

Thirteenth report of the Derbyshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

Contributors

Derbyshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.
Blane, Hugh Seymour, Sir.
Hitchman, John.
Langley, John.
Forster, John, 1927-1982.
Gaskell, S.

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183 Euston Road
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Thirteenth Report

OF

THE DERBYSHIRE

County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

SIR HUGH SEYMOUR BLANE, BART. (CHAIRMAN).

THE HON. A. H. VERNON.

SIR HENRY SACHEVERELL WILMOT, BART.

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WILLIAM MUNDY, Esq.

THOMAS PEACH, Esq., M.D.

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EDWARD RADFORD, Esq.

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ASHTON MOSLEY, Esq.

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JOHN BROADHURST, Esq.

CHARLES EDMUND NEWTON, Esq.

EDMUND WILMOT, Esq.

TREASURER..... GEORGE CROMPTON, Esq.

SUPERINTENDENT PHYSICIAN DR. HITCHMAN.

CHAPLAIN THE REV. WM. FINDLEY.

CLERK AND STEWARD..... MR. JOHN LANGLEY.

JOHN BARBER,

CLERK OF THE PEACE.

*To the Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby,
assembled at their General Quarter Sessions of the
Peace at Derby, on the 3rd of January, 1865.*

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

The arrangements and conduct of this Asylum continue in every department to merit, in its fullest sense, the unqualified approbation recorded by the Commissioners and by ourselves.

The Rev. George Fritche having resigned his Office of Chaplain, the Rev. William Findley was on the 12th of March, 1864, appointed in his place.

So many of the Borough Patients as could, without interference with any County Patients, be retained in the Asylum, have been so retained temporarily, subject to immediate removal, if space should be required for County Patients.

H. SEYMOUR BLANE,

CHAIRMAN.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE
DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

In fulfilling the Rule which requires that an Annual Report be made by the Resident Physician, it gives me pleasure to state that the Institution has been, and is, in the condition which an ancient writer describes as a happy one when applied to Nations, in the terse sentence,—“ Happy is the nation whose annals are few.”

During the present year there have been admitted into the Asylum, forty-eight Men and forty-two Women, making a total of One Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty-three Patients admitted since the opening of the Institution in August, 1851.

At the commencement of 1864, there were three hundred and nineteen Patients under treatment,—namely, one hundred and forty-nine Men, and one hundred and seventy Women, and at the close of the year the numbers were—one hundred and sixty Men, and one hundred and sixty-three Women, being in excess of four only, at the close, as contrasted with the beginning of the year; but the relative proportions of the Sexes had changed considerably, there being eleven Men more, and seven Women less, than at the commencement of the year.

Of the ninety Patients admitted, more than one-fourth was either congenitally idiotic, paralysed, or epileptic. Some were brought in states of great exhaustion. One, E. S., was so ill, and

so covered with bruises when admitted, that I deemed it necessary to have a Coroner's Inquest at his death, which occurred in four days after his arrival at the Asylum. It appeared in evidence, that the bruises had been caused by his leaping from a window, and by falls among timber when pursued, and captured by his friends, and that his death ensued from natural causes. One Patient died in eight days, a second in seven days, and a third in five days after admission, and several others were obviously sinking from long standing disease of the Brain and other organs. Others were worn down by labour, poverty, and age—thus one Patient was received at seventy-two years of age, two at seventy-eight years, one at seventy-nine, and one at eighty years of age. These causes have, of course, contributed to the number of deaths; but the deaths, I am happy to state, have not reached so high an average as 10 per cent. of all under treatment.

