

10
THE THIRTIETH

R E P O R T

OF THE DIRECTOR

OF THE

WEST-RIDING OF YORK


P A U P E R

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Wakefield:

ROWLAND HURST, PRINTER, WESTGATE.

1849.



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R E P O R T.

THE completion, during the past year, of the New Building, with the consequent changes and improvements, have made the Institution sufficiently fitted to the purpose for which an Asylum is intended.

Accommodation is now provided for all applications made for admission, and means afforded for a more improved classification of the Patients; and greater comfort has been provided by increased space, improved ventilation and warming, with a light and cheerful locality.

As regards the general principles on which the Institution is conducted, no material alteration has been found necessary. The addition of a large auxiliary building has required some changes in the domestic arrangements; such, as the removal of the Assistant Matron and the House Surgeon from their residence in the Old Building to the apartments provided for them in the New; as also the adoption of the convenience furnished in the newly-built laundry, bakehouse, and brew-house. All matters of merely domestic economy have been adapted to the requirements of the two Institutions. Moral and medical treatment has been a continuous system founded on long tried principles.

So large a number of admissions has not at any former period appeared in the annual reports. Of the 257 admitted

during the last year, 118 were males, 139 females. Many townships have sent, at once, the whole number of their insane paupers, who had been placed in various private houses until the enlargement of the Asylum rendered it fit for their reception.

In such an influx of hopeless cases, the prospect of cure must have been very faint, whilst in many instances it was but too apparent that the patient was merely admitted to die. Many of the friends of such patients have warmly expressed their gratitude for the care and attention the sufferers have received during the short period of their continuance in the House, and in not a few cases the assiduous labours and watchings of the attendants have met a recompence in the thankfulness of these objects of their care.

In addition to 53 patients discharged cured, some have been sent home on trial for a month, according to the provisions of the Act, 8 & 9 Vic., c. 126. These have remained with their families in a satisfactory state.

Mental disease has been deprived of much that was formidable by the influence of modern improvements, demonstrating as they have done, that it is curable to as great an extent as other diseases with which the human race is afflicted.

It appears to be clearly proved that of cases in which there is no constitutional defect in the intellectual faculties, and where proper remedial means are adopted in the early stages of the malady, the proportion of cures is as large as 86 per cent. Few acute diseases will afford so large a proportion of recoveries.

That the chief obstacle to a more general recovery of persons attacked, by their immediate removal to an Asylum, is giving way under the prevalence of an improved tone of public opinion cannot be disputed; but there is still too great a reluctance to send patients to the Asylum, until every other means is unavailing. A hope is cherished by

anxious friends from day to day, but cherished only to be disappointed, that the sufferer will be restored to reason without a measure" so decidedly acknowledging to the world, the insanity of a relative. Thus, the mistaken kindness of friends has unquestionably been the cause of confirming the disease in innumerable instances. If the advice of those who are practically well informed in the treatment of such diseases is sought, a practised physician would not recommend the removal of all patients to an institution of the kind; he well knows there are moral causes operating on natures of extreme susceptibility, which would render a removal from home and domestic ties highly prejudicial, if not fatal; but these may be regarded rather as forming the exception, than the rule.

Many admissions of the past year may be more properly termed re-admissions,—out of the 257, twenty-five had at some former period been inmates of the Institution.

When the predisposing causes of insanity are such as poverty, drunkenness, excess of labour, and domestic discord, a return to the like causes is productive of the same effects. The chief alleviation is found in the willingness and confidence with which the patients return to the Asylum, they being often the first parties to solicit their parish officers that they may be again brought to it.

On the opening of the New Auxiliary Institution, its appropriation entirely to the use of female patients was contemplated, whilst it was proposed that the original building should be exclusively occupied by the males. In some particulars this appeared a desirable arrangement, but the two buildings are brought into such close vicinage, that the windows of the one building open into the airing courts of the other, consequently considerable changes in construction would have been required to effect a sufficient separation, and the old plan of separating the sexes in the west and east wings by the residence of the officers and servants in the centre or main body of the building was decided on.

There are at present in the old building, 190 males, 296 females ; in the new building, 81 males, 118 females, making in all 585. Of this number there are,

Curable	98
Doubtful of cure	109
Incurable	378

The last year has included in its obituary many of the older inmates, who have sunk from accumulated infirmities and old age. One male patient is still living who was amongst the first admitted on the opening of the Asylum, and he has numbered the thirtieth anniversary of his admission ; some few there are who have been inmates from twenty to twenty-five years.

To these a sort of precedence is given, a priority, if not in age, at least in suffering, which gives them a claim on the benevolent consideration of all. So far from the indulgence shown by their attendants being regarded with any degree of jealousy, it generally appears to be with the full concurrence and approbation of the rest ; nor is it regarded as a departure from the principle of treating all alike whose merits are equal.

In a report intended for circulation amongst a non-medical body, it would be inexpedient to enter at any length on the medical treatment employed.

When the constitution is impaired, as is often found to be the case in insanity, attention to the improvement of the digestive organs, generous, but not too stimulating diet, with as much exercise in the open air as the patient can bear, have been the means by which restored bodily health has led to mental recovery. A constipated state of the bowels is so frequently observed in the insane, that much care is required on the part of the attendants. It sometimes however happens that the loss of sleep is experienced by patients who are not greatly excited ; the recovery of natural sleep has produced a perfect restoration of the mind.

Amusements have been less encouraged amongst us than they have been in some other Institutions, for the plain reason that the household is composed of a class by whom they are not very readily appreciated, and who having learned to labour for their daily bread, and to find their happiness in the patient discharge of their duty are apt to consider amusement as an evidence of idleness or dissipation. Without doing violence to so innocent a prejudice, some of the most morose have been beguiled into cheerfulness by the sight of their companions enjoying a game of skittles, &c.; the gloomy and inactive have been aroused and persuaded to join in the dance so productive of pleasure to the rest.

In fine weather, nothing in the nature of amusement appears to exercise so happy an influence on those patients who are capable of enjoying it, as long walks in the country. That sympathy with the objects of nature which forms so large a portion of man's happiness in the world is not wholly lost in insanity, and the change of air, the wholesome exercise, and the sense of freedom, cast a cheering influence on the mind obscured by gloomy fears or harassed by delusions.

Of all the means employed for the alleviation and cure of insanity, none can stand in competition with actual labour, whether in or out of doors. The superfluous energy of the nervously excited is thrown off in healthy channels, the natural secretions are encouraged and the bodily functions called into wholesome exercise, whilst the moral feelings are improved by a conscious sense of being useful to others.

There are, nevertheless, limits to this; the insane cannot bear labour too severe or for too long a time, if it be employed so as to produce exhaustion, the nervous system will become so enfeebled as to occasion effects the reverse of beneficial.

The patients have levelled, cleared, and made the walks and beds of the new airing courts, and prepared the land for planting. In this they have done as much as is consistent with their condition, but no economical project would have justified a further use of their circumscribed powers.

It must be gratifying to all, that the occupation of the new part of the Asylum has given universal satisfaction, although the spirit that pervaded the old was the furthest removed from anything like discontent, yet such advantages are enjoyed in the new building, by its elevated situation and healthy locality, with the tranquillity promoted by its spacious rooms and galleries, that the removal of a patient is commonly followed by a request to remain there.

