ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,

NEW WESTMINSTER,

FOR THE

YEAR 1887.

VICTORIA: Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Government Printer
at the Government Printing Office, James' Bay.

REPORT

ON THE

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,

1887.

To the Honourable HUGH NELSON,

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 1887.

JNO. ROBSON,

Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,

April, 1888.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ASLYUM FOR THE INSANE,

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.,

For the year ending 31st December, 1887.

To the Hon. Jno. Robson,
Provincial Secretary:

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith the annual Report for the sixteenth year of this Asylum ending 31st December, 1887. The usual tables are appended, containing such information as is annually required. The total number of patients received during the year was thirty-nine (39); the number discharged, twenty-one (21); and the number of deaths, five (5).

RECEIVED.

The number of admissions, thirty-nine (39), is greater than the year before by twelve (12). This number is increasing every year, but is not great in proportion to the increasing population of our Province. Of those admitted five (5) had been in the Asylum before, one (1) ten years ago; one (1) two years ago; one (1) over a year, and two (2) less than two months. The number of Chinese received was seven (7). It is a pity we have not separate apartments for this class, of whom we have eighteen (18).

DISCHARGED.

The number discharged, twenty-one (21), of whom one (1) was not insane, fourteen (14) recovered, and four (4) improved. Two (2) of these latter were returned. The percentage of recoveries to admissions is nearly double what it is in the large Asylums in the east. This satisfactory state of affairs is, no doubt, to a large extent owing to the healty situation and condition of the Asylum, and the almost entire out-door life of all the patients when the weather admits of it.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was five (5), the causes of which are shown in Table No. 6. One man had been in the Asylum over eleven (11) years, and one was an Indian. The smallness of the number speaks for itself as to the healthfulness of the institution.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The improvements which have been made by the Government this year consist of lining one of the large water-tanks with sheet lead in the place of zinc; taking to pieces and rebuilding one large kitchen range; supplying fire screens for all the fire places in the patients' sitting-rooms; replacing old zinc sinks with wooden ones, &c.

The improvements required consist of greater sleeping accommodation, more land to cultivate, improvement in water supply, in lighting, and in heating.

With regard to the most important item, that is greater sleeping accommodation. This, I think, ought to be undertaken first, as the main building contains only four wards with seven single bed-rooms in each, and four other rooms with wooden bars to the windows. This makes

a total of thirty-two single rooms. Into this building fifty patients have to be given beds, the more destructive and noisy being given single rooms and the balance in sitting rooms, bath-rooms, and clothes-rooms. Each ward ought to have contained at least twenty rooms. The new wing was a great relief for a time, but the population has nearly doubled since it was built. The women have room to spare for the present, but the lower ward does not hold enough to accommodate the large number requiring admission. I would respectfully suggest the advisability of the Government appointing an architect to examine and report as to the best way of turning the space we now have into a more useful condition, as I believe by some internal alterations our sleeping accommodation might be increased sufficiently for the immediate present. With regard to the question of more land, our ten acres are nearly as much as we can work at present, but I do not wish the Government to lose sight of the fact that we will require a great deal more in the future. In looking over the reports of the various Asylums in Eastern Canada, I notice that London works a farm of 200 acres, a vegetable garden of 40 acres, and 60 acres of flowers and ornamental grounds. Toronto is asking for a large farm. Kingston, Hamilton and Orillia have large farms, gardens, and grounds for the employment and cure of their patients.

About the water supply I have already written at length. Our main consists of a one and a half-inch pipe, which is divided into three half-inch pipes, one for the main building, one for the new wing, and one for the residence of the Medical Superintendent; and as these pipes go up and down the sides of ravines on their way from the dam, a distance of about a mile, and have been laid for over seven years, it is natural to expect that the supply is not sufficient for our requirements, and it is unpleasant to think what might happen in case of a fire.

In regard to the lighting, as I mentioned in my report last year, a great saving in time, if in nothing else, would be accomplished by the introduction of gas instead of as at present an enormous number of lamps to be cleaned and filled every day.

