

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

OF THE

BELFAST DISTRICT

Hospital for the Insane Poor

OF THE

COUNTIES OF ANTRIM AND DOWN, AND THE COUNTY
OF THE TOWN OF CARRICKFERGUS,

FROM 1ST APRIL, 1857, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1858.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

BELFAST:

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1858.



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GOVERNORS

OF

The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,

APPOINTED BY

THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND PRIVY COUNCIL OF IRELAND,

Under the Provisions of 1 and 2 George IV. Cap. 33.

No.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.
1	Marquis of Donegall,	London,	March, 1829.
2	Mayor of Belfast, for the time being	Belfast,	March, 1829.
3	Rev. Thomas Hincks, A. M., ..	Derrykeighan Rectory, Dervock,	March, 1829.
4	Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., D.L., ..	Belvoir Park, Belfast, ..	June 28, 1829.
5	William M'Cance, Esq., J. P., ..	Belfast,	Jan. 4, 1836.
6	Robt. J. Tennent, Esq., J. P., D.L.,	Belfast,	Jan. 4, 1836.
7	Edward Bruce, Esq., J. P., ..	Kingstown, Dublin, ..	Oct. 28, 1836.
8	Right Rev. C. Denvir, D.D., ..	Belfast,	Oct. 28, 1836.
9	Rev. John Edgar, D.D., ..	Belfast,	Oct. 28, 1836.
10	Rev. H. Montgomery, LL.D., ..	Dunmurry,	Oct. 28, 1836.
11	Very Rev. Dean Stannus, ..	Lisburn,	April 4, 1842.
12	Rev. H. Cooke, D.D., LL.D., ..	Belfast,	April 4, 1842.
13	Rev. J. S. B. Monsell, A. M., ..	England,	July 13, 1842.
14	Conway B. Grimshaw, Esq., ..	Belfast,	Oct. 8, 1846.
15	John Clarke, Esq., J. P., ..	Belfast,	Sept. 13, 1847.
16	Marquis of Downshire, ..	Castle, Hillsborough, ..	Nov. 16, 1847.
17	Robt. Gordon, Esq., J. P., D.L., ..	Florida Manor, Killinchy, ..	Nov. 16, 1847.
18	Robert Batt, Esq., J. P., D.L., ..	Purdysburn, Belfast, ..	Nov. 16, 1847.
19	Major John S. Crawford, J. P., ..	Crawfordsburn, Holywood, ..	Nov. 16, 1847.
20	Lord Bishop of Down & Connor } & Dromore, for the time being }	The Palace, Holywood, ..	April 9, 1850.
21	William Dunville, Esq., ..	Richmond Lodge, Belfast, ..	May 22, 1851.
22	Rev. T. F. Miller, A. M., ..	Vicarage, Belfast, ..	Dec. 8, 1851.
23	Adam J. Macrory, Esq., ..	Duncairn, Belfast, ..	June 15, 1852.
24	Lord Dufferin, ..	Clandeboye, Holywood, ..	Dec. 10, 1855.
25	Thomas M'Clure, Esq., J. P. ..	Belfast,	Jan. 29, 1856.

* * * The two Government Inspectors are *ex-officio* members of the Board.

Resident Physician, ROBERT STEWART, M.D.

Visiting Physician, HENRY M'CORMAC, M.D.

Visiting Surgeon, &c., JAMES MOORE, M.D.

STATED MEETINGS OF GOVERNORS ARE HELD IN THE BOARD-ROOM ON
THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT ONE O'CLOCK, P.M.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
 OF
 The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1858.

Table I.—General Statement of the year's admissions, &c.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In House, on 1st April, 1857,	...	...	...	188	142	330
Admitted since, New Cases,	65	68	133			
Relapses,	6	8	14			
	—	—	—	71	76	147
Total under treatment during the year,			...	259	218	477
Discharged, Recovered,	38	44	82			
Do., Relieved,...	14	12	26			
Died, ...	14	11	25			
	—	—	—	66	67	133
Remaining under treatment, on the 31st March, 1858,	...	...	...	193	151	344
The total Admissions during the year, were 5 more than in 1857.						
The Daily Average Number of Patients during the year, was ... 342.59						
Do. for the preceding year, ... 323.25						
"Dangerous Lunatics" admitted during the year, viz. :—						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
From Antrim Gaol, ...	8	6	14			
From County Down Gaol, ...	13	10	23			
	—	—	—	21	16	37
Average Annual Expense of each Patient for the past year, including every charge, ...			...	£17	3	10
Do. for the previous year, ...			...	19	10	7½
Being a decrease on each Patient this year of ...			...	2	6	9
Total Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1858,			...	5,889	16	7
Do. for the year ended 31st March, 1857,			...	6,314	2	7
Produce of Farm and Garden, ...			...	£362	2	7
Deduct Farm and Garden Expenses, ...			...	37	14	8
Net Profit, ...			...	£324	7	11

Table II.—Ages of the 147 Patients admitted during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years, ...	8	7	15
" 20 to 30 years, ...	17	23	40
" 30 to 40 " ...	17	21	38
" 40 to 50 " ...	11	10	21
" 50 to 60 " ...	13	5	18
" 60 to 70 " ...	4	9	13
" 70 to 80 " ...	1	1	2
TOTALS, ...	71	76	147

