

18

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

OF THE

BEDFORD

LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

THE 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1853,

WITH APPENDIX.

Bedford ;

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—
1854.

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THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS,

FOR THE YEAR, 1854.

FOR THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD.

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FOR THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

WILLIAM BLOWER, Esq., *Mayor.*



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*To HER MAJESTY'S Justices
of the Peace, for the Counties of Bedford,
Hertford, and Huntingdon in Quarter Ses-
sions Assembled, and to the Council of the
Borough of Bedford.*

The Committee of Visitors have the honor to lay before you their Report in writing, in conformity with the provisions contained in the sixty second Section of "The Lunatic Asylums Act 1853"

1. In respect to the state and condition of the Asylum, the committee have nothing to add to what has appeared in their former Reports, the Buildings generally are in a good state of repair. The Statistics of the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, will appear from the following Tables.

ADMISSIONS.	M.	F.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum Dec. 31st, 1852.....	129	140	269
„ received during the year	25	26	51
Total.....	154	166	320
DISCHARGES AND DEATHS.	M.	F.	Total.
Patients Discharged—Recovered	7	10	17
„ „ Relieved	2	4	6
„ „ Removed to other Asylums...	0	3	3
„ Died during the year	14	6	20
„ Absent upon Trial	1	2	3
Remaining on the 31st December, 1853.....	24 130	25 141	49 271
Total.....	154	166	320

The Patients remaining in the Asylum on the 31st of December, 1853, are from the following Counties, &c., viz—

NAME OF COUNTY, ETC.	M.	F.	Total.
Bedfordshire	46	51	97
„ Borough of Bedford.....	3	4	7
Hertfordshire	60	59	119
Huntingdonshire	21	27	48
Total.....	130	141	271

The Daily average number of Patients during the year has been 271,

The average number of Patients attending Chapel has been 93.

The average number of Patients engaged in industrial occupations viz:—Household Work, Handicraft, and the Cultivation of the Farm, has been 129.

The number of Deaths during the year has been 20, or a mortality of $6\frac{1}{4}$, per cent on the total number of Patients in the Asylum.

2. As to the sufficiency of the Asylum for the proper accommodation of the Lunatics from the united Counties and Borough, the Committee have again to report it inadequate for their proper accommodation.

From a Return presented to the Committee at their monthly meeting in October last, it appeared that at that time there were 52 Patients belonging to the three Counties in other Asylums, Registered Hospitals, or Licensed Houses; the following numbers belonging to each County viz—

Bedfordshire	14
Hertfordshire	22
Huntingdonshire	16
	—
Total.....	52
	—

The Committee have lately attempted to diminish the evil by causing an enquiry to be made into the circumstances of some of the Patients supposed either to possess sufficient property themselves, or to have Relations of sufficient ability (legally liable) to pay the expenses of their maintenance in private asylums; the Committee are happy to report the removal of five patients of this class four of whom belonged to the County of Bedford. The Committee have also requested the Medical Officers to prepare a list of harmless patients whom they consider might be discharged if properly taken care of in workhouses, or by their relations or Friends. This list containing 12 names was presented to the Committee at an adjourned meeting, held on the 19th instant, when three Bedfordshire Patients were discharged, (two of them on trial only) and further inquiry was directed to be made as to three or four others, but the residue the Committee decided should remain.

These vacancies have enabled the Committee to order the removal of 7 Bedfordshire Patients from Derby County Asylum, (where they were maintained at a cost to the parishes of twelve shillings per week,) under the provisions of (16 & 17, Vict. c. 97, s. 77.)

3. The Committee report that in accordance with the General Rule, dated the 7th Feb. 1853, and approved by One of Her Majesty principal Secretaries of State,—(8 & 9, Vict. c. 126, s. 40,) they have appointed the Second Tuesday in the Month, for holding the Annual, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings; with this exception there has been no change in the management of the Asylum. The revision of the proposed General Rules, and the Regulations, and Orders referred to in the last Report, having been postponed from time to time, pending the question of a New Asylum.

4. The Committee have pleasure in bearing testimony to the general good conduct of the Officers, and Servants of the Asylum; with the exception of one of the latter, who was dismissed for misconduct. The Committee observe that by the 56th Section of the New Act, notice of the dismissal of any Attendant for misconduct is required to be given to the Commissioners in Lunacy. The Commissioners in a Circular issued by them, say—“The object of this provision is, “by means of a Central Register, available for

“general reference, to prevent improper persons
“from being employed in the care of the insane.”

5. The Committee have every reason to be satisfied with the care and attention bestowed upon the Patients, and with the means of employment afforded them in industrial occupations, which employment however might be further extended if additional Land were obtained for spade cultivation.

