

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

1975
THE LUNATIC ASYLUMS

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

DURING THE YEAR

1882-83.

MADRAS:
PRINTED BY E. KEYS, AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1883.

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IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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1882-83.

செப்பன்குபவர் பெயர்
செப்பன்குபவரின் எழுத்து
கொண்ட பட்டி நாள்
சரிபார்க்கும்
ப. பா. எ. எ.
கையெழுத்து
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OFFICE OF THE SURGEON-GENERAL
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
OOTACAMUND, 19th July 1883.

No. 196.

From

W. R. CORNISH, Esq., F.R.C.S., C.I.E.,
Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras,

To

THE HONORABLE C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the reports on Lunatic Asylums in this Presidency, for the official year ending 31st March 1883. I regret that my employment on other important duty has delayed the submission of this report somewhat beyond the appointed time.

2. *Asylum Accommodation.*—There is a steady increase in the demand for asylum accommodation, but the buildings already provided are at present sufficient.

Accommodation exists for about 600 lunatics, and the largest number under supervision on any one night of the past year was 456. The asylum at Calicut on one or two occasions has been quite full. The asylum of Waltair will have ample accommodation when the wards have been re-roofed and put in repair. In Madras, two cottages for superior patients have been completed during the year.

3. *General Results.*—The number of lunatics remaining at the end of the former year was 397. During the year 1882-83, 220 lunatics were admitted into asylums, and the total treated was 617. Of these, 66 were "discharged cured," 52 were transferred to the care of friends, mostly improved as regards their mental condition, 22 were discharged otherwise, and 43 died.

The numbers remaining on the 31st March 1883 were 434. The daily average strength was 424, against 376.8 in the former year.

These figures indicate the gradual filling of the asylums.

4. In regard to the effect of asylum management on the condition of the insane, the following abstract shows the proportion of recoveries and mortality to daily average strength. The proportion of recoveries is less, because the asylums have been gradually filling with chronic cases sent in by Magistrates' order for safe custody, and amongst the class of vagrant lunatics so committed, whose insanity has become chronic, the recoveries are necessarily few. The mortality has been rather higher than in 1881, but less than the average of former years. In Madras and Calicut, where the deaths were most numerous, many of the persons admitted were in a very feeble state of health from privation and neglect.

Years.	Percentage of Recoveries to Admissions.	Percentage of Deaths to Daily Average Strength.
1857-78	64.63	22.86
1878-79	46.62	21.73
1879-80	41.36	13.45
1880-81	41.20	12.81
1881-82	37.71	9.02
1882-83	30.00	10.14

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5. *Criminal Lunatics.*—The number of this class admitted was larger than in any previous year, viz., 43 (males 38, females 5). The total of criminal lunatic was 116, and of these, 25 were discharged, 4 died, and 87 remained at the end of the year. The following table shows the tendency to increase of this class of lunatics:—

Criminal Lunatics.

Years.	Admitted.			Total Treated.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1880-81 ...	32	1	33	84	8	92	19	1	20	9	...	9	56	7	63
1881-82 ...	25	3	28	81	10	91	14	...	14	4	...	4	63	10	73
1882-83 ...	38	5	43	101	15	116	24	1	25	4	...	4	73	14	87

6. The distribution of criminal lunatics is shown in the following abstract:—

Asylums.	Remained.			Admitted.			Total Treated.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Madras ...	41	8	49	31	4	35	72	12	84	20	...	20	2	...	2	50	12	62
Waltair ...	10	1	11	4	...	4	14	1	15	3	1	4	...	...	...	11	...	11
Calicut ...	12	1	13	3	1	4	15	2	17	1	...	1	2	...	2	12	2	14
Total ...	63	10	73	38	5	43	101	15	116	24	1	25	4	...	4	73	14	87

7. *Civil Lunatics.*—The admissions of insane of the civil population have been in excess of the numbers of former years. There were 220 of such patients (168 males, 52 females) classified as follows:—

Civil Lunatics.

Caste.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans and East-Indians ...	28	9	37
Hindus ...	95	30	125
Muhammadans ...	36	4	40
Native Christians ...	7	9	16
Other Castes ...	2	...	2
Total ...	168	52	220

8. *Ages of Lunatics on Admission.*—The following table is given to show the period of life at which insanity occurs. It bears out the experience of former years that the great bulk of the insanies are admitted between the ages of twenty and forty.

Ages of Lunatics on Admission.

Age.	Sex.	Admitted.	Ratio per cent. to Total Admissions.
Under 20 years ...	Males ...	12	7.72
	Females ...	5	
20 to 40 " ...	Males ...	120	70.90
	Females ...	36	
40 to 60 " ...	Males ...	36	21.36
	Females ...	11	
Total Admissions ...		220	...