The causes of Death in the eighteen Men, and twenty Women who have died, were as follows —

General Paralysis	6
Softening of Brain with Paralysis...	4
Epilepsy, and its consequences ...	12
Apoplexy	2
Exhaustion after Mania	4
Inflammation of Bowels	1
Pulmonary Consumption	4
Senile Gangrene	2
Old age	2
Gastric Fever	1

The value of early treatment may be illustrated by the following facts:—Up to the last month, and I exclude the last month solely

because the time of treatment is too brief for stating results, Twenty Patients, and twenty only, free from Epilepsy, or Paralysis, have been admitted within a month of the first onset of their Insanity; and of these eleven, or more than one-half, have been discharged, *cured*; four others are progressing most satisfactorily; while two died from exhaustion,—thus leaving only three doubtful ones under treatment; and of these, one will, I think, ultimately recover; thus, giving as the *realised* result of treatment upwards of 60 per cent. of Cures in cases of recent origin uncomplicated by serious organic disease; and a still larger per centage may fairly be anticipated when the condition of the cases still under treatment is taken into consideration. This is an eloquent contrast to the result of chronic cases in which five or six per cent. can with difficulty be realised even in the most successful Institutions.

During the year the Patients have been employed and amused as heretofore. Every Thursday evening throughout the Winter they have been instructed by Lectures and Readings, and amused by Music, Dances, and Magic Lantern Exhibitions, and occasionally by Theatrical Performances. In the Summer months they make long excursions into the country, have dances in the open air, and play at cricket weekly. Some of the Male Patients have enjoyed two public cricket matches during the year, and it is again my pleasing duty to refer to the kindness and hospitality of the inhabitants of Findern, who not only provided a field, but a cricket company also, and crowned the whole by a generous supper to the Patients in the evening. At Shrovetide football is indulged in; and Easter and Whitsuntide, open-air games are resorted to, and much amusement is obtained from foot-races, wheelbarrow matches, jumping in bags, and other improvised games; while Christmas Eve is always characterised by a long and joyous succession of dances, songs, and theatrical performances; and Christmas Day by a more solemn, but not a less appreciated service in

the chapel, and by a generous dinner, and other indulgences afterwards.

Divine Service is always looked forward to with interest, and every Sabbath finds the Chapel full of earnest and devout worshippers. A larger and better Chapel is much needed, and I would fain respectfully repeat my former hope, that the day may not be distant when an ecclesiastical structure shall be raised at this Asylum as appropriate, and as beautiful, as the Chapels which now adorn the grounds of Wakefield, Prestwich, Chester, and other County Asylums.

Morning and Evening Prayers have been conducted daily in the Wards as heretofore.

It is with profound satisfaction that I am able to record that there has been no Suicide, nor any permanent escape from the Asylum, during the past year.

At Easter the Rev. George Fritche, to whom the Patients were much attached, and who had discharged the duties of Chaplain for nine years, left the office to enter upon the Rectory of King's Newton, in Warwickshire, and he has been succeeded at this Asylum by the Rev. Wm. Findley, Vicar of Willington, who has performed the sacred functions of his office with undeviating punctuality, and with much acceptableness and zeal.

At the end of April, Miss Julia Probyn, who had discharged the duties of Chief Nurse on the female side for upwards of nine years, was appointed to the important office of Matron to the large County Asylum at Inverness in Scotland. I am happy to state that in her successor, Miss Hearder, the Asylum possesses a most active, skilful, and benevolent officer.

The General Statistics of the Hospital have been as follows :—

Admitted.....	Men	48	}	90	
„	Women	42			
<hr/>					
Discharged—Cured	Men	17	}	38	
„	Women	21			
„	Improved...	Men	2	}	7
„	„	Women	5		
„	Unimproved...	Men	1	}	3
„	„	Women	2		
„	Died.....	Men	18	}	39
„	„	Women	21		

Remaining in the Asylum, December 31st, 1864 :—

Men	160	}	323
Women	163		

I have again the satisfaction to record that I continue to receive valuable and cordial aid from Mr. Langley, the Steward, in all that relates to the employment and amusements of the Patients ; and that the conduct of William Joyce, who has acted as chief Male Attendant of the Asylum since its opening, and of the Attendants and Servants generally, merits my approbation.

On the 16th of May the Asylum was minutely inspected by two of Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, who left the following Report :—

“ Derby, County Asylum, 16th May, 1864.

“ We have inspected every part of this Asylum to-day, and seen all the Patients, none of whom were absent on leave. Everything was in its usual excellent order. Such few changes as have been made since the visit of the 16th of January, 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, notwithstanding the large preponderance in this Asylum of epileptic and demented cases.