6. In offering their remarks and observations in relation to any other matters connected with the Asylum, the Committee will confine themselves principally to the important question proposed by the Justices of the County of Bedford, and left in abeyance when their last Annual Report was agreed to.

It will be remembered that the proposition of the County of Bedford was to unite with the three neighbouring Counties of Hertford, Huntingdon, and Cambridge, and to build a New Asylum for 600 Patients, and to purchase 200 acres of Land for the Site, near to the Great Northern Railway, at a cost of £70,000, subject however to certain compensation to be awarded to the County of Bedford, for abandoning the existing Asylum, and the loss of the Rents payable from the Counties of Hertford, and Huntingdon, and the Borough of Bedford.

This proposition was fully discussed at the Bedfordshire Easter Sessions, 1853, and the following Resolution was agreed to—

“That this Court having duly considered the
 “proposal of the Visitors of the Lunatic Asylum
 “to extend the Union to the County of Cam-
 “bridge, to purchase 200 acres of Land, and build
 “a New Asylum thereon at a cost to the County
 “of Bedford not exceeding £18,000. (the amount
 “of compensation in respect of the present Asy-
 “lum being referred to arbitration) do sanction
 “and approve of the same, but inasmuch as a
 “Bill is now passing through the House of Com-
 “mons affecting the Expenditure and control of
 “the County Rates, it is expedient that all fur-
 “ther proceedings be suspended until the next
 “General Quarter Sessions.”

The Committee of Visitors for the County of Cambridge, the Isle of Ely, and the Borough of Cambridge, at a Meeting held on the 13th of May, 1853, affirmed the proposition by the following Resolution—

“That it is the opinion of this Committee
 “that it will be of advantage to unite with the
 “Counties of Bedford, Hertford, and Hunting-
 “don, in the construction of a Lunatic Asylum.
 “—That steps be taken to dissolve the present
 “Union for the purpose of uniting with the afore-
 “said Counties.”

The Town Council of Bedford dissented from the proposition, and instructed the Mayor as Visitor for the Borough to oppose in every proper way the proposed measure.

The Counties of Hertford, and Huntingdon, came to no decision upon the question, nor were any further steps taken in the matter until after the prorogation of Parliament; when the measure before referred to affecting the expenditure of the County Rates not having been passed into Law, the subject was re-discussed by the Justices of the County of Bedford, at an adjourned Quarter Sessions, held on the 29th August, 1853, and the following Resolution adopted.—

“ That the recommendation of the Committee
 “ of Visitors for extending the existing Union
 “ to the County of Cambridge, and for the erec-
 “ tion of a new Asylum, and the purchase of 200
 “ acres of Land, which was sanctioned and ap-
 “ proved at the Easter Sessions be now carried
 “ into effect; it being distinctly understood that
 “ the question of compensation in regard of any
 “ loss to be sustained by the dissolution of the
 “ present union be referred to arbitration; and
 “ that a sum of not exceeding £18,000 be bor-
 “ rowed and raised on the County Rates in man-
 “ ner prescribed by the late Act of 16 Victoria,
 “ when and as soon as the same may be required
 “ for that purpose; and that a Committee of Jus-
 “ tices be appointed for the purpose of negotiating

“with the Counties of Cambridge, Hertford,
 “and Huntingdon, and generally for carrying
 “the purpose into effect.”

The Committee accordingly met on the 13th of September, 1853, and directed the following communication to be sent to the several Counties, Isle, and Boroughs.

“That a proposition be made to the Counties
 “of Hertford, Huntingdon, and Cambridge the
 “Isle of Ely, and the Boroughs of Bedford and
 “Cambridge, suggesting that all questions of
 “expense and compensation as between the dif-
 “ferent Counties and Boroughs, in the event of
 “their agreeing to the dissolution of the present
 “Union, and the formation of a new one be re-
 “ferred to arbitration, and that the said Counties,
 “Isle, and Boroughs, be requested severally to
 “appoint a Committee to confer with this Com-
 “mittee for the selection of an arbitrator for this
 “purpose.”

The Committee of Visitors for Cambridge, &c., resolved they could not entertain any question of arbitration for compensating the County of Bedford, they having no power under the Act 16 & 17 Vict. cap. 97, s. 39, so to do; and because they will have in the event of a joint Asylum being built, to pay the expenses they have or shall have themselves incurred; but that they were prepared to entertain any definite proposal for uniting

with the Counties of Bedford, Hertford, and Huntingdon, and the Borough of Bedford, for the erection of a Lunatic Asylum, in accordance with a Resolution passed by that Committee, on the 13th May, 1853.

