Esq.

General BELSHES.

Sir THOMAS MONCREIFFE.

Dr BREMNER.

II.—HOUSE VISITING COMMITTEE.

General BELSHES. JOHN MARSHALL, Esq. Dr BREMNER.

WILLIAM MALCOM, Esq., M.D., *Physician.*

Dr. L. LINDSAY, *Superintendent and Resident Medical Officer.*

MESSRS MACKENZIE & DICKSON, Writers, Perth, *Joint Secs. and Treas.*

The Rev. WILLIAM MURDOCH, *Chaplain.*

Miss MATILDA GIDDINGS, *Matron.*

Miss ANN MUIRHEAD SHEARER, *Housekeeper.*

WILLIAM PEBBLE, Esq. of Blackburn, Chairman

Officers.

I.—EX-OFFICIO.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Kintore, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Perth.
 David Allan, Esq., Sheriff of the County of Perth.
 James Murray, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Perth.
 William James, Esq., Lord Provost of the City of Perth.
 James Murray, Esq., Dean of Guild of said City.
 James Murray, Esq., Lord Rector of said City.
 James Murray, Esq., President of the Society of Freeholders, Perth.
 James Murray, Esq., Governor of the Town of Perth.
 The Ministers of St. Paul's Church, Perth.

II.—LIFE DIRECTORS.

William James, Esq. of Blackburn.
 Alexander H. M. Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 James Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 Andrew Murray, Esq. M.D., Tynish, Perth.

III.—ANNUAL DIRECTORS.

Mr Thomas Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 William James, Esq. of Blackburn.
 David Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 Mr F. M. Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 The Victoria Tavern.
 James Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 William James, Esq. of Blackburn.
 Mr John H. Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 General James Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 Mr James A. Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 Robert Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.

Committees.

I.—WEEKLY COMMITTEE.

William James, Esq.
 General Murray.
 Mr Thomas Murray.
 Mr Murray.

II.—HOUSE VISITING COMMITTEE.

James Murray, Esq.
 William James, Esq. M.D., Tynish.
 Mr J. Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 James Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 The Rev. William Murray, Chaplain.
 The Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.
 Mr James Murray, Esq. of Blackburn.

REPORT.

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

From the last Annual Report, it appears that there were then in the House 133 Patients—75 males and 58 females. Since then, 38 Patients have been admitted—13 males and 25 females, being greater than the number admitted in either of the two preceding years—making the total number of Patients under treatment during the year 171—88 males and 83 females. 24 Patients have been discharged—9 males and 15 females. Of these, 15 were cases of recovery—6 males and 9 females. 3 females were removed improved, and 6 Patients have died—3 males and 3 females. There now remain in the Asylum 147 Patients—79 males, and 68 females—being an increase on the number resident at the date of last Annual Report of 14 Patients—4 males and 10 females.

During the past year, no exertion has been spared in providing for the comfort and welfare of the Patients, and with a gratifying measure of success, as appears from the fact, that the recoveries constitute 39·47 per cent. of the admissions, and 83·33 per cent. of the number discharged. It is unnecessary here to advert to the remedial means employed in this Institution. These are noticed in a general manner in the report of the medical officers hereto subjoined, to which reference is made for much interesting information, in regard to the general management and economy of the Establishment.

For many years, the Institution has possessed the services of a Chaplain, and, it is believed, with much advantage to the Patients. Heretofore, it has not been customary for the Chaplain to give a Report to the Annual Meeting; but this year, the Rev. William Murdoch, Kinnoull, who so efficiently discharges the duties of that office, has been requested by the Directors to prepare a Report. It is very gratifying to discover from this Report that the inmates of the House appreciate highly the religious ordinances supplied to them, and the general ministrations of the Chaplain, and that a large proportion of them are able to derive from these much comfort under their peculiar affliction, and no little spiritual improvement.

Owing to the lamented death of William Gloag, Esq., the respected Treasurer of the Institution, it became necessary, sometime ago, to take into consideration the supplying of the vacant office. It was considered advantageous to the Institution that the offices of Treasurer and Secretary should be conjoined, and Messrs Mackenzie and Dickson, Writers, Perth, were appointed to the conjoined office; and Mr James Morison, Accountant, Perth, was appointed Auditor.