And last, but not least, heating. Under the most economical and careful management the sum of $996.60 was spent in fuel for the year. I have no doubt that little more than half this amount would be required should the numerous stoves and fire places be replaced by one heating apparatus, whether by hot air, steam, or hot water. I, myself, prefer the latter

EXPENDITURE.

The "per capita" cost (Table No. 15) takes in all expenses of the institution, including salaries, fuel, food, lighting, drugs, furniture, bedding, stationery, &c.; in fact everything except what belongs to Lands and Works and Transport of Lunatics and Keepers to the Asylum. The cost for this year was 59⅔ cents per day, the year before being 67½ cents per day. This shows a good decrease. The following will show the amounts expended as compared with the estimates allowed for the past year:—

	Allowed.	Expended.
Salaries	$9,400 00	$9,400 00
Provisions	5,000 00	4,597 32
Fuel	800 00	996 60
Medicines	200 00	70 97
Clothing	500 00	490 06
Furniture, Bedding, Lamps, &c	150 00	384 00
Transport	700 00	133 50
Miscellaneous	300 00	105 40
Lands and Works	100 00	248 81
	17,150 00	16,426 66
Balance saved (not drawn)		723 34
Total		$17,150 00

I present these figures hoping the Government will divide up the amount to be estimated for more in accordance with our requirements, as we do not not require more money, but under different headings, as the amounts voted for Fuel, Furniture, Bedding, Stoves, and Lamps, and for Lands and Works, were not sufficient, while some of the others were unnecessarily large.

WORK.

Our garden did fairly well, except the potatoes and mangols, owing the dryness of the season and the impossibility of sparing any of our water for garden purposes. We had nearly four acres in crop. The work this required, together with repairing roads, making drains, planting trees and shrubs, kept all the patients who were willing to work out-doors occupied until the winter set in. The female patients, besides doing their own sewing, washing, &c., have taken the mending of the men's clothing in hand and get through a very large amount of work, as may be seen in Table No. 14.

PAYING PATIENTS.

The amount received from this source and handed over to the Government for the year was $770.59, the amount for 1886 being only $50. This may be expected to increase yearly.

AMUSEMENTS.

As I stated in my last year's report, almost everything is done that can be done for the amusement of the patients without the help of a piano. The men have a violin and a concertina, which some of them enjoy playing. They have draughts, dominoes, books, and papers in all the wards, but the winter evenings must be very wearying to a great many. This, I hope, will be remedied in time. The women have a dance nearly every evening.

DIVINE SERVICE.

Almost every Wednesday for the last three years church service has been held in the large dining-room by the Venerable Archdeacon Woods. The singing is assisted by a number of young ladies from the city, for which they have my sincere thanks. The attendance averages over thirty, some of whom look forward to it from week to week, if from no other reason, as a good break in the necessary monotony of their lives.

ACKOWLEDGEMENTS.

I have great pleasure in thanking Mr. Figg for two exhibitions of his magic lantern. Also, I have to express thanks for the two local papers, the weekly edition of the *Columbian* and the *Mainland Guardian*. Again, I have to thank all those employed for their careful 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 Superintendent.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, NEW WESTMINSTER, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1887.

TABLE NO. 1.

Showing movements of patients in the Asylum for the year ending 31st December, 1887.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining January 1st, 1887	57	8	65
Admitted during year :—			
By Lieutenant-Governor's warrant	5	.....	5
By medical certificate	29	5	34
Total number under treatment during year	91	13	104
Discharges during year :—			
As recovered	14	2	16
As improved	2	2	4
As not insane	1	.....	1
Died	5	.....	5
Escaped	1	.....	1
Total number discharged, died, and escaped during year	23	4	27
Remaining in Asylum 31st December, 1887	68	9	77

TABLE NO. 2.

