

Twelfth report of the Derbyshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

Contributors

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Twelfth Report
 OF
THE DERBYSHIRE
County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

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JOHN BARBER,
 CLERK OF THE PEACE.

County Report

Printed at the County Office, by the County Printer, 1884

THE DERBYSHIRE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

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To the Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby,
assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the
Peace, at Derby, on the 1st day of January, 1864.

The management of the County Asylum, in all its departments, continues to merit unqualified approbation. Everything is done to give to the Institution a domestic character, and to secure to its inmates domestic comforts. Out-door labour on the Farm and Garden is employed with beneficial effect upon the Patients.

We have much pleasure in confirming our opinions by Extracts from the Reports made by the Lunacy Commissioners. In one Report of last year they say:—

“Everywhere there is evidence of the personal attention and unremitting kindness and interest evinced by Dr. and Mrs. Hitchman to the inmates of this Asylum, and of the success which results from their exertions.”

T. PEACH,

Chairman (*pro tempore*).

P.S.—Since the above was written, the Asylum has been again visited by the Commissioners in Lunacy. On the 16th of May, 1864, they report as follows:—

“We have inspected every part of this Asylum to-day, and seen all the Patients. Everything was in its usual excellent order. Such few changes as have been made since our visit in 1863, have added yet more to the gaiety and cheerfulness of the Wards, especially on the female side, and to their thoroughly domestic character; the effect of such arrangements being observable, as on former occasions, in the quiet state and orderly behaviour of the Patients.

“Of the condition of the various single sleeping rooms, and of the associated dormitories we cannot speak too highly. Every provision is made in them to carry out the domestic character of the accommodation which prevails in other parts of the Asylum, and with corresponding effects upon the habits of the Patients.

“Every part of the Asylum bears continued and increasing testimony to the successful management of Dr. and Mrs. Hitchman, and to their unwearied efforts to promote, in all its departments, the welfare and the domestic comfort of the Patients.”

To the Members of the House of the County of Dodge
assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the
Peace at Dodge on the 1st day of January, 1884

The undersigned of the County of Dodge as all its
citizens to have requested and obtained. Everything is done to
give to the institution a permanent character and to secure to it
an ample financial support. Our duty is to see that the
institution is supported with beneficial effect upon the Territory.

We have much pleasure in recognizing our obligations to the
Board of Directors made by the General Sessions in the
report of the year just past.

It is gratifying to find in evidence of the general interest and
unwavering support and interest shown by the Board of Directors
and to the success of this institution, and of the success which results
from their assistance.

E. BRANCH

Chairman (now resigned)
The Board of Directors of the County of Dodge has been
visited by the undersigned in person. On the 1st day of
1884, they report as follows:

We have reported every part of this institution to-day and
seen all the details. Everything was in the most excellent order.
Such improvements as have been made since our visit in 1883 have
added to the value and character of the institution. We
especially note the improvements in the building, the
grounds, the school and other improvements. We are
pleased to see the general interest and support shown by the
Board of Directors.

Of the condition of the various departments, we
of the institution have been most pleased. Every
department is made to them to see that the institution
the accommodation which presents in other parts of the
and with some special views upon the subject of the
institution.

Every part of the institution has been improved and increased
testimony to the successful management of the Board of Directors
and to their unwearied efforts to promote in all its departments the
welfare and the domestic respect of the Territory.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE
DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

January, 1864.

GENTLEMEN,

The rules of my office require that a Report containing the number of admissions and discharges of Patients should be presented annually before you, I therefore beg to state that on the First of January, 1863, there were in the Asylum—of

Males	153
Females	170
	— 323

and that during the year the admission and discharges were as follow—

Admitted	62 Men	53 Women.....	115
Discharged—Cured	28 ,,	28 ,,	56
,, Improved	7 ,,	7 ,,	14
Escaped.....	1 ,,	0 ,,	1
Died	28 ,,	20 ,,	48

There now remain in the House—Three Hundred and Nineteen Patients, classified as follows:—

Private Patients, that is, Patients who are paid for otherwise than by a Parish—

Men.....	3
Women	2

— 5

Pauper Patients—Men	146
Women	168
	— 314
	—
Total	319

General
Statistics.

Since its opening in 1851 the Asylum has found accommodation for one thousand four hundred and thirty three Patients, and it is gratifying to know that not a single case has ever been refused admission for want of room. The population of the county has during the past ten years increased at the rate of fifteen per cent. When the Asylum was opened the population of Derby was 40,609, it is now 43,091; giving a positive increase of 2,482 individuals, while many of the leading towns of the county—which have a prior claim for accommodation for their lunatic poor—have increased in a still larger proportion; *e. g.* Chesterfield, with a population of 7,101 in 1851 has now attained the high number of 9,836, thus, not only relatively but absolutely adding to its population 253 more individuals than Derby has done in a corresponding period of time. Clay Cross, which in 1851 was not deemed of sufficient importance to be separately shown in the Census Abstract of that date, now numbers 3,501 inhabitants. Glossop has added 1,672 persons to the total increase of its inhabitants, while the general increase of the county at large has been no less than 43,243. The above facts are interesting, because when remembered in connection with the number of admissions of Patients into the Asylum, they seem to show that the positive increase of insanity among the inhabitants of this county, although considerable, is not so great as many persons apprehended, and that the numbers of the insane are due, chiefly to the proportionately greater number of the population, the increased longevity of the lunatic, and the publicity which is now given to all existing cases.

