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PART I.—ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

The Criminal Lunatics of Scotland. By J. BRUCE THOMSON,
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For twenty-one years the criminal lunatics of Scotland have been, with only one or two exceptions, confined in a branch or separate building of the General Prison, called the Department for Criminal Lunatics. This department was opened in October, 1846, under a public grant; and due inquiry having been made throughout the kingdom, all prisoners of the criminal lunatic class confined for life or during Her Majesty's pleasure were transferred thither in terms of Act 2 and 3 Vict., c. 42, and 7 and 8 Vict., c. 34.

Such a prison asylum was called for to ensure "close and safe" custody of the most dangerous class of lunatics, and more especially as the superintendents of lunatic asylums objected to receive criminal lunatics on account of the security required for their safe custody, and because objections were taken to the insane being associated with persons who had been charged with committing violent and heinous crimes.

In Scotland the term criminal lunatic is applicable to the following classes, viz. :

1. Prisoners found insane in bar of trial.
2. Prisoners tried and found insane at date of crime.
3. Prisoners who have become insane while undergoing their sentences in prison.

The first and second classes generally comprehend all who have committed homicide, or other grave offences of a violent kind ; class three was for many years restricted to prisoners undergoing long sentences in the General prison at Perth ; but by Act 25 and 26 Vict., c. 54, this last class has been made to comprehend prisoners in local prisons undergoing short sentences of a few months only, if such insane prisoners are certified as more fit to be detained in the lunatic department of the General prison rather than in an ordinary lunatic asylum. By sect. 22 such prisoners may be removed to the lunatic department of the General prison ; and by sect. 19 of the said Act it is declared that any convict or other prisoner confined in the General prison at Perth, if duly certified insane, and that his insanity is of a kind which renders it advisable that he should be detained in the lunatic department of the General prison, rather than in any other lunatic asylum, such a prisoner may be detained under warrant of Her Majesty's Secretary of State in the said lunatic department.

Only three prisoners have been detained under this section (19) after expiry of their sentences, all very dangerous lunatics : one, J. McG— or G—, accused and convicted of fire-raising, restless, mischievous, and dangerous, still in custody ; another, J. W—, who has been twice convicted of assault with intent to ravish ; and a third, J. W—, a powerful and dangerous man, convicted of assault by cutting and stabbing, and previous conviction of assault, who recovered, and was liberated by warrant of Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

The following table gives the admissions annually to the lunatic department of the General prison for twenty-one years :

Table of Admissions, 1846—1866.

YEARS.	CRIMINAL LUNATICS.		TOTALS.
	Males.	Females.	
1846	7	3	10
1847	13	5	18
1848	9	2	11
1849	9	2	11
1850	8	2	10
1851	8	3	11
1852	6	4	10
1853	2	1	3
1854	3	0	3
1855	5	1	6
1856	2	3	5
1857	4	5	9
1858	7	3	10
1859	7	7	14
1860	5	3	8
1861	1	4	5
1862	5	0	5
1863	2	2	4
1864	7	1	8
1865	11	4	15
1866	8	0	8
Total	129	55	184

The average admissions, per annum, has been 8·8.

The authorities for admission into the lunatic department for criminals are:—sentence or order of Court, which applies to No. 1 and 2 classes, the class No. 3 being by authority of the General Board or Prison Managers under medical certificates, and sometimes by warrant of Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

The proportions of the different classes of criminal lunatics comprehended in the above table of admissions were:

1. Of prisoners found insane in bar of trial 29
2. Of prisoners tried and found insane at date of crime 26
3. Of prisoners who became insane in prisons 129

The greatest number have become insane while undergoing their sentences in the General prison (these are long-sentenced prisoners) :

Males, for not less than 9 months.
 Females, " " 12 "
 Convict females from 3 years and upwards to life.

All the female convicts of Scotland undergo nearly all their sentences throughout in this prison, and belong to the most depraved and dangerous classes—the criminal population hereditarily born and bred to crime.

Our table of criminal lunatics is remarkable for showing that the males are twice the number of the females, viz. :

Males 129
 Females 55

This disproportion of the sexes is very different from what exists among the insane of the civil population in the three kingdoms. A table of admissions to Bethlehem Hospital, extending over thirty-eight years, gave a large preponderance of females:—Males 3·511, and females 5·407; and the reports of the Lunacy Commissioners generally show the same, the last report for Scotland giving—

Males 3005
 Females 3463

We do not hazard any conjecture as to the cause of the small number of female criminal lunatics in Scotland.

Table of Ages of Criminal Lunatics.

YEARS.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTALS.
10 and under 20	24	10	34
20 " 30	52	20	72
30 " 40	27	18	45
40 " 50	15	4	19
50 " 60	9	3	12
60 " 70	2	0	2
Total	129	55	184

By the above table of ages the maximum liability to criminal insanity appears to be from 20 to 30.

This corresponds with Dr. Thudichum's cases, amounting to

5122: whereas the Hanwell statistics indicate the critical period to be from thirty to forty years of age. Esquirol's experience led him to consider insanity liable to increase progressively after maturity. The ages given of the Scottish criminal lunatics are as at the dates of committal, but it is impossible to say how nearly they express the date of the first onset of insanity.