9. *Forms of Insanity.*—Of the cases treated, 112 are classed as "acute mania," 267 as "chronic mania," 66 as "melancholia," 39 as "acute dementia," 70 as "chronic dementia," 2 as "paralysis of the insane," 21 as "idiocy," and 2 as "puerperal mania."

The proportion of recoveries to treated is shown in the following abstract:—

	Proportions of Recoveries to Total treated under each Head.
Acute mania ...	15.17
Chronic do. ...	11.61
Acute dementia ...	10.25
Melancholia ...	9.09
Chronic dementia ...	4.28

10. *Proximate Causes of Insanity.*—Of the newly admitted patients, the alleged causes of insanity are grouped under the headings "Physical" and "Moral." 148 admissions are placed under the former, and 61 under the latter, but the alleged causes are not always recorded with accuracy.

The largest number of entries are under the heading "abuse of narcotic drugs," and there can be no doubt that gunja-smoking is a fertile cause of insanity in this country. Such cases, however, as the experience of the Native Army shows, are most favorable for recovery, when the patients are placed in an asylum, and access to the noxious drug prevented.

List of Alleged Causes.

Physical Causes.				Moral Causes.			
Narcotic drugs ...	...	...	35	Grief ...	...	...	19
Hereditary ...	...	...	21	Misfortune ...	...	...	11
Congenital ...	...	...	19	Fear ...	...	...	10
Epilepsy ...	...	...	17	Family quarrel ...	...	...	5
Intemperance ...	...	...	12	Religion ...	...	...	5
Starvation ...	...	...	8	Love and jealousy ...	...	...	3
Other diseases ...	...	...	8	Domestic trouble ...	...	...	2
Puerperal ...	...	...	6	Desertion of husband or wife ...	...	...	2
Fever ...	...	...	5	Infidelity ...	...	...	1
Concussion ...	...	...	4	Confinement in jail ...	...	...	1
Blow on the head ...	...	...	3	Disgrace ...	...	...	1
Sunstroke ...	...	...	3	Vicious habit ...	...	...	1
Privation ...	...	...	3				
Syphilitic ...	...	...	2				
Fall ...	...	...	1				
Over-study ...	...	...	1				
Total ...			148	Total ...			61

11. *Mortality.*—There were 43 deaths altogether in the three asylums, and the mortality in Madras and Calicut was higher than usual, while in the Waltair

Asylum it was exceptionally low. In Madras, there was considerable prevalence of scorbutic dysentery, which required great care and attention in modification of diet to counteract. Many patients also were admitted in a feeble condition of health, and this was the case also in Calicut, where most of the deaths occurred in the newly admitted insane. In regard to epidemic diseases, there has been no prevalence of them in the asylums, although in Calicut one lunatic was admitted with small-pox.

The following abstract shows some of the principal causes of death :—

Causes of Mortality.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Dysentery	5	...	5
Ulceration—intestine	5	...	5
Phthisis pulmonalis	4	4	8
General dropsy	3	...	3
Abscess of liver	2	...	2
Pneumonia	2	...	2
Atrophy—muscles	2	...	2

Total number of Deaths 43.

12. *General Results in each Asylum.*—The following abstract shows the results in regard to each asylum :—

Table showing the more important Results in each of the three Asylums.

Asylums.	Remained 31st March 1882.				Admitted during the Year.				Total Treated.				Discharged.											
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		A.				B.				C.		D.	
													Cured.				Transferred to Friends.				Otherwise.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of	Improved.	Not Improved.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Madras	217	81	298	120	38	158	337	119	456	80	19	49	43	8	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vizagapatam	26	8	34	14	5	19	40	13	53	5	3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Calicut	43	17	65	34	9	43	82	26	108	8	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	291	106	397	168	52	220	459	158	617	43	23	66	43	8	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Asylums.	Died.		Remaining 31st March 1883.		Daily Average Strength.		Daily Average Sick.		Cured to Daily Average Strength.		Deaths to Daily Average Strength.		Cured to Admissions.		Deaths to Admissions.		Percentage of		Cured to Admissions.		Deaths to Admissions.		Percentage of	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Madras	23	7	80	221	84	305	236-46	80-76	307-22	10	5	15	13-24	23-52	15-95	9-76	10-15	8-66	9-76	25-00	50-00	31-01	19-16	18-42
Vizagapatam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Calicut	11	1	12	63	23	86	31-26	9-01	40-27	1-93	0-99	2-92	15-99	33-30	19-87	2-48	3-20	...	...	35-71	60-00	42-10	7-14	5-23
Total ...	35	8	43	317	117	434	314-67	109-35	424-02	14-05	6-53	20-58	13-66	21-03	15-56	10-14	11-12	7-31	10-14	25-59	44-23	30-00	20-83	15-54

13. *Sickness of Lunatics.*—In Madras, as already stated, a good many of the inmates of the asylum showed obvious signs of scurvy during July, August and September. The prescribed diet for all classes of patients had been improved in the previous year, and supposing that the patients got what was intended for them, it is difficult to understand why they should have fallen into a low condition of health. I investigated the matter personally, but could not discover that there had been any irregularities in victualing the patients. Weekly examinations of the whole of the inmates were instituted, and great attention paid to the use of anti-scorbutic articles of diet, and these measures were effectual in restoring health. 186 of the inmates were admitted into hospital for various diseases, of whom 30 died. The death-rate was undoubtedly enhanced by the scorbutic condition alluded to, although the deaths are recorded under different names.