Showing the maximum and minimum number of patients and the daily average number of patients in the Asylum during the year ending 31st December, 1887.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Maximum number of patients (on the 21st November, 1887)	70	10	80
Minimum number of patients (on the 26th January, 1887)	58	7	65
Daily average population	65	8.5	73.5
Admissions of Year.			
SOCIAL STATE.			
Married	3	5	8
Single	31	.....	31
Total	34	5	34

TABLE No. 2.—*Concluded.*

Admissions of Year.—*Concluded.*	Males.	Females.	Total.
RELIGION.			
Church of England	9	2	11
Roman Catholic	4	1	5
Presbyterian	5	.....	5
Methodist	3	2	5
Baptist	1	.....	1
Chinese	7	.....	7
Not known	5	.....	5
Total	34	5	39
PLACE OF BIRTH.			
Canada	10	1	11
England	8	2	10
Scotland	2	.....	2
Ireland	3	.....	3
Wales	.....	2	2
United States	3	.....	3
West Indies	1	.....	1
China	7	.....	7
Total	34	5	39

TABLE No. 3.

Showing the place of residence from which patients were received during the year 1887.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Victoria	10	1	11
New Westminster	11	2	13
Nanaimo	3	.....	3
Vancouver	5	.....	5
Comox	1	.....	1
Cache Creek	1	.....	1
Sumas	.....	1	1
Okanagan	1	.....	1
Mission	.....	1	1
Cassiar	1	.....	1
Esquimalt	1	.....	1
	34	5	39

TABLE No. 4.

Showing the ages of patients at the time of admission during the year 1887.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Between 20 and 25	7	.....	7
Between 25 and 30	10	2	12
Between 30 and 35	4	.....	4
Between 35 and 40	4	2	6
Between 40 and 45	1	.....	1
Between 45 and 50	5	1	6
Between 50 and 55	2	.....	2
Over 55	1	.....	1
	34	5	39

TABLE No. 5.

Showing the length of residence in the Asylum of those discharged during the year.

No.	Initials.	Sex.	When Admitted.	When Discharged.	Remarks.
1	S. S. S.	F.	16th April, 1875.	7th January, 1887.	Improved.
2	J. R.	M.	9th March, 1887.	19th March, 1887.	Recovered.
3	S.	M.	30th March, 1886.	21st March, 1887.	Recovered.
4	C. F. Y.	M.	22nd February, 1887.	24th March, 1887.	Improved.
5	A. A.	M.	4th March, 1887.	30th March, 1887.	Recovered.
6	L. H.	M.	8th January, 1887.	16th April, 1887.	Recovered.
7	J. R. S.	M.	7th September, 1886.	29th April, 1887.	Recovered.
8	A. McI.	M.	28th April, 1887.	2nd May, 1887.	Not insane.
9	T. K.	M.	28th August, 1886.	10th May, 1887.	Recovered.
10	D. W.	M.	15th April, 1887.	11th July, 1887.	Recovered.
11	W. D.	M.	1st April, 1887.	13th July, 1887.	Recovered.
12	R. R.	M.	19th April, 1887.	22nd July, 1887.	Recovered.
13	E. M. P.	F.	16th June, 1887.	22nd July, 1887.	Recovered.
14	H. E.	M.	7th September, 1886.	26th July, 1887.	Recovered.
15	M. E. S.	F.	28th May, 1887.	1st August, 1887.	Improved.
16	D. C.	M.	21st February, 1887.	13th August, 1887.	Recovered.
17	C. B.	M.	29th April, 1887.	15th August, 1887.	Recovered.
18	T. L.	M.	10th November, 1887.	22nd November, 1887.	Improved.
19	J. McC.	M.	9th September, 1887.	24th November, 1887.	Recovered.
20	P. M.	F.	28th October, 1887.	12th December, 1887.	Improved.
21	V. H.	M.	27th January, 1887.	21st December, 1887.	Recovered.

TABLE No. 6.

Showing age, length of residence, and proximate cause of death of those who died during the year 1887.