“The numbers to-day being 149 men, and 169 women—in all 318—are in excess of those at the visit of January, 1863, by only one of each sex. On both sides they were singularly free from excitement; and the clothing, particularly of the women, was uniformly neat and good. The variety of material in the Patient's dresses here is deserving of remark.

“Since the last visit one of the Female wards has been papered in the upper part; and all the rest have been re-washed with a light, cheerful colour; the same being now in progress in the Men's division, with extremely good effect. All the various ornaments and objects of interest throughout the Asylum, the majority of which are the work of the Patients, such as articles of knitting and embroidery, artificial flowers, curtains, valances, and covers to the furniture, are kept up with great completeness; and the plants, pictures, birds, and other domestic animals, have been increased considerably. We observe, also, with pleasure, the new arrangement by which a Circulating Library of books and papers, is established in the several wards; the numbers assigned to each being changed every month, and a framed list of the books in current use being hung up in all the galleries.

“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 effect, upon the habits of the patients.

“ Though the female side is as full as consists with comfort, the ventilation of these rooms is excellent ; and here a single wet-bed is of infrequent occurrence, notwithstanding the large numbers of demented and epileptic. On the men’s side four were wet last night ; two-thirds of their whole numbers belonging to the classes last referred to. The change mentioned in the last entry as then in contemplation for provision of 18 additional single beds, has not been carried out ; the room desired being intended now to be obtained by removal of the Borough Patients, who are at present under notice for termination of the Contract in November next. During the past year, however, a very considerable, and well-furnished dormitory has been opened in the Infirmary ward.

“ As to other changes, in that interval, we have to report that new urinals of good construction have been placed in the Male division ; that the small lobbies leading into the several wards, have been lighted ; that some improvements, including a new barn, stable, cart-house, and room over, have been made in the farm buildings, and that 20 additional acres of pasture land are now rented by the Committee. In some of the airing courts there is a capability of improvement, of which advantage will, we trust, be taken, by greater attention to the turf, and by planting additional trees. Sun-shades are now provided, by means of tents, which are at present in course of erection for the summer.

“ The same sufficient arrangements for outdoor exercise and for regular recreation of the inmates, continues to be made. The Thursday in every week, is always set apart for this purpose, and there are singing classes on Saturdays. We have again to remark upon the valuable addition that would be made to the means in this respect so beneficially employed by Dr. Hitchman, if the recreation hall were enlarged by taking in the adjoining room, now quite inadequate as a chapel to the wants of the Asylum. The numbers attending Chapel are limited by the space, and would be greater if

there were more accommodation for them. The Sunday attendants average about 140. The proportion of both sexes regularly employed, 75 on the Men's side, and between 80 and 90 on the Women's, are also about the same as formerly.

Since the visit of January in last year, 146 Patients have been admitted—76 Men, and 70 Women; 81 have been discharged—42 Men and 39 Women; and 62 have died—32 Men, and 30 Women. Of those discharged, 33 of each sex had recovered. The deaths of which the largest proportion was of cases admitted in advanced stages of hopeless disease, were chiefly from Epilepsy, General Palsy, and Softening of the Brain. Eighteen Patients are at present under treatment for disorders of a grave kind. There is never any restraint here, and the seclusion has not been very frequent, averaging during the last quarter of a year, nine patients of both sexes for periods not longer than three to six hours. We take occasion to remark that the arrangements for bathing the Patients ought to be so made that never more than three are placed in the same water.

Every part of this 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.

JOHN FORSTER.
S. GASKELL.

The Committee will, I trust, consider the above Report a most satisfactory one; and, at the same time, permit me to thank them for the kind and generous support which they have given to me in the discharge of my duty.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN HITCHMAN, M.D.,
Physician to the Asylum.

January, 1865.

RENTS FROM REAL ESTATE

Description of Property		Gross Rental		Less Expenses		Net Rental	
		1917		1917		1917	
1. Rental from land							
2. Rental from buildings							
3. Rental from other real estate							
Total							

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE 1ST DAY OF JANUARY TO THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1864.

Examined.	(Signed)	EDWD. RADFORD. CHAS. EDMD. NEWTON.	JOHN LANGLEY, CLERK & STEWARD.
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General Statement of Receipts and Payments between January 1st and December 31st, 1864.