Table II

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Table

Table VII.—Occupation of the 147 cases admitted during the year ended
31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Baker,	1	0	1
Blacksmith,	1	0	1
Bleacher,	1	0	1
Brassfounder,	1	0	1
Carpenter,	1	0	1
Clerks,	2	0	2
Coachman,	1	0	1
Cook,	0	1	1
Dealer,	1	0	1
Dressmaker,	0	1	1
Farmers, and Wives and Daughters of do.,	9	7	16
Flowerers and Sewers,	0	21	21
Hacklers,	3	0	3
Housekeeper,	0	1	1
House Servants,	3	13	16
Labourers and Labourers' Wives,	18	7	25
Mechanic,	1	0	1
Milliner,	0	1	1
Mill Workers,	0	2	2
Nailer,	1	0	1
Paupers,	0	3	3
Pensioner,	1	0	1
Presbyterian Minister,	1	0	1
Rent Collector,	1	0	1
Reelers,	0	2	2
Sailors,	3	0	3
Sapper and Miner,	1	0	1
Schoolmasters and Mistresses,	2	3	5
Shepherd,	1	0	1
Shoemaker and Binder,	1	1	2
Shopman,	1	0	1
Soldiers,	3	0	3
Spinner,	0	1	1
Surgeon,	1	0	1
Watchmaker,	1	0	1
Weavers,	4	1	5
Without any Occupation,	6	11	17
TOTALS,	71	76	147

Table VIII.—Degree of Education in the 147 cases admitted during the
year ended 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well Educated,	3	1	4
Can Read and Write,	44	29	73
Can Read only,	14	37	51
Totally Uneducated,	10	9	19
TOTALS,	71	76	147

Table IX.—Ages of the 82 Patients discharged Recovered during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 Years, ...	2	4	6
From 20 to 30 Years, ...	9	7	16
“ 30 to 40 “ ...	8	9	17
“ 40 to 50 “ ...	7	8	15
“ 50 to 60 “ ...	9	7	16
“ 60 to 70 “ ...	3	9	12
“ 70 to 80 “ ...	0	0	0
TOTALS, ...	38	44	82

Table X.—Shewing the period of time the 82 Patients discharged Recovered were under treatment during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 3 Months, ...	8	5	13
From 3 to 6 Months, ...	14	17	31
“ 6 to 12 “ ...	7	9	16
“ 1 to 2 Years, ...	7	5	12
“ 2 to 5 “ ...	2	7	9
“ 5 to 10 “ ...	0	1	1
TOTALS, ...	38	44	82

Table XI.—Shewing the Duration of Disease in the 133 Patients Discharged, Recovered, and Relieved, and who Died during the year ended March 31, 1858.

DURATION OF DISEASE.	RECOVERED AND RELIEVED.			DIED.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 3 Months, ...	3	6	9	6	4	10
From 3 to 6 Months, ...	13	15	28	1	2	3
“ 6 to 12 “ ...	7	12	19	0	1	1
“ 1 to 2 Years, ...	10	8	18	1	1	2
“ 2 to 5 “ ...	14	10	24	3	0	3
“ 5 to 10 “ ...	4	5	9	1	0	1
“ 10 to 20 “ ...	0	0	0	2	0	2
“ 20 to 28 “ ...	1	0	1	0	3	3
TOTALS, ...	52	56	108	14	11	25

Table XII.—Ages of the 25 Patients who Died during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 Years, ...	2	2	4
From 20 to 30 Years, ...	1	2	3
“ 30 to 40 “ ...	1	2	3
“ 40 to 50 “ ...	4	1	5
“ 50 to 60 “ ...	5	2	7
“ 60 to 70 “ ...	0	2	2
“ 70 to 80 “ ...	1	0	1
	14	11	25

Table XIII.—Employment during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Assisting Servants,	12	14	26
Basket-making,	2	0	2
Breaking Freestone, &c.,	8	0	8
Cultivating the Farm,	80	0	80
Embroidering,	0	8	8
Gardening Labour,	8	0	8
Knitting,	2	14	16
Making and Repairing Clothing, Bedding, &c.,	4	14	18
Making and Repairing Shoes,	2	0	2
Painting,	1	0	1
Pumping Water,	30	0	30
Quilting,	0	6	6
Smith Work,	2	0	2
Spinning,	0	20	20
Sweeping Yards, Carrying Coals, &c.,	20	0	20
Tailoring,	4	0	4
Washing in Laundry,	0	20	20
Weaving, Winding, and Warping,	10	0	10
TOTALS,	185	96	281

Table XIV.—Forms of Disease of the Total Number of Patients remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Dementia,	11	12	23
Idiocy,	0	0	0
Mania,	121	76	197
Do., complicated with Epilepsy,	14	6	20
Monomania,	16	24	40
Melancholia,	31	33	64
TOTALS,	193	151	344

Table XV.—Shewing the State of the Cases remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Considered Chronic, or Incurable Cases,	133	94	227
Probably Curable,	60	57	117
TOTALS,	193	151	344

Table XVI.—Shewing the Religious Persuasions of the 344 Patients Remaining in Hospital on 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Covenanter,	1	0	1
Established Church of England and Ireland,	55	44	99
Methodists,	0	3	3
Presbyterians,	72	50	122
Roman Catholics,	64	54	118
Unitarian,	1	0	1
TOTALS,	193	151	344