The patients continue to enjoy a good degree of bodily health, and with the exception of a few weeks during the summer, in which some disorder of the bowels prevailed amongst the occupants of one of the male wards, the household has remained during the last year in its accustomed healthy condition.

It may not be out of place to make a few observations on the employment of mechanical restraint.

That this as well as other Institutions of the kind could be conducted without them is undoubted, but the question at issue is how far such exemption would tend to the well-being and restoration of the patients.

If mechanical restraint be wholly abandoned as injurious, it necessarily follows that a very large staff of attendants must be employed, and admitting that an augmented expenditure would be justifiable, and that so increased a staff of servants might be possessed of all the courage, patience, and good sense their trying position requires, it must then be shown that the contention of a lunatic with the attendant is less irritating and prejudicial than the inanimate resistance of a strap or glove.

Those patients who are subject to manical paroxysms with lucid intervals almost invariably condemn in their intervals of sanity any other restraint than that which is mechanical and are often found to attribute their recovery to its use. The mechanical contrivance acts quietly, steadily, and effectually, and is submitted to as unavoidable:—the mind and power of an attendant are capricious and uncertain,

producing in the spirit of the patient a sense of tyranny, a coercion of the worst kind, arousing all his contentious passions, and converting his friend and guardian into a supposed watchful and suspicious enemy.

If the patient is to be restrained by the force of muscles stronger than his own, who will undertake to say no more force shall be employed than is needful; and if seclusion be substituted by shutting him up in a room where he will be alone with his delusions, who will decide how far those delusions might be dissipated by association with his fellows, when both they and he felt that a pair of gloves or mittens were a sufficient guarantee from any act of violence? The number for whom mechanical restraint is required, is not ordinarily more than a fraction per cent.

The tendency of public opinion is to ultraism of all kinds, and it has been said if the proportion be so small, why not abandon it altogether; to which the answer is easily given, viz., that it would be but a spurious humanity which could sacrifice the cure of the few, and the happiness of the many to a prejudice which only requires time to prove its fallacy.

The funds of the Asylum are in a more satisfactory state, but will not yet admit of a reduction in the weekly charge of 7s. 6d.

C. C. CORSELLIS, M.D.,
DIRECTOR.

December 31st, 1848.

Ordered by the Visiting Justices, that the weekly charge continue 7s. 6d.

January 31st, 1849.

BALANCE

1848	DR.	£. s. d.
To Amount received for Dripping		9 0 9
	Suet	14 0 6½
	Yeast	5 6 0
	Pigs	4 18 0
	Calf	0 12 0
Sundries from Farm and Garden		32 12 1
Discount on Wheat		2 8 3
From Ellis Hodgson, Esq. for Patients chargeable } to the Riding		190 4 4
Ditto from Townships		9075 5 3
Balance		1261 16 11½
		£10596 4 2

Audited 31st January, 1849.

J. HOLDSWORTH,
H. W. WICKHAM.

II
SHEET.

	£.	s.	d.
CONTRA, CR.			
By Balance of last Account	1740	0	2½
Amount paid for Clothing and Bedding	207	8	6
Coals	278	19	0
Cotton and Linen Yarn	139	19	0
Cows	91	28	0
Fodder	2	3	9
Drugs and Leeches	58	14	0
Earthenware	10	19	4
Brushes	21	8	6
Freight and Carriage	12	9	9
Groceries	505	11	0
Hops	74	3	9
Ironmongery	8	12	6
Incidentals	81	9	10
Funeral Expences	90	7	0
Leather, Hemp, &c	98	0	7
Malt	674	8	0
Meat	1840	16	5
Rates and Taxes	28	12	4½
Rent of Land to Harrison's Fund.	36	0	0
Do. A. Heywood, Esq.	20	0	0
Salaries and Wages	2062	2	2
Seeds	8	16	4
Stationary and Postages	60	11	2
Straw	210	8	7
Wheat, Meal, &c.	1826	2	9
Wine, Spirits, and Porter	98	13	3
Wool	167	12	6
Horse Hire	14	2	6
Pigs	10	0	0
Banker's Interest, Commission &c.	115	13	5
	10596 4 2		

STOCK.

DR.	£.	s.	d.
Stock commencing 1st January, 1848.....	289	2	0
6 Cows purchased during the year.....	91	18	0
Pigs Do. Do.	10	0	0
To Balance	9	15	0
	<hr/>		
	400	15	0

FARM AND GARDEN.

DR.	£.	s.	d.
Seeds for Garden.....	8	16	4
Seeds for Farm	3	0	6
Rent	84	0	0
Rates and Taxes	28	12	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gardener's Wages 29 0 0			
2nd Do. 25 0 0			
Farmers Do. 25 0 0			
Labourers' Do. 39 0 0	118	0	0
Mowing Grass	2	3	9
Refuse from Garden	5	0	0
Straw for Pigs and Cows, from House.....	105	4	0
Sharps and Bran	133	0	0
Grains 1850 Bushels, at 6d. per Bushel.....	46	5	0
Swill, &c. from House, (value at)	34	0	0
Pig Corn	54	7	3
Horse Hire	14	2	9
	<hr/>		
	636	11	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
To Balance	146	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>		
	£789	15	1

STOCK.

CONTRA, CR.	£.	s.	d.
Stock on hand 31st December, 1848	239	0	0
2 Cows killed and used in the Establishment	41	3	0
Pigs Do Do.	120	0	0
Calf sold	0	12	0
	£400 15 0		

FARM AND GARDEN.

CONTRA, CR.	£.	s.	d.
Milk used in the Establishment	320	0	0
Hay Do.	32	0	0
Turnips Do.	76	0	0
Potatoes Do.	110	7	0
Vegetables Do.	65	0	0
Do. Sold	32	12	1
Potatoes in hand, 30 lds	15	0	0
Onions.....260 pecks	13	0	0
Apples..... 12 pecks	1	16	0
Carrots..... 1½ ton	3	0	0
Manure..... 4 lds	1	0	0
Do. in Farm Yard	33	16	0
Hay, 12 tons at £4	27	0	0
Turnips, 50 tons at 20s	48	0	0
Fog, 8 acres..	50	0	0
	8	0	0
	£782 15 1		

Audited 31st January, 1849,

J. HOLDSWORTH,
H. W. WICKHAM.

PATIENTS.

In the Asylum on the first of January, 1848.....

Admitted since

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
In the Asylum on the first of January, 1848.....	208	254	462
Admitted since	118	139	257
Total	326	393	719

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged.....	12	43	55
Dead	43	36	79

Discharged.....	55	79	134
Dead	55	79	134
Total	271	314	585

Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st of December, 1848

ADMITTED.

Cases not exceeding three months' duration, and first attack.	Cases not exceeding twelve months' duration, and first attack.	Cases not exceeding two years' duration, and first attack.	Cases of more than two years' duration.	Cases of those who have had previous attacks.
72	37	13	51	84

DISCHARGED.

Cases not having been insane more than three months before admission, and discharged within six months.	Cases not having been insane more than twelve months before admission, and discharged within two years.	Cases having had previous attacks.	Cases not cured discharged by desire of their friends and by order of the Magistrates.
11	18	18	6

Admitted since the Asylum opened	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged.....	943	1194	2137
Dead	761	571	1332
Remaining	1975	2079	4054
	1704	1765	3469
	271	314	585

Number of Patients discharged :—Cured....	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Relieved..	767	935	1702
	176	259	435

Average Number of Patients during the year, 517

Number of Patients admitted in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1848.