The admissions in each year since the opening of the Institution have been as follow—

	Males.	Females.
1851-52	116	96
1853	74	57
1854	76	75
1855	61	72
1856	52	67
1857	46	33
1858	38	43
1859	44	44
1860	58	32
1861	69	54
1862	54	57
1863	62	53
	—	—
	750	683
	—	—

Total 1433

The number of admissions in each year thus fluctuates considerably, and affords much matter for thought. The years 1851-52 have their numbers explained in the fact that the Asylum then received the accumulations of past years from private licensed houses, and the large number of Patients received in the years 1853 and 1854 is explained by the circumstance that,—at that time Patients were received both from Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, during the enlargement, or alteration of their respective County Asylums. There still remain the remarkable contrasts furnished by the years 1858, and 1861, there being 42, or upwards of one-third more Patients received in the one year than in the other. The above table in connection with the numbers now present in the Asylum also teaches another fact in connection with this painful disease. It is a matter of surprise to many, that the Female side of an Asylum should be more full than the Male side ; for although the proportion

Admissions.

of Men to Women in England is as 96·585 to 100 Females, yet, as Man is exposed to greater labour, anxiety, and care, and to greater temptations to moral excesses, it would be fair to infer that the Male Lunatics should exceed in number the Females, and yet, there are in the Lunatic Asylums of this Kingdom 10,880 Females, and only 8,843 Males. It is somewhat more remarkable *a priori* that Female Lunatics should be in apparent majority in this Asylum—inasmuch as the Female sex is not in excess in the population of this County as it is in many others, the actual numbers of the two sexes being 170,486 Men, and 168,841 Women, or a preponderance of 1,645 in favour of the Males. The Asylum is built to receive 175 persons of each sex—and it now contains, as stated above, 146 Men, while there are no less than 168 Women; leaving seven vacancies only on the Female wing, as compared with 29 vacancies on the Male side of the Building; and yet, since the opening of the Asylum there have been 67 more Men admitted than Females. The cures among the latter being in excess of the former, the sad fact is taught—that Men, while more exposed to the influences which produce this terrible malady, are at the same time more prostrated by it, and die earlier. Of 28 Men who have died during the past year, no less than 24 have died from diseases directly affecting the brain—while of the 20 Females who have died, 13 only have sank from diseases having a direct and immediate association with mental derangement. The following is a tabular statement of the immediate causes of death in the respective sexes :—

<u>Men.</u>	<u>Women.</u>
General Paralysis 12	General Paralysis 3
Softening of Brain 4	Paraplegic and Hemiplegic Paralysis 6
Epilepsy 4	Epilepsy..... 3
Exhaustion after Mania 2	Exhaustion after Melancholia 1
Apoplexy 2	Pulmonary Consumption ... 3

Pulmonary Consumption	1	Bronchitis	2
Ulceration of Bowel... ..	1	General Debility and Old	
Disease of Heart	1	Age	2
General Debility	1		
	—		—
	28		20

A very large number of the Patients when admitted were suffering from long continued and incurable disease of the brain, and on the day of their admission the hopeless character of their maladies was recorded of nearly two-thirds of those who have died during the past year. Condition of Patients when Admitted.

It is satisfactory to state, that no case of fever has ever originated within the Institution, nor has any disease of any kind been shown itself which could be traced to defective sanitary conditions. The dysentery and “colliquative diarrhoea,” which were so common, and so fatal among the Pauper Lunatics of a former day, have nearly disappeared under the hygienic arrangements which are now studiously considered in almost every Lunatic Asylum in the kingdom.

On the 22nd of June, R. S., who had been long insane, and who was culpably permitted to be abroad and to carry firearms, was brought to the Asylum. He had many dangerous hallucinations, more especially in reference to her Majesty the Queen. He had shot at two persons and seriously wounded one of them. He was arraigned at Derby Assizes for the offence, but on my evidence to the effect that he was too insane to plead, the Judge directed him to be placed under due control, and he was removed back to Gaol, and subsequently to some Asylum, under the direction of the Secretary of State.

One Patient, R. W., sent from Derby Gaol to this Asylum, effected his escape therefrom by breaking out the cast iron frame of a bed-room window, and then lowering himself from the room by

means of two sheets tied together and fastened to the leg of a bedstead. He was not insane at the time of his escape. He is well known to the Police, through a number of petty offences, but he has not yet been recaptured. I rejoice that a State Asylum, for the reception of prisoners reputed to be insane, is now open at Broadmoor, because ordinary Asylums built for the cure of the insane are not in any way fit for the detention of wicked men, who have feigned insanity to escape the punishment due to crime.

A larger number of despondent and suicidal persons have been admitted, five of whom had previously inflicted deep personal injuries upon themselves; but, owing to the vigilance of the attendants and other causes, not a single case of suicide has occurred during the past year. It is with profound gratitude that I record this pleasing fact:

“Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem, frustra vigilat qui custodit eam.”