In Waltair, 32 of the asylum inmates were treated in hospital, with one death only.

In Calicut, the hospital admissions were 71 and the deaths 12. Full particulars of the sickness and mortality will be found in Statement VIII.

14. *Madras Asylum.*—This asylum was under the charge of Surgeon S. L. Dobie during the whole year.

15. *Buildings.*—The buildings are maintained in good repair, accommodation for 4 lunatics of a superior class (2 males, 2 females) has been added during the year, and covered bathing sheds are in course of erection. Quarters for Assistant Matron and Assistant European Warders are still required.

16. The Superintendent brings to notice the defective arrangements for washing clothing. I shall shortly submit to Government a proposition for working a laundry on the asylum premises. In my view, institutions of this kind should be, as far as possible, self-supporting in such matters.

17. The subordinate establishment of the asylum has been unchanged, and the duties have been very efficiently discharged.

18. Surgeon Dobie is in favour of allowing lunatics almost unrestricted liberty, and finds them more manageable under this system than by any form of restraint. The asylum grounds are large, and if the soil was suitable, which it is not, I should advocate a much more extended system of out-door employment in farming and gardening. The garden at present supplies a fair proportion of the vegetables used, but, with good soil and a supply of water, more might be done in this direction.

The asylum has been frequently inspected by myself, and is visited monthly by two of the official visitors, whose remarks and suggestions are sent at once to Government for orders.

19. *Waltair.*—The asylum at this station was under the charge of the Acting Civil Surgeon, A. N. Rogers-Harrison, M.D., for nearly the whole of the official year. The inmates were unusually healthy.

I inspected the asylum in March 1883 and submitted special recommendations in regard to the repair of the buildings and improvement of the establishment.

20. The medical officer reports favorably of the new scale of diet, and the lunatics were mostly in good physical condition when I inspected them.

21. Assistant Apothecary White was in subordinate charge of the asylum, and conducted his duties very efficiently.

22. *Calicut.*—This asylum was under the supervision of Surgeon H. D. Cook, M.B., assisted by Second-class Hospital Assistant M. Lingasen, who resided on the asylum premises and held immediate charge of the institution.

23. The buildings have been maintained in fair order. The asphalt flooring of the wards and verandahs require renewal in several places, and the wall of the female enclosure requires to be extended, so as to shut it off from the male portion of the asylum. Government will be addressed separately on this matter.

24. I inspected the asylum in October 1882. It has reached almost its maximum number of patients.

The official visitors pay monthly visits of inspection.

25. *Finance.*—Owing to an increase of 12 per cent. on the daily average

number of lunatics to be fed, clothed and watched, treasury charges have increased from Rs. 62,271 in 1881-82 to Rs 75,911 in the last year.

26. It has been pointed out that, owing to a defect in the Municipal Act of the town of Madras, no recoveries can be made for pauper lunatics sent into the Madras Asylum from the town. 163 of such pauper lunatics are at present maintained by Government without any contribution from Municipal funds. It is quite possible that a large number of Provincial lunatics find their way to the Presidency town, and, coming under the cognizance of the Police, are placed under observation, but it may be hoped that, in a review of the Madras Municipal Act, provision will be made for requiring the Municipality to pay the cost of its own lunatics, as is the practice of up-country towns and rural circles.

27. The increase of expenditure has been almost entirely under the headings of "establishment proper," "diet," "clothing and bedding," and bazaar supplies.

28. The receipts from private paying patients have considerably decreased in the past year; but, on the other hand, the payments by local authorities for support of lunatics have increased. The sum of Rs. 4,695 was received from patients, and Rs. 11,224 from Local Boards and Municipalities.

29. The several asylums have been managed with care and economy by the Superintendents. They have been regularly inspected by the official visitors appointed by Government. Although I should wish to see more systematic and profitable employment of asylum labor, yet it must be borne in view that there are difficulties in the way of finding employment for the lunatics, which might help to make the asylums in a measure self-supporting.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. R. CORNISH, Surgn.-Genl., F.R.C.S., C.I.E.,

Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT

OF THE

LUNATIC ASYLUM, MADRAS,

FOR THE YEAR 1882-83.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report on the Madras Lunatic Asylum for the year 1882-83.