Table XVII.—Obituary for the year ended 31st March, 1858.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Forms of Disease and supposed Exciting Cause.	Social State,	Occupation.	Period an Inmate.	Cause of Death.
1	M.	19	Mania—Hereditary.	Unmarried.	None.	13 months & 11 days.	General Debility.
2	M.	50	Mania—Unknown.	Unmarried.	R. C. Clergyman.	10 years & 2 months.	Apoplexy.
3	F.	50	Melancholia—Puerperal.	Widow.	Housewife.	15 days.	Suicide.
4	M.	28	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Labourer.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ years.	Strumous Disease.
5	M.	42	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Mechanic.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ months.	Exhaustive Mania.
6	F.	65	Mania—Fright.	Married.	Dressmaker.	28 years and upwards.	General Debility.
7	F.	35	Mania—Overwork at Night.	Single.	Millworker.	6 years, nearly.	Phthisis.
8	F.	54	Melancholia—Unknown.	Single.	Spinner.	16 years and upwards.	General Debility.
9	F.	27	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	None.	8 days.	Exhaustive Mania.
10	M.	58	Mania—Unknown.	Widower.	Carpenter.	4 years.	General Debility.
11	M.	73	Mania—Unknown.	Widower.	Labourer.	2 months.	Senile Debility.
12	M.	58	Mania—Hereditary.	Single.	Farmer.	16 days.	Exhaustive Mania.
13	F.	19	Mania—Religious Excitement.	Single.	Flowerer.	3 months.	Exhaustive Mania.
14	F.	43	Dementia—Losses in Business.	Single.	Staymaker.	11 months.	General Debility.
15	F.	18	Dementia—Hereditary.	Single.	Flowerer.	5 months.	Pulmonary Disease.
16	F.	26	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Housemaid.	4 months.	Exhaustive Mania.
17	M.	41	Mania—Abuse of Mercury.	Single.	Carpenter.	22 months.	Paralysis.
18	F.	35	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	None.	5 weeks.	General Debility.
19	M.	19	Mania—Fright.	Single.	Millworker.	25 months.	Epilepsy.
20	M.	32	Mania—Unknown.	Single.	Labourer.	22 months.	Phthisis.
21	M.	40	Mania—Hereditary.	Single.	Labourer.	6 weeks.	General Debility.
22	F.	63	Mania—Bodily Ailments.	Widow.	Servant.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ months.	Disease of Heart.
23	M.	40	Melancholia—Pecuniary Losses.	Single.	Farmer.	25 days.	{ Wound of Throat before admission.
24	M.	58	Mania—Cerebral Congestion.	Married.	Shepherd.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ months.	Apoplexy.
25	M.	50	Mania—Unknown.	Married.	Labourer.	6 hours.	Disease of Heart.

“CRIMINAL LUNATICS.”

In last year's report it was stated that the establishment had then, happily, become entirely free from inmates of the criminal class, which was so great a desideratum, and one for the accomplishment of which the Governors of this Institution were the first to bring before the proper authorities, and to continue doing so, year after year, until, ultimately, an Act was passed for the establishment of a central asylum, at Dundrum, for the removal to, and future charge of, all cases acquitted of criminal offences, on the ground of insanity. This freedom from such exceptional inmates will, it is to be hoped, be continued intact; and that no relaxing of the law will be had recourse to, to reconvert these institutions into gaols, for the “custody of lunatic prisoners” of any description. The Act of Parliament above referred to is very explicit on this head, it distinctly enacting, “that whenever, and so soon, as the said central asylum shall be erected, and fit for the reception of criminal lunatics, it shall be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant to order and direct, that all criminal lunatics then in custody, in any lunatic asylum or gaol, or who shall thereafter be in custody, shall be removed, without delay, to such central asylum, and shall be kept therein so long as such criminal lunatics, respectively, shall be detained in custody” (section 8), and that “the interpretation of criminal lunatic in the Act shall be construed to mean any person acquitted on the ground of insanity” (section 26).

“DANGEROUS LUNATICS.”

As usual, a large number, comparatively, of the inmates admitted during the year were “Dangerous Lunatics,” transmitted from the gaols of the district, by warrants under the hand of the Lord Lieutenant; but, though so styled, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Parliament, it was the exception to the rule any symptoms of a “dangerous” character being manifested by them during their subsequent treatment, the greater number being perfectly harmless and amenable to discipline. It is greatly to be desired that this mode of admission—one which is becoming an increasing evil—were materially checked, if not entirely put a stop to. The committing Magistrates, who may be regarded as the immediately responsible

parties in the matter, should require the most rigid proof of cases thus presented to them being really "dangerous," inasmuch as the feeling is gaining ground (in the country districts especially), that the most certain and least difficult way to gain admittance into the Asylum is through the County Gaol, and, accordingly, the ordinary process of having a regular printed form filled up, and submitted for the approval of the Board, is avoided as too troublesome and stringent. The Inspectors, in their last biennial report, have very strongly called attention to this matter, and pointed out the necessity of some effective steps being taken to remedy it, and certainly not without much reason.

HEALTH DURING THE YEAR.

A more than ordinary immunity from anything bordering on cases that approached to serious illness happily predominated during the year, the standard of health being unusually high in so large an establishment, and with a daily varying population. The perfect state of ventilation achieved in the building, generally—more especially in the new wings and dormitories—has largely helped to this prosperous condition of so important and peculiarly-circumstanced an Institution. The strict attention invariably paid to cleanliness throughout the Institution—the comfortable clothing and bedding—the due warmth of the day-rooms and galleries—and, though last, not least, a sufficiently nutritious and varied dietary has each helped to this most satisfactory and thankworthy result.

