

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH

REPORT

OF THE DIRECTOR

OF THE

WEST-RIDING OF YORK


PAUPER

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Wakefield;

ROWLAND HURST, PRINTER, CORN-MARKET.

1846.



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R E P O R T .

The number of applications for admission into the West Riding Asylum during the last year, amounting to 268, has been larger than during any former year. This increase may be attributed, less to the supposed augmentation of insane cases amongst the labouring classes, than to the beneficial operation of New Laws. By which, attention has been drawn to what was formerly regarded with culpable indifference, and a suitable provision for the insane poor enforced on Parish Officers.

Of this number only 111 could be received, the remainder, 157, were removed to private Asylums or elsewhere, under such protection as could be obtained for them.

As of late years, a considerable improvement has been effected in most Institutions, both in the moral, and medical treatment of a disease, once encountering all the aversion that ignorance and prejudice could suggest, so there is reason to hope that this improvement will keep pace with the growing demands of almost every class of society. The gradual change which has taken place in the public mind, though less apparent in the very poor, has still had considerable influence; the mischievous prejudice, by which the existence of insanity is concealed, until time has so far established the disease, that the labours of the Physician are hopeless, is fast giving way, under the manifest results of early recourse to efficient means. A testimony yet stronger in favour of rational and scientific treatment, is found in the conduct of patient's subject to periodical attacks of mental alienation. Amongst the first indications of the recurrence of the malady, is

an entreaty on the part of the Patient to be brought again to the Asylum.

A consciousness of impending danger arising from certain sensations, before any outward symptoms of disease have been manifested, induces the sufferer to seek the means by which under similar circumstances he has been restored to health.

It has not been infrequent, at any period in the history of the Institution, to receive patients who have escaped from home and friends, and who impatient of suffering and mismanagement, have fled to the refuge afforded them in the Asylum. Since the publication of the last report, three of such fugitives have been admitted; two females and one male. The male patient had been discharged after a residence of 18 years in the House, but his mental powers were too weak to encounter the world with its cares and responsibilities, (for the children he had left as infants, had grown into men and women,) and after a few days absence, he escaped from his home during the night, and applying for admittance, was once more taken in, in a state of painful excitement; this disturbance has since passed away, and with his restored tranquillity, he expresses his determination never again to leave "his home;" both females, who were married with children, have returned cured to their respective families.

Of the causes by which an Asylum for paupers is filled, poverty, with its train of evils, physical and moral, appears the most prolific. Where the general health is impaired by unremitting labour, and insufficient food, domestic calamities, and those vexations incident to human nature, which in health would be successfully contended with, prey on the mind with an irresistible power. Intemperance in the use of stimulating drinks, which is so commonly assigned as the proximate cause of insanity amongst the working classes, is doubtless but too frequently had recourse to, in the futile hope of removing unwonted depression, but with the real effect of facilitating the impending attack.

It is satisfactory to state, that, notwithstanding the number of inmates has for some years been larger, than the means of accom-

modation will in the strictest sense justify, yet the mortality has diminished, and the healthy state of every part of the Establishment, will best tend to prove, that the means used have not been employed in vain, such as careful ventilation, cleanliness, and wholesome diet.

The number of deaths has been forty four, and death has in many instances occurred in persons who were in a state of hopeless fatuity when admitted, and for whom nothing more remained than to render their short period of suffering as little painful as possible. The insensibility and torpor with which death is usually accompanied in the insane has been before noticed, and although this fact furnishes consolatory evidence, that the amount of suffering amongst those who die in a Lunatic Asylum is less than with the sane, still, the helplessness, and physical wants of the Paralysed, the Epileptic, and the Fatuous, demand an equal degree of vigilance and care.

Seventy-five patients have been discharged during the year, from many of whom satisfactory accounts have been received, not only as regards their continuance in health and soundness in mind, but also in reference to their domestic comfort, and in many instances, subsequent moral conduct. It is sometimes found that an attack of insanity, induced by the reckless proceeding of some member in a family, operates as a salutary warning, and when regarded as a visitation more to be feared than death, serves as a check to thoughtlessness and intemperance, when every other preventive means has proved abortive.