In conclusion, the Directors are happy, in taking a review of the past year, to consider that the Institution has lost none of its former vigour or efficiency; and they record their best thanks to the Physician for his assiduous attention to the interests of the Institution—to the Resident Medical Superintendent for his unwearied efforts to promote the comfort, health, and enjoyment of the Patients—and to the other Officers, who have so earnestly aided the Directors, Physician, and Superintendent in carrying into beneficial operation the important changes in the internal economy of the Establishment, which have tended so much to the prosperity of the Asylum, and which, through the Divine blessing, they trust, will long continue.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT OF JAMES MURRAY'S ROYAL ASYLUM, PERTH.

TABLE
SHOWING THE GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR 1855-6.

				Males.	Fem.	Total.
Patients admitted from 1827 to 1855,				498	477	975
	Males.	Fem.	Total.			
Of these Recovered,	180	238	418			
— Removed Improved,	62	52	114			
— — Unimproved,	71	56	127			
— Died,	110	73	183			
				423	419	842
Patients remaining June 1855,				75	58	133
— admitted during the year, June 1855 to June 1856,				13	26	39
Total number under treatment during the year 1855-6,				88	84	172
Of these Recovered,	6	10	16			
— Removed Improved,	0	3	3			
— Died,	4	3	7			
				10	16	26
Patients remaining, June 1856,				78	68	146
Average Number of Patients under Treatment during the year 1855-6—140·549.						

~~~~~

DURING the past year, we have no eras in the history of our General population to chronicle—no untoward event to place upon record. General results.



But the results obtained are most gratifying, whether we regard the number of admissions, the number and permanence of the recoveries, the smallness of the mortality, or the general prosperity of the Institution. In June 1855, our population numbered 133 persons—75 males and 58 females; while, at present, our census shows 146 residents—78 males and 68 females; being an excess of 13 over those of last year. The admissions, during the year, amount to 39—13 males and 26 females; being greater than those of the two preceding years. The ratio of recoveries and of improved cases is also greater; and no patient has been removed unimproved. The average daily number of patients under treatment has been 140·549, being an excess of 5·171 over that of 1854-5. The mortality has only amounted to 7 cases—4 males and 3 females. A reference to the Table will, therefore, show that, while the admissions, ratio of recoveries, and daily number of patients under treatment, have been greater, the mortality has been much less than during the preceding year.

Admissions.

Of 39 patients admitted, the form of insanity has been in 11 cases, Monomania; in 10, Melancholia; in 8, Chronic, and in 5, Acute, Mania; in 4, Dementia—in 2 of which Epilepsy existed as a complication; and in 1, Dipromania. In 10 cases, suicide, and in three, homicide, were threatened or attempted prior to

Re-admissions.

admission. 7 cases were admitted for the second time, and 1 for the third time. We have observed with regret, continued evi-

Prejudices  
regarding  
Asylums.

dence of the unfounded, unjust, and most injurious popular prejudices and ideas, in country districts, regarding asylums and their inmates. Patients have been brought to us tied hand and foot. One young woman, who was perfectly quiet and affable on admission, had been tightly strapped to a window-shutter for several days prior thereto. Her wrists, fingers, and ankles were œdematous, and covered with unhealthy ulcerations; and she has since lost the use of a finger by suppuration into, and disorganization of, the joint, induced by the pressure of the ropes with which she was bound. We have frequently been earnestly requested by the attendants or relatives of patients not to be too severe in the use of the straight-jacket—an instrument of re-



straint unknown in the Institution. On the other hand, we have been gratified to observe the great kindness and attention shown by old residents to new-comers, who are frequently initiated into all the mysteries of asylum life, protected from the aggressions of the tyrannical and turbulent, and tended with a care and affection rivalling those of a mother. More especially has this been exhibited in the nursing of the sick and the feeble by individual patients, to whom they stand, for the time being, precisely in the position of afflicted sisters, daughters, or mothers. It has been most interesting to notice the genial effects of kindly nursing and generous protection—of the soothing comfort and cheering hopes infused by an affectionate friend and companion—the slow unfolding of the powers of reason—the gradual expanding of the soul-sympathies and pure affections, under the vivifying beams of the law of kindness. Even the lost melancholic feels, in spite of herself, that she becomes the object of utmost solicitude—of tenderest care. We would also advert here to the fact, that not unfrequently insane patients voluntarily seclude themselves, temporarily or permanently, within the walls of an Asylum. One patient, labouring under suicidal and homicidal melancholia, became an inmate of this Asylum at his own express desire; and has since been one of the happiest members of our community. This class of patients would doubtless be increased were the true character of Asylums more fully known, and their benefits more thoroughly appreciated.