MORTALITY.

The death cases during the year, it will be seen, on referring to the obituary table, were but twenty-five (fourteen males and eleven females), being considerably less than last year's, when the number was thirty-eight. It may be observed, too, that there was a larger number under treatment, both in the aggregate and the daily average, throughout the past year, than the preceding one—the former being four hundred and seventy-seven, compared with four hundred and fifty-nine in 1857; and the latter three hundred and forty-two, compared with three hundred and twenty-three; thus making the difference in this respect still more in favour of the past year, when the per centage of deaths, calculated on the average daily

number under treatment (which is the fairer method of taking it, and not on the total number), was under eight per cent., an unusually low average in these Institutions, which may be set down at between 10 and 11 per cent., and still not considered great. It is, also, to be remarked, that three of the deaths did not come under the ordinary category—one, for instance, was but six hours in the house when death suddenly occurred, from heart disease, of which the deceased had been the subject, for some time previously. In the second case, a fatal issue was inevitable, the patient having been received from gaol in a completely prostrated state from the effects of a severe wound he had inflicted on himself with a suicidal intent; and, in the third, one of the females terminated her existence by suspending herself, by means of a bed sheet, in a very ingenious and effective manner, from the window in her bedroom, between night and morning, on which a coroner's inquest was duly held, by J. K. Jackson, Esq., when a verdict, in accordance with the above facts, was unanimously arrived at, and the immediate attendant in charge, and the establishment, exonerated from all blame in so unfortunate a catastrophe, but one which no human foresight could by any possibility have prevented. Indeed, it may be stated, on this head, that, considering the large number, always, of cases in every asylum, with a suicidal propensity strongly marked in them, and who are unceasingly on the watch to accomplish their purpose—and this, too, in the most unlooked-for and unsuspected methods—the surprise is, that so few are enabled to carry out the one object upon which their remaining faculties are entirely concentrated. The other causes of death were—viz., general debility, eight (four males and four females); maniacal exhaustion, five (two males and three females); pulmonary consumption, three (one male and two females); apoplexy, two (both males); heart disease, epilepsy, paralysis, and scrofulous disease, each one (all males). The oldest male in the mortality list of the year was seventy-three, and the youngest nineteen. The oldest female sixty-five, and youngest eighteen. It should be observed, before dismissing this head of the report, that the last year saw the conclusion of the mortal career of the first inmate received into the House, on its opening, in 1829. This was a female, whose incumbency extended to the

long period of twenty-eight years and upwards, and in whose history one or two matters worthy of notice here may be glanced at. During the progress of the building of the Asylum, this patient was known to have come to see it, and to have marked out a particular room for herself, she having a presentiment of approaching insanity, and one which proved to be too true. Having been under treatment some months, she had become, to all appearances, perfectly convalescent, and fitted for removal; but the very day on which her husband came to take her home she relapsed, and from that period to her dissolution there was never any further mental restoration—severe and frequent attacks of high maniacal excitement periodically occurring all the remaining portion of her lengthened inmateship. During her abode in the house both her son and daughter were likewise patients. The former made a good recovery some years ago, the latter died under treatment, many years prior to her mother's decease, who, in neither instance, would admit that they were her children; but who, nevertheless, and more especially in the case of her daughter, manifested, in various ways, that a mother's love and feelings, however obtuse and dormant they might have become from the effects of long-continued mental disease, were still by no means obliterated.

SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL CASES.

During the year now closed the admissions of suicidal and homicidal cases were more numerous than usual, amounting to the large number of sixty-nine (thirty-four males and thirty-five females). Five of the males made actual attempts on their own lives prior to admission, two by cutting their throat, two by submersion, and one by hanging, and three attempted to commit homicide; all the rest had either the suicidal or homicidal propensity strongly developed, without, however, having made any actual attempt in either respect. Of the females, five also endeavoured to effect self-destruction at home, three by submersion, one by precipitating herself from a window, and one by cutting her throat. All the rest were either suicidally or homicidally disposed, in a greater or less degree, and all, it is needless to say, gave a large additional amount

of responsibility and anxiety to the establishment in their subsequent supervision and treatment.

PRESENT STATE OF ACCOMMODATION.

The house, throughout the year, has been not only full, but overcrowded, as will be seen by the average daily number, exceeding three hundred and forty; whereas, properly, there should not have been more than three hundred and thirty; and not even this latter amount treated without a strain on the capabilities of the establishment; but, owing to extreme urgency occurring in individual cases, together with endeavouring to avoid delay in the admissions in general, which seldom happened, the numbers have gradually increased as stated—thus making a pressure in the house extremely irksome and embarrassing in many respects. Establishments for the treatment of the insane should not, according to the repeatedly and unanimously expressed views of the best and most experienced authorities, exceed two hundred and fifty (under the one roof), that number being considered the largest which can be treated efficiently, and have fair justice done to all parties—inmates and officers.

At the present time the cases on the books for admission, as vacancies may arise, are nine.