The offences charged against these 184 criminal lunatics were—

Theft	87	Concealment of pregnancy	2
Murder	36	Malicious mischief	2
Assault	19	Forgery	2
Robbery	8	Falsehood, fraud, &c.	2
Stabbing	7	Uttering base coin	1
Assault with intent to ravish ...	6	Rape	1
Wilful fire-raising.....	3	Horse-stealing	1
Bigamy	3	Felony	1
Breach of trust	3		

The forms of insanity manifested were—

Mania, chronic	70	Mania, hysterical	1
„ homicidal	33	Dementia	38
„ acute	12	Imbecility	7
„ epileptic	6	Idiocy.....	4
„ puerperal	3	Feigned (?)	8
„ melancholia	2		

The counties from which these criminal lunatics were sent:

1 Aberdeen	7	18 Kinross	0
2 Argyle	12	19 Kirkcudbright	1
3 Ayr.....	8	20 Lanark	40
4 Banff	1	21 Linlithgow	2
5 Berwick	0	22 Nairn	0
6 Bute	0	23 Orkney	0
7 Caithness	0	24 Peebles	0
8 Clackmannan	1	25 Perth	11
9 Dumbarton	1	26 Renfrew	6
10 Dumfries	2	27 Ross and Cromarty	1
11 Edinburgh	33	28 Roxburgh	5
12 Elgin	0	29 Selkirk	1
13 Fife	8	30 Stirling	18
14 Forfar.....	11	31 Sutherland.....	0
15 Haddington	0	32 Wigtown	3
16 Inverness	7	33 Zetland	4
17 Kincardine.....	1		

Intending to enter into further particulars of the class of lunatics at some future time, I cannot avoid offering a few remarks, in conclusion, as to “who ought to be considered criminal lunatics under the charge of the State?”

Objections have been taken *in toto* to criminals being, when insane, treated in other than the common lunatic asylums of the county, and that, properly speaking, there ought to be no such distinctions as are held betwixt the criminal class and other lunatics. But in Scotland we have practically found the objection very strong

and general against criminals being admitted to ordinary asylums. The following is an example of this :

W. C— secreted a lethal weapon, and suddenly murdered one of the inmates in the asylum where he was an inmate. Some delay or hesitation as to the procedure of the public prosecutor took place, and the homicidal act seemed to be overlooked, when the asylum functionaries began to consider that it would be well to get quit of the criminal lunatic, and refuse to retain him in their charge. Perhaps they thought it might injure the establishment. Be that as it may, the public prosecutor, as we believe, for fear of the criminal lunatic sooner or later being set at large, brought him to trial before the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh. The verdict was, “Insane at the time of the offence,” and he was ordered to be placed in strict custody during Her Majesty’s pleasure. Here, then, was a case showing the necessity of an asylum for the safe custody of this class of lunatics.

Another recent case, where a criminal lunatic was placed in an ordinary asylum, and afterwards set at large, as it seems, injudiciously, may be here referred to. The truth is, private friends and petty interests are less likely to induce those in charge of lunatics to set them at liberty, if the patients are under the charge of the State.

— — stabbed a man in the streets, the lunatic being under a fit of temporary mania from intoxicating liquors. The criminal lunatic had hereditary tendency to insanity. As in cases of this kind, the homicide recovered his intellects almost immediately after the heinous act, and continued well for a time under the quietude and exemption from all exciting causes in the asylum. At length he was liberated, and not long after was again incarcerated for an act of violence. My doctrine is, that such a man’s antecedents were quite sufficient to lead to his detention for life in confinement, and for this purpose he ought to have been in charge of the State as a criminal lunatic. This was one of the few criminal lunatics of Scotland charged with murder, who were allowed to be placed in an asylum other than the lunatic department of the General prison.

As a general rule, then, all who have committed violent and grave offences, found insane at the time of offence, or found insane in bar of trial, ought to be regarded as criminal lunatics, and under the charge of the State in a prison asylum.

But very different views are held upon what classes come within the category of criminal lunatics; and in the three kingdoms no distinct agreement is found as to who are criminal lunatics.

About two years ago I visited all the criminal lunatic asylums in Great Britain, and was greatly surprised at the differences of practice on this important matter.

The great criminal asylum at Broadmoor was newly opened in the beginning of 1864, when I visited it; and there I found, under a

royal or Secretary of State's warrant, a number of patients who had committed petty crimes, and were labouring under imbecility or dementia—persons by no means violent or dangerous. Why should not such cases be placed in pauper asylums rather than in a State asylum, perhaps for life, under a royal warrant? I am aware that there had been a selection made from the criminal lunatics before Broadmoor was opened, but it did seem that a re-selection was required.

In Ireland the state of matters, owing partly to the distracted state of the country, was still more anomalous. By the Acts 2 Vict., cap. 27, and 8th and 9th Vict., cap. 107, insane persons, when duly certified to be dangerous lunatics, were committed to prison. The results were, disturbance of the prison discipline and defective care and treatment of lunatic prisoners. When I visited, in 1864, the central asylum at Dundrum, the inmates amounted only to 128; whereas, according to the report of 31st December, 1862, the number of dangerous lunatics was 378, those not in Dundrum asylum, being scattered over the various metropolitan and county prisons, often very ill-cared for. The increased asylum accommodation, we hope, has remedied this.

In Scotland the term criminal lunatics does not extend to all criminals insane, but has been carefully restricted to those committed for violent and grave crimes, and whose liberation would be dangerous to the lieges. In this respect Scotland is better than England. The criminal insane of Scotland are not, as in Ireland, detained in prison cells like common criminals, but placed in the lunatic department, a branch of the General prison, yet having all the comforts of an asylum that are compatible with the safe custody of a class regarded as unfit to be at large.

The Asylums for the Insane in St. Petersburg and Copenhagen. By
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THE labours of the reformers of lunatic asylums in England have been beneficially felt in the remotest countries in the world. While in France, where the humane method of treatment was initiated, and in certain other continental countries, the amelioration in the condition of the insane has been less conspicuous than could have been desired or expected in nations which have attained a brilliant development in most of the other arts of civilisation, Russia and the Scandinavian kingdoms have exhibited an earnest desire to avail themselves of the advantages of the most enlightened treatment.