Every year's experience reveals the sad fact that the propensity to self-destruction is dependent on physical causes, over which, when once developed, the sufferer has no control. Every year, too, reveals the sad truth, that by some mystic law the propensity is often handed down from parent to offspring. Thus, of the Patients admitted, S. W. attempted to drown herself and was rescued by friends; her son, at liberty, hurls himself from a bedroom window and is destroyed. J. P. and E. P., two sisters, have been admitted in states of profound melancholia, and with a restless, yearning desire to terminate their existence by starvation, or by drowning. Their grandfather, their father, and their father's brother all *attempted* suicide, and their grandfather and uncle were successful in the deed—the former by the painful act of disembowelling himself. J. R., admitted with a self-inflicted wound in his neck, and three similar ones in his arm, is the son of a parent who was despondent and suicidal, and the nephew of one who fell by his own hand. S.

Suicidal Cases

H., admitted in February, had made several ineffectual attempts to destroy himself; his father destroyed himself by cutting his throat, and a brother hung himself. J. G., who has long kept us in much anxiety, has also had to mourn the death of a father, who could not follow the sublime advice of Milton—

“Nor love thy life, nor *hate*; but what thou liv'st
Live well; how long or short permit to Heaven,”

but rather followed the impulse so pathetically described by Hood—

“Mad from life's history,
Glad to death's mystery,
Swift to be hurl'd
Any where, any where
Out of the world!”

The suicidal impulse or mania is as hereditary as any form of mental disease. Although statistical returns demonstrate that England is not entitled to the definition which some French writers have given it, as “*la terre classique du suicide*,” and is exceeded in this misfortune by Prussia, and by France, yet the sad truth remains that upwards of one thousand persons in this kingdom annually perish by their own hands; of these, there can be no doubt that some are urged to this extremity by want of moral courage to brave “the whips and scorns of time;” while of the majority it may safely be said that they are the victims of insane impulse, and deserving of as much sympathy and compassion as those who have sunk from ordinary maladies. All disease is the result of violated law, but there are some diseases, and this peculiarly so, upon which society places a stigma most painful to the survivors of the sufferer. This ought not to be; and I repeat the hope that the time may come when the policies of Life Insurances may not be affected by such a catastrophe, if proof can be given that disease was manifested, and that reasonable supervision and care had been exercised over the deceased.

Painful facts, expressive in their teachings, come daily before the Psychopathic Physician, but not less eloquent ones come before the general public. Any person may recall to mind some great one whose genius has been wrecked, and whose life has been sacrificed under this appalling disease, whether that person's taste may lead him to the romantic ballads of

"The Marvellous Boy,
The sleepless soul that perished in his pride ;"

or to the piety and tenderness of the Olney Hymns ; to the canvas of Hayden, or to the historic page which tells of the brilliant career of Clive ; the benevolent labours of a Romilly, or of the scientific attainments of one, who, emerging from the obscurity of a cottage in Caithness, carved for himself a name among Scotia's noblest sons, and made the "Rocks" bear "Testimony," not only, alas ! to geological changes, but also to the solemn truth of

"How poor, how *abject*, how august,
How complicate, how wonderful is man."

A suicidal patient is *never* safe, yet in the great bulk of cases, the more dangerous period is from the hour of awaking until afternoon. Melancholics, as a rule, become happier as the day advances. Many whose misery, irritability, and peevishness render them wearisome companions in the morning, are cheerful and hopeful in the evening. This is the case with J. S., J. C., and others now in the Asylum. Various experiments have been tried, such as changing the hours of dinner, &c., to ascertain the cause of this peculiarity, but without any satisfactory result. It is mischievous to speculate, or it may be surmised that electric and atmospheric influences, coupled with that law of periodicity which seems to mark all vital phenomena, may be the active agents in producing the result. As a matter of practice, vigilance is especially necessary at and for some time after the hour of the Patient's awaking.

Although the poor are rarely able to trace back even to a great-grandparent the particulars of family history, and often marry without

enquiry as to the antecedents of each other, yet in a large number of cases I have been able to detect that hereditary bias to which I have already referred. Indeed, the Asylum has been open long enough to receive a second generation of the insane, and, as a consequence, during the past year parents and children have been under treatment at the same time (S. B. and J. B.) In 1850, the late Francis Hurt, Esq., (who proposed the erection of this Asylum, who was its first Chairman, and whose benevolence and goodness are the theme of many a peasant's tongue,) introduced me to a person in his neighbourhood whose mental peculiarities attracted notice. His father had been a homicide, and died from self-imposed abstinence from food. I observed that the man's wife was also a person of small brain and feeble intellect, and when I left the cottage I expressed my fears to Mr. Hurt that these people would, by their children, contribute largely to the filling up of the County Asylum. They had no offspring then insane. Time has gone on, and E. W., who has been under treatment during the past year, makes no fewer than three of this family (two daughters and one son) who have been received into this Asylum since its opening in 1851. It is not unusual to have brothers and sisters under treatment at the same time. During the past year there have been six such instances. This family, or hereditary bias, will, in the nature of things, tend to keep up a steady increase in the numbers of the insane. The family of E. W., for instance, is now represented by four insane persons, instead of by one eccentric individual, as in 1850; and although this may be an extreme case, yet it is in principle a type of one of the causes which contributes mainly to the steady increase in the number of Lunatics.