The Committee of Visitors of the Bedford Asylum, held a special Meeting on the 11th of October, to take the whole question into consideration when it was “ Resolved, that the County
 “ of Cambridge, the Isle of Ely, and the Borough
 “ of Cambridge, be admitted into union with the
 “ Counties of Bedford, Hertford, and Huntingdon,
 “ and the Borough of Bedford, for the purchase
 “ of Land and the erection of a New Asylum, on
 “ the basis of population only, and that the Court
 “ of Quarter Sessions for the County of Bedford,
 “ be requested to grant a loan on the County
 “ Rates to enable the Visitors of that County to
 “ bear their proportion of the expenses accor-
 “ dingly. That it be recommended to the Court of
 “ Quarter Sessions for the County of Bedford,
 “ that the Arbitrator to be appointed under the
 “ Resolution of the adjourned Sessions, in rela-
 “ tion to the terms on which the Counties of
 “ Hertford and Huntingdon unite in the pur-
 “ chase of Land and the erection of a New Asylum,
 “ be empowered to decide, if any, and what com-
 “ pensation is justly due to the County of Bed-
 “ ford for the cessation of the rent received from
 “ those Counties.”

These recommendations were afterwards affirmed by the Justices of the County of Bedford at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.

The Justices for the County of Hertford at their Michaelmas Quarter Sessions after a discussion of the subject adopted the following Resolutions.

“1. That in the opinion of this Court the Lunatic Asylum at Bedford is inadequate for the proper accommodation of the Pauper Lunatics, belonging to the United Counties.”

“2. That the Visitors for the County of Hertford be requested to act as a Committee for the purpose of conferring with the Magistrates of the Counties of Bedford, and Huntingdon, upon the propriety of including the County of Cambridge in any new or improved Establishment for pauper Lunatics.”

“3. That they report at the next adjourned Sessions, the result of their conferences with such other full details, as well as of the number of Lunatics belonging to the County of Cambridge, of the advantages, and disadvantages of such an union as circumstances will permit.”

The Justices for the County of Huntingdon also discussed the question at their Michaelmas Quarter Sessions and Resolved, “That it did not appear advisable under present circumstances that this

“ Court should in any way either directly or indirectly interfere with the course of proceeding, provided by the 16th and 17th, Vict. cap. 97, but that the subject should be considered at an adjourned Sessions to be held on Saturday the 26th of November next. ”

It was then determined that a meeting of this Committee of Visitors should be held on the 25th Nov. at Hitchin, for the purpose of a conference with the Committee of Visitors of the united Counties and Borough, and the Committee of Beds. Justices appointed at the Midsummer adjourned Sessions. This Meeting was accordingly held and a communication was received from the Committee of Visitors for Cambridge &c., Asylum to the effect that the preliminary question for dissolving their union, had been negatived.

Mr. Hill, attended this meeting and explained to the Visitors that his original estimate of £76,000 could not now be sustained through the great rise in the cost of building materials.—Mr. Hill also strongly placed before the Meeting the advantages of a new Asylum being erected on a new site, and estimated that a building capable of containing 500 patients with every requisite, complete for occupation, including the purchase of 200 acres of Land, could be provided at a cost of £79,000 whilst (for the reasons before stated) it would now cost £26,000 to enlarge the existing Asylum, exclusive of the purchase of a suitable

quantity of Land to carry out an enlightened system of management, estimated to cost £14,000, making in the aggregate an outlay of £40,000.

The Committee of Visitors thereupon came to the following Resolutions.—

“1 That the existing Asylum is inadequate
“and unfit for the proper accommodation of the
“pauper Lunatics of the united Counties and
“Borough.”

“2 That it appears desirable to this Committee,
“that a new Asylum should be provided on a
“new site, in lieu of the existing Asylum.”

“3 That any question that may arise on the sub-
“ject of compensation, be referred to arbitration.”

“4 That it is desirable the proposed new site
“should be in the vicinity of the Great Northern
“Railway, in a central position with regard to
“the three Counties.”

The Justices of the County of Huntingdon affirmed these Resolutions at their adjourned Sessions held on the 26th November ult., with an expression of opinion that the quantity of land to be purchased might be safely confined to 150 acres.

At the adjourned Sessions for the County of Hertford, held on the 29th of November ult, the

matter was fully discussed, but the Court directed some preliminary inquiries to be made, and the subject is to be again brought forward at the next Epiphany Sessions.

