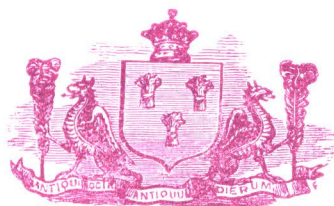


THE REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF VISITORS, SUPERINTENDENT,
AND CHAPLAIN
OF THE
CHESHIRE LUNATIC ASYLUM,
TOGETHER WITH THE
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS,
MADE TO THE
COURT OF GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS OF THE PEACE,
HOLDEN AT NETHER KNUTSFORD,
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHESTER,
ON MONDAY, APRIL 6th, 1868.



CHESTER:
PULLAN, PRINTER, COUNTY COURT BUILDINGS, WATERGATE STREET.

MDCCCLXVIII.

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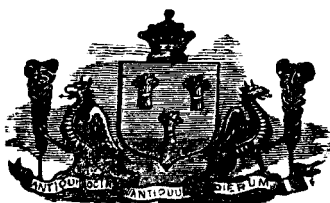
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C H E S T E R :

PULLAN, PRINTER, COUNTY COURT BUILDINGS, WATERGATE STREET.

MDCCCLXVIII.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

FOR 1868:—

THE REV. MARK COXON, CLERK, CHAIRMAN.
THE MARQUESS OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.
EARL GROSVENOR, M.P.
GENERAL THE HONOURABLE SIR EDWARD CUST.
WILLIAM ATKINSON, ESQ.
RICHARD BARTON, ESQ.
ROBERT BARBOUR, ESQ.
CHRISTOPHER BUSHELL, ESQ.
JOHN BOLTON CASE, ESQ.
THOMAS DIXON, ESQ.
PETER EWART, ESQ.
JAMES FRANCE FRANCE, ESQ.
EDWARD FRANCIS FRENCH, ESQ.
EDWARD HOLT GLEGG, ESQ.
DUNCAN GRAHAM, ESQ.
PHILIP STAPLETON HUMBERSTON, ESQ.
JOHN HURLESTON LECHE, ESQ.
CHARLES POTTS, ESQ.
JOHN RAVENSCROFT, ESQ.
JOHN RALPH SHAW, ESQ.
WILLIAM TOMKINSON, ESQ.
LEE PORCHER TOWNSHEND, ESQ.
WILLIAM TOMKINSON, THE YOUNGER, ESQ.
RANDLE WILBRAHAM, ESQ.

OFFICERS:—

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.....JOHN H. DAVIDSON, M.D.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER.....ARTHUR STRANGE, M.D.
CHAPLAINREV. R. CONGREVE.
CLERK TO THE VISITORS AND CLERK OF
ASYLUMJ. E. EDWARDS.
STEWARDT. BARTON.
MATRONMRS. DOUGLAS.
AUDITOR.....JAMES WAKEFIELD.
TREASURERSMESSRS. DIXONS & CO.,
BANKERS, CHESTER.

THE REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS
OF THE
CHESTER COUNTY ASYLUM, FOR 1867.

*To Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Chester,
in General Quarter Sessions assembled.*

THE Visiting Justices of Cheshire Asylum beg to present to the Court of Quarter Sessions the following Report for the year ending 31st December, 1867.

At the date of the last Report, application was made to the Court for a grant of £800 for the erection of temporary buildings, to provide accommodation for the Pauper Lunatics of the County pending the erection of the new Asylum.

They were completed and ready for occupation in June, and consist of Wards for male and female patients, near to and communicating with the main buildings.

The entire cost amounted to £1022; and though the expenditure may appear large for temporary buildings, they will ultimately save to the various Parishes in the County a very considerable sum beyond that laid out.

The Committee are glad to be able to state that they fully answer the purpose for which they were designed, and have in them at the present time about 50 patients.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
On the 31st December, 1866, the numbers in the Asylum were ...	238	243	481
Admitted since that date	68	78	146
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	306	321	627
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<i>Males. Females.</i>		
Discharged during the same period	16	28	
Died	39	18	55
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Remaining in the Asylum in the 30th December, 1867	251	275	526
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The number of admissions have been about the same in 1867 as 1866, while the permanent increase has been 45, which is rather over the average of the last few years, and may probably be accounted for by the accumulation in the Asylum of incurable cases.

The number of deaths have been rather over the average, and exceed those of 1866 by 21.

Amongst the repairs and alterations in the building, the Committee have expended about £100 in improving the engine and pumps attached thereto, in order to economise the cost of supplying the building with water.

The result has been most satisfactory; and the returns for November show, that while in 1866 222 hours of pumping were necessary to raise the water, 141 were sufficient under the new arrangement, being a saving of 36 per cent., and consequently a corresponding reduction in the consumption of coals.

For the quarter commencing September, the Committee were enabled to reduce the rate of maintenance from 9s. 4d. to 8s. 9d., at which sum it now remains.

Recently an Act of Parliament has come into operation by which it is enacted, that whenever the term of imprisonment of a criminal pauper lunatic expires by virtue of his residence in an Asylum, he shall no longer be deemed a criminal; and Visiting Justices are empowered, without reference to the Secretary of State, to discharge such patients on their becoming sane. By this Act all the patients, seven in number, admitted into this Asylum as criminal lunatics, now rank as ordinary pauper patients.

The Committee regret that they have had on one or two occasions to investigate the conduct of Attendants charged with striking patients, and in one case summoned the Attendant before the Magistrates. The case was, however, dismissed in consequence of the charge not being sufficiently corroborated to warrant a conviction.

In March last Mr. J. Norrish resigned the office of Assistant Medical Officer, and Dr. J. H. Davidson was appointed as his successor, at a salary of £100 per annum.

A sum of £100 has been received by the Committee and invested in Consols, being a legacy left by the late Mrs. J. Ball, of Chester, to the Convalescent Fund of the Institution.

This Fund, which is disbursed by the Chaplain, and hitherto chiefly supported by the private contributions of members of the Committee, has for its object the assisting of patients by small gratuities on their leaving the Institution, and has frequently proved a great boon to its recipients.

At the Meeting in December Dr. Harper tendered his resignation to the Committee, which was accepted.

Appended is a copy of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, made on their visit to the Asylum in August.

RICHARD BARTON,

CHAIRMAN.

30th December, 1867.