The success which has attended the Bazaar of fancy articles, has by improving the funds of "Harrison's Charity," justified a more liberal grant of money to discharged patients; donations to double the amount of those formerly made have been received, in many instances with much gratitude. A certainty of support until work can be obtained, and the means of restoring comfort to a desolate home, have had a beneficial moral influence on many, when returning reason would but have made a sense of destitution more keenly felt.

On the 22nd of October, the Annual Bazaar sale was held, when £40 were realized by the profits, at the same time, it is observed that the merits of the articles now on hand, and the industry and ingenuity with which they are worked, appear to suffer no diminution.

In this, as in all large Asylums for the Insane, in which employment is used as a curative means, the history of one year differs little from that of another. The same objects are kept in view; these are, calming the excited feelings of the patients by a gentle and firm system of moral discipline, the correction of physical disturbance in the general system, and more especially in the brain, with diversion of the mind from a train of morbid thought, by the substitution of varied rational and entertaining occupations.

Nothing like compulsion is found to be necessary, a sufficient encouragement is always before the apathetic and indolent, in the example of others, and as the labour is always moderate, and adapted to the condition of the patient, it is rather felt as a preventive of that monotony, which would otherwise render life, in a Lunatic Asylum, an intolerable burden.

Believing that the truest benefit of the Institution and to society, is not the amount of labour performed, but the progress that has been made in forwarding the cure of the patient. The principle that employment is for the advantage of the Patients is always maintained, and that which was intended as a healthy exercise, is not allowed to become a task.

For some time considerable difficulty was found in employing male patients out of doors from a scarcity of land. It had been determined that the New Building, for an auxiliary Institution should occupy a portion of the ground already belonging to the Asylum, and when the foundations were commenced, six acres were taken of the land which had been cultivated by the patients, thus with an increased household, diminishing the means of beneficial treatment.

But during the last year, a garden, lying immediately to the North of the plantation, containing about five acres, has been purchased

of the Messrs. Charlesworth, a site particularly valuable, not only on account of its contiguity to the premises, but also from its containing an abundant spring of excellent water; another garden, a little removed from the Turnpike road to the East, and containing about four acres, was purchased from John Maude, Esq. Both of these plots having been cultivated as market gardens, will be of essential use to the future welfare of the Establishment. The east garden from its delightful and commanding situation, will afford in summer an agreeable change of prospect, and in addition to the means of agricultural employment, might, by the erection of a small cottage, afford a constant resort for cheerful recreation.

The New Buildings are rapidly advancing, one wing is nearly completed, so that some part of it will be ready for occupation during the next summer.

At a meeting of the Visiting Justices, held in the month of October, the weekly charge was advanced from 5s. 6d. to 6s.

C. C. CORSELLIS, M.D.

DIRECTOR.

December 31st, 1845.

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

January 30th, 1846.

C A S H A C C O U N T .

DR.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of last Account.....	1518	17	8
Amount received for Butter.....	5	6	7
Cow*	6	10	0
Fruit and Vegetables	75	16	6
Bones	3	1	6
Eggs.....	3	12	1
Pigeons	0	4	2
Dripping	6	0	8
Cows' Hides and Tallow	4	1	0
Wood	0	10	0
Lard, &c.....	8	14	9
Pasturing Sheep... ..	0	18	0
Lints.....	3	0	0
Discount on Wheat	2	6	6
From Ellis Hodgson, Esq., for Patients chargeable to } the Riding as Vagrants	217	18	2
Ditto from Townships	6224	15	2
	£8081	12	9
Balance	167	4	6
Amount of Accounts due from different Townships	2823	18	11
	£2991	3	5

*3 Cows killed and used in the Establishment, valued at.	51	2	4
6 Calves ditto ditto ditto	15	10	8

Audited 6th February, 1846.

J. HOLDSWORTH.
T. H. MARSHALL.

CASH ACCOUNT.

