Statistics of Pauper Insanity. By R. Boyd, M.D., F.R.C.P., President of the Medico-Psychological Association.

At the last annual meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held at the College of Physicians, London, in July, 1870, I brought forward a resolution which, after full discussion, was amended and agreed to, in these terms:—"That it is desirable to facilitate the early admission of all acute cases of pauper insanity into county (and borough) asylums, by providing for the proper care and treatment of chronic and harmless cases elsewhere." The object of the resolution being to ensure for acute cases that prompt treatment which is so essential, and to prevent the overcrowding and overgrowth of asylums, by providing for the transfer of incurable and harmless cases to workhouses, or to lodgings, or to reside with relatives, under proper care, treatment, and supervision. In the absence of any such provision, the enlargement of asylums progresses—this will be shown by the returns of the increase of pauper insanity in England and Wales. Several institutions have attained such dimensions that the difficulty of proper management has become great. In such overgrown establishments the individuality of the curable patient is liable to become lost amongst the crowd of idiots and incurables. The delay in obtaining the forms required by the Lunacy Acts, prior to the admission of insane patients to pauper asylums, is a great hindrance to early treatment. As regards chronic cases, this delay is of little consequence, and from the comforts being greater in the asylum than in the workhouse infirmary, and it being to the interest of workhouse officials to send insane paupers to the asylum, the accumulation of chronic and incurable cases therein can easily be accounted for.

Insanity is most frequently associated with organic disease, and ought not to be so much regarded as a speciality, but rather as coming more under the general head of medical relief. Unfortunately, under the Poor Laws, a sufficient distinction has not been made between the able-bodied and the sick, and medical relief has been administered with so niggardly a hand that in the discussion respecting the transfer of chronic cases of insanity to the workhouses, at the meeting referred to, it is not surprising that there should have been a very general condemnation of those institutions.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.17.78.221 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The " penny wise and pound foolish " policy of the Poor Law authorities has led to great and useless expenditure to the public, in providing accommodation in asylums for the progressive accumulation of chronic and incurable cases.

The following statistics of pauper insanity are taken from the Annual Reports of the Poor Law Board, which are compiled from the lists made out annually by the clerks to the Guardians, from information obtained from the Medical Superintendents of Asylums and Poor Law medical officers, and transmitted to the Poor Law Board, in compliance with the 16th and 17th Vict., c. 97, s. 64, and in the form provided by schedule D. of that statute :—

TABLE SHOWING THE PROGRESSIVE INCREASE OF PAUPER INSANITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES, THE POPULATION BEING 20,061,725 (CENSUS, 1861).

Number of Paupers on 1st January.		Whereof were Insane Paupers.		Namely, Lunatics and Idiots.		
Years.	Numbers.	No.	Per Cent.	Males	Females	Total.
1859	867,543	30,318	3·50	Lunatics ... 9,280	12,152	21,432
				Idiots ... 4,109	4,777	8,886
1860	854,896	31,543	3·71	Lunatics ... 9,677	12,711	22,378
				Idiots ... 4,229	4,936	9,165
1861	891,868	32,920	3·69	Lunatics ... 10,071	13,516	23,587
				Idiots ... 4,342	4,991	9,333
1862	946,166	34,271	3·62	Lunatics ... 9,825	13,135	22,960
				Idiots ... 5,111	6,200	11,311
1863	1,142,624	36,158	3·17	Lunatics ... 9,828	13,204	23,032
				Idiots ... 5,962	7,164	13,126
1864	1,011,753	37,576	3· 7	Lunatics ... 11,891	15,699	27,590
				Idiots ... 4,580	5,406	9,986
1865	974,772	38,487	4· 0	Lunatics ... 12,259	16,207	28,466
				Idiots ... 4,569	5,454	10,021
1866	924,813	39,827	4· 3	Lunatics ... 12,763	16,854	29,617
				Idiots ... 4,674	5,536	10,210
1867	963,200	41,276	4· 3	Lunatics ... 13,384	17,521	30,905
				Idiots ... 4,773	5,598	10,371
1868	1,040,103	43,158	4· 3	Insane ... 19,033	24,125	
1869	1,046,569	45,153	4· 3	Insane ... 20,045	25,108	

In 1859, it appears from the above, that 3·50 per cent. of the pauperism on the 1st of January was ascribable to insanity, the lunatics being 2·47, and the idiots 1·03 per cent. In regard to the sexes, 13,389 were males, and 16,929 females. It is worthy of remark that, while the females considerably preponderate among the lunatics, they do not much exceed the males among the idiots. But taking the two classes together, the ratio of females to males is not so great as it is in the population at large, in which, among the adults, the

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.17.78.221 Published online by Cambridge University Press

females are more than double the number of male recipients of relief. The returns of pauperism do not distinguish the sexes of the children, but there is no reason to suppose that, if they were discriminated, the proportion would be materially changed.

From 1860 to 1863, there was a gradual increase in the number of paupers; in the three following years a gradual decrease; and a gradual increase again from 1867 to 1869. The number of *insane paupers* has continued to *increase* year by year, from 1859 to 1869, from 30,318 to 45,153; the per centage of pauperism ascribed to insanity has risen from 3·50 to 4·3, the lunatics being 2·47, and the idiots 2·03 in 1859, and the lunatics 3·2, and idiots 1·1 in 1867. The lunatics and idiots have not been separated in the last two years. The proportion of idiots to insane persons is between one-third and one-fourth, *i.e.*, 29·3 per cent. for the whole country. But there is considerable variation in different unions, counties, and different divisions. In the Metropolis it is lowest, 9·5 per cent.; in North Wales, where it is highest, 52·3 per cent.