Hereditary
Predisposition

How humane, how patriotic, how sublime would be the self-denial of the children of the insane were they to forego the happiness of marriage, and to lead celibate lives! This is a momentous subject, but thirty years medical experience among the insane urges me to the conclusion, that all the reported causes of mental derangement are insignificant compared to the great,

hidden, but ever operative one of constitutional bias. One man drinks to excess through fifty years of his life and dies sane, another rushes a few times into intemperance and is mad for ever. It is the same with moral influences. Fourteen years additional experience urge me to repeat that in the great majority of cases of insanity, the cause of the malady will be found to be both moral and physical,—that is, there must be previous physical weakness, latent or manifest, in the system, for moral shock to end in permanent lunacy; but in estimating the extent of moral shock, we have no accurate standard for our guidance. The hide of the rhinoceros and the apex of the elephant's trunk differ not more widely in their susceptibility to impressions than the minds of various men. Burns was right,

“Chords that vibrate sweetest pleasure
Thrill the deepest notes of woe.”

But to revert to the different effects produced by apparently the same causes on different minds. I well remember, that on February 28th, 1850, there was tossing in the Straits of Dover, a ship called “The Floridian,” with 200 emigrants on board. It was a most tempestuous day. As the evening drew in, the storm at sea became more fierce, the snow fell fast, darkness covered the deep, and the vessel was in great peril. From some cause, during the night, the officers lost their reckoning: the ship was dashed against the Essex coast, and off Harwich became a wreck. While she was falling to pieces two sailors and an emigrant lashed themselves to the mast, and upon these were floated off amid the breakers. During that long night, and the following day, they were tossed to and fro upon the surging waters, and when at last they were rescued from their perilous position, the sailors were well nigh dead from exhaustion—nay, the emigrant was exhausted in a similar manner, but while rest, warmth, and safety brought back reason, health, and vigour to his companions, they aroused in him the ravings of insanity; thus, in two men out of three, fright, fatigue, and cold, produced *bodily*

exhaustion alone, while in the third, they ended in madness. From him the impress of that fearful night may never pass away—darkness, confusion, and fear may be his for ever!

To expect that the self denial involved in celibacy should be abused, and that too by individuals whose wants are exclusively material, would be futile. We can only for the present, point out the great misfortune which is propagated by the progeny of the insane, and leave the practical adoption of the above suggestion to some after time, when knowledge shall be more diffused, and the great moral laws, which, equally with the physical, effect the destinies of men and nations, shall be more known and respected. In the meantime, it behoves us to mitigate the consequences of violated law in this, as we do in all other forms of disease springing from like cause.

It seems almost a redundant thing to recapitulate annually the general principles upon which the Asylum is regulated. In compliance, however, with the wishes of others who are entitled to respect by virtue of their high office and large experience, and still more by virtue of their benevolent zeal in behalf of the insane, I may mention that the Wards are rendered as cheerful and attractive as they can be at a little expense. We attain this object by means of coloured prints derived from the *Illustrated London News*; by white curtains knitted by the Patients and Attendants; by flowers in the spring, summer, and autumn, and by artificial ones made of paper at home, in the winter, and by the presence of such other cheap and pleasing objects as taste may dictate. A few birds of song, or of beautiful form enhance by their melody and appearance the general effect. The cold "whitewash" of the walls has been long ago displaced by warm colouring, and by pleasing paper, and the practical result is, that the Patients have become more calm and less destructive in proportion as they have been surrounded with agreeable objects. The benefit has been as great among the turbu-

General
Principles of
Management.

lent as with the less violent. Few minds are so abject and lost as to be uninfluenced by surrounding circumstances, and it is not only the sane, but the insane also who find their feelings influenced by external agencies in a manner analagous to that described by Johnson in his memorable sentence, that he envied not the man whose "patriotism was not warmer on the plains of Marathon, or whose piety was not increased amid the ruins of Iona." The poor lunatic removed from a cottage in which darkness, dirt, and disorder predominate, and from which decency is banished by want of room, and placed in a Ward where light, cleanliness, and order are present, at once finds herself (and I use the feminine gender, because in all Asylums the female sex is the most disorderly, mischievous, and noisy,) surrounded by such different circumstances to what she had anticipated, that she begins to exercise a certain amount of self-control, and from an innate sense of propriety, strives to adapt herself to surrounding circumstances. The result is, that wilful damage to a single object of ornament is very rare, a hundred times more rare indeed than was the wilful damage formerly done to a coarse stool, a wooden bowl, or to the barred or wired window admitting light, but excluding the view of the distant landscape. On the male side of the Asylum, *one* Patient only, under the morbid idea that all "images" were a wickedness and an abomination, emulated the zeal of John Knox as an Iconoclast, and destroyed a cheap plaster bust of Wellington, and this is the sum of wilful damage to Ward "ornaments" in that department. Simple incidents illustrate great principles. In a distant Asylum I heard a Superintendent rebuke a Patient for ill behaviour at *Chapel*. The responsive apology was this, "It was no Chapel at all, it was *only the Laundry*." The Laundry having been used on Sundays as the Chapel, the *genius loci* of the place had no influence in inspiring awe or reverence, and the poor woman felt that the blackness was removed from her fault by its being committed in "the Laundry." Again, some years ago I was conducting an intelligent foreigner

through the Wards of the Hanwell Asylum. He spoke somewhat loudly, and asked "Whether the Patients had become more calm since the abolition of mechanical restraints." To this I answered "Yes," when, a female Patient who had had experience of both systems, and who overheard our remarks, rushed forward and said, "To be sure we have; if you want to make a dog savage, what do you do but tie him up, and he becomes so."