Patients acting  
as Nurses.

Voluntary  
Patients.

The Recoveries constitute 9·30 per cent. of the total number of patients under treatment during the year; 11·42 per cent. of the mean daily number resident; 41·02 per cent. of the admissions; and 61·53 per cent. of the number discharged. We would notice, as a pleasing feature in many of the recoveries, the friendly feeling entertained towards the Institution, which has proved to them a “haven of refuge,” and “shelter in time of need,” as well as towards the companions they have left behind. One gentleman, a most troublesome and suicidal melancholic, has, since his discharge, corresponded regularly with the Superintendent and one of his quondam companions, narrating in detail, the fishing,

Recoveries.

Attachment  
Patients to the  
Asylum.



shooting, gardening, and reading, in which he spends his time;—not only so, but he sent his daughter to visit the Asylum, the officers, and various of the inmates whom he specialized, as places and persons associated in his mind with the most pleasing reminiscences. Other discharged patients, living in the neighbourhood, have occasionally visited the officers, privately, or have attended and joined in various of the public amusements. One man comes regularly on Christmas-day to dine with his old companions in confinement. In some patients the attachment to the Institution is so strong, as not only to astonish, but annoy their friends. They work cheerfully and efficiently while here, but, if removed, they become indolent, obstinate, and unmanageable, until sent back to their adopted home. Such persons have, as members of pic-nic parties, visited their native districts, and seen their relations, without evincing the slightest disposition to remain with them.

Mortality.

The Mortality constitutes 4·07 per cent. of the total number of patients under treatment during the year: 5 per cent. of the mean daily number resident, 17·94 per cent. of the admissions, and 26·92 per cent. of the number discharged. Of 7 deaths, 2 arose from Phthisis, 2 from Apoplexy, 1 from Epilepsy, 1 from Paralytic exhaustion, and 1 from Typhoid, gangrenous erysipelas. The Phthisis cases were admitted labouring under that disease, and died within 2 months. The Apoplexy cases had been long in the Asylum—the one 25, the other 15 years. In the fifth case, death was preceded by extensive Typhoid, gangrenous bed sores, and in the sixth, the pathological conditions included an old-standing reducible hernia, erysipelas, with great œdema of the right arm, and erysipelas and acute œdema, followed by gangrene and extensive suppuration into the cellular tissue of the scrotum. All the cases had been bedridden for considerable periods prior to death; in all, there was great emaciation and physical debility.

General health  
Inmates.

The general health of our community during the year has been excellent: frequently none, and seldom at the same time more than one or two patients were confined to bed.

MORAL  
TREATMENT.

Our Industrial Department has been considerably extended;



and we have been enabled to take into our own hands a much larger proportion of the ordinary cleaning and repairs of the Institution than hitherto. The House has recently been painted and whitewashed, the whole glazing is now done, and a large proportion of the work of masons, carpenters, painters, and locksmiths, executed by the inmates. During spring, autumn, and summer, a section of the higher class of patients has worked a portion of each day in the garden or grounds—a species of labour of which they appear fond. Seldom is it necessary to render labour compulsory : on the contrary, it is by no means uncommon, when a particular kind of work is wanted, for volunteers cheerfully to come forward. One gentleman, who considers that a long residence confers peculiar qualifications, has several times offered himself as a candidate for the situation of attendant when vacancies have occurred. The operation of the work fund is most satisfactory. By its means we have been enabled to place at the command of the pauper patients, as a reward of industry or good behaviour, a variety