ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,

NEW WESTMINSTER,

FOR THE

YEAR 1885.

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at the Government Printing Office, James' Bay.
1886.

REPORT

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NEW WESTMINSTER

FOR THE YEAR

1885.

To the Honourable CLEMENT FRANCIS CORNWALL,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned respectfully submits, herewith, the Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane for the year 1885.

JNO. ROBSON,

Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,

1st February, 1886.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1885.

To the Hon. John Robson,
Provincial Secretary.

SIR,—I have the honour to herewith present the Report for the fourteenth year of this Asylum, ending 31st December, 1885.

The usual tables are appended, containing such information as is annually required.

The total number received during the year was twenty-one (21); the number discharged six (6); and the number of deaths, five (5).

RECEIVED.

The number of admissions, twenty-one (21), is larger than during any previous year since 1876. The impossibility to obtain any information concerning the majority of these (owing, no doubt, to their coming to this country without friends), is a great drawback to their treatment.

DISCHARGED.

The number discharged, six (6); of whom five (5) were cured, and one (1) improved. This is not as many as during the previous year, and makes the percentage to admissions look small. We have four more who are well enough to be discharged, but as they are all without money and unable to obtain work until the spring opens, I thought that it would be cruel to send them away until the severe weather was over. An asylum seems a strange place to retain them, but they all have expressed a wish to stay until they can obtain work, which speaks well for the comfort the Government has provided for the sick in mind.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths, five (5), of which three (3) died of general paralysis, one (1) of syphilis, and one (1) of jaundice, although greater than the last three years, is not large amongst seventy-two diseased and infirm people. Only one of these had been less than a year in the institution.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Since my last Report, we have occupied the new wing, which is very much more adapted for a hospital of this kind than the old building. The upper floor is occupied by the female patients and their attendants, and is thoroughly comfortable. The lower floor contains a few convalescents in the dormitory. A large dining-room where over fifty (50) male patients sit down to their meals at one time; these are divided into three tables, viz: the quiet ones, the troublesome ones, and the Chinese.

An elevator, or dumb waiter, has been built, which enables us to send up the food to the female ward while hot; also it is used to send fuel and other things required, and is a great convenience.

The large sitting-room is used once a week for Divine Service.

A balcony has been built on each floor, which is not only useful as a place for exercise, but as a means of escape in case of fire, as they are connected with the main building by iron doors.

A covered passage has been built between the kitchen and the new wing; also a speaking tube allows of communication between the female department and the main building.

A large number of pictures (coloured prints), have been supplied by the Government, which makes the whole interior of the institution look much more cheerful than it did before.

I am now fitting up the old dining-room for a reading-room, and I hope the Government will see fit to assist me in it, as there is a great scarcity of reading material. The good influence of select reading, not only in giving information and killing time, but also in making the patients forget themselves and their troubles, cannot be over-estimated as a means of recovery. The only papers supplied are the *Columbian* and *Mainland Guardian*, with the exception of some back numbers of the illustrated, sent to the female department by some friends of the institution. We have no books. The improvements outside were all done by the patients, and will be detailed under the heading of work.

EXPENDITURE.

The "per capita" cost covers all expenses, including salaries, food, fuel and lighting, drugs, furniture, bedding, farm implements, stationery, etc.; in fact all expenses connected with the institution, except what belongs to the Lands and Works Department and transport of lunatics and keepers to the Asylum.

This makes the cost of each patient for the past year, 78½ cents per day. This is somewhat higher than in 1884, but by subtracting the extra amounts paid for salaries, fuel, lighting, the average cost would be only 61½ cents per day, which is less than the year before. This proves that the institution has been carried on in as economical a manner as possible.

The amount expended for "maintenance" during the past year was $6,584.60, being $365.40 less than the amount ($6,950.00) allowed in the estimates, which is satisfactory.

ESTIMATES.