The total number of paupers of all classes, and the number of insane paupers on the 1st January, in the Metropolis, which includes part of Middlesex, part of Surrey, and part of Kent; of the South Western division, which includes Wilts, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset; of the North Western division, which includes, Chester and Lancaster; and of the Eastern division, which includes Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, was as follows:—

	Metropolis.		South Western.		North Western.		Eastern.	
Years.	Paupers in receipt of relief on 1st Jan.	Whereof were Insane Paupers.	Paupers in receipt of relief on 1st Jan.	Whereof were Insane Paupers.	Paupers in receipt of relief on 1st Jan.	Whereof were Insane Paupers.	Paupers in receipt of relief on 1st Jan.	Whereof were Insane Paupers.
1859	97,707	4,661	107,405	3,303	92,016	3,370	76,236	2,063
1860	94,774	4,818	104,401	3,415	83,234	3,513	77,664	2,190
1861	103,936	5,146	105,786	3,446	84,525	3,674	82,330	2,282
1862	103,431	5,378	107,676	3,513	106,415	3,974	82,661	2,317
1863	106,407	5,701	108,795	3,635	287,564	4,196	81,279	2,368
1864	103,468	5,859	108,628	3,705	177,246	4,579	80,771	2,456
1865	105,351	5,933	108,316	3,882	138,549	4,593	79,667	2,544
1866	111,019	6,214	109,419	4,024	102,201	4,795	76,566	2,589
1867	138,706	6,559	110,868	4,055	100,047	5,082	77,564	2,609
1868	163,170	7,063	114,784	4,165	114,578	5,229	81,287	2,666
1869	156,109	7,524	117,142	4,222	111,444	5,598	83,463	2,802

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From the above, it appears there has been a progressive increase of pauper insanity, especially in the Metropolitan Division. If we go back to the year 1852, the total number of all classes of the insane chargeable to the poor rates on 1st January, 1852, was 21,158, or 23 per 1,000 paupers; on the 1st January, 1869, they amounted to 45,153, or 44 per 1,000 paupers; thus exhibiting in the course of 17 years an increase of 91 per cent. in the ratio.

Table, showing the number of Lunatics, Idiots, and other persons of unsound mind, in England and Wales, who were chargeable to the poor rates on the 1st of January in each year, and where maintained, the entire population of England and Wales being 20,061,725 (Census, 1861) :—

Years.	No. of Paupers receiving relief on 1st of Jan., in England and Wales.	No. of Insane Paupers.	Where Maintained.				
			In County or Borough Asylums.	In registered Hospitals or Licensed Houses.	In Unions or Parish Workhouses.	In Lodgings.	With Relations.
1859	867,343	30,318*	14,481	2,076	7,963	906	4,892
1860	854,896	31,543	16,201	1,143	8,210	785	5,204
1861	891,868	32,920	17,373	889	8,543	758	5,357
1862	946,166	34,271	18,318	1,193	8,603	985	5,172
1863	11,42,624	36,158	19,127	1,418	9,208	973	5,432
1864	1,011,753	37,576	20,257	1,196	9,608	864	5,651
1865	974,772	38,487	20,910	1,264	9,756	1,041	5,516
1866	924,813	39,827	21,986	1,288	9,978	993	5,567
1867	963,200	41,276	23,173	1,206	10,324	1,005	5,568
1868	1,040,103	43,158	24,297	1,348	10,684	1,015	5,784
1869	1,046,569	45,153	25,460	1,541	11,183	938	6,031

* 8·50 per cent.

The greatest increase has been in those maintained in asylums, and there has been a very large increase in those maintained in workhouses; and when it is seen that eighteen thousand of the forty-five thousand insane paupers are uncertified, not under the lunacy laws, being maintained in workhouses, or boarded out, and regarded as recipients of *medical relief,* separate rules and management for this numerous class are not necessary.

The proportion of sick to out-door poor is 12·8 per cent; the in-door sick poor is greater in proportion in London workhouses than elsewhere, from 32 to 48 per cent.; in provincial workhouses, 28 to 30 per cent.

The number of paupers in 1867 was about the same as in 1851, the numbers being 930,000 against 940,000; but the

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cost in 1867 was £7,000,000, and in 1851 £5,000,000, an increase of 40 per cent. The sum of £5 10s, on an average, was spent in relieving each pauper in 1849-53, against £7 10s in 1869, the increase being 36 per cent.

The progress of the cost, as well as of the numbers of lunatics, has been remarkable. In 1862 the cost of lunatics maintained in asylums was £482,425; for the year 1869, it was £710,941, being an increase of 47 per cent. in the seven years.

Proportion of expenditure under 6 heads:—

	1862.		1869.
In maintenance	18·7 per cent.	...	20·2
Out relief...	51·9 „	...	48·0
Lunatics in Asylums and Licensed Houses	7·9 „	...	9·3
Workhouse cases ...	3 „	...	2·7
Officers' salaries ...	11 „	...	10·4
Other expenses ...	7·5 „	...	9·4
	100		100

A Case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. By T. S. Clouston, M.D.

Considering the amount of attention which has lately been given to cerebro-spinal meningitis, and the obscurity which still hangs over the disease, I think the following case, which occurred in the Asylum at Carlisle, in April, 1867, worthy of record. It was a sporadic case, but its accessories and accompaniments invest it with some of the interest of those epidemics of the disease which have lately occurred:—

T. C. had been a patient in the asylum for five years; he had laboured under melancholia with periodic exacerbations and suicidal tendencies. On the whole he enjoyed very fair bodily heath, except when he became somewhat weak at times from refusal of food. But he generally got over this in a few days. He had most obstinate and severe psoriasis over shoulders, arms, hands, and legs.

One cold, raw day, when out at work on the farm, he felt chilly, and after coming in had a rigor. At night he complained of pain in his left side over the eighth rib, and headache, and was a little feverish, but nothing amiss could

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