Fully two-thirds of the patients in the house are of the so-called incurable class—a class, however, requiring, for the most part, as much constant care and supervision as any other. And it is only proper to observe, and a point, too, strongly to be dwelt upon and maturely weighed, that, though this term “incurable” holds good so far as regards its subjects being never again fitted to take their places in the busy world, yet the greater proportion of them is comparatively sane (and, to the casual observer, would appear entirely so), whilst under regular and systematic treatment and supervision, and capable of both enjoying and appreciating the means using for their care and benefit. This, in itself, is a great amelioration of so dreadful an infliction as insanity; and the thinking and humane portion of the community will see from this, that, though every Hospital for the Insane is populated as thus indicated, yet they are still fulfilling their important purposes very decidedly and beneficially, and, as regards society at large, doing not a little for the protection both

of life and property, by having such cases secluded from external excitement.

RESTRAINT.

The cases requiring mechanical restraint during the past year were very few, as usual, it being the exception to the rule, the most perfect freedom not being enjoyed by all the inmates; and this not as a novelty during the past year only, but every year since the Institution came into operation. Nor would this point of detail be now referred to at all, only that it appears called for, to place on record, that cases will arise from time to time, which not to restrain in their maniacal fury by the application of a strait jacket, or otherwise, would be nothing short of madness on the part of those charged with their treatment and the safety of the patient, as well as that of the attendants.

AMUSEMENTS, &C., FOR THE PATIENTS.

Towards the close of 1857 an entertainment was given to the patients, attended by several of the Governors, and a select number of ladies and gentlemen from Belfast, similar to what had been customary before the new buildings and alterations commenced, the prolonged delay in completing which had prevented their stated repetition. Between one and two hundred patients of both sexes were present, and their delight on the occasion, and remarkably good conduct, in every particular, was the general theme of observation on the part of the visitors who witnessed this happy reunion, and who joined with the patients freely in dancing, and their other amusements, which had a salutary effect of a marked and permanent nature, the inmates feeling themselves once more of the outer world, in being associated with the "Royal Family" and "grand quality"—as they termed the ladies and gentlemen present—and the dull monotony of their existence thus broken in upon, and affording them agreeable reminiscences to the present time. The visitors, it should not be omitted to be stated, expressed the highest gratification with the evening's proceedings, in every respect. The periodicals which have been distributed amongst the patients, during the past year, have been another source of enjoyment, by wiling away their time agreeably and improvingly, and helping to break the chain of their morbid thoughts. The Board have been pleased

to give their approval for the purchase of several additional musical instruments, since last report, which are now in course of being obtained, and which will, doubtless, be of great benefit in their curative treatment ; the inmates generally enjoying music, and many of them, who are totally inert and immovable on ordinary occasions, becoming lively and active when the sound of music is heard, and, more especially, when conjoined with dancing, an amusement in which they are allowed frequently to indulge themselves.

A piano has been in the female department for some years, and one of the females has been taught to play on it, surprisingly well, by a male patient, who was an organist, and who has lately left the house restored in mind, and is now supporting himself at his profession, having gotten the appointment of an organist in a distant part of the province. And this leads the Resident Physician to suggest to the Board of Governors how desirable it would be were a self-acting organ—the strains of which are so soothing and so suitable for such an establishment, as he himself has had proof of in other asylums—purchased, together with the other instruments.

NEW WINDOW SASHES AND WATER CLOSETS.

Since the appearance of the last annual report the works then in progress, in regard to the putting up of new window sashes in the new wings, and the erection of self-acting water closets, in lieu of the former closets, which were nuisances in and to every sense, have been fully completed at the expense of the Treasury, and have given entire satisfaction in their working in all respects.

SUPPLY OF WATER FROM NEW WELL.

The supply of water from the new well, sunk two years ago, continues to be abundant, and amply sufficient, for the purposes of the establishment. The water required is still raised by the labour of the patients ; no arrangements having been yet made by the Belfast Spring Water Commissioners for such an enlarged supply in their reservoirs, as would enable them to enter into terms to meet the wants of this Institution from their works for a constant supply, by gravitation, which would be a great desideratum for the Asylum, and one which, it is hoped, may yet be accomplished. For the same reason, the

intended erection of a steam-engine on the premises for pumping purposes remains still in *statu quo*.

DEATHS, &C., OF GOVERNORS.

Since last year two members of the Board have been removed from this scene of their labours—viz., Mr. Blakiston Houston and Mr. Sinclaire, the latter ripe in years, having attained the great age of ninety-four, and, to the last, regularly attending the meetings of the Board. The former was also most constant in his duties as a painstaking Governor, always manifesting a lively interest in every matter that bore upon the well-being of the establishment, and whose premature removal has been sincerely lamented, by both his fellow-governors and the whole official staff of the Institution. No new Governors have since been added by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council. The average attendance of members at the Board during the year was nearly six—three constituting a quorum.

MONTHLY INSPECTIONS BY THE GOVERNORS.

A rule was formally passed by the Governors, a few months ago, to the effect, that, each Board-day, the house should be visited by the Chairman of the day, accompanied by two members of the Board appointed by him. This rule has since been regularly acted upon, and a report entered on the minutes of the day of the state of the establishment at each visitation.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTIONS.

During the past year the establishment was visited officially, on three several occasions, by the Government Inspectors, who made reports to the Board, as usual, as to the general conduct and discipline of the house.

SUPERANNUATION PENSIONS.