I.—BUILDINGS.

Certain alterations, repairs and improvements were recommended during the year. Two blocks—one for males and the other for females—each consisting of two sets of quarters for patients of a superior class have been built.

During the heavy rain in November, part of the wall of the female enclosure came down, and was rebuilt.

Improvements at the male and female bathing places have been sanctioned, as also quarters for the Assistant Matron and two Second-class European Attendants (male).

II.—FINANCIAL.

(a.) The average monthly cost, excluding the Superintendent's pay, for each patient has been as follows, for the last three years :—

Years.	Europeans and East Indians.			Natives.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1880-81	18	6	9	9	8	3
1881-82	18	9	8	9	12	10
1882-83	19	14	10	11	10	7

(b.) Total annual cost of an insane under the various headings :—

	1881-82.			1882-83.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Establishment	77	2	5	80	0	3
Diets	80	10	10	92	3	9
Clothing	5	4	0	6	4	10
Bazaar Medicines	9	10	3	11	4	1
European Medicines	0	10	4	0	10	2

(c.) Expenditure and Receipts :—

	1881-82.			1882-83.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Expenditure	48,896	1	2	57,967	14	10
Receipts	12,890	2	0	15,038	15	8

(d.) Financial Statement :—

	1881-82.			1882-83.			Increase.			Decrease.			Remarks.
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	
Medical Officer's Salary.	7,480	2	7	7,800	0	0	319	13	5	...	...	...	No Fund deductions have been made in the Medical Officer's salary in the current year, because he does not belong to the Fund.
Medical Subordinate's Salary	3,163	2	0	3,411	10	9	248	8	9	...	...	...	A Second-class Assistant Apothecary was doing duty in lieu of the Civil Apothecary who went on privilege leave for two months.
Servants' Wages ...	11,114	8	8	12,850	1	1	1,735	8	5	...	...	...	Owing to increase in the number of attendants on account of increase of patients, increase of pay to the writer and the entertainment of a caste cook.
Europe Medicines ...	182	5	6	195	12	9	13	7	3	...	...	...	Owing to increase of patients.
Clothing and Bedding.	361	8	6	687	4	0	325	11	6	...	...	...	Owing to increase of patients and the outbreak of scorbutic symptoms.
Dieting Sick	21,936	15	4	27,520	8	4	5,583	9	0	...	...	...	
Wines and Spirits ...	803	10	4	797	12	0	...	...	...	5	14	4	
Perishable Articles and Contingencies ...	3,853	12	3	4,104	13	11	851	1	8	...	...	...	Owing to increase of patients.
Total ...	48,896	1	2	57,967	14	10	9,077	12	0	5	14	4	

(e.) Clothing and bedding of the value of Rs. 1,933-3-2 have been manufactured and made up in the asylum.

(f.) A form of bond (made out by the Government Solicitor) for the maintenance of private patients has been in use, and has frightened people into paying for their friends.

No payment is received from the Madras Municipality.

The number of other patients for whom no maintenance is paid has been reduced.

The following table shows how the patients have been maintained during the year :—

Military	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Criminal	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Paupers from Madras Municipality maintained by Government	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Other patients maintained by Government	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Paupers maintained by Local Fund Boards, Municipalities, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Patients wholly maintained by friends	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Patients partially maintained by friends	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

Of twenty cases for whom Government pays, five have been settled by Government orders; eight are criminals whose sentences have expired; two are pilgrims—the case of one is being disposed of by Government; two are soldiers' wives; one is an old case from Rangoon; one is a transfer from Trichinopoly Lunatic Asylum; and the remaining case is Mr. Bacon, who has been in the asylum for 33 years.

III.—STAFF AND ESTABLISHMENT.

The responsibilities of the Superintendent are many. The responsibility in money matters and food supply would, in an English asylum, be almost entirely borne by the steward, who is a native on Rs. 70 a month.

The Senior Apothecary, Mr. J. J. Watts, has worked well in the management of the asylum; and Civil Apothecary E. T. Jones has proved trustworthy in his care of the sick and weakly patients.

The marginally noted Head Attendants have worked well, but require to be kept up to their work. The European Attendants, 1st and 2nd Class, are Eurasians. Their pay is not enough for equally trustworthy Europeans. An Eurasian Assistant Steward has been appointed in place of a native who resigned.

Mrs. L. Hannon, Matron.
 „ C. Gallagher, Assistant Matron.
 Mr. H. McColeman, First-class European Attendant.
 „ R. T. Lawrence, do.
 „ E. Leason, Second-class European Attendant.
 „ W. Aldridge, do.

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The Writer's pay has been raised from Rs. 15 to 25 a month to rise Re. 1 a year till it reaches Rs. 30.