of amusements from which they were previously excluded. Among these we may specialize pic-nic excursions, and visits to concerts and other amusements in town. A bazaar of fancy work, under the superintendence of the matron, is being instituted by the contributions of the ladies, whose fingers are rarely idle. A very handsome Christmas Tree was laden with trophies, made by the tasteful hands of the gentlemen as well as ladies. One patient, who excels in copying music, contributed several pretty musical albums ; another knitted for it several muffs, comforters, &c. ; a third drew a few sketches from nature ; a fourth framed some cuttings from the “Illustrated London News,” in neat borders of plaited rushes and grasses ; a fifth designed a few parti-coloured flags ; a sixth some fancy balls ; and so on, according to their tastes or abilities.

I. OCCUPATIONS.

Industrial sta

Voluntary labour.

Work Fund.

Bazaar.

Christmas Tree.

II. RECREATIONS.

One of the principal, and, at the same time, pleasing, though frequently most difficult, duties of the officers of an asylum, is to discover and multiply new forms of recreation,—to maintain a constant but varied succession of amusements, adapted to all classes of the community. It must be borne in mind, that every

Importance variety.



RECREATIONS. device which is calculated to lessen the pangs of confinement,—to “drive dull care away,”—to substitute pleasing thoughts, sounds, and images for gloomy self-ratiocination, becomes invested with an unusual value and importance in the treatment of the insane. Goethe has remarked, with as much truth as feeling, “Nothing that calls back the remembrance of a happy moment can be insignificant.” It should be our endeavour, in any and every way, within prudent limits, not only to introduce the insane to the pleasures and pursuits of the outer world, but to carry these pleasures and pursuits into the heart of their retirement. It is a grievous mistake to suppose that, in the insane, the sense of enjoyment is blunted or destroyed. We can bear personal testimony to never having seen more unrestrained enjoyment,—more boisterous mirth,—more natural and healthy fun and frolic, than in the amusements of an asylum. That such recreations create strong, lasting, and most favourable impressions on those for whose benefit they are intended, is sufficiently proved by the  
 their effects. correspondence of various discharged patients. One gentleman, in writing, never fails to inquire regarding the concerts and other amusements, which proved such sources of gratification to himself. Another, engrossed in a most laborious business, occasionally dances away his cares at our weekly ball; and other patients, in revisiting the Asylum, generally select some of the amusements as the occasion. Our experience of the regulated admission of strangers to the lectures, concerts, balls, and fêtes,  
 visitors. have been most gratifying. The patients have regarded their presence as an honour; they have felt themselves objects of consideration and regard; and they have striven so to conduct themselves as to justify the confidence placed in, and the high opinion formed of them.

concerts. Four Concerts were given during the winter, at which sometimes so many as 80 persons were present. There has been a decided improvement both in the style and execution of the music. These  
 their effects. concerts have had the effect of drawing from their rooms and galleries, their self-imposed seclusion and morbid thoughts, some who have hitherto been unapproachable,—who have kept frigidly



aloof from society and its recreations. An indirect effect has RECREATION been, consequently, to throw more together the various classes of our community—to produce a greater degree of social, friendly, and harmonious feeling among them—and to give them more the characters of a happy family group, than of a miscellaneous assemblage of unruly natures.

The Weekly Balls, the interest in which continues unabated, Weekly Balls are now held, through the kindness of the Directors, in a room adapted for the purpose—the Board-Room of the Institution—which is also used as Concert Hall, Reading-Room, and Lecture-Room. Dress Balls were given at Hallowe'en and Christmas, at Dress Balls. which from 60 to 70 persons were present. At the latter, a great source of attraction was a stately Christmas Tree, covered with Christmas Fête. prizes for every patient present: some of these consisted of gift books, and other substantial rewards for industry or good conduct. The Ball-Room was also fitted up with such taste by the inmates, that, at the request of various of the Directors, the whole decorations were allowed to remain on view for a fortnight, and were, during that period, visited by large numbers of strangers.

