

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

Contributors

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Publication/Creation

Perth : Printed by J. Young & Sons, 1884.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/crq69t79>

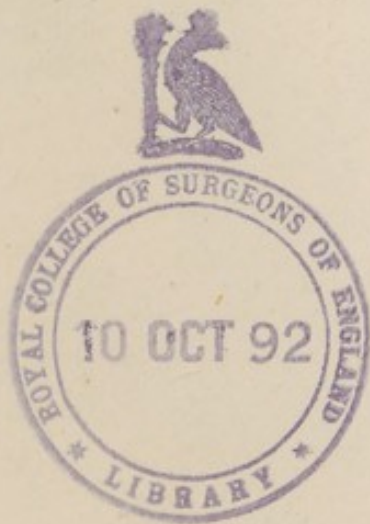
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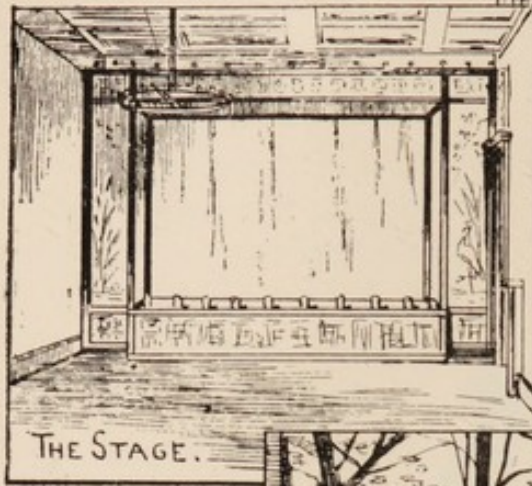
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THE STAGE.

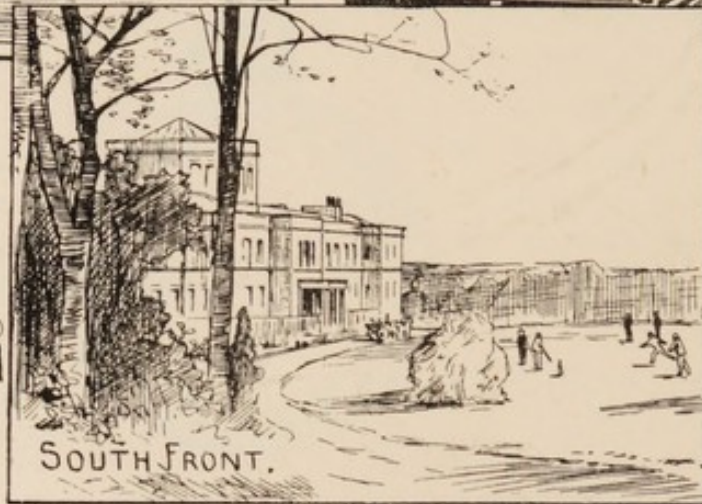


A DRAWING ROOM

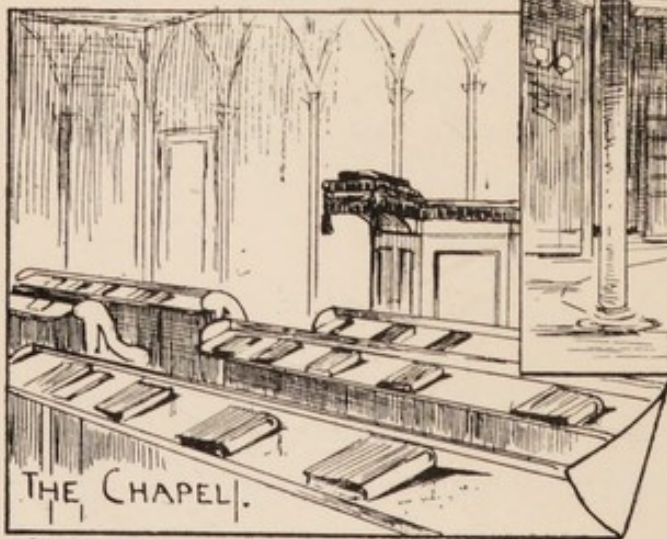


BILLIARD RM.

MURRAY'S
ROYAL
ASYLUM
PERTH.



SOUTH FRONT.



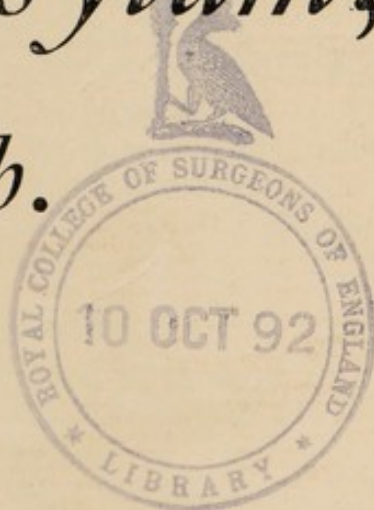
THE CHAPEL.