The Visitors for Bedfordshire feeling the deep responsibility resting upon them in this important question, and considering also the altered state of it, since the decision of the Cambridge, &c, Visitors, not to dissolve their union to enable them to join the proposed extended union, held a meeting on the 19th instant, and having taken into consideration the Resolutions of the Hitchin meeting, as affecting the interests of the County of Bedford, particularly with reference to the second proviso to the 39th Section of the Statue 16th and 17th Vict. Cap. 97, adopted the following Resolution.—

“That it is the opinion of the Visitors, that
 “the Act 16 and 17 Vict. Cap. 97, Sect. 39,
 “renders it imperative that a dissolution of the
 “present union of the Counties of Bedford, Hert-
 “ford, and Huntingdon, and the Borough of
 “Bedford be effected, before the existing agree-
 “ments for union can be cancelled; and therefore
 “that it is inexpedient to enter into the question
 “of the purchase of Land, and the erection of a
 “new Asylum, until the question of dissolution be
 “disposed of, and that this Resolution be em-
 “bodied in the Report to the next Quarter
 “Sessions.”

The Commissioners in Lunacy have officially visited the Asylum twice during the year.—Copies of their minutes are inserted in this Report.

“Bedford County Asylum, March 12th, 1853.

“We have this day made an extra visit of inspection to this Asylum, have gone through the different Wards, Day-rooms, & Dormitories, and have seen and generally examined the patients. These now amount to 269 in the whole, of whom 128 are males and 141 are females; at the time of our visit, they were with very few exceptions quiet and orderly, Two of them who were stated to be violent and destructive, had their hands and arms confined in strong sleeves.

“The condition of the House is at present healthy: the names of Eleven are entered on the Register as being under Medical treatment. Three males and five women, were found in bed, but some of these were aged and infirm persons, not suffering under any particuar malady.

“The different Wards, Day Rooms and dormitories, were clean and in good order, and free from any offensive smell.

“We examined the provisions, and tasted the bread, butter, cheese, and beer, provided for the Patient’s use, and found them all of excellent quality.

“We learn that in conformity with a recent suggestion of the Commissioners, a supply of Weekly Periodical Publications, of a light and amusing kind, has been procured for circulation among the Patients.

“The Establishment is quite full, and there is a pressure for further accommodation from all the three united Counties, but the plans for providing that accommodation are not yet matured. We learn however that the scheme at one time entertained of these Counties being combined with Cambridgeshire, in the erection of a new Asylum, is not likely to be adopted—a result which for many reasons, we think is not to be regretted.”

J. W. MYLNE, } COMMISSIONERS
J. R. HUME, } IN LUNACY.

“Bedford County Asylum, November 22nd, 1853.

“There are 269 Patients in this Asylum, of whom 129 are males, and 140 are females. Seven patients are registered as being under Medical Treatment, and seven, one man and six women, as having been secluded, and one subjected to mechanical coercion during the last week, for various periods of time, the last mentioned patient appearing to be placed constantly in a sleeve dress, the sleeves being tied round the body, the reason assigned for this restraint, in each case, is that the patient is dangerous to others.

“Since the last visit of the Commissioners on the 12th day of March last, 27 patients have been admitted, 15 have been discharged, and 13 have died; 4 deaths being ascribed to debility or gradual exhaustion, 2 to serous

apoplexy, 2 (being respectively 73 and 90 years of age) to general decay, and the rest to various other causes.

“ About 76 males and 51 female patients are employed in various ways. The males in the garden, in trades, and in the house ; the females in the laundry, and work-room, and in household work. The Church Service is performed regularly, and 64 males and 32 females attended Chapel last week.

“ As we understand that some new arrangements are in contemplation for the erection of an Asylum elsewhere, we refrain from any recommendations that may involve the necessity of making any alterations in the present building. We suggest however for the consideration of the Visitors, whether it be not expedient for them at once to contract with some other public Institution, for the reception of a certain number of their patients, in order to relieve the present overcrowded state of this Asylum, and so as to leave room therein for the reception of curable cases, of which there appear to be only about half a dozen at present.

“ We have to-day seen all the patients, and have inspected their various Wards and Rooms ; as regards the former we have suggested that the ticking dresses now in use should be abandoned, and that the female patients should be supplied with bonnets and cloaks, and more shawls, and that they be induced to take more exercise out of doors, especially beyond the limits of the premises, and that they be provided with additional means of amusement. Thermometers should be placed in each ward. The Lavatories should be provided with looking glasses. Greater care should be exercised in preparing the food of the idiotic and helpless patients ; and we think it very desirable that a more perfect and regular system of night watch, should be established on each side of the Asylum.”