During the summer season, pic-nic parties of 14 to 18 persons, Pic-nics.—including both sexes—have visited the house and grounds of Rossie Priory and the Braes of the Carse; Birnam Hill, Dunkeld, and Strathbraan; Glenfarg, Lochleven, Kinross, and the Falls of the Devon; Glenalmond, Amulree, and Loch Freuchie; and Campsie Linn. Our warm acknowledgments are due to Lord Kinnaird, Mr Belshes of Invermay, and other noblemen or gentlemen, who kindly threw open their grounds for our enjoyment. The pic-nic to Kinross was chronicled in the local newspapers, and a well-merited compliment paid to the good conduct and quiet demeanour of the party. These excursions are beneficial, not only to the patients themselves, by placing at their command change of air and scene, under the most pleasing circumstances; but to the public, in whom they tend to correct the errors and prejudices to which we have already adverted. In proportion as the public come in contact with the insane, and become aware of Their importance. the efforts made to gratify and instruct, as well as to comfort and



recreations. cure them, they will evince a greater degree of sympathy and generous feeling—will repose a greater amount of confidence in Asylums, and the treatment carried out therein—and will show themselves less tardy to take advantage of the benefits which they offer. Pedestrian pic-nic parties of 20 to 24 persons have also frequently visited the Den of Balthayock, Kinnoull Hill, Kinfauns, and other localities in the immediate vicinity of Perth. These jaunts are uniformly the scene of much fun and frolic. Those patients—especially belonging to the higher classes—who have been unable, from bodily infirmity, to join the pedestrian excursions, have had carriage drives to Pitcaithly Wells, Bridge of Earn, the Carse of Gowrie, and the Stormontfield Salmon Ponds. The sight of the young salmon feeding at the latter has been a source of much enjoyment.

Athletic sports are liberally encouraged among the gentlemen. To the old favourites—cricket, quoits, and bowls—racing, leaping, and various games of strength, have been added. More difficulty has been experienced in providing a variety of suitable games for the ladies, who, however, have recently claimed archery as peculiarly their own. Fêtes and Champêtres, attended by about 50 persons, were held on the Bowling Green, on Waterloo-day, on the occasion of the Queen's passing through Perth, and on the recent Peace holiday. The last named fête consisted of athletic games, including various forms of running, leaping, cricket, bowls, quoits, and trials of strength; a monster tea party of about 80 persons, followed by a ball on the Bowling Green; and a display of fireworks in the evening. The gentlemen were engaged for weeks previous to the fête in practising for the games, and the ladies in preparing the banners, festoons, and other decorations. The successful competitors are not a little pleased with the discovery of the fact, that in the distances run, the heights jumped, and the weights thrown or carried, they have out-distanced the prize-gainers at the recent military games at Fort George.

Parties of patients have been sent into town to see the regattas, races, fairs, Highland Games, Academy examinations, flower shows, the performances of Signor Bosco, the concerts of the



Hungarian Band, and Mr Ross, and similar spectacles; and in RECREATION winter, they have visited the curling ponds. One gentleman goes daily to town by himself, visits the public library, selects his books for consultation or study, calls on several of the booksellers or news-agents—with whom he is familiar—to pick up Parole, the current news of the day, and returns with a fresh stock of gossip and information. Another promenades the grounds for several hours every afternoon alone; and to convalescents, as a probationary step prior to removal, the privilege of walking in or beyond the grounds unattended is occasionally granted. Never have we had cause to regret the confidence thus reposed; in no case has the privilege been abused. For such as have been unable to go to town to see public exhibitions, a Cosmeric and Cosmeric Magic Lantern entertainment, with recitations interspersed, was given during the winter.

With a wider experience of the benefits which it is capable of III. EDUCA-  
conferring, we are now prepared to give a stronger testimony in TION.  
favour of the education of the insane. An Asylum must not be regarded merely as a place of conservation—a refuge for the The Asylum  
furious or fatuous. We look upon it as an hospital, both in the a school.  