ENTRANCE HALL

S. Reid. fecit.


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



Perth:

Printed by J. Young & Sons, 66 Watergate.

1884.



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James Murray's Royal Asylum,

1884.

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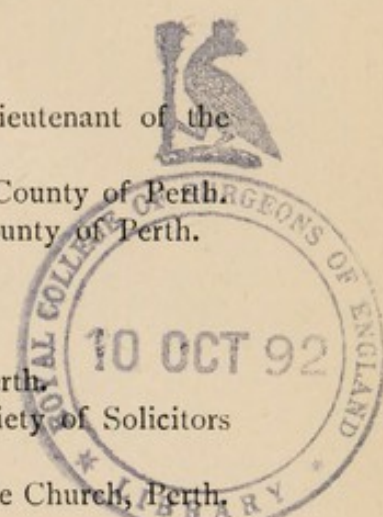
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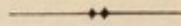
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ASYLUM STAFF.



Physician Superintendent.

A. R. URQUHART, M.D.

Chaplain.

REV. W. D. KNOWLES, B.A.

Matron.

MISS GIDDINGS.

Assistant Matron.

MISS CRICHTON.

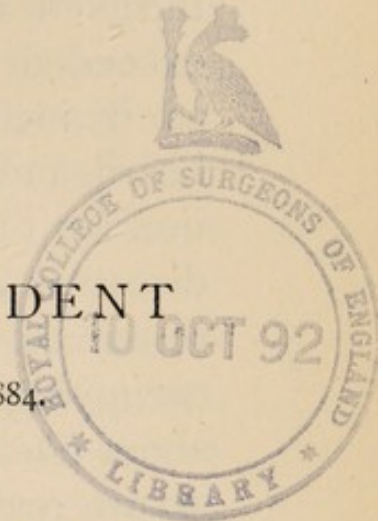


REPORT

OF THE

PHYSICIAN SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 8TH JUNE, 1884.



BEG to present the Fifty-seventh Annual Report of James Murray's Royal Asylum, for the year ending 8th June, 1884.

General Statistics.

On the 10th June, 1883, there were 84 persons on the Registers of the Asylum, and of these one of either sex was a voluntary patient.

Thirty-six cases were admitted during the year, of whom 20 were males and 16 females.

The total number under treatment was 120.

Twenty-six were discharged during the year—11 men and 15 women.

The number of deaths was 7, of whom 3 were males and 4 females.

The average number resident was 86.

The lowest number, 84, occurred on the 11th June, 1883; and the highest, 90, on the 7th August, 1883.

There now remain on the books of the Institution 45 males and 42 females; total, 87. Two of either sex reside voluntarily in the Asylum.

The Admissions.

The number of patients admitted, 36, was higher by 12 than last year's return ; and the steady increase in the admissions then shown is still maintained. The average since 1864, when the paupers left, is 22 per annum ; so that the patients received during the twelve months now passed exceeded that number by 14. This increase, as it included patients at the higher rates of board, and patients requiring spacious accommodation for the treatment of bodily as well as mental diseases, at times somewhat severely taxed our resources. Allowing for our usual proportion occupying private suites of rooms, we can receive about one hundred patients ; but when more than 90 are resident, the difficulties of management are unduly increased. In the event of this number being exceeded, some re-arrangement of the space at our disposal must be made.

*Bodily Diseases
on Admission.*

The patients admitted during the year comprised a large number of persons labouring under hopeless bodily diseases, as revealed by medical examination on their reception. No fewer than 8 out of the 36 have since died, either here or elsewhere, and other two cannot be expected to survive many months. Three were general paralytics, two had other cerebral diseases, one advanced disease of the heart, two disease of the kidneys, one diabetes, one stricture of the bowels, three venereal disease, one was most improperly sent in a moribund state, and two were brought direct from childbed. It will be learnt from this list that the Institution has fully maintained its character as an Hospital, and that the nurses and attendants have had no sinecure appointments ; for the management of such cases

is complicated, and rendered thrice difficult by reason of the accompanying mental malady, and treatment must not relax, either by night or day.

Seven of those admitted had had previous attacks of insanity. Three have been treated to recovery elsewhere, and four here. No fewer than seventeen had been more or less mentally affected for at least a year previous to admission, and four were transferred from other Asylums. Four were re-admitted for the second time, after intervals of sixteen months, three, three, and five years respectively. One was received for the third time, the dates of her previous admissions being 1851 and 1869. Two were transferred to the Register of Voluntary Patients, one directly, and the other after an interval of one month's absence from the Asylum.

History of the Admissions.

Fourteen of the admissions were considered curable, and already seven of these have been discharged recovered. Four of last year's curable cases still remain insane, while nine have recovered.