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848
76	89	109	118	122	143	122	114	119	123	113	143	149	143	127	147	147	155	183	159	140	127	171	162	146	111	93	108	257

Number of Patients admitted in each month.

January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	October.	Nov.	Dec.
301	275	300	295	395	376	373	350	313	320	297	321

Number of Patients discharged in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1848.

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848
35	46	49	54	89	85	68	64	81	70	74	72	66	93	80	81	89	85	97	94	91	71	96	76	89	75	36	48	55

Number of Patients dead in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1848.

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848
12	19	19	23	30	53	45	42	42	50	47	49	53	52	43	60	56	62	37	60	41	57	53	57	44	37	43	79	

Different Ages at which Patients have been admitted.

From 5 to 10 years.	From 15 to 20 years.	From 20 to 30 years.	From 30 to 40 years.	From 40 to 50 years.	From 50 to 60 years.	From 60 to 70 years.	From 70 to 80 years.	From 80 to 90 years.
4	111	464	527	MALES. 491	223	123	34	5
3	105	474	364	FEMALES. 545	424	131	29	3

Statement of Patients re-admitted.

Patients re-admitted who had not been discharged three months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between three and six months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between six and nine months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between nine and twelve months.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between one and two years.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between two and three years.	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between three and ten years.
38	29	16	MALES, 20	57	22	92
33	24	28	FEMALES. 25	48	37	109
						Total 274
						Total 304

*Statement of the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths
of all the Patients in the Asylum, since its Opening,
on the 23rd of November. 1818.*

ADMISSIONS.

Patients admitted within three months after the first attack	1234
Patients admitted within twelve months after the first attack . .	697
Patients admitted who had been insane from one to thirty years	882
Patients admitted who have had previous attacks and have been confined before in this Asylum	578
Patients admitted who are stated to have had previous attacks, but have not been confined here	663
	<hr/>
	4054

DISCHARGES AND DEATHS.

Patients discharged cured, who had not been insane more than three months before admission	579
	Dead.. 288
Patients discharged cured who had not been insane more than twelve months before admission	407
	Dead.. 270
Patients discharged cured who had been insane from one to many years before admission	95
	Dead.. 478
Patients discharged cured who have had previous attacks	620
	Dead.. 296
Patients not cured discharged by desire of their friends and by order of the Magistrates	436
	<hr/>
	1332 2137

Number of Deaths during the Year 1848.

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
MALES	7	15	10	11	43
FEMALES	6	10	8	12	36
					79

Average daily number resident, $517\frac{1}{8}\frac{2}{3}$.

Mortality—Males, 43; Females, 36; total, 79.

Mortality on the total number resident during the year, 10.98.

Average weekly number of Patients under Medical Treatment.

Males.	Females.
$3\frac{2}{6}$,	$6\frac{1}{6}$.

Causes of Death of the Patients who have died in the Asylum during the year 1848.

Apoplexy	3	General Exhaustion	24
Atrophy	1	General Paralysis	8
Dementia	3	Hypertrophy of the heart ..	1
Diarrhœa	1	Maniacal Exhaustion	2
Dysentery	5	Phthisis	8
Effusion on the Chest	1	Old Age	5
Epilepsy	12	Retention of Urine	1
Epilepsy with Paralysis	1	Scrophula	1
Erysipelas	1	Suicide	1

Ages of the Patients who have died in the Asylum during the year 1848.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
From 10 to 15 years.....		1	1
From 15 to 20 years.....	3		3
From 20 to 25 years.....	3	1	4
From 25 to 30 years.....	2	4	6
From 30 to 35 years.....	3	4	7
From 35 to 40 years.....	7	1	8
From 40 to 45 years.....	4	8	12
From 45 to 50 years.....	10	6	16
From 50 to 55 years.....	3	2	5
From 55 to 60 years.....	3	2	5
From 60 to 65 years.....	1	5	6
From 65 to 70 years.....	2	2	4
From 70 to 75 years.....	1		1
From 75 to 80 years.....	1		1

Average Age of the 43 Male Patients who have died during the year, 42.93.

Average Age of the 36 Female Patients who have died during the the year, 43.75.

Mean Average Age, 43.30.

Residence of the Patients who have died in the Asylum during the year 1848.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
From 1 week to 1 month.....	5	6	11
From 1 to 2 months.....	1	2	3
From 2 to 3 months.....	1	1	2
From 3 to 6 months.....	6	5	11
From 6 to 9 months.....	3	2	5
From 9 months to 1 year.....	3		3
From 1 year to 18 months.....	3	1	4
From 18 months to 2 years.....	2	4	6
From 2 to 4 years.....	8	1	9
From 4 to 6 years.....	2	4	6
From 6 to 10 years.....	5	3	8
From 10 to 15 years.....	1	5	6
From 15 to 20 years.....	1	1	2
From 20 to 25 years.....	1	1	2
From 25 to 30 years.....	1		1

Average period of Residence of the 43 Male Patients who have died in the Asylum during the year 1848, 4 years and 1 month

Average period of Residence of the 36 Female Patients who have died in the Asylum during the year 1848, 4 years, 3 months, 2 weeks.

Mean Average duration of Residence, 4 years, 2 months, 1 week.

Work done in the Institution during the Year, 1848.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
WEAVING.			
	Yards.		
Calico	690	Calico, woven yards	750
Linen	1809	Flannel do.....do.	42
Sheeting	459	Aprons	441
Cloth	528	Bed Ticks.....	12
Flannel ..	652	Caps	220
		Cloth Shoes (bound) pairs	900
SHOE MAKING.		Flannels	24
	Pairs.	Flannel Vests	45
Cloth Shoes,	new 959	Handkerchiefs	415
Do.	repaired 716	Petticoats.....	40
Leather Shoes....	do. 134	Pillows.....	92
Do. Boots....	do. 18	Pillow Cases	440
Leather Shoes	new 6	Stays.....	18
Do. Boots	6	Sheets	354
		Shifts	593
TAILORING.		Shirts	618
Cloth Jackets	155	Smock Frocks	12
Do. Waistcoats	125	Stockings.....pairs	973
Do. Trousers	176	Table Cloths	9
Do. Caps.....	188	Tick Dresses	56
		Towels	149
		Women's Bed Gowns ..	106

*Occupation of the 118 Male patients admitted during
the year 1848.*

Billiard Player	1	Painter	1
Blacksmith	1	Plasterer.....	1
Bricklayer	1	Printer	1
Clerk	1	Quarryman	1
Cloth Dressers	3	School Master	1
Corn Miller	1	Scissorsmith	1
Dealer in Waste	1	Shoemakers	5
Engraver	1	Silversmith	1
Excavators.....	2	Slubber	1
Farm Labourers	2	Soldiers	2
File Cutter	1	Spinners.....	2
Gardener	1	Surgeon	1
Grocers	2	Table Knife Grinder.....	1
Innkeeper	1	Tailors	6
Joiners	3	Tobacconist	1
Labourers	22	Veterinary Surgeon	1
Linen Bleacher	1	Waiter	1
Masons	2	Warehouseman.....	1
Mechanics	5	Watermen	3
Miners	5	Weavers.....	12
Moulder	1	Whitesmith	1
Nail Makers	2	Wool Combers	3
Ostler	1	Woolsorters	2
Overlooker at Mill	1	No Occupation	7