Connected with the details of management during the past year it is to be stated, that advantage was taken, by two of the male attendants, of the provisions of the Act, passed in 1856, empowering superannuations being granted, under certain stringent rules, to the officers of these Asylums. One had been in service for the long period of 28 years, and, being nearly 80 years of age, and having discharged his responsible duties in a manner the most satisfactory, the Board recommended him for a pension of £21 per annum, which, having received the approval of the Inspectors, he now enjoys the advantages of; the other had

been in service upwards of 18 years, and, being both aged and infirm and a faithful servant, he also obtained a superannuation pension of £12 1s 4d per annum—both being the maximum amount allowed to be given by the Act.

PUBLIC COURT HELD BY THE LUNATIC ASYLUMS' COMMISSION.

In May last the Commissioners of Inquiry on the Lunatic Asylums of this country held a public court here, in regard to the general management of the Institution, which was attended by a large number of the Board of Governors, and some others. The inquiry was conducted by examination on oath, and lasted an entire day. To the present time no report has been made by the Commissioners, so that nothing is known of the changes which may be recommended by them in the existing state of the Asylums. Some additional returns have been called for by the Commissioners, and duly supplied to them.

Having now referred to the more prominent occurrences of the past year it only remains for the undersigned to thank the Governors, sincerely, together with the Inspectors, for their strong and unanimous recommendation, recently and successfully made to Government, of his claims for an increase of salary for increased duties, owing to the great enlargement of the Institution—a recommendation, it is to be observed, which was so greatly enhanced, and rendered so additionally gratifying, by being quite a voluntary proceeding on their part.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D.,

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,
31st March, 1858.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL TABLES OF STATISTICS, &c.

Table XVIII.—Shewing the Admissions, Discharges, &c., from each County in the District during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY.							Males.	Females.	Total.
Antrim, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	35	33	68
County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Down, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	35	42	77
TOTALS,						71	76	147	
DISCHARGED, &c., TO EACH COUNTY.									
Antrim, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	39	30	69
County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Down, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	26	36	62
TOTALS,						66	67	133	
REMAINING IN THE HOUSE, 31ST MARCH, 1858.									
Antrim, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	92	78	170
County of the Town of Carrickfergus, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
Down, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	98	69	167
TOTALS,						193	151	344	

Table XIX.—Shewing the Per Centage of Discharges and Deaths, and the Average Per Centage, calculated on the Average Number of Patients, for Thirteen Years, ended 31st March, 1858.

Years, ending 31st March.	Yearly Average Number.	RECOVERED.		RELIEVED.		DIED.	
		No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent.	No. of Cases.	Rate Per Cent.
1846	252.18	61	24.19	14	8.55	24	9.51
1847	254.96	60	23.58	22	8.62	27	10.58
1848	262.56	81	30.85	15	5.71	47	17.90
1849	271.32	69	25.43	14	5.16	30	11.05
1850	267.51	50	18.68	22	8.22	43	16.07
1851	271.12	81	29.87	29	10.69	29	10.69
1852	275.71	62	22.48	24	8.70	27	9.79
1853	280.01	67	23.92	21	7.49	25	8.92
1854	279.11	47	16.83	20	7.16	19	6.80
1855	266.48	36	13.50	21	7.88	39	14.63
1856	291.96	50	17.12	14	4.79	19	6.50
1857	323.25	66	20.41	15	4.64	39	11.75
1858	342.59	82	23.93	26	7.58	25	7.29

Table XX.—Ages of the 344 Patients Remaining in the Hospital on 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 Years,	9	3	12
From 20 to 30 Years,	34	36	70
“ 30 to 40 “	67	40	107
“ 40 to 50 “	34	35	69
“ 50 to 60 “	32	24	56
“ 60 to 70 “	14	12	26
“ 70 to 80 “	3	1	4
TOTALS,	193	151	344

Table XXI.—Shewing the Duration of Residence in the Hospital of the 344 Patients Remaining under Treatment, 31st March, 1858.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 1 to 2 Months,	7	1	8
“ 2 to 3 “	10	9	19
“ 3 to 6 “	11	7	18
“ 6 to 9 “	8	9	17
“ 9 Months to 1 Year,	7	12	19
“ 1 Year to 18 Months,	21	14	35
“ 18 Months to 2 Years,	5	4	9
“ 2 to 4 Years, “	24	26	50
“ 4 to 6 “ “	12	11	23
“ 6 to 10 “ “	27	24	51
“ 10 to 15 “ “	18	16	34
“ 15 to 20 “ “	17	9	26
“ 20 to 25 “ “	26	9	35
TOTALS,	193	151	344

Table XXII.—Shewing the Articles Manufactured and Made by the Patients during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

1,789 Hanks Linen Yarn.	283 Aprons.
200 Hanks Thread.	126 Petticoats.
1,087 Yards Plain Linen.	75 Wrappers.
33 Yards Twilled Linen.	252 Day Caps.
509 Pairs Stockings and Socks.	43 Bolsters.
80 Pairs List Shoes Soled and Heeled.	56 Bed Ticks.
140 Pairs Sheets.	50 Gowns.
4 Men's Coats.	5 Quilts.
3 Pairs Trowsers.	68 Pillow Slips.
1 Vest.	3 Bedgowns.
216 Shirts.	122 Neck-ties.
27 Socks Footed.	37 Quilted Blankets.
166 Shifts.	6 Night-caps.