The importance of the prompt treatment of mental maladies cannot be too often urged, for the few, 9, who were received at an early period have all returned to home duties, except three, who are now convalescent.

The causes of insanity in the admissions did not vary much from those of former years. In the greater number, 20, some hereditary tendency could be traced; and to this was usually added an exciting cause, more or less definite. I have already indicated the physical conditions (p. 8) that gave

Causes of Insanity.

rise in some measure to the mental symptoms. Intemperate habits conduced to the insanity of four cases; while mental strain from business worries, or exhaustion after examinations, was directly responsible for eight. This last number includes two schoolmasters and three students.

*Former
Residences of
Admissions.*

Those admitted were received from the following localities:—Seven from Fife, five from Perth, four from the County of Perth, four from Edinburgh, four from Dundee, three from Inverness, two from Glasgow, two from England, one from Aberdeen, and four from other parts of Scotland. The rates of board received from the Perth patients were £70, £52, £40, and £30 per annum; 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, 41.70; female, 41.75. Voluntary male, 1.81; female, 1.49. Total, 86.77. Four patients were on an average absent on pass, so that the actual number resident was by so much less than above stated.

The Recoveries.

There were thirteen recoveries—2 men and 11 women. The percentage on the numbers admitted was 11.11 for males, 73.55 for females—mean, 39.39. Three of the recoveries were sent home after about eighteen months' illness, while ten were detained for less than six months. Four were cases who had had previous attacks; and it is to be feared that their recovery can only be looked upon as temporary.

Of those discharged unrecovered, eight went out relieved and four not improved. Of the former class, two have completed their convalescence at home, two are still on trial, two were returned to their friends as being quite manageable (with the most encouraging results), one was sent to Morningside for a change, and the remaining one was pauperised, after many years' residence here at a low rate of board. Two of those not improved were also sent to Pauper Asylums, one to Dundee, and one re-transferred to the Edinburgh Asylum, after a residence of three months here. In all, three were discharged on account of the inability of their friends to maintain them in this Institution, even at reduced rates. None of these belonged to Perth.

It is very desirable that some equitable arrangement should be made between the Royal Asylums of Scotland, so that such patients as are debarred from passing beyond the bounds of the Institution might have the benefit of change of air and scene. That there are difficulties we all admit, but that they are not insuperable has been satisfactorily proved by the case above alluded to. For the quiet and orderly, visits to friends are practicable, excursions for days or weeks are arranged, and a seaside residence is available; but for the noisy, the dangerous, the destructive, for the chronic "bad patient," there is no such out-going possible, except through the whole system of transfer, as provided for by Lunacy Acts and present Asylum Regulations.

*Interchange
of Patients
between
Asylums.*

Seven deaths occurred during the year. All *The Deaths.*

were cases of recent admission, and were suffering from mortal disease when received.

Three gentlemen died of organic diseases of the brain, and four ladies of exhaustion from mania, suffocative breast-pang, stricture of the lower bowel, and chronic disease of the kidneys respectively.

The average age at death was 51; the average length of residence, four months; and the percentage of deaths on the average numbers resident, 7.19 for males, 9.58 for females—a mean of 8.38.

General Health. The general health of the Establishment has been singularly good. No epidemic has occurred, nor any disease resulting from defective sanitation. The Cottage has been used but once during the year; by a gentleman who, on admission, was suffering from a contagious disease.

General Treatment. I do not consider this the time or place to enlarge upon the purely medical treatment of insanity, all-important though it be; but, with regard to the moral and physical means employed, I may say that they are but an amplification of the ideas expressed by the original Managers of this Institution. In the First Annual Report (for 1828) the Directors indicated the spirit by which they were actuated by enjoining as the first regulation that the “keepers and servants are to have every possible forbearance towards the patients, and every attention to their comfort, under pain of instant dismissal.” And in the Second Annual Report—“Solitary confinement and want of employment being in all cases highly prejudicial, every effort is made to prevail on the patients to engage in some occupation, and thus divert their

minds from their favourite illusions. Many are employed at work in the grounds surrounding the house, and those who take a pleasure in this occupation are led to consider it as a privilege rather than as a task. Those individuals who, either from taste or habits, feel an aversion to manual labour, are induced to engage in other avocations or amusements, such as reading, drawing, playing on musical instruments, or at cards, backgammon, bagatelle, &c. At first it is sometimes difficult to prevail on the patients to make the slightest exertion, or to employ themselves in any way; but by studying the peculiarities of their temper and disposition, it is generally possible to discover something that possesses a charm to occupy their attention. The paramount importance of employment and exercise in the open air, in cases of lunacy, is demonstrated by the experience of this establishment." Now, although these extracts may be couched in somewhat old-fashioned language, their fundamental truth is as important as ever. We push these ideas to their legitimate conclusion—much further, perhaps, than was ever anticipated by the writer, but still within the bounds of prudence. There are now only two locked galleries in the Asylum, one in either department. More than half the patients are allowed to go about unattended, on an average 64 out of 86 are industrially employed, and four are absent on pass. Every day, parties of patients go beyond the grounds, either walking or driving; and in addition to the services in the Asylum Chapel, there are, on an average, four patients attending the parish and other churches in Perth. While the last of the carefully-built airing courts

are being demolished, with their gloomy reminiscences of often-used restraint and seclusion, we may well congratulate ourselves on the outcome of the ideas expressed in these Annual Reports, now fifty-six years old.