B. W. PROCTER } COMMISSIONERS
S. GASKELL, } IN LUNACY.

The Committee further Report that the average rate of payment for the maintenance of Patients during the year has been 7s. 7½d. but that in consequence of the high price of provisions and other articles of general consumption, it has become necessary to raise the rate to 9s. commencing with the 1st of January next.

Signed on behalf of the Committee of Visitors,

“ THO. CHA. HIGGINS, CHAIRMAN.”

Bedford, December 31st, 1853.

The following Documents are appended to this Report:—

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APPENDIX

[A]

REPORT

OF THE

VISITING SURGEON AND SUPERINTENDENT,

AND THE

RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER.

To the Committee of Visitors of the Bedford Lunatic Asylum.

GENTLEMEN,

Your Annual Report presented to the last Quarter Sessions, having given the number of admissions and discharges with other statistical information, we deem it unnecessary to repeat it, and therefore feel at a loss to make any lengthened statement, as we do not think this a fitting place to enter into the treatment of the insane, or to give the particulars of interesting cases.

We are happy to report that the health of the patients has been generally very good, and that no particular disease prevailed until the latter end of the year, when several cases of Diarrhæa occurred, and two of these proved fatal.

In order to make room for recent & curable cases, several of the quiet and harmless patients have been sent to the Union Houses, and to the care of friends, but nearly all have returned worse in body and mind; and we have come to the conclusion, that for Insane persons, there is no place like a Lunatic Asylum for their care and well being.

On the subject of restraint, we beg to say that we have seen nothing to alter our opinions, and we feel assured the so called

system of "non restraint," is fraught, and is likely to be fraught, with far greater evils than that of Judicious restraint.

We have much pleasure in stating that the Asylum is at present in a very healthy state, and in bearing testimony to the kind and good behaviour of the attendants.

The want of room and other necessary offices in this Asylum, has been so amply discussed in your deliberations on the subject of building a new Asylum, that we feel it unnecessary to say any thing about it.

We have the honor to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient, humble servants,

J. HARRIS,

Visiting-Surgeon and Superintendent,

BENJ. F. MATTHEWS,

Resident Medical Officer.

APPENDIX

[B]

REPORT OF THE CHAPLAIN.

To the Committee of Visitors of the Bedford Lunatic Asylum.

GENTLEMEN,

The past year has presented little that requires special notice in the Annual Report which it is my duty to make to you. With the exception of the last two Months the house has been remarkably healthy, and the deaths till then but few. It appeared to me that the disorder which then prevailed attacked the most imbecile in mind as well as body; for of all the patients who sickened scarcely one exhibited the least signs of rational consciousness in the visits I was accustomed to pay them. In one case however, where the illness was of another character, I have had the great satisfaction of witnessing an apparently fixed despair give way to tranquility and hope. The patient informed me that he had been burdened for years with the sense of an unconfessed and unsuspected crime, the particulars of which he related to me, repeating with it his constant phrase that he was a lost

man. To my surprise he never afterwards repeated those words, and to the last maintained the alteration he appeared to have experienced.

The Sunday Services have been regularly preformed at half-past ten o'clock; the average attendance is about one hundred.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD SWANN
Chaplain.

APPENDIX

[c]

TABLES.

STATISTICAL TABLES,

BY THE

RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER.

TABLE I.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

Patients in the Asylum, Dec. 31st, 1852.	M.	F.	Total.
Curable	2	4	6
Incurable.....	127	136	263
	129	140	269
Patients admitted during the year.....	25	26	51
Total under treatment.....	154	166	329
Removed during the year.	M.	F.	Total.
Recovered	7	10	17
Improved	2	4	6
Not Improved		3	3
	9	17	26
Died	14	6	20
Remaining in the Asylum, Dec. 31st, 1853.....	131	143	274

TABLE II.

NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND DEATHS,
DURING EACH MONTH IN THE YEAR.

Months	Admissions.			Discharges.			Deaths.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
January	4	4	8		2	2	3		3
February.....	1	2	3	2	2	4			
March.....	1	1	2	1		1	1		1
April					1	1	1		1
May.....	2	5	7		1	1	1		1
June	1	1	2		1	1		2	2
July.....	2		2	2	1	3	1	1	2
August	2	4	6				1	2	3
September	3	2	5		4	4			
October	1		1	3		3	1		1
November	3	3	6		2	2	2		2
December	5	4	9	1	3	4	3	1	4
Total	25	26	51	9	17	26	14	6	20

* * * *The Six following Tables contain the particulars of 51 cases admitted during the year.*

TABLE III.