Table XXIII.—Shewing the Number of Cases Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, and who Died in each Quarter and each Month, respectively, during the year ended 31st March, 1858.

	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.						DIED.		
				RECOVERED.			RELIEVED.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
April,.....	6	7	13	5	2	7	1	2	3	2	0	2
May,.....	7	9	16	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	1
June,.....	5	10	15	8	12	20	0	1	1	1	0	1
			—44			—27			—7			—4
July,.....	7	8	15	2	3	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
August,.....	6	8	14	4	4	8	2	1	3	0	0	0
September,.....	4	8	12	4	3	7	1	1	2	1	3	4
			—41			—20			—8			—6
October,.....	6	4	10	1	3	4	0	2	2	2	0	2
November,.....	2	5	7	2	2	4	1	1	2	0	1	1
December,.....	6	7	13	1	2	3	1	0	1	0	2	2
			—30			—11			—5			—5
January,.....	6	3	9	2	4	6	2	2	4	2	2	4
February,.....	8	6	14	6	4	10	1	0	1	4	1	5
March,.....	8	1	9	3	5	8	0	1	1	1	0	1
			—32			—24			—6			—10
	71	76	147	38	44	82	14	12	26	14	11	25



**AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FOR ONE YEAR,
BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1857, TO 31ST MARCH, 1858.**

The Charge.

Balance of last Account, in favour of the public, ..	£900	12	1
Received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, ..	5,869	17	9
Received for Vegetables and Fruit sold, ..	£42	9	7½
Do. Oats and Wheat sold, ..	45	1	11
Do. Potatoes sold, ..	16	16	3¼
Do. Bones sold, ..	9	15	7
Do. Fines on Servants, ..	0	15	0
Do. Hay sold, ..	40	0	0
Do. Grazing, ..	5	10	0
Do. Old Iron and Rags, ..	0	3	7
Do. Restitution Money, ..	0	4	6
Do. Refunded Freight, ..	0	2	3
Do. Overcasts in Accounts, ..	0	3	2
	£161	1	11
Deduct Market Dues paid, ..	1	17	2
	£159	4	9
	£6,929	14	7
Balance in favour of the public, ..	£1,039	18	0

The Discharge.

Paid for Provisions, ..	£2,861	14	2
Do. Clothing, ..	634	1	3
Do. Bedding, ..	167	19	10
Do. Furniture, ..	54	13	8
Do. Fuel and Light, ..	320	11	10
Do. Soap, Candles, &c., ..	115	13	4
Do. Stationery and Printing, ..	40	16	10
Do. Advertising, ..	3	3	6
Do. Medicine, including Wine and Malt, ..	39	14	3
Do. Repairs and Alterations, ..	309	17	3
Do. Farm and Garden Expenses, ..	52	17	9
Do. Insurance, ..	22	12	6
Do. Incidental Expenses, ..	75	0	9
Do. Salaries and Wages, ..	985	19	2
Do. Postage, ..	5	0	6
	5,889	16	7
To Balance due the Public, ..	1,039	18	0
	£6,929	14	7

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE AND PRODUCE OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FOR ONE YEAR,
BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1857, TO 31ST MARCH, 1858.**

Dr. EXPENDITURE.

To Seed Potatoes,	£18 12 6
" Seeds and Plants,	13 16 9
" Spades, Hooks, Shovels, &c.,	5 1 9
" Shoeing Market Horse,	2 2 0
" Rent Charge,	12 18 7
" Saddlery Work,	0 6 2
	£52 17 9
" Balance,	309 4 10

PRODUCE.

By 242½ cwt. Potatoes, used in the Establishment, valued at,	£42 8 9
" 222½ cwt do., sold at various prices,	16 16 3½
	£59 5 0½
" 86 cwt. Oats, used in the Establishment, at 7s 8d per cwt.,... .. .	32 19 4
" 58 cwt. do., sold at from 7s to 8s 3d per cwt.,	21 15 1
	54 14 5
" 42 cwt. Wheat, sold at from 10s to 12s 6d per cwt.,	23 6 10
" 420 cwt. Straw, used in the Establishment, at 2s per cwt.,	42 0 0
" 200 cwt. Hay, used in the Establishment, at 3s 4d per cwt.,... .. .	33 6 8
" Hay sold,	40 0 0
	73 6 8
" Vegetables and Fruit sold,	42 7 9½
" Do. used in the Establishment,	40 0 0
	82 9 7½
" Manure, valued at	20 0 0
" Osiers made into Baskets,	1 10 0
" Grazing outside the Wall,	5 10 0
	£362 2 7
" Balance,	£309 4 10

Total, £362 2 7

DIETARY

OF

The Belfast District Hospital for the Insane.

BREAKFAST.

One quart stirabout (made with 8oz. fine or 7oz. coarse meal) and three-fourths of a pint mixed milk, ...	Males	} Every Morning.
One-and-half pint stirabout and one-half pint mixed milk, ...		
	Females	

DINNER.

One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes), six ounces solid meat, and one pint soup, ...	Males & Females	} 3 days a-week.
One-half-pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one quart soup (made with ox heads and bones cut out of meat, vegetables, oatmeal, barley, pease, &c.),...	Males	} 3 days a-week.
One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one-and-half pint soup, ...	Females	
Three-fourths of a pound loaf bread (or 3½lbs. potatoes) and one pint mixed milk, ...	Males	} 1 day a-week.
One-half pound loaf bread (or 3lbs. potatoes) and one pint mixed milk, ...	Females	

SUPPER.