*No Serious
Accidents.*

Notwithstanding that there were two determined attempts at suicide, I am thankful to report that there were no very serious accidents during the past year. One old gentleman broke his parole, escaped, and made his way to Auchterarder, where he remained in lodgings till discovered after a couple of days.

Seaside House.

As usual, a house has been taken at Carnoustie, and seven ladies are at present living there. During the year, in addition to shorter excursions and picnics, there were visits to London, Oban, the Trossachs, Killiecrankie, &c. &c., by various patients, either alone or under care. The usual cricket matches with the patients from Murthly, the visit of the Fechny boys, and the routine entertainments have been kept up with spirit.

*Visits of
Friends.*

Three hundred and fifty-one visits were made to patients by their friends, and every opportunity is taken to facilitate such intercourse when in the interest of the patient. The nearest relatives of three patients lived in the Asylum and attended them in their last hours, and were very grateful for the privilege so accorded to them.

Amusements.

I have again much pleasure in thanking the ladies and gentlemen who give us so much time and help in our amusements—especially Mrs.

Hempel for her annual concert, Mr. Cadenhead for painting a set of scenes for our theatre, and Mr. Dow for organising a concert by the Orchestral Society.

Two noteworthy anniversaries occurred since last Annual Meeting. Our matron, Miss Giddings, completed her thirtieth year of active service on the 22nd November. The occasion was marked by a large gathering, including old friends, old patients, and old officers of the Institution, when the Chairman presented her with a tea-service, suitably inscribed, in honour of the event, and in some measure to mark the esteem in which she has been held these many years.

*Anniversaries of
Old Servants.*

On the 26th of March Mr. Gowanlock, the gardener, was presented with £50, and his wife with £25, on the completion of fifty years' service in the Asylum, and in recognition of the ability, industry, and fidelity with which they had discharged their duties during the whole of that period.

Little was done during the past year in the way of extensive improvements. The only contract entered into on this account was for shafting in the Laundry and Wash-house, to connect the engine with the wringing-machine and the mangle. The labour of the laundresses has been considerably reduced by this adaptation; but it will be found advisable to still further increase the machinery in this department at no distant date.

*Improvements
and Alterations
completed.*

All the cesspools on the male side of the house have now been abolished, and a grease trap put

into the scullery drain. These alterations are working very satisfactorily.

A horse and carriage have been purchased for the use of the patients, and the stable, straw-house, and coach-house suitably improved.

Certain Kinnaird grates have been re-set as slow-combustion fire-places, and have given satisfaction, as being more economical and as producing more heat, with less smoke, than before.

All the ladies' galleries, besides the ball-room and billiard-room, are now provided with pianos. A considerable amount of furnishing has been done during the year, to supply the deficiencies caused by wear and tear, and to meet the wants of the increased number of patients. The cost of these items was as follows:—

Furnishings,	...	...	...	£307	10	9
Repairs,	...	...	...	243	4	2
Alterations,	...	...	...	27	4	11
				<hr/>		
				£577	19	10

*Works in
progress.*

The remaining airing-courts are now being transformed into a spacious terrace for the use of the ladies. This alteration includes the making of a tunnel to convey the pipes from the boiler-house to the Asylum, and the forming of a verandah for exercise-ground in wet weather. About a dozen patients are rendering active and willing service in this work.

It has also been decided to extend the fire main completely round and through the building, so that, in addition to present arrangements and fireproof construction, it will have every modern safeguard from this peril.

A new boiler is to be obtained, subject to the inspection of the Boiler Insurance Company, and a re-adjustment of the old one, with the distribution of steam, will also be made in the course of the year.

It is with much pleasure that I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Ritchie, C.E., for the generous way in which he has given his time and attention to these proposed alterations, and revised the plans and specifications which were drawn up at the Asylum.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the financial results of the year ending 31st March are the most successful that have yet occurred in the history of the Institution, both as regards income and profit—if profit it can be called that is devoted to the improvement of the Asylum, and the increased comfort of its inmates. The sum received from patients' boards amounts to £5981, and exceeds last year's return by £614. The average of other years since 1864 is £4628. The ordinary expenditure was £4755, the total expenditure £5080, the total income £6127—thus leaving a balance of £1046.

