

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM, 1873.

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Victoria, December 16th, 1873.

SIR :

I have the honor to Report upon the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, and to state, that on the 1st January, 1873, there were Sixteen Patients on the record—eleven Males and five Females.

During the year there have been admitted fourteen—twelve Males and two Females.

The total number under treatment has been thirty—twenty-three Males and seven Females.

The result of the treatment is, that nine have been discharged recovered—five Males and Females ; and it may be added that of those remaining, six are incurables, who were for many years in the Prison, and transferred from thence to the Asylum upon its establishment.

The number of deaths during the year, is five—four Males and one Female.

Two Males were removed after marked improvement in their condition, and one removed, was re-admitted.

The cause of death in one, was Purpura ; one, Anasarca ; one (suddenly) from effusion into the Brain, and three from exhaustion.

The following tabular statement will show all admissions, discharges, deaths, &c., from the establishment of the Asylum, in October of last year, to the present date. (*vide* Appendix A.)

There are in the Asylum at the present time, fifteen inmates—thirteen Males and two Females.

The existing accommodation for the insane of the Province, is wretched and insufficient, and considering the consequent disabilities we labor under in treatment, the results are very satisfactory.

Should the present Asylum be retained, many repairs are desirable and necessary, but its dilapidated condition, in my opinion, does not justify any great outlay, while the erection of a more suitable building, upon some more appropriate site, which might serve as a wing to a larger edifice at some future period, is more economical and certainly preferable in every respect. In connection with this subject, I may be permitted to quote the following Resolution adopted by the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, at the Meeting in Toronto, in June, 1871 :—

"First.—That a very large majority of those suffering from mental diseases can no where else be as well or as successfully cared for, for the cure of their maladies, or be made as comfortable, if not curable, with equal protection to the patient and the community, as in well arranged Hospitals, specially provided for the treatment of the insane.

"Second.—That neither humanity, economy, or expediency can make it desirable that the care of the recent and chronic insane should be in separate institutions.

"Third.—That those institutions, especially if provided at the public cost, should always be of a plain but substantial character; and while characterized by good taste, and furnished with every thing essential to the health, comfort, and successful treatment of the patients; all extravagant embellishment and every unnecessary expenditure should be carefully avoided.

"Fourth.—That no expense that is required to provide just as many of these Hospitals, as may be necessary to give the most enlightened care to all their insane, can properly be regarded as either unwise, inexpedient, or beyond the means of any one of the United States or British Provinces."

The responsibility of the care of the Insane rests with the Government, and it can scarcely be well assumed without the provision of suitable accommodation; should four or five additional applications for admission be made, there would not be house room for the increased number, and under existing circumstances it is impossible to bestow good treatment and comfort upon any.

A glance at the Financial Report of the efficient Superintendent, will show that the institution has been managed with prudence and economy, and I have great pleasure in commending the fitness and capability of that Officer for the position he fills so well.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

I. W. POWELL, M. D.,
Medical Superintendent.

To the Honorable
the Provincial Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted	9	7	2	.....	.....	1	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	.....	25	7	32
Discharged	1	1	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	2	6	4	10
Removed	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Re-admitted..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Died	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	4	1	5

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

RETURNS OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1873.



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