sense that it is, or ought to be, an educational, as well as a curative, establishment: it may be made a great school for improving and training the mind, as well as a great hospital for the appliance of the resources of rational medicine. The mental improvement of the inmates of an Asylum, as well as their restoration to physical health, becomes, in this light, no less the holy duty, than the high privilege, of its officers. It is quite a mistake to suppose that any class of the insane is incapable of education. Even the congenital idiot, it has now been fully proved by the earnest and disinterested labours of philanthropic physicians, can be educated, so as to be useful to himself and others. Asylum life presents many opportunities for leisurely and deliberate study. Peculiar facilities may be afforded; and there is an absence of many of the ordinary obstacles which interfere with the mental quiet necessary for calm reflection or steady application. We believe that much real and permanent benefit may be conferred by the Importance  
educating the  
Insane.



EDUCATION. judicious application of instruction within the walls of an Asylum. The information acquired may be of signal service when a patient rejoins society—resumes his place on the ever-busy stage of life ; and he may even have the satisfaction of feeling, so far from the period of his life spent in an Asylum being a complete blank, he has not only been keeping pace with the march of intellect, and the progress of science and art, but, in respect to his mental growth or acquirements, he has actually made a good use of his time and talents. It is necessary to remark, that instruction, to be beneficial to the insane, must be judiciously applied. There are many cases—many conditions of the same patient, in which any kind or amount of mental stimulation would be hurtful ; but this does not invalidate the fact, that, in a large proportion of the insane, education is not only perfectly safe, but most salutary. We must ever bear in view what has been so forcibly stated by Locke, in regard to the scope of education,—“The business of education is not to perfect a learner in all or any one of the sciences ; but to give his mind that freedom, that disposition, and those habits, that may enable him to obtain any part of knowledge he shall apply himself to, or stand in need of, in the future course of his life.” There are two great classes of the insane, whose interests, in regard to education, it becomes our duty to consult—viz., the pauper insane, whose early education, in too many cases, has been more or less neglected ; and the educated insane, belonging to the middle classes, whose minds are apt to suffer from the absence of appropriate exercise and pabulum. To the one section of every Asylum community, education may thus be said to be a necessity ; to the other, both a necessity and a luxury.

forms of education employed. The Educational machinery, which we have employed with much success, during the past year, has consisted chiefly of Classes and Lectures,—the former being intended for the pauper class alone, the latter for all, but especially for the educated classes of our community. The following table or programme will indicate the nature of the series of Classes and course of Lectures :—



## I.—CLASSES.

- I.—Theory and Practice of Vocal Music.
- II.—Monitorial Class for the Practice of Vocal Music.
- III.—Practice of Psalmody.
- IV.—Dancing and Deportment.
- V.—Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic.
- VI.—Religious Instruction.

Programme  
Classes and  
Lectures.

## II.—LECTURES.

- I.—Calvinism: Its Phenomena and Applications.
- II.—Jacobite Minstrelsy.
- III.—The Blood: Its Composition and Uses.
- IV.—Time: Its Proper Occupation and Uses.
- V.—Drugs: Their Economic Botany.
- VI.—Coal: Its Natural History and Uses.
- VII.—Psalmody: Its History in Britain subsequently to the Reformation.
- VIII.—Spring: Its Associations and Lessons.
- IX.—Reading: Its Use and Abuse.
- X.—Art: Its Special and General History.
- XI.—How to Live Healthy.
- XII.—Resumé and Valedictory Address.

The classes met regularly during the winter months. Black-boards, slates, books, and other apparatus were abundantly provided. The Theory of Music Class was under the superintendence of a Professor of Music from Perth. A Monitorial Class, also for vocal music, was formed under the direction of a patient, and the other classes were conducted jointly by patients, officers, and attendants. The attendance was voluntary and large;—there was a pleasing appreciation of the benefits offered;—the evening classes were looked forward to as a profitable, as well as pleasant, relaxation after the bodily toils of the day;—and the tasks were never regarded in the light of painful duties. So gratified have some of the patients been with the benefits accruing from the classes, that they have been frequently heard to exclaim in the spirit, if not in the letter:—

“Oft from apparent ills our blessings rise.”