Financial Results.

The rates of board for the admissions were—

1	at	...	...	£250	...	...	£250
1	"	...	...	150	...	...	150
5	"	...	...	100	...	...	500
3	"	...	...	84	...	...	252
3	"	...	...	80	...	...	240
5	"	...	...	70	...	...	350
15	"	...	...	52	...	...	780
1	"	...	...	50	...	...	50
1	"	...	...	40	...	...	40
1	"	...	...	30	...	...	30

— 36 at an average of £73 7s 9d—Total, £2,642

The rates of those discharged and those who died amounted to £2,100. The yearly income per patient was £69 11s. The cost, excluding alterations, &c., but including repairs, £55 6s; if including the former, £59 1s 7d. The weekly cost per patient on the ordinary expenditure was £1 1s 3d—1s 6d less than last year. To-day, the patients on the books together pay £6318 per annum. Seventeen patients are maintained at lower rates than the ordinary minimum of £52 per annum. Eleven pay £40 and six pay £30.

The Staff.

In consequence of the increase in our numbers and the pressure of work, the staff of attendants and nurses has been increased by five. Many changes have taken place. Three attendants were summarily dismissed. To those who have loyally and conscientiously done their duty throughout the year, my best thanks are due.

Commissioner's Report.

The Report of the Visiting Commissioner in Lunacy will be found annexed to this.

The late Sheriff Barclay.

The Institution has lost an old and valued friend in Sheriff Barclay, who had ever a word of kindly counsel and encouragement for all connected with it. His name first appeared in the Annual Report for 1834, and for several years he had been the sole survivor of the Board of Directors of that year.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I would tender the Directors my best thanks for the continued confidence accorded to me in the discharge of my duties.

A. R. URQUHART, M.D.

TABLE

Showing Changes in the Population of the Asylum during the Year ending
8th June, 1884.

	Certificated		Voluntary.		TOTAL.	Certificated		Voluntary.		TOTAL.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
June 10, 1883.	Resident in the Asylum, ...		...	...	...	37	37	1	1	76
	Remaining on Pass, ...		...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
	Remaining at Carnoustie,		...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
	Total No. on Asylum Books,		...	...	...	38	44	1	1	84
Cases admitted—										
	First admissions, ...		16	12	1	...	29			
	Not first admissions, ...		2	3	1	1	7			
Total Cases admitted during the year,										
	...	...	...	...	...	18	15	2	1	36
Total Cases under care during the year,										
	...	...	...	...	...	56	59	3	2	120
Cases discharged and died—										
	Recovered, ...		2	11	...	...	13			
	Relieved, ...		5	3	...	...	8			
	Not Improved, ...		3	1	...	...	4			
	Voluntary Patients left, ...		...	...	1	...	1			
	Died, ...		3	4	...	...	7			
Total Cases discharged and died during the year, ...										
	...	...	...	...	...	13	19	1	...	33
June, 8, 1884.	Total No. on Asylum Books,		...	...	...	43	40	2	2	87
	Remaining on Pass, ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Remaining at Carnoustie,		...	...	...	...	7	...	...	7
	Resident in the Asylum, ...		...	...	...	43	33	2	1	79

	Certificated.		Voluntary.		TOTAL.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Average numbers on Books during the year, ...	41'70	41'75	1'81	1'49	86'77
Lowest number resident, 11th June, 1883, ...	38	44	1	1	84
Highest number resident, 7th August, 1883, ...	42	46	1	1	90
Persons under care during the year, ...	56	59	2	1	118
Persons admitted during the year, ...	18	15	1	1	35
Persons discharged recovered during the year, ...	2	11	...	...	13
Transferred from other Asylums, ...	1	2	1	...	4
Transferred to other Asylums, ...	3	2	...	...	5
Percentage of Recoveries on admissions, ...	11'11	73'55	...	...	39'39
Percentage of Deaths on average numbers resident,	7'19	9'58	...	...	8'38

FINANCIAL RESULTS SINCE 1875.

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.	Income per Patient on Column 3.	Yearly Cost per Patient on Column 4.	Yearly Cost per Patient on Column 6.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	72	4818 18 4	5269 3 7	5011 1 6	5427 16 11	.....	416 15 5	66 18 7	73 3 8	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 9 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



REPORT
OF
COMMISSIONER IN LUNACY
FOR THE YEAR.

PERTH ROYAL ASYLUM,
9th January, 1884.

There are at present 83 patients under certificates, and five voluntary inmates, on the Register of the Asylum, which shows an increase of four in the certificated patients, and three in the voluntary inmates, since the date of last visit.

The following statement shows the changes that have taken place:—

CERTIFICATED PATIENTS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Admissions,	13	12	25
Discharges recovered,	3	8	11
Discharges unrecovered,	4	3	7
Deaths,	2	1	3

VOLUNTARY INMATES.