*Occupation of the 139 Female Patients admitted
during the year 1848.*

Barmaid	1	Market Woman.....	1
Burlers	2	Rag Sorter	1
Carder.....	1	Sack Maker	1
Cardsetter	1	School Mistress.....	1
Comber	1	Shop Keeper	1
Domestic Servants	18	Shopwoman	1
Dress Makers	4	Spinner	1
Embroiderer of Shawls ..	1	Vagrants	2
Factory Operatives	6	Washerwomen	6
Hawkers.....	4	Warper	1
Housekeeper	1	Weavers	5
Housewifery	55	Winders	3
Lady's Companion	1	No Occupation	12
Labourer, (Field).....	1	Not stated	6

Degree of Education of the 257 patients admitted during the year 1848.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Well educated	4	3	7
Can read and write	73	51	124
Can read	15	43	58
No education	19	28	47
Not stated	7	14	21
	118	139	257

Social state of the 257 patients admitted during the year 1848.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Married	53	72	125
Widowers	8		8
Widows		18	18
Single	57	49	106
	118	139	257

Religion of the 257 patients admitted during the year 1848.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Church of England	39	48	87
Roman Catholics	7	6	13
Wesleyans	23	34	57
Calvinists	4	9	13
Baptists		2	2
Primitive Methodists	2	5	7
Moravian		1	1
Nonconformist	1		1
Scotch Kirk	1		1
Barkerite		1	1
No religion	26	15	41
Not stated	15	18	33
	118	139	257

*Causes of Insanity in the 257 Patients admitted during
the year, 1848.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Amenorrhœa		4
Avarice	1	
Change of Life		1
Close application to Work		1
Congenital Idiocy	8	4
Disappointed Love	1	4
Disappointment in Money matters		1
Dissipation		5
Distress from Imprisonment	1	
Disturbance amongst fellow Servants		2
Epilepsy	16	9
Epilepsy and Hereditary Predisposition		2
Grief	2	11
Hereditary Predisposition	6	22
Ill treatment of Husband		8
Injury to Head	5	1
Intemperance	18	3
Jealousy		4
Loss of Property	2	
Pecuniary Embarrassment	1	
Poverty	6	6
Pride	2	2
Puerperal		3
Religion	4	7
Remorse*	1	
Reverse of Fortune	1	2
Scarlet Fever		1
Study	1	
Want of Employment	10	5
Received from Prison, (cause not stated)	3	
Not Known	14	17
Not Stated	15	14
	<hr/> 118	<hr/> 139

* Was one of the party tried at York Assizes for an attack on Mr. Beaumont's Gamekeeper and acquitted.

West-Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

At a SPECIAL MEETING of the Committee of Visitors of the WEST-RIDING PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM, held at the Court House, in Wakefield, on Saturday, the third day of November, 1849, present—

THE REVEREND JAMES ARMITAGE RHODES, CHAIRMAN.
JOHN PLUMBE TEMPEST, ESQUIRE.
JOHN BLAYDS, ESQUIRE.
THE REVEREND EDWARD HAWKE BROOKSBANK.
JOSEPH HOLDSWORTH, ESQUIRE.
HENRY WICKHAM WICKHAM, ESQUIRE.
CHARLES WINN, ESQUIRE.
THOMAS HALL, ESQUIRE.
JOHN RAND, ESQUIRE.
THOMAS HORNCastle MARSHALL, ESQUIRE.

The following Reports from the Medical Officers and Director of the Institution, and from Messrs. WEST and DAWSON having been read,

Resolved,

- That Copies of the Reports be forthwith transmitted by the Chairman to the Secretary of State.
- That the Reports be printed, and that copies be sent to the Commissioners in Lunacy, and to each Magistrate of the Riding.
- That the best thanks of the Committee be given to the Director and the Medical and other Officers and Servants of the Institution, for their unwearied exertions in the discharge of their most arduous duties.

J. A. RHODES, CHAIRMAN.

REPORT OF THE VISITING PHYSICIANS.

IN compliance with a request of the Rev. Chairman of the Visiting Justices, communicated to them on the 31st. *ult*: the Visiting Physicians of the West Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum, have the painful duty of reporting to the Magistrates, what has now become matter of public notoriety, that the Malignant or Spasmodic Cholera, has been extensively and very fatally prevalent in the Asylum during the last six weeks.

Throughout the previous eight months of the present year, the general condition of the patients had been nearly as healthy as usual. Diarrhoea had prevailed somewhat beyond the average amount during the summer; and cases of dysentery had been rather more numerous: the general mortality had also been increased, and in the spring and summer quarters had been two per cent: of the average number of inmates, beyond the similar quarters of 1848; an increase which seemed to arise chiefly among the worn out and debilitated patients, and was attributed to the influx of a considerable number of feeble chronic cases, in the autumn and winter of last year, whose admission had been delayed till the opening of the additional wards in the New Asylum.

With these exceptions the Institution had presented no remarkable degree of sickness; and while Cholera was gradually spreading its ravages over the country, and for several months had been prevailing in the surrounding district, and the immediate neighbourhood of the Asylum, its inmates appeared likely to escape the infliction, with the same remarkable immunity they enjoyed during the visitation of the pestilence in 1832, when not a single patient was attacked by it.

The first alarm as to the presence of CHOLERA within the Asylum, was excited by the illness of a female brought on the 17th of September from Gomersal Workhouse, where it was stated two persons had died of Cholera on the previous night. This woman, *Elizabeth Fenton*, was attacked with vomiting and diarrhoea, soon after her admission; and though her case was not distinctly marked, and happily has not been fatal, the symptoms were considered suspicious: she was kept in bed, isolated from the other patients, and her case carefully watched. The door of her room was locked, and no one but the nurse allowed to enter, except the medical officers, and one assistant in the ward, for occasional aid in washing the floor.

About a week after, an imbecile patient, *Mary Morley*, sleeping in a large room (containing eight beds) on the opposite side of the same gallery, was attacked during the night of the 22nd September, with more unequivocal symptoms of Malignant Cholera: in the morning she was livid and in a state of collapse; was moved by the nurse at 10 a.m. into one of the side rooms, towards the other end of the gallery, (Letter N.) and at 2 p.m. was ordered to the hospital, where she died the following day. *Elizabeth Fenton* was at the same time removed, with her bed and all her clothes and bedding to the hospital; and the room she had occupied, as well as that from which *Morley* had been taken, were thoroughly white-washed and purified with chloride of lime, before any other patients were allowed to enter them.

The next case was that of *Sarah Atkinson*, who, after a lapse of ten days, was sleeping in the side room (Letter N.) previously occupied by *Morley*, during four hours before her removal to the hospital. She was also seized during the night, was collapsed and livid next morning, and died during the following night. After her removal to the hospital, the room was again purified and white-washed and was not used for some weeks.