The estimated amount required to carry on the institution for the coming year will be as follows:—

Salaries	$9,400 00	
Provisions	4,500 00	
Fuel	790 00	
Coal Oil	120 00	
Medicines	150 00	
Clothing	450 00	
Furniture, Stoves, Bedding and Lamps	300 00	
Transport of Lunatics and Keepers	300 00	
Miscellaneous	250 00	
		$16,260 00
FARM:—		
Cow	$ 65 00	
Food for Cow	50 00	
Implements	100 00	
		215 00
Total		$16,475 00

I have put the amount for provisions the same as for last year. In the event of our getting a good cow, we will save the $400 expended on milk.

Garden.

Our out-turn from the garden, although larger than before is still very small, as we had to break up three-quarters of an acre of new ground for the purpose, the new wing being built on the old garden.

Since the vegetables have been taken up, we have converted this three-quarter acre plot into an orchard of 58 trees, of apples, plums, cherries and pears, and a lot of berry and currant bushes.

We have cleared and broken up another plot of an acre and a quarter for garden purposes for the coming year.

Work.

This is the first year that the patients have been allowed to work, and to see them at it proves that they enjoy it thoroughly. They have done a great deal, although they only go out to to work on fine days, and then only for five or six hours. It is entirely voluntary. The average number of workers was fifteen (15) men, including four (4) who helped indoors. The number of day's work done was 3,344. The work done was: a tennis lawn, levelled and sodded; a rustic summer-house built; gravel walk made; the principal road metalled from gate to building; road made from the Goverment road to back yard; two acres of ground broken up and cleared for garden purposes; orchard planted; three terraces made from gate to building; a maple avenue planted; shrubs planted; the front cleared of stumps and underbrush and burnt; road made all around the inside of enclosure; built cow-shed; converted old closets into dry earth ones; made ditches, drains, and cleared up the place generally. On days when the weather would not permit of them working outside, they framed pictures and did light carpentering work in the house.

If we are allowed to take in another ten acres of ground to the back of us we will be able to grow enough vegetables for the table, and for a cow and have pasture besides; we would be able to fence it roughly ourselves.

Of course the female patients all worked at sewing, &c.

Paying Patients.

None of this class were received during the year.

Acknowledgments.

I most thankfully acknowledge the receipt of the following newspapers, contributed regularly: *British Columbian* and *Mainland Guardian.* I only wish the list was longer.

Amusements.

The Rev. Mr. Croucher kindly entertained the patients with the Magic Lantern, which was greatly appreciated. I wish we had a piano or an organ, so as to have some music. There would then be little or no difficulty in getting up entertainments.

The men enjoy their checkers and dominoes, and the women engage in a dance by themselves, without music, once a week.

Divine Service.

We have had service once a week for a number of months, conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Woods. The average attendance has been twenty-eight (28), and seemed to have been appreciated. I have much pleasure in thanking a number of young ladies from the City, who attend regularly to assist in the singing.

At the close of another year, I have pleasure in thanking the Steward, Matron, and all the employés for their close attention to the comfort and welfare of the patients, and their willing assistance to myself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. I. Bentley, M. B.,
Medical Supt. B. C. Asylum.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT.

TABLE 1.

Showing the number of patients in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1884, number admitted, number under care and treatment, number discharged and died, and the number remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1885.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of patients to 31st December, 1884	43	8	51
Number admitted during the year	18	3	21
Number under care and treatment	61	11	72
Number discharged recovered	5	.....	5
Number discharged improved	.....	1	1
Number died	5	.....	5
Number discharged and died	10	1	11
Number of patients remaining 31st December, 1885	51	10	61

TABLE 2.

Showing the place of residence from which patients were received during the year 1885.

Place of residence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Burrard Inlet	1	.....	1
Cariboo	1	.....	1
Chilliwhack	.....	1	1
Farwell	1	.....	1
New Westminster	5	1	6
Victoria	10	1	11
	18	3	21

TABLE 3.

Showing the birth place of patients received during the year 1885.