	M.	F.	Total.
Admissions,	2	1	3

The deaths resulted in one case from maniacal exhaustion, in one case from stricture of the rectum and perforation, and in one case from apoplexy. In the first of these cases, the patient was in a dying condition before being brought to the Asylum, and death took place the day after admission.

Two accidents are recorded in the Register. One refers to bruises received by a male attendant, who was suddenly and fiercely attacked by one of the male patients ; and the other to bruises received by a general paralytic, from a fall out of bed at night. The injury to the attendant was much the more serious of the two, but the effects have not proved permanent in either case. No instance of the use of restraint or seclusion in the treatment of the patients has occurred since last visit, or for a considerable time previous to that date.

The impression produced by the inspection of the Asylum was of the most satisfactory kind. No complaints of any kind were made by the patients ; and in several instances voluntary acknowledgement was made of the comforts which they enjoyed, and of the kindness with which they are treated. The accommodation for every class of patient is excellent ; and there was everywhere evidence that the requirements of each individual are carefully studied, and are met in a manner indicative of liberal views and sound judgment. The rates of board are in all cases moderate, considering the kind of accommodation and treatment which is given ; and in cases where special circumstances make it proper, the provision made for the patients is out of all proportion to the amount paid

for it. The special consideration which is shown in this way by the Directors is chiefly given to patients belonging to the Perth district; and it is reasonable that such persons should be regarded as having the first claim on the charitable function of the Institution.

Although so much has been done by the recent alterations and improvements in the building and its adjuncts to bring them into accordance with the best system of treatment, that the Institution is worthy of the high commendation just given, it is necessary to keep in view that in some of the constructive arrangements, features of the old system still exist. It is understood, however, that the removal or modification of the whole of these features is to be carried out as opportunity presents itself. One such change, which it is proposed to effect at once, is the removal of the walls of the female airing-courts, and the conversion of an adjacent court and building into a tennis ground and a skittle alley. In carrying out such changes, several of the gentlemen give willing assistance, and thus obtain for themselves improved health, and the satisfaction derived from engaging in useful work.

Among the improvements at present in contemplation is the furnishing of the ball-room in such a way as will make it suitable for social gatherings of the ladies and gentlemen capable of benefiting from such meetings. This, it is believed, will be found very useful; and, indeed, it may be regarded as necessary to give full effect to the spirit in which the establishment is now managed. In connection with this, it is worthy to note that Dr. Urquhart wisely attaches great importance to

encouraging each patient to exhibit his or her individual taste as to amusement, and to amuse themselves rather than merely submit to being amused. In this way healthy mental action is fostered, and a natural variety is introduced, not only into the proceedings at social gatherings, but also into the details of daily life.

Since last visit the laundry arrangements have been made more efficient by the introduction of shafting, driven by the engine which was used for pumping before the Perth water was introduced. All the wringing and mangling is now done by steam power.

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

JOHN SIBBALD,

Commissioner in Lunacy.





REPORT

BY

DR. ARTHUR MITCHELL,

COMMISSIONER IN LUNACY.

PERTH ROYAL ASYLUM,
12th August, 1884.

There are 85 patients under certificates and 4 voluntary inmates at present on the Registers of the Asylum.

Since the date of last visit the following changes in the population have taken place:—

CERTIFICATED PATIENTS.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Admitted,	...	...	7	10	17
Discharged,	...	...	6	4	10
Died,	...	...	1	4	5

VOLUNTARY INMATES.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Admitted,	...	...	0	0	0
Left,	...	...	1	0	1

The management of the Asylum continues to merit the commendation it has received in all

recent entries. It is characterized by ability and painstaking, and the results are in all respects highly satisfactory. The inmates are skilfully and successfully treated from a medical point of view; and good sense, kindness, and liberality are shown in the general management. The patients enjoy as much freedom as can be safely accorded to them. No less than 16 are on parole beyond the grounds and 22 within the grounds—nearly one-half of the whole population being thus treated as more or less trustworthy. All irksome discipline is as far as possible avoided, and peculiarities in the tastes and habits of the patients are judiciously considered. Much contentment among the inmates naturally follows a management of this kind.

The walled airing-courts on the ladies' side are being converted into a spacious open terrace. When this change is completed there will be no walled airing-court connected with the Establishment.

The arrangements for the extinction of fire are also being put into a state of efficiency.

The comfortable and tasteful furnishing and decoration of the day-rooms and bedrooms, as usual, attracted attention, as did also the good order and scrupulous cleanliness of all parts of the Institution.