Age.	M.	F.	Total.
Under 20 years	1		1
From 20 to 30 years	8	6	14
„ 30 to 40 years	3	5	8
„ 40 to 50 years	6	3	9
„ 50 to 60 years		6	6
„ 60 to 70 years	2	4	6
„ 70 to 85 years	5	2	7
Total.....	25	26	51

TABLE IV.

Duration of Insanity previous to Admission.	M.	F.	T.
Not exceeding 1 week	8	7	15
" " 2 weeks	3	3	6
" " 1 month	2	3	5
" " 4 months	1	2	3
" " 6 months	1	1	2
" " 1 year	1		1
" " 2 years	3	9	12
" " 3 years		1	1
" " 4 years	1		1
" " 20 years	1		1
Congenital	1		1
Not ascertained	3		3
Total	25	26	51

TABLE V.

Social Condition.	M.	F.	Total.
Married	6	8	14
Widowed	2	5	7
Single	17	13	30
Total	25	25	51

TABLE VI.

No. of Attacks.	M.	F.	Total.
First Attack.....	7	6	13
Not Ascertained	17	20	37
Congenital	1		1
Total.....	25	26	51

TABLE VII.

Form of Insanity.	M.	F.	T.
Mania with Delusions.....	14	14	28
Epilepsy	2	2	4
Melancholia	3	6	9
Imbecile	4	2	6
Dementia	2	2	4
Total.....	25	26	51

TABLE VIII.
OCCUPATIONS.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Labourers	8	Labourer's Wives	7
Shoemakers	2	Shoemaker's Wife	1
Carpenters.....	2	Chairwoman	3
Bricklayer	1	Housekeeper	2
Cooper	1	Laundresses	2
Tinman	1	Lacemakers	2
Tailor	1	Lady's Maid	1
Tramp	1	Servant	1
Servant	1	Occupation not known	7
Wheelwright	1		
Sailor	1		
Occupation not known.....	5		
Total.....	25	Total	26

* * * The Six following Tables contain the particulars of 26 cases discharged during the year.

TABLE IX.

Age.	M.	F.	Total.
From 20 to 30 years	2	4	6
" 30 to 40 years	2	3	5
" 40 to 50 years	4	3	7
" 50 to 84 years	1	7	8
Total.....	9	17	26

TABLE X.

Form of Insanity.	M.	F.	T.
Mania with Delusions	8	12	20
Melancholia with Delusions, Suicidal		4	4
Imbecile	1	1	2
Total	9	17	26

TABLE XI.

Residence in the Asylum.	M.	F.	T.
Not exceeding 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ month	3	2	5
" " 4 months		1	1
" " 7 months	2	8	10
" " 1 year	1		1
" " 18 months	2	2	4
" " 3 years		2	2
" " 5 years	1	1	2
" " 11 years		1	1
Total	9	17	26

TABLE XII.

Number of Attacks.	M.	F.	T.
First Attack	2	5	7
Not ascertained	7	12	19
Total	9	17	26

TABLE XIII.

Social Condition.	M.	F.	T.
Married	4	7	11
Widowed		2	2
Single	5	8	13
Total	9	17	26

TABLE XIV.

OCCUPATIONS.			
MALES.		FEMALES.	
Carpenter	1	Dressmakers	2
Tailor	1	Servants	2
Bricklayer	1	Chairwomen	2
Sailor	1	Shoemaker's Wife	1
Gardener	1	Rag Cutter	1
Labourers	4	House-keeper	1
		Corn Dealer's Wife	1
		Miller's Wife	1
		Labourer's Wives	3
		No Occupation	3
Total	9	Total	17

**** *The Six following Tables contain the particulars of 20 deaths during the year.*

TABLE XV.

Age.	M.	F.	T.
From 20 to 30 years	1	1	2
„ 30 to 40 years	1	1	2
„ 40 to 50 years	3	2	5
„ 50 to 60 years	2	1	3
„ 60 to 70 years	3		3
„ 70 to 80 years	3	1	4
„ 80 to 90 years	1		1
Total	14	6	20

TABLE XVI.

Social Condition.	M.	F.	T.
Married	5	2	7
Widowed	3	1	4
Single	6	3	9
Total	14	6	20

TABLE XVII.

Form of Insanity.	M.	F.	T.
Mania	5	1	6
Dementia	9	5	14
Total..	14	6	20

TABLE XVIII.