No.	Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Date of Death.	Residence in Asylum.			Proximate Cause of Death.
					Years.	Months.	Days.	
1	A. L.	M.	59	24th January, 1887.	11	10	8	Marasmus.
2	C. (Indian)	M.	56	3rd March, 1887.	2	5	3	Cardiac disease.
3	J. G.	M.	55	20th May, 1887.	.....	.....	28	Syphilis.
4	G. B.	M.	46	8th December, 1887.	1	6	4	General paresis.
5	W. C.	M.	25	19th December, 1887.	.....	6	14	Paresis.

TABLE No. 7.

Showing trades, callings, and occupations of patients admitted during the year 1887.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Carpenters	3	.....	3
Cabinet-makers	1	.....	1
Cooks	1	.....	1
Doctor (Chinese)	1	.....	1
Farmers	3	.....	3
Housewives	.....	5	5
Labourers	16	.....	16
Miners	1	.....	1
Printers	1	.....	1
Painters	1	.....	1
Policemen	1	.....	1
Sailors	3	.....	3
Store-keepers	1	.....	1
Telegraph operators	1	.....	1
	34	5	39

TABLE No. 8.

Showing the supposed cause of the insanity of the patients admitted during the year 1887.

Supposed Cause.	Males.	Females.	Total.
MORAL.			
Domestic trouble, including loss of relations	1	1	2
Business trouble	3	.....	3
Religious excitement	2	.....	2
PHYSICAL.			
Intemperance in drink	1	.....	1
Venerial Disease	2	.....	2
Self-abuse (sexual)	4	.....	4
Injury to head	2	.....	2
Epilepsy	1	.....	1
Sunstroke	1	.....	1
Paralysis	2	.....	2
Pregnancy	.....	1	1
Uterine disorders	.....	2	2
Over-work	.....	1	1
Hereditary	4	.....	4
Unknown	11	.....	11
	34	5	39

TABLE No. 9.

Showing the class of insanity of the patients admitted during the year 1887.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania (varieties of)	12	3	15
Melancholia	11	2	13
Dementia	4	.....	4
Imbecile	2	.....	2
Epileptic	1	.....	1
Paresis	3	.....	3
Not insane	1	.....	1
	34	5	39

TABLE No. 10.

Showing the probational discharges for the year and the results thereof.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number to whom probational leave was granted	3	3	6
Discharged recovered	2	1	3
Discharged improved	.....	1	1
Returned to Asylum	1	1	2
	3	3	6

TABLE No. 11.

Showing the admissions, discharges, deaths, escapes, number resident at the close of each year increase or decrease each year, percentage of recoveries and deaths, from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, 31st December, 1887.

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	15.62
1874	12	4	.....	3	.....	19	5	.....	26	33.33	11.53
1875	29	3	3	10	.....	32	13	.....	48	10.34	20.83
1876	22	11	3	5	.....	35	3	.....	54	50.00	9.35
1877	14	6	3	3	.....	37	2	.....	49	42.85	6.12
1878	17	8	.....	9	1	36	.....	1	54	47.05	16.16
1879	18	5	.....	8	.....	41	5	.....	54	27.77	14.81
1880	17	4	.....	5	1	48	7	.....	58	23.52	8.62
1881	13	5	3	5	.....	48	.....	.....	61	38.46	8.19
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	50.00	3.38
1885	21	5	1	5	.....	61	10	.....	80	23.80	6.25
1886	27	16	1	6	.....	65	4	.....	88	62.96	6.81
1887	39	21	.....	5	1	77	12	.....	104	53.84	4.80

TABLE No. 12.