Of the seven Chartered Asylums in Scotland this is the only one which is devoted exclusively to the reception of private patients. Soon after the passing of the Lunacy Act of 1857, the

Directors of this Asylum resolved that no persons who were actual paupers should be received into it, and that it should become an Asylum for the middle and upper middle self-supporting classes. This resolution led to the erection of the District Asylum for paupers at Murthly—the cost of its erection being borne, under the Statutes, by the payers of the county assessment.

The Directors of the Asylum, in taking this course, entered on no new policy. The views which led to their resolution in 1857 were the same views as those on which the Charter of the Asylum was framed. In 1826, long before the law provided for the erection of Asylums for pauper lunatics, the Directors of this Asylum recognized (1) that the admission of pauper lunatics at low rates of board would be a regulation, not in favour of the lunatics, but of the heritors of their parishes, and also (2) that there exists a class of lunatics who are not paupers, but whose friends cannot easily afford the expense of taking care of them, and that for such persons it is particularly desirable to provide accommodation in a public institution which has it in its power to exercise a charitable function.

In accordance with these views, the Charter of this Asylum gives its Directors large discretionary powers as to the admission of patients at low rates of board, or even gratuitously; but, in doing so, it expressly provides “that the state of the funds shall admit thereof, and that persons so to be admitted, either at a reduced rate or gratuitously, shall not have legal claims for parochial relief as paupers.”

The Charter, in other words, provides that the Directors, if they receive a pauper lunatic, shall not do so at a loss to the Institution; but it gives them full power to consider the special circumstances of each private patient applying for admission, and to receive him at a low rate of board, or even gratuitously. In short, the Charter provides that all charitable action on the part of the Directors, which their funds permit, shall be confined to private patients in poor circumstances, and shall not be extended to Parochial Boards by keeping their pauper lunatics at unremunerative rates.

In their Report for 1846 the Directors say—
 “It was always understood to be the view of the founder of this Asylum that there would be no propriety in affording relief to absolute paupers, because, to provide for their reception at a smaller rate than would compensate the Institution, would virtually amount to a bequest, not to the poor people themselves, but to the heritors of those parishes who by law are liable for their support. He had no wish and no intention of directing any part of his benevolence in that way; but expressly reserved the same for an entirely different class of society—namely, for persons who, though in poor circumstances, have not a legal claim for parochial relief upon any parish,—in reference to whom the Charter expressly provides ‘that the Directors shall have the power to receive (such) patients for less than the established rates, and even gratuitously, providing that the state of their funds shall admit thereof.’ ”

This expresses the fundamental principle which

has guided, and which still guides, the Directors of the Asylum, and its great importance to the community as a whole cannot be doubted.

The same principle has not guided the management of all the other Chartered Asylums. Some of them—perhaps most of them—have extended charitable action to pauper lunatics, or rather to the ratepayers, by receiving such lunatics at rates which did not yield a full compensation. The result has been that the charitable action of these Asylums towards private patients in straitened circumstances has been more or less restricted. The result, indeed, may have gone beyond this, where Chartered Asylums were used as District Asylums for paupers in a way and to an extent which operated injuriously on their general financial position, and, as the consequence, crippled their usefulness in all directions.

The General Board of Lunacy, in their First Annual Report (p. xxiii.), when noticing the resolution of the Directors of this Asylum to exclude paupers, for whom suitable accommodation had been assured by the Lunacy Act of 1857, remark as follows:—"The Directors of that Establishment have resolved that it shall continue to fulfil its original purpose of being '*a public institution for charitable purposes;*' and as they consider that this purpose would not be fulfilled by the reception of paupers maintained by parochial rates, they have determined to reserve their Asylum for the accommodation of private indigent insane, and of patients belonging to the higher classes." And it is correct to say that the Directors have always acted on the view that they were

conferring a greater benefit on society at large by receiving private patients in straitened circumstances, at low rates of board, than by giving up the Institution mainly to the purpose of a pauper asylum. Since 1864, when the Perth District Asylum at Murthly was opened, there has been practically no pauper lunatic in this Asylum, and a large proportion of the private patients received into it has steadily consisted of persons who were only able to pay low rates of board. To such patients it supplies excellent accommodation, and also other advantages relating to care and treatment, much beyond what could be supplied in a private Asylum, in which there is naturally an effort to obtain large profits—a thing which can scarcely be done, when the rates of board are low, without stinting the comforts and advantages of the patients. To many poor private patients the Asylum acts charitably and beneficently; but it also supplies accommodation of a very high character to patients in affluent circumstances. Of the 89 patients at present in the Institution,

41	pay above	£52	per annum.
18	pay.....	52	”
13	pay.....	50	”
11	pay.....	40	”
6	pay.....	30	”

In concluding this account of the views which have all along guided the Directors of this Asylum in its management, it is satisfactory and important to be able to say that the Institution was never in a more flourishing position financially than at present.