CONTRA, CR.	£	s.	d.
By Amount paid for Clothing and Bedding.....	212	4	4
Coals	370	6	2½
Cotton and Linen Yarn .. .	277	0	0
Cows .. .	55	8	0
Fodder .. .	14	8	0
Drugs .. .	62	2	6
Leeches .. .	5	9	6
Earthenware .. .	6	12	6
Brushes .. .	36	15	0
Freight and Carriage .. .	12	4	0
Groceries .. .	358	15	10
Hops .. .	112	19	4
Ironmongery .. .	20	6	6
Incidental .. .	79	16	4½
Pigs .. .	8	8	0
Valuation of George Halden's, Garden	75	0	0
Valuation of Thomas Webster's do..	70	0	0
Horse Hire .. .	23	0	0
Scouring Blankets .. .	16	17	0
Funeral Expences .. .	58	9	0
Leather, Hemp, &c. .. .	127	10	7
Malt .. .	565	19	0
Meat .. .	1255	16	3
Manure and Lime .. .	16	8	6
Rates and Taxes .. .	24	16	11
Rent of Land to Harrison's Fund, &c.	56	0	0
Salaries and Wages .. .	1930	11	11
Seeds .. .	8	3	6
Stationery and Postages .. .	55	1	9
Straw .. .	195	11	0
Wheat, Meal, &c. .. .	1506	4	3
Wine, Spirits, and Porter .. .	54	6	8
Wool .. .	238	11	6
Bankers' Interest, Commission, &c.	3	4	3
	£7914	8	3
Balance .. .	167	4	6
	£8081	12	9
Tradesmen's Accounts owing .. .	825	15	7
Balance in favour of the Institution .. .	2165	7	10
	2991	3	5

P A T I E N T S.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
In the Asylum on the 1st of January, 1845..	226	207	433
Admitted since	47	64	111
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	273	271	544
	55	64	119
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Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1845	218	207	425

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged.....	29	46	75
Dead	26	18	44

A D M I T T E D.

37	24	5	9
36			

DISCHARGED.

Cases not having been insane more than three months before admission, and discharged within six months.	12	Cases not having been insane more than twelve months before admission, and discharged within two years.	20	Cases not having been insane more than two years before admission and discharged within three years.	0	Cases having had previous attacks.	18	Cases not cured, discharged by desire of their friends and by order of the Magistrates.	25
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Admitted since the Asylum opened	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged	906	1092	1998
Dead	680	493	1173
Remaining	218	207	425
	1804	1792	3596

Number of Patients discharged :—Cured	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Relieved	733	850	1583
	173	242	415

Average Number of Patients during the year, 438.

Number of Patients admitted in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1845.

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
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

Number of Patients admitted in each Month.

January.	February	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
274	235	277	269	355	344	326	302	264	275	268	269

Number of Patients discharged in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1845.

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
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

Number of Patients dead in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1845.

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
12	19	19	23	30	53	45	42	42	50	47	49	53	52	43	60	56	62	37	60	41	57	53	53	57	44

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	100	425	479	MALES. 449	207	113	27	5
1	96	414	280	FEMALES. 483	381	108	25	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	27	16	MALES. 19	54	21	86
32	22	24	FEMALES. 19	44	32	85
						Total 261
						Total 258

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

A D M I S S I O N S.

Patients admitted within three months after the first attack	1110
Patients admitted within twelve months after the first attack	632
Patients admitted who had been insane from one to thirty years .	753
Patients admitted who have had previous attacks, and have been confined before in this Asylum	519
Patients admitted who are stated to have had previous attacks, but who have not been confined here	582
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	3526

D I S C H A R G E S A N D D E A T H S.

Patients discharged cured who had not been insane more than three months before admission	529
	Dead.. 260
Patients discharged cured, who had not been insane more than twelve months before admission	392
	Dead.. 239
Patients discharged cured, who had been insane from one to many years before admission	90
	Dead.. 425
Patients discharged cured, who have had previous attacks . .	571
	Dead.. 219
Patients not cured, discharged by desire of their friends, and others by order of the Magistrates	416
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	1173 1998

Degree of Education of the 111 patients admitted during the year 1845.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Well educated	2	0	2
Can read and write	28	24	52
Can read.....	8	21	29
No education.....	5	6	11
Not stated	4	13	17
	47	64	111

Social state of the 111 patients admitted during the year 1845.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Married	20	27	47
Widowers	1		1
Widows		7	7
Single	26	30	56
	47	64	111

Religion of the 111 patients admitted during the year 1845.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Church of England	21	19	40
Rome	1	3	4
Wesleyans	9	27	36
Independents.....	3	1	4
Calvinists	1	2	3
Baptists	2	2	4
Primitive Methodists	1	0	1
Unitarians	1	0	1
No religion.....	7	7	14
Not stated	1	3	4
	47	64	111