These simple facts have large ramifications beyond the precincts of a Lunatic Asylum, and may cause us to reflect whether all the surroundings of the labourers' cottages are such as to contribute to their moral elevation and self respect.

Even when perfect restoration cannot be effected, the ceaseless operation of bland agencies strengthens the minds of the Patients considerably and secures for them a large amount of personal happiness. Moreover, much of positive suffering is averted. In some forms of disease of the brain and spinal marrow the skin loses its conservative power, and "bed-sores" spring up wherever any pressure is made upon it; and these require constant attention,—the use of "water beds" and other resources. J. G. and S. P. were such cases, the latter being blind as well as paralysed. The padded rooms, too, are a pleasing substitute for the manacles and cords in which Patients (G. S. and M. C.) are sometimes brought to the Asylum; while skilled attendants avert much suffering, which often accrues to Patients at home, even from friends, whose fears and anxieties urge them to mischievous appliances. The following entry in the Daily Report Book relates to the condition of a young girl admitted on the 27th of February. "M. C. admitted in a dirty condition. She has a bruise on the right cheek, and the eye of the left side is blackened. Both shoulders are abraded and inflamed; her right arm has been broken, and is united with great displacement and deformity; both elbows are swollen, inflamed, and abraded in parts. There are extensive pustular eruptions on both arms and on the fingers. Body covered with petechial spots;

Benefit of
Asylum to In-
curable Cases.

deep abrasions on the upper parts of the right side, and both legs are dotted all over with superficial bruises."

Such cases, once common, are now becoming rare.

One of the padded rooms during the past year proved a boon to an *uncertified* Patient. On a dreary wet night in October last, a melancholic Patient was brought to the Asylum from Ashborne; on the way, the cab driver was seized with a fit, and a friend in charge of the Patient had to act as driver of the cab. When they reached the Asylum the cabman was delirious; he was received into the Wards, and was so ill through the night as to require the exclusive care of an attendant. The means employed for his recovery were successful, and he became sufficiently well to return home on the following day. The poor fellow had not been drinking,—but from sudden exertion after taking food, or other causes, he had a severe paroxysm of epilepsy, followed by ephemeral maniacal excitement. He had experienced a similar seizure many years ago.

To recapitulate the various forms of Amusement and Instruction supplied to the Patients during the past year would occupy great space. Every Thursday evening through the Winter is, as heretofore, occupied by music, dancing, readings, magic lantern exhibitions, and the like. There is an abundant supply of periodicals and books at all times, also of draughts, dominoes and cards; country excursions, croquet, cricket, quoits, and skittles amuse in the summer. Popular lectures (illustrated by painted scenes, or the products of the country) on China and America have been attended at Derby and elsewhere. At Christmas, in addition to the usual dances, a Dramatic Performance was given, and highly appreciated by the Patients, as was especially a "Negro Entertainment." To the Rev. G. Fritche, to Mr. C. A. Greaves, of Derby, and to the Steward, Mr. Langley, as well as to the Attendants and Nurses, who so successfully conducted the above, my thanks are due. Far re

Amusement
and
Instruction.

moved from Derby or other towns, we are obliged to rely mainly on our own resources to keep up the above requirements, but I cannot deprive myself of the pleasure of expressing my obligations to many of the inhabitants of Findern for the generous manner in which they entertain a large group of Patients at a cricket match, to which they kindly invite them in the summer; as also for cheerfully coming to the Asylum grounds to compete in and witness a return match. And while I thus write generally, I am impelled to name, as especially entitled to my thanks, and to the gratitude of the Patients, Mr. Edmund Pigott of that village, whose services are always cheerfully given whenever he can be useful. Possessed of great dramatic power, with an impassioned love of music, and considerable attainments as a singer, he is of much service, and it is simple history to record that the long road from Findern has never been too miry, or the wintry night too dark or too wet to prevent his walking over to the Asylum whenever his presence is desired to cheer the desponding, or to enhance the happiness of any of his afflicted fellow creatures.

Employments, as compared with which, in reference to their curative power, the above amusements are merely secondary, have been carried out with as much energy and perseverance as were consistent with the physical condition of the Patients. I regret to state that a very large proportion of the admissions have been of men in whom the mental disorder has been associated with great bodily prostration and decay. Numbers now in the house are bodily incapable of labour; their muscular energies are well nigh gone, and to urge them to employment would be to inflict on them deep and permanent injury, and quicken the end to which an incurable disease is hastening them all too rapidly.

At the suggestion of the Commissioners in Lunacy, the Asylum has been visited by several Foreign Physicians of distinction. Dr. Frere, of Moscow, who was commissioned by the Imperial Government of Russia, expressed himself much gratified by his visit; and

Employment.

Visitors.

Dr. Morel, the distinguished Superintendent of the Asylum at Rouen, who visited the Derby County Asylum some time ago, has recently sent over a copy of his work on "Le Non Restraint," in which he writes:—"L' asile de Derby, qui est destine, a plus de 350 malades, m'a semblé, par ses dispositions intérieures et extérieures, être plutôt une maison de plaisance qu'un séjour destiné a la plus triste des infortunes. Il m'a rappelé le délicieux asile de Palerme, que j'ai vu en 1845, et que le baron Pisani a fondé a la fin du siècle dernier dans une villa qui lui appartenait. Dans cet asile la methode repressive a été mitigée, et le calme y a régné avant même que l' on pût se faire à l' idée d'un pareil progrès dans le reste de l' Europe. C'est là ce que constate cette inscription que l'on voit en plusieurs endroits écrite sur les murs ;

Non hic nunc stridor, ruptæque catenæ." (p. 18.)

