

been admitted to the Asylum 21 men and 21 women; 4 men and 11 women have been discharged; and 5 men and 4 women have died, leaving on the Register, to-day, the names of 418 males and 418 females. Of this number, however, 9 men and 12 women are home on probational leave, and 1 man has run away, making the actual resident population of the Asylum 814, as against 802 at the previous visit.

The only unusual occurrence connected with these movements was the suicide of a male patient on the 3rd May last. The finding of the coroner's jury empanelled to investigate the circumstances was, that "death was caused by strangulation, and that the Asylum authorities were exonerated from all blame in the matter." From the inquiries I have made, I see no reason for disagreeing with the finding of the jury. The evidence of the officers shows that no suicidal tendency was evinced by the patient, but that, on the contrary, he was of so cheerful a temperament that the ordinary precaution of keeping a watch over him to guard against such an occurrence was not thought of. The strangulation was effected by attaching a sheet to the ventilator in the wall of his bedroom; but even if these openings were closed, experience has shown that other means of committing suicide can be devised by patients who have a strong suicidal tendency.

I have a very good report to make of the condition of the patients. Their personal appearance, in respect of clothing, shews considerable improvement, except in the Refractory Ward, where a greater number were clothed in canvass dresses than appeared to be necessary. In the Main Building and Cottages the only cases of restraint were one man in a cribbed and one female strapped, and there was very little excitement among the patients.

The mortality of the Asylum since my last visit has been unusually low, there having been only 9 deaths, and the health of the patients at the present time is generally good.