There has been an improvement in the work and discipline of the Native Attendants and menials—male and female.

In a few cases in which they have been proved to have been unnecessarily rough with patients, they have been severely punished. In a case of mild assault, a Native Attendant was dismissed, charged before a Magistrate, and fined Rs. 5.

A new system of tell-tale clocks, which has been suggested also to the Inspector-General of Gaols, will be proposed shortly. It will supersede the present system, which consists of six old clocks out of repair. This system only records the visits of the night watches to the six stations where the clocks are placed.

In the new system, three portable clocks (for males, females, and gaol) record the visits of the night watches to any number of stations.

The dhoby only receives Rs. 20 a month for washing for 300 dirty or careless patients; and washes badly.

A caste cook has been added to the establishment during the year.

IV.—THE PATIENTS.

(a.) Remained on the 31st March 1882—

				Europeans and Eurasians.	Natives.
Males	...	...	...	23	164
Females	...	...	...	9	52
Total				32	216
Grand Total				298	

During the year the following were—

	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Escaped.
	158	121	30	...

Total treated 456—Europeans and Eurasians 118, Natives 338. The maximum reached on any one day was 324, and the average daily strength was 307.

				Remained, 31st March 1883.	
				Europeans and Eurasians.	Natives.
Males	...	...	...	51	170
Females	...	...	...	28	56
Total				79	226
Grand Total				305	

(b.) Admissions.—Europeans and Eurasians 38, Natives 120.

Re-admissions.—Four were re-admitted within the year; and seven had been under treatment here before.

The admissions were:—

European Males—							
Military	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Civil	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Criminal (of these 3 were military)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
European Females							
Eurasians, Males—							
Military	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Civil	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Criminal	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Eurasians, Females							
Native Males—							
Military	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Civil	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Criminal	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Native Females—							
Civil	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Criminal	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

This year the majority of the European soldiers were from the infantry showing that the large proportion of artillery men, last year, was probably accidental. Most of the men had become affected while in Burmah, or soon after leaving that country. The climate of Burmah appears to have a very depressing influence on the nervous system and mind.

The diseases of the European patients were as follows:—

Diseases.	European Males.			European Females.		
	Military.	Civil.	Criminal.	Military.	Civil.	Criminal.
Chronic mania	1	1	1	...	...	...
Melancholia	7	...	2*	...	...	...
Congenital imbecility	1	...	...	...	...	...
General paralysis of the insane	...	1	...	...	...	...
Observation	...	1	2*	...	...	...

Three criminals (murderers) have been reported on as showing no signs of insanity.

(c.) Types of insanity:—

Acute mania	...	...	...	...	...	10
Chronic mania	...	...	...	...	...	93
Melancholia	...	...	...	...	...	28
Acute dementia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chronic dementia	...	...	...	...	...	1
General paralysis of the insane	...	...	...	...	...	1
Idiotcy, congenital	...	...	...	...	...	2
Imbecility, congenital	...	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal mania	...	...	...	...	...	0
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	20

(d.) Causes.—Medical certificates are not, as a rule, very trustworthy as regards the causes assigned for insanity. Very little can be found out from the previous history, especially in the case of natives.

* One Military criminal.

The following table shows the difficulty of dividing causes into "Physical" and "Moral;" and proves the untrustworthiness of such a division:—

Causes.	Euro- peans.	Eura- sians.	Natives.	Total.
Intemperance	3	1	...	4
Intemperance and sunstroke ...	1	...	...	1
Intemperance and heredity ...	...	1	...	1
Narcotic drugs	...	1	10	11
Sunstroke	1	...	...	1
Concussion of brain	1	...	...	1
Fall in infancy	...	1	...	1
Miscarriage	...	1	...	1
Abortion	...	...	1	1
Over-study	...	...	1	1
Over-study and heredity ...	...	1	...	1
Privation	...	...	2	2
Heredity	1	2	4	7
Congenital	1	1	3	5
Epilepsy	...	...	5	5
Grief	1	...	...	1
Grief and heredity	...	3	...	3
Disgrace	1	...	...	1
Love	...	1	1	2
Loss of property	...	...	1	1
Loss of caste	...	...	1	1
Confinement in gaol	...	...	1	1
Total ...	10	13	30	53
Total cases in which there has been a hereditary influence ...	1	7	4	12

Making a total of 53. Of the remaining 105 nothing is known.

(e.) Age.—

13 patients were under 20 years of age.
105 patients were between 20 and 40 years.
34 patients were between 40 and 60 years.
1 patient was above 60 years.
5 patients' ages were unknown.