Chapel.

I have again to report that the Chapel is inconveniently placed, and, moreover, having been built to meet the requirements of the Institution when it contained three hundred patients only, it is not large enough to meet present requirements. The efficiency of the Asylum would be much enhanced if an ecclesiastic edifice were erected on the grounds external to the Asylum, and the unconsecrated room now occupied as a Chapel were added to the present Recreation Hall, which is far too small for its purpose. Were this change carried out by the County Magistrates, the Asylum would be more deserving of the flattering phrase bestowed upon it by the distinguished French philosopher, who, as shown above, calls it "*Une maison de plaisance.*"

Farm.

A new barn and cart-shed, with a room over, and the conversion of the former barn into a stable, built in an economical manner by Mr. Dusautoy, of Derby, have satisfactorily met a great want in the Farm requirements. The Farm, commenced under many and great disadvantages—chiefly due to the neglect of those parties who had

the supervision, when clay was obtained and bricks were made for the building of the Asylum—is now in a condition to be worked with profit and advantage. The farming stock continues to be healthy and good, and have gained prizes for excellence both at the County Show and in the world-wide field of competition afforded by the Royal Agricultural Society's Meeting, which took place last July at Worcester. The Superintendent of the Asylum feels that he has not erred in endeavouring to improve the farming stock of the County generally, and every possible facility has been given to the rate-paying farmers of Derbyshire to benefit by any excellence which may have been achieved at the County Asylum. It may, perhaps, be right to add that no extravagant prices have ever been given for cow stock in the establishment of the herd, and that the Institution has been indebted mainly to the generosity of friends, for whatever may have been required by way of renovating or improving the character or quality of the live stock of the Farm.

The above remarks embrace the leading incidents which have transpired at the Asylum during the year 1863. In conclusion, I wish to observe, that the contract for the reception of Patients from the Borough of Derby expires in November next. Since the opening of the Asylum nearly one-fourth of the admissions have been derived from the Derby Union, and it is with regret that I contemplate the time when the Derby Patients will no longer be treated in this Hospital. The Board of Guardians of Derby have never suffered parsimonious or selfish feelings to clash with their duty towards the Lunatic Poor, but knowing the importance of early treatment in cases of insanity, they have lost no time in placing the sufferer under medical care, and have left his ultimate discharge to the honor and honesty of the Physician, instead of clamorously importuning the Visiting Justices to discharge the Patient from the Hospital before his enfeebled brain has recovered sufficient tone and power to combat anew with the difficulties of life. The Christian liberality with which the Derby Guardians conduct their important office

Borough of
Derby.

meets its reward even in a financial sense, and it would be a happy day for the poor Lunatic, if all Boards of Guardians were to follow their wise and just example.

The size of the present Asylum compels the Committee of Visitors to carry out the notice which has been given to the Borough. There will not be room in future for the reception of both Borough and County Patients, and the claims of the latter are paramount.

The Asylum has hitherto met all the demands upon its resources, notwithstanding that the chronic Lunatics, even including idiots, at present in the Workhouses of Derbyshire, are comparatively few, and do not exceed eighty-nine in number, according to the last Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy. It may, perhaps, tend to mitigate the surprise of some Poor Law Guardians, at the number of Lunatics provided for by this County, to learn that the numbers are still greater in the admirably managed Asylums of some of the adjacent Counties. In Leicestershire and Rutlandshire, embracing a conjoint population of 259,273, there are 345 Patients in the County Lunatic Asylum, and by the last Report of the Commissioners there are in the Workhouses of the Counties not fewer than 164 insane, idiotic, and imbecile persons. In Nottinghamshire, with a population of 293,867, there are 317 Patients in the County Lunatic Asylum, and there were at the last visit of the Commissioners 189 persons of unsound mind in the various Workhouses of the County. In Lincolnshire, with a population of 412,246, there are 456 Patients in the County Lunatic Asylum, and 23 others placed in the Birmingham Borough Asylum pending the enlargement of their County Asylum; while the Commissioners report 124 persons of unsound mind in the various Workhouses of the same County.

The following table illustrates the exact number of Patients in the Asylum chargeable to various Unions of the County, out of a

population of 339,327. It will be seen that the number of Derbyshire Pauper Patients is three hundred and eleven.

PATIENTS CHARGEABLE TO THE UNDERMENTIONED
UNIONS, BELONGING TO THIS COUNTY ON THE
31st DECEMBER, 1863.

Name of Union.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4	7	11
Ashborne	6	3	9
Basford	5	14	19
Belper	24	25	49
Bakewell	14	15	29
Burton-upon-Trent	14	9	23
Chesterfield	20	30	50
Chapel-en-le-Frith	5	6	11
County Treasurer	3	1	4
Derby.....	31	29	60
Ecclesall Bierlow	4	3	7
Glossop	4	9	13
Hayfield	2	4	6
Mansfield	0	2	2
Shardlow	8	7	15
Uttoxeter	1	1	2
Worksop	1	0	1
			311

CHARGEABLE TO OUT COUNTIES.