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

PROVISIONS:—	
Butter	$ 500 85
Sugar	170 47
Oatmeal	60 02
Eggs	32 40
Ham	47 84
Beef and Mutton	1,367 88
Vegetables	327 14
Fish	116 10
Milk	176 62
Bread	1,072 15
Tea	86 46
Salt and Pepper	15 02
Cheese	13 78
Worcester Sauce	5 75
Coffee	20 70
Apples	21 76
Barley	4 29
Mustard	18 18
Syrup	42 00
Flour	16 19
Rice	6 75
Sago	5 05
Vinegar	1 20
Lard	2 20
Small Groceries	8 01
Carried forward	$4,136 62

TABLE No. 12.—*Concluded.*

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

Brought forward	$4,136 62	
PROVISIONS *(concluded)*:—		
Beans	11 99	
Currants and Raisins	11 95	
Pickles	1 08	
Sal Soda	12 00	
Saltpetre	50	
Blacking	65	
Black Lead	1 30	
Knife Brick	90	
Brooms and brushes	9 11	
Clothes Pins and Washboard	75	
Soap	39 00	
Tobacco	117 60	
Coal Oil	127 80	
Matches	10 23	
Box Clay Pipes	2 25	
Hay for Cows	79 05	
Bran for Cows	32 35	
		4,597 32
FUEL—		
Coal, Wood, and Bark		996 60
MEDICINES:—		
Drugs and Instruments		70 97
CLOTHING:—		
Clothes, Hats, Boots, and Slippers		490 06
FURNITURE:—		
Furniture, Stoves, Bedding, and Lamps		384 00
MISCELLANEOUS:—		
Funeral Expenses	55 00	
Post Office Box and Stamps	15 00	
Miscellaneous	35 40	
		105 40
SALARIES:—		
Salaries and Wages		9,400 00
		16,044 35
TRANSPORT:—		
Transport of Lunatics and Keepers		133 50
LANDS AND WORKS:—		
Lumber for Drains, &c., Water-pipes, Nails, Glass, Paint, Putty, Garden Tools, Lead Tank in New Wing, Blacksmith and Plumber's Work, &c., &c		248 81
		$16,426 66

TABLE No. 13.

Showing the amount of money received from paying patients during the year 1887.

January	$146 79
February	15 00
March	
April	468 80
May	50 00
June	
July	50 00
August	40 00
September	
October	
November	
December	
	$770 59

TABLE No. 14.

Showing articles made and repaired in the Female Ward during the year 1887.

Articles.	Made.	Repaired.
Aprons	27	.....
Chemises	2	.....
Coats	.....	4
Dresses	8	.....
Drawers	2	460
Dusters	15	.....
Floor Clothes	8	.....
Mattress Ticks	16	.....
Neckties	15	.....
Night Dresses	1	.....
Petticoats	4	.....
Pocket-handkerchiefs	10	.....
Pillow Cases	62	74
Pillow Ticks	6	.....
Sheets	39	177
Shirts	.....	927
Towels	66	.....
Tea Clothes	20	.....
Tape Yards	60	.....
Trousers, pairs	.....	362
Under Shirts	2	488

TABLE No. 15.

Showing the average number of patients per day, and the average cost per day and per month for the year 1887.

Months.	Average number of patients daily.	Average daily Expenses.	Average cost per capita per day.	Average cost per capita per month.
			cts.	
January	65	42.95	65	$20 33
February	67	46.90	70	19 73
March	70	47.02	66	20 75
April	72	44.44	61	18 45
May	74	42.56	57	17 74
June	78	42.65	55	16 58
July	75	40.98	54	16 92
August	71	41.09	58	18 02
September	75	42.51	56	16 99
October	78	44.72	57	17 75
November	79	46.72	58	17 68
December	78	46.09	59	18 29
	73.5	44.05¼	59⅔	18 26

TABLE No. 16.

Showing the return of garden produce for the year 1887.

Potatoes	11,214	pounds.
Swede turnips	3,902	,,
White turnips	193	,,
Carrots	1,684	,,
Cabbages	1,456	,,
Cauliflowers	25	,,
Beets	42	,,
Cucumbers	65	,,
Parsnips	60	,,
Tomatoes	96	,,
Mangel-wurzels	528	,,
Beans	17	gallons.
Green Peas	17	,,
Indian Corn	260	ears.
Celery	46	heads.
Pumpkins	22	

R. I. BENTLEY, M. B.,
Medical Superintendent.

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