A fourth case in the same ward was that of a patient (*Mary Marr*), who had just recovered from a severe attack of dysentery, and slept in a room opposite to that of *Atkinson*. She was rapidly carried off on the 7th of October; and a fifth sank with equally fatal rapidity two days afterwards, who was an inmate of the large bed-room before mentioned.

This ward (No. 3), is in a healthy situation, forming part of the third story in the east wing of the New Building: and nothing seemed defective in its cleanliness or ventilation: but as, besides the cases of cholera just mentioned, a number of the patients in the ward were then suffering from sickness and diarrhoea, it was thought desirable to remove the whole of the inmates into fresh apartments. Accordingly on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 9th, they were all transferred into a hitherto uninhabited range of rooms in the same story, nearer the centre of the building; with the gratifying result, that next day all the invalids were reported well: and it is remarkable that not one patient has since complained of sickness in that ward.

All the rooms and galleries of No. 3 were cleansed and whitewashed; the clothes and bedding of the patients who had died, were removed and stoved; and for eight days it was hoped that the epidemic had ceased.

This hope, however, was extinguished by a re-appearance of the disease in a male patient in No. 4, the second story of the east wing of the Old Building; a man who could have had no direct communication with the inmates of No. 3, New Building, and was far removed from that locality. He was attacked on Tuesday, Oct. 16th; and almost simultaneously a woman in No. 1 of the New Building, a ward two stories below the then un-occupied No. 3. Next day another female was seized with cholera in No. 1; one in No. 12, a distant part of the Old Building; and three or four cases occurred at the same time, in different wards of the men's part of the Institution. The breath of the pestilence had spread itself all over both buildings, and each day added fearfully to the number of its victims and the intensity of its virulence. Not a single ward escaped, and there seemed no difference in any, as to the deadly nature

of the poison or the rapidity of its operation. Almost every one attacked with livid collapse died. The number of deaths during the succeeding twelve days ranged from 4 to 7 a day, with a singular increase of mortality on the two Saturdays, viz: the 20th instant (the day of the Bishop's visit to the Asylum), when ten patients expired between noon and midnight—nine from cholera, and one from dysentery; and Saturday, the 27th, when there were nineteen deaths from Cholera; and the pestilence appeared then to have reached its acme of destructiveness.

Since Saturday last the cases have been less numerous, and on the whole of a less aggravated character, so that a much larger proportion of those attacked are recovering.

The accompanying Tables show the total number of patients who have suffered during the last month (October), including cases of Diarrhoea, of Dysentery, and of Cholera; with the proportion of each in the respective wards of both Asylums; and also the daily mortality in each sex up to the 31st instant. :

No. 1.

Cases of Diarrhoea, Dysentery, and Cholera, in the Month of October, 1849.

Male Wards.

Number of Ward.	Number of Patients.	Cases of Diarrhoea.	Cases of Dysentery.	Died of Dysentery.	Cases of Cholera.	Died of Cholera.	Recovered from Cholera.	Remaining Cases.
O. No. 1	15				7	7		
2	16				2	1	1	
3	31	6	1	1	13	11	1	1
4	18	3			4	3		1
5	15				1	1		
6	25	2	1	1	5	4		1
7	30	4	2	1	3	2		1
9	33		1	1	6	2	3	1
N. No. 5	26	5			6	5		1
6	33	7	1	1	10	8		2
7	27	7			4	4		
8	27	7			2	1	1	
	296	41	6	5	63	49	6	8
Female Wards.								
O. No. 11	25	5	1		5	3		2
12	25	4			6	2	2	2
13	30	4	1		5	3	1	1
14	27	5	1		8	6	1	1
15	29	5			3	3		
16	27	8			7	6	1	
18	25	3			2	1		1
N. No. 1	30	8		1	8	5		3
2	29	10	2		4	2		2
3	28	8	2		3	3		
4	27	5			3	1	1	1
10	22	18			1	1		
	324	83	7	1	55	36	6	13
Total	620	124	13	6	118	85	12	21

No. 2.

Number and Sex of the Patients who have died of Cholera, in the month of October, 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Oct. 2	...	1	1
7	...	1	1
10	...	1	1
16	1	...	1
17	...	1	1
18	3	1	4
19	4	2	6
20	5	4	9
21	4	3	7
22	2	3	5
23	6	1	7
24	2	2	4
25	4	1	5
26	3	...	3
27	9	10	19
28	2	4	6
29	3	...	3
30	...	1	1
31	1	...	1
Total	49	36	85

It may be somewhat consolatory to observe, that, with scarcely an exception, the patients carried off have been subjects of incurable mental derangement; and in a majority of instances so demented as to be unable to describe their symptoms, while many perversely refused alike food and medicine. A large number of the fatal cases appeared suddenly death-struck, without premonitory symptoms of any observable kind, and sank in from eight to twelve hours: in others the attack was more prolonged, and some survived two or three days. The most rapid case was that of an idiotic girl (*Hannah Sutcliffe*), who had gone to bed in apparently good health on the evening of Friday, the 26th: she was sleeping tranquilly at 3 a.m.; was attacked with cramp and collapse at half past 3; became immediately cold and livid, and expired at half past 7, after an illness of only four hours.

With respect to the CAUSES of this terrific outbreak in the Asylum, the Visiting Physicians are as yet unable to offer a decided opinion. The first cases seemed attributable to infection brought by the patient from Gomersal; but subsequent attacks occurring, almost simultaneously, in all parts of the Institution, remote from and unconnected with previously infected wards, are more difficult of explanation. The Medical Officers, however, are pursuing their inquiries, by collecting and analysing all the professional details relative to the disease, which the urgency of their several engagements has left them leisure to observe and record, with an endeavour to arrive at a more definite solution of this, and other debated questions, in the history of this awfully interesting disease.

As to the TREATMENT of the disease it is scarcely necessary to assure the Visiting Magistrates that everything which the individual and combined skill of the Medical Officers could suggest (several of them having had considerable experience in the treatment of Cholera during its prevalence in England in 1832, as well as during the present visitation of the epidemic), has been had recourse to; but unfortunately with no greater measure of success, than has attended similar exertions in other localities. In the early form of simple diarrhoea and vomiting the complaint is in general easily subdued; but when it assumes the form of malignant collapse, human efforts seem of comparatively little avail.

To the PRECAUTIONARY and PREVENTIVE MEASURES the Physicians can refer with more satisfaction; and they would advert to these under two heads, viz: *Diet* and *General Hygiene*.

1.—*Diet*. It may be mentioned that so long ago as February last, Asiatic Cholera was prevailing in the Wakefield House of Correction; and its vicinity to the Asylum suggested the desirableness of placing all the delicate and weakly patients on full diet—that is, with daily meat dinners. The order was accordingly given, and a considerable number of the patients placed on this extra allowance, which was continued throughout the spring and summer, up to the present time. During the whole of the same period no vegetables have been allowed in the wards; and flour, instead of oatmeal, has been used for the milk porridge, and for thickening the soup prepared for dinner, as general diet, on three days of the week. On the other three days, the usual patients' dinner consisted of a plentiful allowance of good meat, boiled or baked, with light yeast dumplings and bread each day instead of vegetables. On the remaining day of the week (Saturday), they dined on rice stew with meat: and the Physicians have been satisfied, from frequent personal examination, that the food of the patients has been good in quality and sufficient in quantity.