Leek	0	1	1
Leicester	0	1	1
Newark	1	0	1
			3

The actual number of Lunatics in Asylums increases with the age or duration of the Asylum ; and there is every reason to anticipate that in an energetic county like Derbyshire increasing its population at the rate of 15 per cent., that the average of Pauper Lunatics lodged in Asylums will soon exceed its present low average of 1 in 1091 of the population. This is all the more probable because the County is increasing by the immigration of men attracted by the higher wages of the colliery and iron districts, and exposed to all the influences incident to high wages, hard labour, and excessive drinking.

It should have been previously recorded that the Asylum was minutely inspected during the year by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, who reported as follows :—

“There are to-day in this Asylum 316 Patients ; 148 in the Male Division, and in the Female Division 168. Of these, especially among the men, there are a large proportion of helpless and hopeless cases ; but in both divisions we found the most extraordinary quiet and good order prevailing. Not a single Patient in either was noisy or disorderly at the time of our visit.

“It is impossible not to connect the satisfactory condition of the Patients in this respect with the comfortable and cheerful aspect of the galleries and day-rooms ; with the great variety of objects in them calculated to interest and please their inmates ; and with the thoroughly domestic character of the furniture, decoration, and arrangements generally. In no part of the Female Division is this more observable than in what is called the Refractory Ward, where hardly any damage is at any time done to the plants, artificial flowers, or pictures abundantly placed in it ; and of which we are informed the Patients themselves take special charge, and are most efficient in preventing mischief. Of the means by which so much lightness and cheerfulness are given to all the Wards in this Asylum,

it is also to be remarked that they are of the cheapest and most inexpensive kind ; a very considerable portion being the handywork of the Patients themselves. Among the additions recently made is that of a clock in each gallery.

“ The regularity and frequency with which amusements are provided, and the monotony of the ordinary asylum existence broken, are another obvious cause of the favourable condition of the inmates. Besides other and ample resources for entertainment and occupation in the galleries, an evening is set apart each week for reading, music, games, or dancing ; and some farces were played at Christmas with great success. The want of a large room for these purposes is, however, much felt ; and the utter inadequacy of the present Chapel accommodation, joined to the fact that the room used as a Chapel joins the Recreation Hall, induces us once more to repeat the suggestion made at the two last visits, and to urge the great desirability of building a new Chapel, and using the old one, for making yet more effective what already has been attended by such admirable results.

“ We found the various single rooms and dormitories in excellent order, and the ventilation as well as the warming of the building in every part is most efficient. The curtains to the windows in the galleries and large dormitories, and the slips of carpeting in the single, as well as associated sleeping rooms, now in all the wards of both divisions, add greatly to the comfort and domestic look everywhere. We are glad also to see the variety of dresses among the Patients, and the good and suitable material, especially on the female side. Throughout the Asylum there were only two Patients in strong dresses.

“ Restraint is not employed here, and the instances of seclusion, of which the majority appear among the men, have been very infrequent since our last visit. Notwithstanding the large number of

paralytic and epileptic cases, the returns of last night shew no dirty beds, and only nine wet—three men and six women, chiefly epileptics. There are 24 patients under treatment, but the general health is very good.

“ Since the visit on the 27th of January, 1862, the deaths have been 42; but this number is to be accounted for by the many cases admitted in advanced states of paralysis and epilepsy. These have been the chief causes of mortality, with phthisis and apoplexy. There has also been one suicide, of which the particulars were detailed in the Report for 1862.

“ The admissions since the last visit have been 113, and the discharges 59. Of the latter 52 had recovered. There is now vacant space for 34 cases; 27 among the men, and 7 only among the women. It is proposed, however, immediately to obtain additional space on the female side for 18 Patients, by putting another floor on what is called the Infirmary Ward.

“ The Patients regularly employed are on the male side, 71 of whom the majority work in the farm and garden; and on the female side 86 engaged chiefly in the laundry and needle work.

“ We saw the dinner to-day, which consisted of boiled beef and potatoes and beer, of very good quality, and served with care and neatness. Everywhere there is evidence of the personal attention, and unremitting kindness and interest evinced by Doctor and Mrs. Hitchman to the inmates of this Asylum, and of the success which results from their exertions.

“ JOHN FORSTER, } Commissioners in
 “ JAMES WILKS, } Lunacy.”

It gives me great pleasure to state that (with the exception of one Male Attendant, who was dismissed for his misconduct) the Attendants and Nurses have discharged their duties with industry and efficiency; and that I continue to be aided with zeal and ability by Mr. Langley, the Steward, and by the Chief Attendants on the male and female side of the Institution.

I cannot conclude this Report without expressing my gratitude to the Committee for the kind support which they have always rendered me in the discharge of my duties, and

I beg to remain, with sincere respect,

Your faithful and obliged Servant,

JOHN HITCHMAN.

ABSTRACT OF REPORT FOR 1863.

Patients in the Asylum on the 1st of January, 1863 :—

Males.....	153	}	323
Females.....	170		
Admitted during the year	{ 62 Men	}	115
	{ 53 Women ...		
Discharged Cured	{ 28 Men	}	56
	{ 28 Women ...		
„ Improved	{ 7 Men	}	14
	{ 7 Women ...		
Escaped	1 Man		1
Died	{ 28 Men	}	48
	{ 20 Women ...		