One-half pound loaf bread and three-fourths of a pint of mixed milk, ...	Males	} Summer 6 months.
One-half pound loaf bread and one-half pint mixed milk, ...	Females	
One quart stirabout and three-fourths of a pint new milk, ...	Males.	} Winter 6 months.
One-and-half pint stirabout and one-half pint new milk, ...	Females	

* * * Patients who are actively employed are allowed a portion of meat, in addition to the soup, five instead of three days in the week. When the state of the patient's health requires it, the diet is changed accordingly, and any other substituted that may be considered requisite by the Medical Officers.

LIST
OF
Annual Reports of Hospitals for the Insane,

RECEIVED FROM APRIL 1, 1857, TO MARCH 31, 1858.

Irish.

1. *Ballinasloe District Hospital for the Insane*, annual report to 31st December, 1857, pp. 21.—By Thomas Dillon, M.D., V.-P.
2. *Carlow Do.*, twenty-fourth annual report, to 31st March, 1857, pp. 26.—By Matthew E. White, A.M., M.D., J.P., Physician-Superintendent.
3. Inspectors' Eighth Report to Parliament of the District Criminal and Private Asylums, in Ireland, for the years 1856 and 1857, pp. 76.
4. *Kilkenny District Hospital for the Insane*, fifth annual report, to 31st March, 1857, pp. 42.—By Joseph Lalor, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
5. *Killarney Do.*, biennial report, to 31st December, 1857, pp. 19.—By Matthew Shine Lawlor, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
6. *Londonderry Do.*, annual report, to 31st March, 1857, pp. 15.—By William F. Rogan, M.B., Physician-Superintendent.
7. *Mullingar Do.*, second annual report, to 31st May, 1857, pp. 31.—By Henry Berkeley, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
8. *Omagh Do.*, fourth annual report, to 31st March, 1857, pp. 28.—By Francis John West, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
9. *Sligo Do.*, second annual report, to 31st March, 1857, pp. 52.—By John M'Munn, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
10. *Waterford Do.*, half-yearly sheet reports, to 30th November, 1856, and 3d May, 1857.—By John Dobbs, Manager.

English.

11. *Cheshire County Hospital for the Insane*, annual report for 1856, pp. 31.—By T. N. Brushfield, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
12. *Kent Do. (at Barming-Heath, Maidstone)*, annual report, to 4th July, 1857, pp. 29.—By James E. Huxley, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
13. *Lincolnshire Do. (at Bracebridge)*, fourth annual report, for 1856, pp. 38.—By Edward Palmer, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
14. Metropolitan Commissioners in Lunacy, eleventh report, to 31st March, 1857, pp. 38.
15. *Monmouth, Hereford, &c., Joint Hospital for the Insane*, fourth annual report, for 1857, pp. 44.—By J. S. Allen, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
16. *Nottingham County and Borough Do.*, forty-sixth and forty-seventh annual reports, for 1856 and 1857, pp. 24 and 25.—By W. P. Stiff, M.B., Physician-Superintendent.

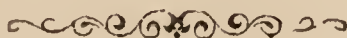
17. *Oxford and Berks Do. (at Littlemore)*, annual report, for 1856, pp. 31.—By William Ley M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.
18. *Somerset County Do.*, ninth annual report, for 1856, pp. 58 —By Robert Boyd, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
19. *Staffordshire Do.*, thirty-ninth annual report, for 1867, pp. 32 —By Mark Noble Bower, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
20. *Suffolk Do. (at Melton, Woodbridge)*, twentieth annual report, for 1856, pp. 36 —By J. Kirkman, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
21. *Wilts Do. (at Devizes)*, sixth annual report, for 1856, pp. 45.—By John Thurnam, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
22. *Yorkshire Do. (North and East Ridings)*, tenth annual report, for 1856, pp. 22 —By Samuel Hill, M.R.C.S., Surgeon-Superintendent.
23. *York, Friends Retreat at*, sixty-first annual report, for 1856-7, pp. 28.—By John Kitching, M.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon-Superintendent.

Scotch.

24. *Aberdeen Royal Hospital for the Insane*, annual report, to 31st March, 1857, pp. 27 —By Robert Jamieson, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
25. *Crichton Royal Institution Do (at Dumfries)*, seventeenth annual report, to 11th November, 1856, pp. 44.—By W. A. F. Browne, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
26. *Dundee Royal Hospital Do*, thirty-seventh annual report, to 16th June, 1857. pp. 43.—By T. T. Wingett, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
27. *Edinburgh Do. (at Morningside)*, annual report, for 1856, pp. 47.—By D. Skae, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
28. "Morningside Mirror," monthly periodical, conducted by the inmates of the above Establishment.
29. *Perth (James Murray's) Do.*, thirtieth annual report, to June, 1857.—By L. Lindsay, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
30. *Scotch Lunatic Asylums'*, report of her Majesty's Commissioners of the, with an appendix, pp. 257.

American.

31. *Toronto Provincial Asylum for the Insane (Western Canada)*, three reports, from July, 1853, to March, 1857, with an appendix to January, 1858, pp. 46 —By Joseph Workman, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.
32. *Utica State Do.*, fourteenth annual report, to 30th November, 1856, pp. 46.—By John P. Gray, M.D., Physician-Superintendent.



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