Since the irruption of the present epidemic, meat dinners have been served daily to all the patients in every ward; and tea with an addition of brandy, liberally allowed in lieu of the evening meal of milk porridge.

As the dietary of the Asylum has been made a subject of public comment in reference to cholera, the Visiting Physicians have deemed it necessary to enter into the foregoing details; and they would further beg to remind the Magistrates, that the patients in this Asylum are necessarily paupers, whose general scale of living is more meagre than the ordinary diet of the Institution; and that, therefore, the extra allowances alluded to, must be regarded as much more abundant, than would be the case with individuals accustomed habitually to more nutritious fare.

2.—Of the measures of *general hygiene* the following were considered chiefly important.

The Nurses and Keepers in every ward were furnished with a supply of such medicines as were thought best adapted to relieve the commencing attack of vomiting or diarrhoea, with directions for their use, and strict injunctions to watch carefully the patients under their charge, and on the earliest approach of alvine disorder, to administer immediately the appropriate medicine, and next to report the case in the office to the Director or House Surgeon.

So soon as patients were observed in a state of approaching or commencing collapse, they were removed by order of one of the Medical Officers to the cholera hospital:—a suite of rooms having been set apart in each division of the establishment for that purpose, and competent attendants appointed in them, with all appliances that might be required for instant employment. This separation seemed desirable, both for placing the patients attacked in immediate proximity to the hot bath and other remedial agents, and under the care of the nurses whose special duty it was to apply them; for preventing the alarm and dread, which the presence of such extreme cases might occasion, among the other patients in their respective wards; and to relieve the nurses of those wards from the harrass and exclusive occupation which their cholera patients would have required; and also to remove a possible source of infection from among those previously in health.

In the earlier days of the outbreak, the cholera patients were removed to rooms built for, and hitherto used, as hospitals in the several departments of the institution; but these were soon found to be so inconvenient and unsuitable for the emergency that another arrangement was adopted.

In the New Asylum the hospital apartments are placed on a level with the roof of the rest of the building at an elevation of five stories, and an ascent of one hundred steps from the ground floor; and the same plan obtains in the Old Building, only that the erection is one story less in height: an arrangement which answers tolerably well in cases of ordinary illness; but during the present crisis, the defective supply of water (and especially hot water) and the incessantly great labour of carrying the patients, and all needful supplies of coals, food, &c., up to so great an elevation, besides other inconveniences, were insuperable difficulties, which caused these rooms to be abandoned (in the New Building at any rate) and other more commodiously accessible wards appropriated for hospital use. In the women's end of the New Asylum, the patients from the lowest ward (No. 1) were removed to No. 3, which had been for ten days under purification and unoccupied, and No. 1 was taken for a Cholera Hospital: and similar previously unoccupied rooms were appropriated at the men's end for a like purpose.

Strict directions have been given that every article of bedding and clothing connected with the infected patients, should be kept apart from all others, until they have undergone a thorough process of cleansing and been passed through the stove; heat being probably the most powerful disinfecting agent which can be employed: and orders have more recently been given, that every patient who may be suffering from diarrhoea or vomiting, as well the more severe forms of cholera or dysentery, shall be removed from the room in which they became ill, into a fresh unoccupied room, and one that had just previously been fumigated by the vapour of Chlorine.

The Chlorides of Lime and of Zinc are habitually and freely employed in all the cleansing processes in the Asylum, and have been distributed in more abundant quantities since the invasion of the cholera: but in order still more effectually to destroy any noxious vapours or pestiferous exhalations that might be floating in the wards, it was ordered, that every part of the establishment should be separately fumigated by an atmosphere of chlorine gas. This was efficiently done under the superintendance of Mr. John Dawson (Chemist), a large pot of the ingredients for evolving chlorine having been placed in each room and gallery, during the temporary absence of the patients in successive wards. Four of the wards were thus fumigated on Friday the 26th, eleven on Saturday, six on Sunday, and the remaining five on Monday last: and it is a fact worthy of remark, that, whether from this process as a cause, or whether from changes in the condition and temperature of the atmosphere, which were also conspicuous at the same period, or from the virulence of the poison having then passed its acme,—or whether probably from these several causes combined,—the cases of Cholera, as before stated, have been since last Saturday, both less numerous, and generally less severe, though aggravated and fatal cases are still daily occurring.

Solutions of Chloride of Lime and of Zinc have also been freely poured down the water closets during the whole course of the epidemic, and constant attention has been directed to insure those offices being kept as clean and pure as possible.

In thus concluding their report, the Physicians beg to express their acknowledgments to the Visiting Magistrates for the ready confidence with which every available resource has been placed at their disposal; and to Dr. Corsellis both for his valuable aid, and for the prompt diligence with which their wishes and suggestions have been carried into effect. They desire also to record their testimony to the unwearying and kind assiduity of Mr. Naylor (the House Surgeon) and Miss Roseden (one of the Deputy-Matrons), in their respective arduous duties; and, generally, to the faithful and unshrinking exertions of every Servant, Nurse, and Keeper in the Institution.

WILLIAM THOMAS, M. D.

T. G. WRIGHT, M. D.

Wakefield, November 3rd, 1849.

REPORT OF MR. MARSHALL, ONE OF THE VISITING SURGEONS.

WESTGATE, *November 3rd*, 1849.

SIR,

IN conformity to your request of the 31st *ult*: I beg leave to state my impressions with regard to the Cholera at present prevalent in your Institution. These will of course be imperfect, from my attendance on the cases being solely, or nearly so, during the night. Many of the patients to whom I have been summoned in the night have been in the state of collapse and almost hopeless; I have administered, however, the most approved remedies, both internal and external, with other helps, as brandy, &c., which have always been accessible. There were also some few milder or incipient cases, in which the treatment was more successful, but during the first week of my attendance the former hopeless cases prevailed; and I was called up 5, 4, and 3 times in a night; but I am happy to add that, during the present expiring week, these calls have been less frequent, and the cases more tractable, which, together with other circumstances, leads me to hope that the Epidemic is losing some of its virulence. With regard to ventilation, I can most fully testify to its completeness, through the night as well as the day. I think also that the change to a more solid diet is likely to prove beneficial. I do not observe any important omission or deficiency in any respect.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

S. MARSHALL.

*To the Chairman of the
Committee of the Visitors of the Wakefield Lunatic Asylum.*

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

TO THE VISITORS OF THE WEST-RIDING PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

IN compliance with the direction of your Chairman, I beg to present a Report "of the state of the health of the resident Officers, and Servants, of the Institution, and whether any augmentation of their number is required, and whether any further assistance, variation, or supply of any sort is requisite to abate, if possible, the present alarming state of the health of the Patients."

1ST.—*Of the Male resident Officers of the Institution.*—I report with gratitude, that though each one has suffered from the premonitory symptoms of Cholera, not one has been so attacked as to render him unfit for or unable to perform his duties.

2ND.—*Of the Female Officers of the Establishment.*—From constant watching, sleepless nights, and the premonitory symptoms of Cholera, the Matron (Mrs. Corsellis) became unable to attend to her duties; she was recommended to be removed from the Institution.

Since her absence (on the 21st October) she has continued to suffer from ill health, and is still unfit to resume her duties in the Establishment.

About three weeks since, one of the Assistant Matrons was attacked with Rheumatism, and is not yet sufficiently recovered to take her part in the management of the Asylum.