Remaining in the Asylum on 31st of December, 1863 :—

Men	149	}	319
Women	170		

Of the above five are Private Patients, and three are Pauper Patients chargeable to other Counties. The actual number of Pauper Lunatics in the Asylum at the end of 1863, chargeable to Derbyshire, were 311, or 1 in 1,091 in a population of 339,327, which may be regarded as a low average.

General Statement of Receipts and Payments between January 1st and December 31st, 1863.

DR.		CR.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1862	2069 18 2	Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st of December, 1862	1542 4 3
Ditto in Steward's hands	53 14 5	Officers' Salaries to Ditto	200 0 0
	<u>2123 12 7</u>		<u>1742 4 6</u>
RECEIPTS.			
Sundry Sales	35 15 0	Provisions	3440 8 2
Officers' Uniform	24 6 0	House and other Expense	1437 15 11
	<u>60 1 0</u>	Clothing	541 3 0
Maintenance of Patients from Unions and Parishes belonging to this County	7636 2 11	Salaries and Wages	1909 16 10
County Treasurer	94 9 8	Extras for Sick	232 14 7
Unions and Parishes belonging to Out Counties	147 15 5	Supplies to Farm and Garden	7561 18 3
Private Patients	152 2 0	Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1863	2137 15 11
Funerals	33 7 6	Ditto in Steward's ditto	58 3 6
	<u>8063 17 6</u>		<u>2195 19 5</u>
Accounts due to Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st December, 1863	1337 4 7		
Officers' Salaries to Ditto	200 0 0		
	<u>1537 4 7</u>		
	<u>£11,784 15 8</u>		<u>£11,784 15 8</u>

Examined.

Signed { L. E. MANN.
E. WILMOT.

JOHN LANGLEY,
Clerk and Steward.

ARTICLES MADE BY THE FEMALE PATIENTS,

Between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1863.

Aprons.	204
Blinds.	22
Bonnets.	72
Bolster Cases.	247
Boot Uppers.	122
Bed Quilts.	5
Caps, Women's.	110
Caps, Men's.	72
Chemises.	249
Curtains.	33
Carpets.	102
Covers.	10
Dusters.	333
Drawers.	32
Gowns.	201
Do. Night.	53
Handkerchiefs.	204
Jackets	18
Mattress Cases.	41
Mantles	4
Pinafores.	41
Pillow Cases.	25
Pericoats.	92
Sheets.	286
Shirts, Linen.	245
Shirts, Flannel.	104
Stays.	50
Stocks.	144
Stockings.	266
Shrouds.	51
Table Cloths.	40
Towels.	140

The whole of the Clothing and Bedding for the Patients is Made and Repaired in the Asylum.

ORDINARY DIET.

	BREAKFAST.						DINNER.												SUPPER.											
	Males.			Females.			Males.						Females.						Males.			Females.								
	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.	Bread.	Beer.	Uncooked Meat.	Pie or Pudding.	Soup.	Stew.	Vegetables.	Bread.	Beer.	Uncooked Meat.	Pie or Pudding.	Soup.	Stew.	Vegetables.	Beer.	Bread.	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.
Sunday	6	1	5	1	6	1	1	7	..	..	..	12	1	1	1	7	..	..	..	12	1	6	5	2	5	1	1	2	5	1
Monday	6	1	5	1	6	1	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	6	5	2	5	1	1	2	5	1
Tuesday ...	6	1	5	1	6	1	6	7	..	..	..	12	1	1	1	7	..	..	..	12	1	6	5	2	5	1	1	2	5	1
Wednesday	6	1	5	1	6	1	6	7	..	..	..	12	1	1	1	7	..	..	..	12	1	6	5	2	5	1	1	2	5	1
Thursday ..	6	1	5	1	6	1	6	..	..	..	12	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	12	..	1	6	5	2	5	1	1	2	5	1
Friday	6	1	5	1	6	1	6	7	..	..	..	12	1	1	1	7	..	..	..	12	1	6	5	2	5	1	1	2	5	1
Saturday...	6	1	5	1	6	1	6	..	14	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	14	..	..	..	1	6	5	2	5	1	1	2	5	1

Workers $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer extra at 11 o'clock a.m., and at 4 o'clock p.m.
 Laundry Women, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer, with Bread and Cheese, at 11 o'clock a.m., and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer at 4 o'clock p.m.
Great additions are made to the above table; Epileptic, palsied, aged, and weakly Patients are allowed extra diet, such as Pounded Meat, Fish, Rice, Egg, Tapioca, Sago, and Arrowroot Puddings; with Porter, Brandy, or Wine, under the direction of the Superintendent-Physician.

DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

Average Weekly Cost

OF

MAINTENANCE, MEDICINE, CLOTHING, AND
CARE OF PATIENTS,

During the Year ending December 31, 1863.

	£	s.	d.
Provisions	0	4	1½
Clothing	0	0	7¾
Salaries and Wages.....	0	2	3¼
Necessaries, Fuel, Light, and Washing.....	0	0	10
Surgery and Dispensary.....	0	0	0¾
Wine, Spirits, and Porter	0	0	2¾
Furniture and Bedding	0	0	6¾
Garden and Farm	0	0	3
Miscellaneous, viz.—Rates and Taxes, Periodicals, Printing, Stamps, Stationery, Carriage of Goods, and Insurance	0	0	2¾
		0	9 2½
Less Receipts from Sales	0	0	0¾
		0	9 1¾

Average Daily Number of Patients, 324.