The prompt, intelligent, and ingenious replies of some of the scholars were frequently matter of remark during the session. All the pupils were found to have made more or less progress, some to an astonishing degree. The attendance, behaviour, and

Progress and  
proficiency.



EDUCATION. progress at the Sabbath School have also been very gratifying. Apart from the value of the instruction or exercises, the institution of a public class on a Sabbath evening serves to break up the monotony of a day of unusual quiet and gloom in an asylum. The reading class signalized the termination of the session by a Sabbath Soirée, at which several of the patients read, recited, and sung, in proof of their progress or proficiency.

Lectures. In the Lectures, we have been materially assisted by our excellent Chaplain, and by various clergymen, medical men, and other gentlemen, residing in or about Perth. To the Rev. Mr Murdoch of Kinnoull, Dr Stirling of Perth, the Rev. Dr Crombie of Scone, Mr Adamson of St Martins, and Mr Marshall of Oxford, we are under deep obligations, for their prompt and generous aid in seconding our endeavours to introduce into our community the benefits of popular, scientific, and literary education. The lectures have been very much of the same class as those ordinarily delivered at Mechanic's Institutes, Athenæums, and similar societies or clubs. The subjects have been as varied as the tastes of a mixed community might desire or require. It has been our endeavour to make the lectures as demonstrative as possible: whenever an opportunity presented itself, or the subject admitted, they were more or less copiously illustrated. In all cases, indeed, information was sought to be communicated more through the medium of attractive experiments, showy diagrams, spirit-stirring music, or familiar anecdotes, than directly by abstract argument or narrative. Thus the interest of a lecture on the history of Psalmody was enhanced by vocal illustrations, executed by the Asylum Music Class, under the direction of their teacher; a second, on Galvanism, was rendered both amusing and instructive, by the aid of the galvanic battery; and a third, on the Blood and the Circulation, was illustrated by the microscope and by diagrams. Visitors have repeatedly borne testimony to the unusual attention with which the patients have listened to these discourses, and looked upon these demonstrations. Even the apparently most apathetic and stupid have proved, by subsequent



casual remarks, that they had been not only interested, but critical listeners. EDUCATION

With a view to the same result, the intellectual improvement Reading.  
of the patients, through the medium of amusement, we have endeavoured to originate in some cases, and to promote in all, a taste for reading. We have been enabled greatly to augment the Newspapers  
and Periodicals.  
circulation of newspapers and serials in our galleries; and we have been anxious, further, to encourage a taste for art by introducing pictures and illustrated periodicals, such as the "Art Pictures.  
Journal," "Illustrated Times," and others. Some of the inmates have engaged in the higher and more severe departments of study. Abstruse problems in mathematics and astronomy; the subject Subjects of  
study.  
of the coins, weights, and measures of ancient and modern nations; the chronologies of fallen empires; the literature of the Greeks and the Hebrews, and Natural Theology, have occupied the attention of a few eager students of both sexes. We remember, elsewhere, to have seen a patient labouring most systematically at what might have been considered an intensely dry book,—a ponderous English Dictionary. But he made a point every Results of  
study.  
morning of committing to memory a certain number of words, acquiring at the same time a knowledge of their etymology, signification, and uses. He also prescribed to himself exercises in composition, and the ultimate result was the production of essays replete with, and characterized by, all that is ornate in the English language,—essays which might have done credit to a wrangler of Cambridge or Oxford.



# REPORT

BY

REV. WILLIAM MURDOCH

OF KINNOULL, CHAPLAIN.

---

THE average attendance in the Chapel on Sabbath is upwards of 60. There is good reason, both from the regularity with which the same individuals avail themselves of the opportunity of waiting upon God in his House, and from the very frequent allusions made to the discourses in private conversation, to believe that these services are really appreciated, and to hope that they tend to soothe the drooping spirit, and to sustain the soul in the hour of sad and heavy trial. The very act of assembling together has, apart from the duty enjoined, and the benefits expected, its advantages to individuals in such dreary solitude.