Residence in the Asylum	M.	F.	T.
Not exceeding 6 months	1		1
„ „ 1 year	3	1	4
„ „ 2 years	1		1
„ „ 3 years	2	2	4
„ „ 4 years	1		1
„ „ 5 years		1	1
„ „ 6 years	1	1	2
„ „ 7 years	2		2
„ „ 9 years	3	1	4
Total.	14	6	20

TABLE XIX.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	T.
Accidentally Drowned	1		1
Disease of the Heart	3		3
Epilepsy.	1	1	2
Apoplexy (Serous)	2		2
Gradual Exhaustion	3	2	5
Old Age and General Decay.. . . .	1	1	2
Disease of the Brain		1	1
Phthisis	1		1
General Paralysis	1		1
Diarrhæa	1	1	2
Total	14	6	20

TABLE XXIII.

Social Condition.	M.	F.	T.
Married	32	47	79
Widowed	3	16	19
Single	96	80	176
Total	131	143	274

TABLE XXIV.

General Table of Admissions, including all Re-admissions, from the Opening of the Asylum, in 1812, to Dec. 31st, 1853.

	1852.			1853.			Total.		Total.
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	
Admissions & Re-admissions	923	926	1849	25	26	51	948	952	1900
Deduct Re-admissions...	55	54	109	1	9	10	56	63	119
Total	868	872	1742	24	17	51	892	889	1781

TABLE XXV.

DISCIPLINE.

All the Patients in the Asylum, except the sick, rise, are set to work, leave off work, and go to bed, at the times mentioned as under, viz.—

	Time for Rising.	Interval for Breakfast	Time for Work.	Interval for Dinner.	Time for Work.	Interval for Supper.	Time of going to bed *
From 25 Mar. to 29 Sept.	6 o'clock.	7 to 8	8 to 12	12 to 2	2 to 6	halfpast 6	8 o'clock.
From 29 Sept. to 25th March.	6 o'clock.	7 to 8	8 to 12	02 to 2	2 to 4	halfpast 6	8 o'clock.

* Those Patients who wish to go to bed earlier are allowed to do so.

TABLE XXVI.

DIETARY.

Days of the week.	Breakfast.		Dinner.		Supper.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Sunday, ..	8 oz. bread, 1½ pint porridge.	6 oz. bread, 1 pint porridge.	6 oz. meat with vegetables.	5 oz. meat with vegetables.	8 oz. bread ½ z. butter. 1 pt. tea.	½ lb. plum bread ½ pint tea.
Monday	1½ pint soup with 8 oz. bread.	1 pint soup with 6 oz bread	8 oz. bread 1½ oz. cheese ½ pint beer.	6 oz. bread ½ oz. butter ¾ pint tea.
Tuesday	6 oz. meat with vegetables	5 oz. meat with vegetables.	.....	.....
Wednesday	1½ pint soup with 8 oz. bread.	1 pint soup with 6 oz. bread.	.....	.....
Thursday..	6 oz. meat with vegetables.	5 oz. meat with vegetables.	.....	.....
Friday	1½ pint soup with 8 oz. bread.	1 pint soup with 6 oz bread.	.....	.....
Saturday	16 oz. suet pudding.	12 oz. suet pudding.	.....	.....

Sick Patients,	whatever is ordered by the Superintendent or Medical Officer.
Patients employed in the Galleries or work-rooms	two ounces of bread, half an ounce of cheese, and half a pint of beer for luncheon.
Patients employed in the garden	two ounces of bread, half an ounce of cheesé, and half a pint of beer for luncheon, and half a pint of beer in the afternoon.
Patients employed in the wash-house and Laundry	two ounces of bread, half an ounce of cheese, and half a pint of beer for luncheon—six ounces of meat and vegetables for dinner—and half a pint of beer in the afternoon.

BENJ. FIELDING MATTHEWS,

Resident Medical Officer.

APPENDIX

[D]

ABSTRACT OF ANNUAL RETURNS,

16 & 17 VICT., CAP. 97. SCHEDULE D.