(f.) Caste.—

Europeans and Eurasians	...	...	...	...	37
Hindus	...	...	...	...	84
Muhammadans	...	...	...	...	27
Brahmin	...	...	...	...	1
Native Christians	...	...	...	...	9

(g.) Recoveries.—

Disease.	Number.	Percentage to	
		Admissions.	Total treated.
Acute mania	8	80	22.22
Chronic mania	30	32.25	12.09
Acute dementia	1	100	10
Melancholia	5	17.85	8.19
Observation	5	25	16.66

Years.	Number.	Percentage to Total treated.
1881-82	39	9.94
1882-83	49	10.74

As is the case with other diseases, the sooner the patient comes under treatment the greater is the likelihood of recovery.

(h.) *Escapes*.—One man escaped and was brought back; he is not, therefore, entered as an escape.

To make the allee hedges more secure hereafter, they were cleared of trees; and, as an immediate result, many openings for escape were made, and remained for sometime. Notwithstanding this, there was only this one escape. It is not unlikely that the increased freedom of the patients rendered them less disposed to escape.

(i.) *Suicides*.—One criminal tried to hang himself, but was prevented from doing so.

It is interesting to note how few cases of suicide or attempted suicide occur in this asylum, especially when it is remembered that natives of this country commit suicide readily and for very slight reasons.

(j.) *Births*.—A woman was delivered of a full grown still-born child seven months after admission.

(k.) *Sickness and Mortality*.—The health of the patients was very bad during the months of July, August and September, owing to an outbreak of scurvy. This was met by an increase in the allowance of vegetables, and the issue of limes and betel nut. To it, the high mortality is due; a scorbutic diarrhoea or dysentery causing death. A special report on the outbreak was made at the time.

Of the admissions, 119 were received in bad health.

Causes of Death.

Disease of mesenteric glands	1
Phthisis	7
General dropsy	1
Apoplexy (serous)	1
Epilepsy	2
Pneumonia	2
Perforation of intestines	1
Dysentery	2
Ulceration of intestines	3
Obstruction of intestines	1
Intus usception	2
Diarrhoea	2
Abscess of liver	2
Old age	1
General debility	2

Of these, many were admitted in a bad state of health, and one died hours after admission.

As was noticed last year, most of the deaths were due to low wasting diseases, to which insanes are so liable.

—	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.
Treated in hospital	291	176	196
Died	23	17	30

Percentage of deaths to average daily strength of those treated in hospital—

—	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.
Strength	27.5	16.25	15
Deaths	82.73	104.61	200

Death-rate per cent. to average strength—

Europeans and Eurasians	...	...	...	...	1.6
Natives (civil)	...	...	...	...	7.5
Do. (criminal)	...	...	...	...	.6

(1.) *Treatment.*—Freedom from personal responsibility, the discipline of the asylum, regular hours, good feeding, separation from habits of dissipation, &c., exercise and occupation; these are the great remedies for the cure or alleviation of insanity. This is one of the few asylums in which the open-door system is entirely carried out. No troublesome or violent patients have been locked up during the year. The result has been fewer escapes, and less noise, excitement and violence.

Patients who were considered dangerous are now found to be comparatively harmless, and the attendants are not afraid of them. No special medicinal treatment is used. For sleepless cases, especially on admission, bromide of potassium and chloral have been used with discretion. Bromide of potassium has been found of so little use in epilepsy that it is doubtful if it is of any use at all; and its administration for any but new cases has been given up.

V.—OCCUPATION AND AMUSEMENT.

(a.) *Occupation.*—A great deal of weaving is done by criminals and ordinary patients, and the material is made up into the bedding and clothing of the asylum. This latter is the sole occupation of the European and Eurasian patients. Unfortunately, so few of them are Europeans that the washing, which might well be done in the asylum, has to be handed over to an under-paid dhoby, who does it badly.

The gardening has been largely increased and the patients work at this.

There is also plenty of work about the grounds—keeping them in order.

(b.) *Amusement.*—The soldiers and European and Eurasian patients played at cricket and other games: but, without the European element, these languish.

There have been monthly entertainments consisting of displays of fireworks, the performances of jugglers, music, &c., to amuse the patients; and at Christmas, a similar entertainment on a larger scale, followed by a dinner on New Year's day. The funds for these entertainments are derived from public charity, and from asylum enterprise, at no cost to Government. It has been found necessary to allow certain European and Eurasian patients the use of candles till about 9 p. m., as they cannot go to sleep sooner.

Mr. Watts, Senior Apothecary, and the staff of the asylum have done their best to encourage work and to promote amusement, and so has an insane criminal, who is a conjuror. During the year, no males have been allowed in the female enclosure, with the exception of two tailors who worked in a lodge at the gate. These will be removed.

Many of the medical certificates would hardly satisfy the Commissioners of lunacy in England, but, as this is a public asylum, in which no one has any interest in the incarceration of the patients, irregular or imperfect certificates are not likely to prove dangerous to the liberty of any one.