The other Assistant Matron (Miss Roseden) has been enabled regularly to attend to her duties. Her attention to the sick and to every one in the Asylum has been most efficient, and her conduct throughout this trying visitation is beyond all praise.

3RD.—*Of the Male Servants.*—With two exceptions, all have been sufferers from indisposition consequent on their attention to the sick, and five have been confined to bed for a shorter or longer period. They are all now so far recovered as to be able to take the charge of their respective Wards.

4TH.—*Of the Female Servants.*—Excepting a solitary instance, every Female Servant has been indisposed, and six have been confined to bed. They are all now taking a part in the management of the wards. The conduct of Mrs. Reynolds, whose duties have been most assiduously performed, and who, in conjunction with Mrs. Hall, has had the entire charge of the hospital, in which have been placed at one time no less than nine or ten patients suffering from disease, deserves the warmest commendation. Her own words may be quoted: "If I should die, I shall have the satisfaction on my death bed of knowing, that I have done my duty."*

5TH.—*Augmentation in the Number of Officers and Servants.*—Mr. Marshall, one of the Visiting Surgeons, has kindly offered his services, and has, since the 20th of October last, slept in the Asylum, and has taken part in the nightly attendance upon the patients.

Under ordinary circumstances, the staff of Officers and Servants is sufficient for the proper management of the Asylum; but in a visitation such as the present, the number of servants is not adequate for the extra duties they are called on to perform. An additional number of servants have therefore been and are still employed in the wards of the Institution.

The ordinary Staff of Servants is as follows: Males 17; Females 13. Total 30.

The Extra Servants are: Males 8; Females 8. Total 16.

Of the extra number of men temporarily employed, three have resigned their situations in consequence of illness.

When the disease first made its appearance in the Institution, the fact was communicated to the Rev. J. A. Rhodes, the Chairman; to Joseph Holdsworth, Esq., and to several other Visitors of the Asylum; from one and all, I received unlimited authority to provide every thing that would add to the comfort of the patients and promote their cure. I trust the Visitors will find that this authority has been duly exercised, and that on a retrospect of what has been done, it will appear there has been no omission on the part of any of the Officers of the Asylum to carry out the anxious and benevolent wishes of the Visitors.

In presenting this Report, it will be unnecessary for me to dwell on the first appearance of the disease in the Institution, or of the spread and fearful consequence of its visitation, as the Visiting Medical Officers have been directed by the Visitors to present "a report on the past and present state of the Institution."

I may however add, that I have received from the Visiting Medical Officers the most valuable aid and assistance, as well as from all the resident Officers and Servants of the Asylum.

I have the honor to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. C. CORSELLIS,
Director.

WEST YORK ASYLUM, *November 3rd*, 1849.

* She is since dead.

REPORT OF MESSRS. WEST AND DAWSON.

TO THE VISITING MAGISTRATES OF THE WEST-RIDING PAUPER
LUNATIC ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have inspected the Drainage and Ventilation at the Wakefield Lunatic Asylum, and such other circumstances as might be likely to bear upon the breaking out, or spread, or mortality of disease; and have to report:—

As to Drainage.—That the plan is in our judgment complete and efficient. That judging from every place where, by our desire, and in our presence, the drains were opened, the inclination is sufficient for the rapid discharge of foul water and ordinary refuse, and the stone and brickwork perfectly sound. That in most places the drains were quite clean, and free from any deposit; and where there was any lodgment, it was almost always small in quantity, in great part sand, and of comparatively inoffensive character. In two places we found foul offensive deposit to the depth of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and 6 inches respectively; but we ascertained from openings made in different directions, and at moderate distances, into the same two drains, that these two deposits were strictly local, and small in extent. We did not find upon the premises, or in the neighbourhood of the Asylum, any collection of filth or stagnant water, except ordinary manure heaps, and watering ponds; and these are at a considerable, and we think at a sufficient distance from the main buildings of the establishment. With the two exceptions named, the present flow of water keeps the drains quite clean, without flushing. Only part of the drains are at present furnished with the means of flushing. The drains communicate with the tall shaft, in order to draw off and get rid of any foul air which may be generated in them. The two places where the deposit referred to exists, are in the Women's Airing Court, No. 15, (at the spots marked L. 1. on the wall, and W. 5, on the plan), and on the east, outside the boundary wall, at the spot marked W. 6, on the plan.

As to Ventilation.—This in our opinion is sufficient and good. We judge from the number, size and kind of openings for the admission and exit of air, compared with the size of the respective apartments, and the number of persons generally therein, and by other means. The temperature of some apartments was found to be higher than we might think most desirable; but this arose from proximity to steam pipes, or other means of producing warmth, and was not traceable to deficient ventilation. From repeated observation, the keeping open of windows generally and of doors when practicable, appeared to be the regular practice. The chimnies were not closed. This applies principally to the old building: the new building is ventilated by two large shafts, with fires to create a powerful draught.

As to the water used in food, we have not yet had time to examine this part of the subject; but we think that whether likely or not to furnish any clue to the main object of enquiry, no investigation of the sort which we were directed to make, would be complete without including the water also.

As to general cleanliness we found it every where carried out to a high degree.

On a review of the whole circumstances we have found in regard to the matters submitted to us nothing to recommend for improvement, nothing which in our judgment can account for the appearance, or increase, or mortality of disease. The visitation, fatal as it has been to many, must be considered either as the immediate infliction of Divine Providence, or as dependant on causes of which nothing as yet is known, and over which therefore in respect to our inquiry, human means have as yet no control.

All appears to have been done which could be done.

We have preserved copious notes of the particulars of our observations, a copy of which can be furnished when required.

WILLIAM WEST, F.R.S.
JOHN DAWSON.

Asylum, Wakefield, October 30, 1849.

REPORT OF MR. DAWSON.

TO THE VISITING MAGISTRATES OF THE WEST-RIDING ASYLUM.

WAKEFIELD, *November 1st, 1849.*

GENTLEMEN,

Having been requested to examine the internal and external arrangements of the West-Riding Lunatic Asylum, I have inspected every part both interior and exterior with great care. I find everything in excellent order, I do not see that any improvement could be made in the establishment as regards cleanliness, ventilation, and the comfort of the patients. There was a considerable quantity of amoniacal gas in some of the wards. Nos. 1, 4, and the basement were found to contain the largest quantity.

But by fumigation and ventilation it has been removed; and to prevent its accumulation in future, I should recommend from time to time the disengagement of a little free chlorine about twice or thrice during a week when necessary.

I beg to express my thanks to every person connected with the Institution, for having afforded me every facility and assistance in the course of my examination.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servant,

JOHN DAWSON.

*Copy Letter from the REV. J. A. RHODES, Chairman of the Committee of Visitors
to the Secretary of State.*

ROUNDHAY, LEEDS, 3rd November, 1849.

SIR,

HAVING of late received daily returns of deaths which have taken place from Cholera in the Asylum, at Wakefield, I visited that Institution on Wednesday last. I satisfied myself entirely, that every thing had been done, as far as I could judge, for the successful treatment of the disease, and for the prevention of its spreading; but as 86 patients had died, and as the resident officers and servants had suffered severely, though not fatally, from their exertions and exposure, I thought it right to make an entry in the Visitor's Book of which I enclose a copy(1).