Name of Union.	In County Asylum.		In Licensed Houses or other Asylums		With Friends and in Workhouses.		Totals of both Sexes.	Persons not in confinement.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		Dangerous to self or others.		Of Dirty Habits.	
								M.	F.	M.	F.
<i>Bedfordshire.</i>											
Ampthill	9	9	1	..	3	8	30	..	..	1	..
Bedford	14	26	..	..	8	11	59	1	..	..	..
Biggleswade	9	4	..	1	14	19	47	..	..	3	1
Hitchin, part of ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Leighton Buz., pt. of	1	2	1	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..
Luton, part of	8	7	1	2	7	8	33	..	..	..	1
Neots St., part of..	..	1	..	..	3	5	9	..	..	..	..
Wellingboro, part of	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..
Woburn.....	6	5	..	..	4	3	18	..	..	..	..
Totals	47	54	3	3	41	55	203	1	..	4	2
<i>Hertfordshire.</i>											
Albans St.	5	4	1	..	13	30	53	1	..	..	..
Amersham, part of ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barnet, part of ...	..	1	..	1	..	2	4	..	..	..	..
Berkhampstead pt. of	4	1	..	..	2	9	16	..	..	..	..
Bishopstortford pt. of	6	6	3	4	7	13	39	..	..	1	..
Buntingford	2	4	..	..	3	4	13	..	..	..	..
Edmonton, part of ..	1	2	2	4	1	..	10	..	..	..	..
Hatfield	3	7	..	..	4	5	19	..	..	..	1
Hemel Hempstead..	4	5	..	..	1	1	11	..	..	..	..
Hertford	7	6	..	1	5	5	24	..	..	..	1
Hitchin, part of ..	11	11	..	1	10	9	42	..	..	2	..
Luton, part of .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royston... ..	..	1	..	1	4	4	10	..	..	..	1
Ware	4	5	1	3	7	8	28	..	..	..	..
Watford.....	10	6	..	1	5	11	33	..	..	..	1
Welwyn.....	1	1	..	..	1	2	5	..	..	..	..
Totals	58	60	7	16	63	103	307	1	..	3	4
<i>Huntingdonshire.</i>											
Caxton, part of... ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Huntingdon	5	10	1	5	4	2	27	..	..	..	..
Ives, St., part of ..	9	9	1	2	2	3	26	..	..	..	..
Neots, St., part of..	6	3	3	1	3	5	21	1	..	..	..
Oundle, part of.....	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Peterboro, part of ..	1	2	1	..	2	2	8	..	..	..	..
Stamford, part of ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thrapston, part of..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	..
Totals ...	22	24	6	8	14	15	89	1	..	..	..
Grand Totals	127	138	16	27	118	173	599	3	..	7	6

APPENDIX

[E]

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

UPON

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Committee of Visitors Report that they have audited the Accounts of the Treasurer and Clerk of the Asylum, pursuant to 16 and 17 Vict., cap. 97.

The Receipts have been as follows, viz.—

	£.	s.	d.
Sales—Produce of garden and farm	222	6	2
Miscellaneous.....	8	4	10
Unions in the United Counties and Borough.....	5402	19	5
County Liberty and Borough Treasurers, for Criminal and Vagrant Lunatics	250	13	3
Non-contributory Districts	6	15	6
Counties of Bedford and Hertford, excess paid for Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics chargeable to Parishes...	41	5	8
County of Bedford, for ordinary Repairs	115	11	6
United Counties and Borough excess in Contract for New Chapel, Wash-house, and Laundry	33	18	1
Ditto, cost of erecting Cemetery Wall.....	95	4	11
Total Receipts.....	£6176	19	4

The Payments have been as follows, viz.—

By Maintenance account.....	5694	1	11
„ Funerals, Removals, and other separate charges.....	11	4	6
„ Building account.—ordinary repairs	104	2	1
„ Maintenance of criminal Lunatics in Fisherton House Asylum.....	271	16	0
„ Garden and Farm	141	13	3
Total Payments.....	£6222	17	9

The Balances due to the Asylum are

From Steward	50	0	0
„ Counties and Unions.....	43	3	11
„ County of Bedford for repairs	42	10	6
	<hr/>		
Total.....	£135	14	5
	<hr/>		

The Balances due from the Asylum are

To Treasurer	478	6	11
„ Counties and Unions	40	4	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
	<hr/>		
Total.....	£518	11	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
	<hr/>		

Leaving a net Balance due to the Maintenance Account of £382. 17s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The Accounts of the Garden and Farm (about 12 acres) shew a net profit in the Receipts and Payments of the year, of £188. 2s. 11d. viz: In Cash, £80. 12s. 11d. Value of Vegetables consumed in the Asylum, £107. 10s. 0d. In addition to which there is an increase in the value of Live and Dead Stock on the 31st Dec. 1853, of £124. 18s. 1d. over that of last year.

The Balance due to the Maintenance Account has accrued during the last Quarter of the year; the rate of payment for that period having been fixed at 7s. 6d. per week only. The rise in the prices of Bread and other Articles of general consumption, in addition to the unexpected out-lay upon the hot Water Apparatus, are the principal causes of the deficit,

(Signed,)

THO. CHA. HIGGINS, *Chairman*
 WM. LYNN SMART,
 R. LINDSELL,
 CHAS. MOORE,
 THOS. TYLECOTE,
 GEORGE P. LIVIUS,
 WILLIAM BLOWER,
 JOHN LINTON,
 JOHN HARVEY,
 MARLBOROUGH PRYOR,
 JAMES RUST,
 HENRY LITTLEDALE.

February 14th, 1854.