VI.—THE OFFICIAL VISITORS.

Have visited the asylum monthly.

VII.—VACCINATION.

Has been performed when necessary.

I certify that the orders respecting the custody of poisonous drugs issued by the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, dated 23rd January 1863, were carefully carried out.

(Signed) STANLEY L. DOBIE, Surgeon,
Superintendent, Government Lunatic Asylum.

MADRAS,
1st April 1883.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LUNATIC ASYLUM, WALT AIR,

FOR THE YEAR 1882-83.

Remained	...	...	...	...	...	34
Admitted	...	...	...	...	...	18
Re-admitted	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total treated	...	...	...	...	...	53
Discharged as cured	...	...	...	...	...	8
Do. otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	1
Disease changed	...	...	...	...	...	0
Transferred	...	...	...	...	...	0
Died	...	...	...	...	...	1
Remaining	...	...	...	...	...	43

In submitting the Annual Report on the Waltair Lunatic Asylum for the official year 1882-83, I have the honor to state that 40 males and 13 females were under treatment during the year. Of these, 26 males and 8 females remained from the previous year.

Admissions.—There were 18 admissions during the year, 13 males and 5 females. Of the males, 1 is military and 3 are criminals, and the crimes committed by the latter class are murder 1 and theft 2.

Of the 3 criminals admitted, the cause of insanity in 1 was epilepsy, 1 fever, and 1 unknown; of the military 1 unknown; and of the 14 civil, 1 was from ganjah, 1 starvation and 12 unknown.

Re-admission.—There has been one re-admission which was due to the recapture of the criminal male lunatic who escaped last year.

The ages of the several admissions were as follows:—

	Criminal.		Civil.		Military.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.
Under 20 years	...	...	1	...	...
From 20 to 40 years	4	...	7	4	1
From 40 to 60 years	...	...	1	1	...
Total	4	...	9	5	1

The castes of the patients admitted during the year.—

	Muhammadan.		Hindu.		Other Caste.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Criminal	...	...	3	...	1	...
Civil	2	...	7	5	...	...
Military	1	...	...	...	...	...
Total	3	...	10	5	1	...

The duration of mental disease prior to admission in those admitted were —

	Criminal.		Civil.		Military.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.
Between 1 and 6 months ...	...	...	1	3	1
Unknown ...	4	...	8	2	...
Total ...	4	...	9	5	1

The following shows the diseases for which the patients were admitted :—

	Criminal.		Civil.		Military.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.
Acute mania ...	3	...	5	4	...
Chronic mania ...	1	...	2	...	...
Acute dementia ...	...	...	1	...	1
Idiocy ...	...	...	1	1	...
Total ...	4	...	9	5	1

Discharges.—Nine cases were discharged, eight (six males and two females) as having recovered, and one male as “otherwise.” Of the discharges, one criminal male who had been reported last year as having escaped was recaptured during the present year.

This man has been transferred to the Vizagapatam District Jail to undergo his unexpired portion of imprisonment.

Another to take his trial before the Sessions Judge, Vizagapatam, for misappropriating letters, and a third discharged by order of Government and sent to his native place in the Godavari District.

One criminal female was transferred to the Ganjam District to stand her trial on a charge of murder.

Of the civil, one male was discharged as “otherwise” and transferred to Berhampore.

The percentage of cured to total admissions is 42.10, and to daily average strength is 19.87.

The following table shows the names, ages, diseases, health on admission, weight and residence in the asylum, of the discharged cured :—

Name.	Age.	Disease.	Residence in the Asylum.	Health on Admission.	Weight.		Remarks.
					Admission.	Discharge.	
Mahomed Hoosman ...	24	Acute dementia.	r. m. d.	Indifferent.	118	123	Military.
V. Veerasawmy ...	35	Melancholia ...	0 7 11	Fair ...	102	121	Civil.
Bhorte Naiko ...	60	Chronic mania ...	0 2 13	Very bad	61	58	
G. Chellama ...	30	Acute mania ...	0 9 12	Indifferent.	72	100	
N. Mahalakshmi ...	45	Chronic mania ...	0 9 16	Do. ...	91	96	
M. Bullaya ...	22	Acute mania ...	0 8 2	Do. ...	95	110	Criminal.
Mahomed Esoph ...	35	Acute dementia	1 0 5	Fair ...	106	104	
C. Janakiramiah ...	21	Acute mania ...	0 3 3	Do. ...	95	105	
M. Anka ...	32	Do. ...	1 10 9	Do. ...	102½	96	

Deaths.—There has been one death from general debility during the year. He was a hill man released from the jail and found wandering about the place, at last was arrested and sent to the asylum in a bad state of health.

This sudden fall in the death-rate is, in a great measure, due to the improved diet introduced this year.