I afterwards proceeded to the office of the Clerk of the Peace, and directed notice to be given to all the Visitors of a Special Meeting, at the Court House, at Wakefield, to be held this day. That meeting has been held, and attended by numerous Visitors, and by the Physicians and Surgeons, and I am directed to send copies to you of—

2.—*The Daily Report of Deaths.*

3.—*Of the Report of the Medical Officers.*

4.— " *of the Resident Director.*

5.— " *of Mr. West, F.R.S. and of Mr. Dawson, Chemist.*

6.—*Of Resolutions of the Meeting.*

These Reports will shew you the nature and result of our enquiries, and will, I hope, convince you, that all has been done that can be done to relieve the Institution, as far as human means may do, from this great calamity.

The Visitors are unanimously of opinion, that the conduct of the Physicians and Surgeons, as well as of the Director, Matron, Chaplain, Resident Surgeon, and of all the Officers and Servants of the Asylum, has been deserving of the most unqualified praise. Every one of them appears to have been willing to sacrifice health, as they in fact have done, and even life itself, in the discharge of their most responsible and most arduous duties: and when the nature of those duties, in the attendance on patients, diseased and incapacitated both in body and mind, is considered, the Visitors think these Officers and Servants are deserving of every commendation that can be bestowed, and direct me to draw your special attention to them. In discharging this duty, I feel how inadequate any expression of mine must be to pourtray, sufficiently, the danger incurred, and the courage and self devotion by which it has, in all instances, been encountered.

We all wish that it had pleased God to have permitted them to have been more successful.

I need scarcely add, that if any further information on this subject is required, the Visitors will, immediately, direct that it shall be supplied to you.

I am,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. A. RHODES,
Chairman.

*To the Right Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Home Department,
London.*

*Copy Entry of the Rev. J. A. RHODES in the Visitor's book, referred to in his Letter, to the
Secretary of State.*

ASYLUM, 31st October, 1849.

I have called at the Asylum and have had a long conference with Dr. Corsellis, on the extremely severe visitation of the Cholera, and on the causes of its aggravated form.

I have read the various Reports on the Drainage, and of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and of the Visiting Justice, Mr. Marshall.

I have not visited the several wards, as Dr. Corsellis thought it undesirable that I should do so, with respect to myself personally, and lest the patients should thereby be subjected to injurious excitement.

I have directed that a special meeting of the Visitors be called for Saturday next, at the Court House, at 11 A.M., and that on that day, the Medical Officers be requested to attend and to report, as fully as they can, on the past and present state of the Institution, with especial reference to the Cholera, and suggest such changes, if any, as they may deem expedient. And that Dr. Corsellis report the state of the health of the resident officers, and servants of the Institution, and whether any augmentation of their number is required,—and whether any further assistance, variation, or supply of any sort is requisite to abate if it be possible the present alarming state of the health of the patients.

I find that hitherto no death has taken place amongst the resident officers or servants, though from their extreme exertions and exposure, they have all suffered and some severely from premonitory symptoms; and it is a source of great consolation, this moment, that the disease appears to be materially abated, there having been only one death within the last twenty-four hours.

Minutes in the Visitor's Book, referred to in MR. RHODES' Entry.

August 28th { MR. PROCTER,
and 29th, { AND
1849. { MR. GASKELL. } *Commissioners in Lunacy.*

WEST-RIDING (YORK) LUNATIC ASYLUM.

THIS Asylum contains 633 patients, of whom 306 are males and 327 are females. Of these 243 patients (105 males and 138 females) are accommodated in the New Building. It appears that 19 (viz., 9 males and 10 females), are under medical treatment. No one is recorded as having been secluded or subjected to mechanical coercion during the last week, ending on the 27th instant. There were two or three females secluded during each day of our visit.

Since the last visit of the Commissioners, on the 26th and 27th September last, 284 patients have been admitted, 106 have been discharged, and 105 have died; the larger proportion of deaths appearing to have arisen from gradual and maniacal exhaustion, epilepsy, and phthisis; and others from diarrhoea, and dysentery, atrophy, old age, and various other causes. Three only are stated to have died from paralysis.

During the two days of our visit, we have inspected all the wards and rooms of the establishment, and have seen all the patients of both sexes. We found the Asylum generally very clean, and in exceedingly good order, and the patients tranquil (with only two exceptions), and also well clothed and apparently comfortable.

We noticed to Dr. Corsellis the cases of several patients, who talked rationally, and who appeared to be in an improved state.

Divine service is performed every Sunday; in the morning in the old, and in the afternoon in the new building. About 250 patients attend the services, and between three and four hundred are employed in various ways.

We tasted the bread and beer provided for the patients, which were very good; and we heard no complaint from any of the patients respecting their diet or general treatment.

In reference to the observations made by the Commissioners at their last visit, we remark, that their suggestions as to the better ventilation of small rooms, in which patients are occasionally secluded, have not been attended to. We beg to draw the attention of the Visiting Justices once more to this point. We think that a supply of fresh air into those single rooms, in which refractory patients are secluded, (and which we observe are darkened), and also into those which infirm or sick patients constantly or generally inhabit, is very important.

In regard to the staff of attendants, we think the number below the proportion usually engaged in County Asylums, and we think that they ought to be increased in those wards in which dirty, and more especially refractory patients are placed.

We think it right to state that every facility was afforded to us by Dr. and Mrs. Corsellis, to obtain an insight into the establishment, and that all our enquiries on the subject were readily and cheerfully answered.

B. W. PROCTER,
SAMUEL GASKELL, } *Commissioners in Lunacy.*

1849, } T. H. MARSHALL,
18th Oct. } *Outwood, near Wakefield.*

Visited the Asylum, Dr. Corsellis reported the prevalence of the Cholera in an alarming state. Both Dr. Corsellis and Mr. Naylor unwell.

28th Oct. }
29th do. } Do.

Visited the Asylum on both these days. On the 28th the number of Deaths reported at 19—9 men and 10 women, the greatest number hitherto in one day; on the 29th, number of Deaths 6—2 men and 4 women—the greatest number on any previous day, (excepting the 28th as above) 9. Total number of Deaths from the Cholera up to this day, 82 viz: 36 males—46 females. Dr. Corsellis and the medical attendants seem indefatigable in their attendance, the former never having left the establishment, (except once on business connected with it), and the latter being in attendance daily, and generally more than once a day, since the disease broke out.

Mrs. Corsellis has been absent since the 21st, on account of her health, which is in that state to prevent her from discharging her duties efficiently at this alarming crisis, or without imminent danger to herself. Under these circumstances I quite concur in the propriety of her remaining absent.

Dr. Corsellis and Mr. Naylor both better, the attendants and other servants although described as having all more or less suffered from their harrassing and unremitting attentions have been hitherto preserved from any fatal or very dangerous attack, only three are now on the sick list, one a female attendant in some danger.

Only 4 extra female attendants engaged at present. Query, Sufficient?

Every dispatch used in burying the unfortunate patients who die. The Clergyman of Stanley and the Chaplain always in attendance to perform their duties.

Been with Mr. West, the Chemist, of Leeds, who has been engaged by the Visiting Justices, at the request of the Medical Officers, to inspect the state of the drains and ventilation, &c., and report thereon to the board.