Birth Place.	Males.	Females.	Total.
England	4	.....	4
Ireland	1	.....	1
United States of America	3	.....	3
Ontario	1	2	3
New Brunswick	1	.....	1
Victoria, B. C.	1	.....	1
China	3	1	4
Wales	1	.....	1
Sweden	2	.....	2
Unknown	1	.....	1
	18	3	21

TABLE 4.

Showing the ages of patients at the time of their admission during the year 1885.

Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Between 20 and 25	4	2	6
Between 25 and 30	4	.....	4
Between 30 and 35	2	1	3
Between 35 and 40	3	.....	3
Between 40 and 45	1	.....	1
Between 45 and 50	1	.....	1
Between 50 and 55	.....	.....	.....
Between 55 and 60	2	.....	2
Between 60 and 65	.....	.....	.....
Between 65 and 70	1	.....	1
	18	3	21

TABLE 5.

Showing the supposed cause of the insanity of patients admitted during the year 1885.

Supposed Cause.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Religious excitement	1	2	3
Intemperance	3	1	4
Masturbation	3	.....	3
Money troubles	2	.....	2
Living alone	1	.....	1
Not known	8	.....	8
	18	3	21

TABLE 6.

Showing the class of insanity of patients admitted during the year 1885.

Form of Insanity.	Males.	Females.	Total
Monomania	8	2	10
Mania	2	.....	2
Dementia	3	.....	3
Melancholia	3	.....	3
Epileptic	1	.....	1
Imbecile	1	1	2
	18	3	21

TABLE 7.

Showing the social state of patients admitted during the year 1885.

Social State.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single	17	1	18
Married	1	2	3
	18	3	21

TABLE 8.

Showing the occupation of patients admitted during the year 1885.

Occupation.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Carpenters	2	.....	2
Farmers	1	.....	1
Labourers	10	.....	10
Housewives	.....	2	2
Sailors	1	.....	1
Ship Calkers	1	.....	1
Inn-keepers	1	.....	1
Shoe-makers	2	.....	2
No Occupation	.....	1	1
	18	3	21

TABLE 9.

Showing the religion of patients received during the year 1885.

Religion.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Presbyterians	1	.....	1
Methodists	.....	2	2
Episcopalians	4	.....	4
Lutheran	1	.....	1
Chinese	3	1	4
Not known	9	.....	9
	18	3	21

TABLE 10.

Showing the age, length of residence and proximate cause of death of those who died during the year 1885.

Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Date of Death.	Residence in Asylum.			Proximate Cause of Death.
				Years.	Months.	Days.	
H. S.	M.	45	13th January, 1885.	2	.....	4	Jaundice.
J. B.	M.	37	14th January, 1885.	1	5	13	General Paralysis.
M. F.	M.	48	7th August, 1885.	5	11	19	General Paralysis.
C. D.	M.	24	2nd September, 1885.	.....	1	18	Syphilis.
W. H.	M.	45	22nd November, 1885.	1	7	21	Paralysis.

TABLE 11.

Showing the admissions, discharges, deaths, escapes; number resident at the close of each year; increase or decrease each year; number treated each year; percentage of recoveries and deaths from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, December 31st, 1885.

Years.	Admissions.	Recoveries.	Discharged uncured.	Deaths.	Escaped.	No. resident at close of each year.	Increase.	Decrease.	Whole number treated.	Per cent. of Recoveries to admissions.	Per cent. of Deaths to number treated.
1872	18	1	.....	1	.....	16	.....	2	18	5.55	5.55
1873	15	10	2	5	.....	14	.....	2	32	66.66	16.12
1874	12	4	.....	3	.....	19	5	.....	26	33.33	10.17
1875	29	3	3	10	.....	32	13	.....	48	10.34	20.83
1876	22	11	3	5	.....	35	3	.....	54	50.00	11.11
1877	14	6	3	3	.....	37	2	.....	49	35.71	8.16
1878	17	8	.....	9	1	36	.....	1	54	47.05	14.88
1879	18	5	.....	8	.....	41	5	.....	54	27.77	14.88
1880	17	4	.....	5	1	48	7	.....	58	31.57	8.33
1881	13	5	3	5	.....	48	.....	.....	61	42.85	8.06
1882	7	3	1	2	.....	49	1	.....	55	42.85	3.63
1883	8	4	1	3	.....	49	.....	.....	57	50.00	5.26
1884	10	5	1	2	.....	51	2	.....	59	72.72	3.03
1885	21	5	1	5	.....	61	10	.....	80	28.57	6.94

TABLE 12.