Dr.			Cr.		
£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1863 2137 15 11					
Do. in Steward's hands 58 3 6					
RECEIPTS.			1537 4 7		
Sundry Sales 35 17 0					
Officers' Uniform 24 3 0					
Transfer 52 19 4					
Maintenance of Patients from Unions and Parishes belonging to this County			112 19 4		
County Treasurer 7633 11 3					
Unions and Parishes belonging to Out Counties 94 15 6					
Private Patients 80 8 9					
Funerals 261 6 0					
Accounts due to Tradesmen for supplies to the 31st December, 1864			34 2 6		
Officers' Salaries to Ditto			8104 4 0		
1498 0 1			2076 13 10		
200 0 0			£12,111 2 10		
1698 0 1					
£12,111 2 10					
Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st December, 1863 1337 4 7					
Officers' Salaries to ditto..... 200 0 0					
PAYMENTS.			3698 13 8		
Provisions 1695 14 1					
House and other Expenses 532 4 6					
Clothing 1989 12 10					
Salaries and Wages..... 209 15 10					
Extra for Sick..... 8126 0 11					
Supplies to Farm and Garden 371 3 6					
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1864 2020 3 1					
Ditto in Stewards' hands 56 10 9					
			£12,111 2 10		

Examined,

Signed { EDWARD RADFORD.
CHAS. EDMD. NEWTON.

JOHN LANGLEY,
Clerk and Steward.

ARTICLES MADE BY THE FEMALE PATIENTS,

Between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1864.

Aprons.	155	51	177	2	163	209	222	29	224	177	7	4	23	36	61	144	217	184	52	27	39	2	185	66	30	246	111	26	3	46	159	339	67	40	34	102
Bonnets.																																				
Bolster Cases.																																				
Bed Quilts.																																				
Caps, Women's.																																				
Caps, Men's.																																				
Chemises.																																				
Drawers.																																				
Gowns.																																				
Handkerchiefs.																																				
Jackets																																				
Manies																																				
Mattress Cases.																																				
Pillow Cases.																																				
Pinafores.																																				
Stocks.																																				
Sheets.																																				
Shirts, Linen.																																				
Shirts, Flannel.																																				
Stays.																																				
Shrouds.																																				
Strong Dresses.																																				
Towels.																																				
Table Cloths.																																				
Vests.																																				
Knitted Hose.																																				
Petticoats.																																				
Curtains.																																				
Chair Covers.																																				
Carpets.																																				
Boot Uppers.																																				
Dusters.																																				
Blinds.																																				
Nets.																																				
Bags.																																				
Iron Holders.																																				

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

ORDINARY DIET.

	DINNER.										SUPPER.														
	BREAKFAST.					Males.					Females.					Males.					Females.				
	Males.		Females.			Beer.	Bread.	Uncooked Meat.	Pie or Pudding.	Soup.	Stew.	Vegetables.	Beer.	Bread.	Uncooked Meat.	Pie or Pudding.	Soup.	Stew.	Vegetables.	Beer.	Bread.	Cheese.	Bread.	Butter.	Tea.
	Bread.	Milk Porridge.	Bread.	Milk Porridge.	Bread.																				
Sunday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	5	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1
Monday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1
Tuesday ...	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	5	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1
Wednesday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	5	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1
Thursday ..	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	5	12	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1
Friday	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	5	7	12	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1
Saturday ...	6	1	5	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	..	14	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	5	..	14	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	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, 1864.

	s.	d.
Provisions	4	4
Clothing	0	7½
Salaries and Wages.....	2	4¼
Necessaries, Fuel, Light, and Washing.....	0	11¾
Surgery and Dispensary	0	0½
Wine, Spirits, and Porter	0	2¼
Furniture and Bedding	0	6¾
Garden and Farm	0	2¾
Miscellaneous, viz.—Rates and Taxes, Periodi- cals, Printing, Stamps, Stationery, Car- riage of Goods, and Insurance	0	2¾
	9	6½
Less Receipts from Sales	0	1½
	9	5

Average Daily Number of Patients, 324