On the Tuesdays and the Fridays, the other stated periods of meeting in Chapel, the average attendance is upwards of 50. At these meetings, a portion of Scripture, either in the Old or in the New Testament, is read, and very frequently the attention of those present is endeavoured to be drawn to the passage by making a few simple remarks in the course of reading. It is very gratifying to note here, how regularly all the officials, and as many of the attendants as possibly can be expected, are present at the services in the Chapel. This cannot fail to have a good moral effect upon individuals who are far too apt to blame all but themselves for their uneasiness, seeing example is always a much more simple and forcible mode of instruction than even precept.



The Sabbath Evening Class, managed by one official, and countenanced by all, is both interesting and encouraging, and deserves to be noticed with peculiar satisfaction and approbation. The Chaplain had the inexpressible pleasure of visiting this class lately, and of examining it on the Shorter Catechism, and on the fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel, and he was greatly delighted both with the accurate manner in which the Shorter Catechism was repeated, and with the answers given by some to the questions he put, with the view of ascertaining their knowledge of the meaning of the Catechism and of the chapter. The presence of some, who had seen fifty or sixty winters pass away, along with others—youths about twenty, and one much less—reminded him of a period when old and young repeated the Catechism at the fireside, instead of as now in Sabbath Schools.

Besides these public stated periods of discharging duty, the Chaplain is in the habit of visiting the patients in their respective galleries or private apartments on the Saturdays—generally every alternate Saturday—and conversing with such individuals as may likely be benefited thereby. In these visits, he often feels it his duty to engage in prayer with individuals not sick. He has often been struck at the apparent reverential awe that devotional exercise produces upon patients, who, at other times, are extremely talkative. This to him unaccountable trait, has been lately manifested in one who seems to be often engaged in a conversational dialogue, and yet is so composed during devotion, as to appreciate, and afterwards express gratitude. When a patient is sick, he is sometimes much aided in the discharge of this duty by the watchful kindness of the officials and attendants, informing him of lucid intervals in the patient's distress,—and such patients the Chaplain, if thought proper, continues to visit every time he is at the Institution, on coming down from the Chapel services.

The Chaplain feels very great pleasure in acknowledging the unlimited confidence hitherto reposed in him by the Physician and Resident Medical Officer, to be such as permits him at all times to have access to every patient in the House, and leaves it entirely to his own discretion how to deal with the case.



The Chaplain feels great pleasure in adverting to the unwearied and unremitting attention of all the officials and attendants, at all times, in discharging their duties, but more especially in the time of sickness ; and he has been often no less pleased in observing how sympathizingly some of the patients share in attention to the sick and the helpless.

The Chaplain also deems it due to the officials to notice with what praiseworthy assiduity they devote themselves to promote the comfort and happiness of the patients, by endeavouring, in every possible manner, to make their solitude as little irksome as possible. He can speak from frequent and attentive observation of the incalculable benefit and pleasure which the patients have derived from their united exertions to interest, amuse, and instruct them ; and, to this benefit, he might add that arising from permitting strangers to be present when so many of themselves are assembled together. The patients are delighted to think of strangers having been present, and the visitors are more than delighted at witnessing such quiet and orderly demeanour as they did not expect. This is only one of the many methods needed to remove the deep-rooted prejudices that prevail in reference to such Institutions, and to call forth the deepest Christian sympathies for so helpless a class of fallen and afflicted humanity. Their united efforts in this respect deserve encouragement from every friend of the very often innocently helpless.

The Chaplain respectfully begs to conclude his Report by expressing his most sincere and grateful thanks to the Directors for the kind and unlimited confidence he has so long enjoyed, and to assure them, whilst he has the honour to hold the office, he will ever consider it both his duty and his privilege so to act as to merit the continuance of their confidence and support, in the discharge of duties so peculiarly delicate and difficult.