The death-rate has been 2.48 to daily average strength.

Epidemic.—There has been no epidemic of any kind, and it is gratifying to report that the health of the inmates has, during the past year, been particularly good as compared with the former years.

Diet.—The Superintendent considered the old scale of diet at this asylum to be insufficient, particularly in nitrogenous elements, and recently referred the matter to the Surgeon-General, who directed the more liberal scale of diet to be adopted as in use at the Madras and Calicut Lunatic Asylums.

The new scale was introduced from the commencement of the official year. It is ample in quantity, and of good quality, containing more nitrogenous and oleaginous elements than the old scale of diet.

Many of the inmates are capricious as regards their diet, and others have a low power of assimilation, necessitating great care and watchfulness on the part of the establishment to ensure each patient being properly fed.

Treatment.—Occupation, recreation and an appropriate diet, with plenty of out-door exercise, are the chief remedies trusted to for promoting recovery.

The patients are often sent here in a very weak and feeble condition, and if they have not fallen too much below par, they frequently show great improvement from the sole effects of good food, cleanliness and fresh air.

Out-door labor was found to have a most beneficial effect upon the patients, those so engaged generally getting a good night's sleep—an important remedial agent.

Each patient is encouraged to engage in some occupation or other; those who are unable to perform the heavier kinds of labor are engaged in picking up leaves or some such trifling work.

No compulsion is used as regards labor, but little indulgences, such as cheroots, snuff, &c., are given to each laborer as a reward.

The noisy and violent are carefully secluded from the well-behaved and convalescent. The work has been almost entirely confined to gardening, drawing and carrying water, clearing, levelling and putting in order the grounds of the asylum.

Buildings.—The asylum buildings are much in want of repair, as almost all the roofs of the cottages are in a leaky condition, dry rot having set in in most of the joists, and some of them being partly destroyed by white ants. The roofing is so defective that, within a few years, all the terraced roofing will have to be replaced. And this work should be carried out gradually, one building at a time; if not, the asylum will become uninhabitable in a short time.

The roof of No. 2. civil cottage is in a bad condition and considered unsafe. The Executive Engineer is of opinion that these roofs must come down and be replaced by tiled roofs.

The hospital is at present without a roof, the main walls of the buildings which are built of rough stone in chunam have cracked very much, and therefore it is considered unsafe to put on these walls the tiled roof, as proposed in the estimate already sanctioned (*vide* G.O., No. 2295 W., dated 5th September 1882).

A fresh estimate for the repairs of this building has been submitted to Government.

The civil male workshop has been converted into six separate cells for noisy and violent patients, which are not only roomy but comfortable. The work has been completed, but the windows of the cells should be provided with weather boards instead of shutters.

A portion of the female workshop has been converted into two separate cells for noisy or dirty patients. The windows of these cells should also be provided with weather boards.

The criminal cottage has been strengthened by iron barred doors, and the gate of the enclosure with iron spikes; and as there is no secure accommodation for the criminal lunatics, so the repairs and alterations to be made by the Public Works Department to the criminal cottage will be delayed for the present until the hospital now under repair is available.

The sum of Rs. 202-11-9 was sent to the treasury to be credited to Government, being the profits realized by sheep-farming and sale of vegetables, &c.

The annual treat for the lunatics was given on Pongal feast day, at the expense of the Superintendent, which consisted of a dinner in the shape of fowl curry and rice, fruits, sweets, music, races and decorations, which afforded the patients great pleasure.

Escape.—There has been no escape during the year.

The cost of maintaining an insane during the year in this asylum has been, on an average, Rs. 173-1-2, viz., diets Rs. 58-7-5, clothing Rs. 4-7-6, establishment Rs. 100-2-4, cost of medicines Rs. 1-11-2, and contingencies including stationery Rs. 8-4-9.

The cost of dieting is recovered from the treasury, and the other charges are credited to Government by the Treasury Officer, agreeably to Proceedings of Government, dated 15th April 1875.

Criminal lunatics are wholly supported by Government, and civil insanes by the various Local Fund Boards and Municipalities.

The official visitors have held nine meetings during the year, and some of them have visited the asylum singly on several occasions.

The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras inspected this institution on the 5th March 1883.

Two night-watchmen have been entertained during the year for the better security of the criminal lunatics, in accordance with G.O., No. 1205, dated 5th September 1882.

Conduct of the Establishment.—Assistant Apothecary White is an excellent officer and most trustworthy.

The Head Warder is attentive and zealous, and discharges his duty in a most satisfactory manner.

The warders and other servants have worked well on the whole.

I certify that the orders respecting the custody of poisonous drugs issued by the Principal Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, dated 23rd January 1863, are carefully carried out.

(Signed) S. SMITH, Surgeon-Major,
Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum.

WALTAIR,
1st April 1883.

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