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1885.

FOOD:—		
Butter	$580 89	
Sugar	188 52	
Oatmeal	66 49	
Tea	88 94	
Eggs	39 74	
Coffee	24 15	
Cheese	27 99	
Sago	14 88	
Ham	55 00	
Apples	22 73	
Currants and Raisins	12 60	
Worcester Sauce	15 93	
Salt and Pepper	7 96	
Rice	5 25	
Flour	30 00	
Mustard	10 50	
Syrup	45 00	
Corn Starch	1 52	
Pearl Barley	2 64	
Small Groceries	12 39	
Vinegar	1 10	
Lard	2 50	
Beans	5 00	
Beef and Mutton	1,417 49	
Potatoes and Vegetables	392 04	
Bread	740 85	
Milk	400 56	
Fish	104 00	
		4,316 75
HOUSE EXPENSES:—		
Sal Soda	12 00	
Tobacco	105 84	
Matches	6 00	
Coal Oil	118 80	
Soap	39 74	
Brooms and Brushes	18 70	
Lime	2 00	
Lye	9 00	
Fuel	781 35	
Clothing, Hats, Boots and Slippers	448 62	
Furniture, Bedding, &c	289 69	
		1,831 74
SALARIES AND WAGES:—		
Salaries		9,242 27
MEDICINES:—		
Drugs and Sugical Instruments		160 14
MISCELLANEOUS:—		
Rent of Post Office Box and Stamps	15 00	
Funeral Expenses	60 00	
Miscellaneous	81 47	
		156 47
		$15,707 47
TRANSPORT:—		
Transport of Lunatics and Keepers		119 50
HOUSE REPAIRS—LANDS AND WORKS.		
Repairing Water Main; iron pipe, &c	13 65	
Tools for Garden; wheelbarrows, &c	53 25	
Repairing Sink	11 50	
Wooden Roller	7 50	
Lumber	37 94	
Repairing Chimneys	3 50	
Hinges for Gate	25 63	
Glass Door	6 75	
Repairing Tools, Glass, Nails, &c., Sundries	34 30	
		194 02
Total		$16,020 89

TABLE 13.

Showing amount of work done by the Female Patients during the Year 1885.

Aprons	24
Antimacassar	1
Button Bag	1
Chemises	16
Yards Crochet Work	9
Dresses	9
Drawers repaired	6
Flannels	3
Handkerchiefs	11
Jackets	8
Mattresses	8
Pillow Cases	36
Petticoats	5
Pants repaired	14
Rag Mat	1
Sheets	23
Pairs Stockings	2
Scrap Bags	3
Pairs Socks	10
Shirts altered	3
Shirts repaired	284
Ties	11
Towels	3
Yards Tape Hemmed	16

Mending for male and female patients.

TABLE 14.

Showing the average number of patients per day, and average cost per day and per month for the year 1885.

Months.	Average number of Patients daily.	Average daily Expenses.	Average cost per capita per day	Average cost per capita per month.
			cts.	
January	52	$44 83	86	$26 96
February	52	48 80	93	26 27
March	52	41 48	79	24 72
April	52	44 65	85	25 56
May	53	42 24	79	24 70
June	54	43 38	80	24 16
July	55	40 22	73	22 64
August	55	40 79	74	23 14
September	54	40 85	75	22 68
October	57	40 13	69	21 50
November	60	46 18	77	23 15
December	60	43 44	72	22 40
	54⅔	$43 08¼	78½	$23 99

TABLE. 15.

Showing Produce of Garden for the year 1885.

	lbs.
Potatoes	3,584
Turnips	600
Carrots	100
Beans	30
Cabbage	258

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