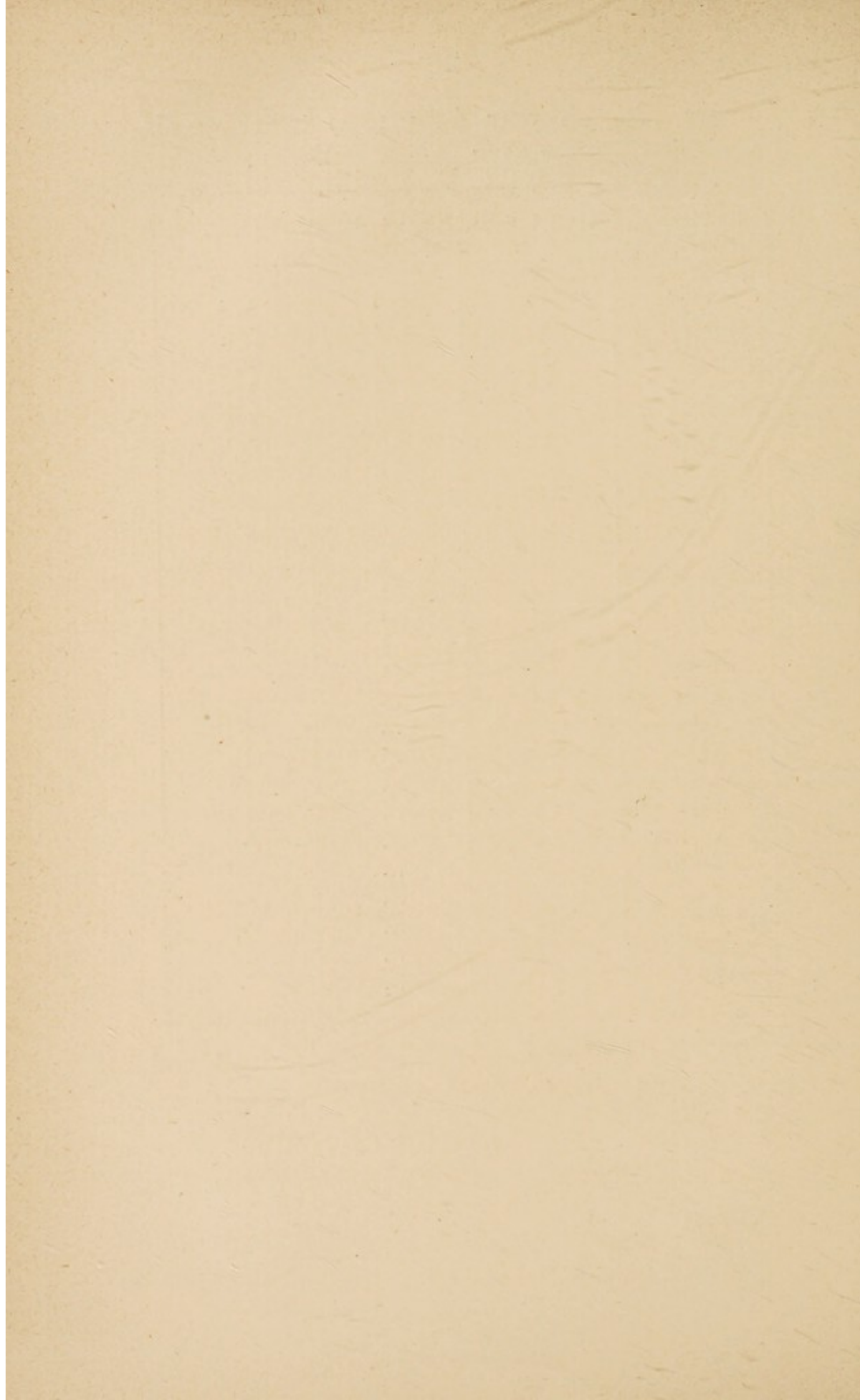
The following statement shows the number of certificated patients in the Asylum on the 1st of

January of each year from 1860 to 1884, distinguishing private from pauper patients :—

Year.	Private Patients.	Pauper Patients.	Total.
1860	76	116	192
1861	78	125	203
1862	73	118	191
1863	69	102	171
1864	69	86	155
1865	71	...	71
1866	69	...	69
1867	60	1	61
1868	63	1	64
1869	74	1	75
1870	89	1	90
1871	85	1	86
1872	84	1	85
1873	85	1	86
1874	78	...	78
1875	74	...	74
1876	71	...	71
1877	71	...	71
1878	69	...	69
1879	63	...	63
1880	72	...	72
1881	82	...	82
1882	75	...	75
1883	73	...	73
1884	81	...	81

The Books and Registers were examined, and were found in excellent order.

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 the admission of Patients should be addressed to the Physician Superintendent, Dr. URQUHART, MURRAY HOUSE, PERTH, from whom may be obtained the statutory forms to be completed before they 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. 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.





ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND
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