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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**Christchurch Lunatic Asylum.**

TO THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

Sunnyside Lunatic Asylum,

November 30, 1868.

Sir,—I have the honor to lay before you for the information of the Provincial Government, the second annual report of this Asylum for the ten months, viz., from February 1 to November 30, 1868.

Since the last report a reference to the tables annexed will show that thirty-four patients have been admitted, eighteen discharged, and two have died; making the total average number of patients in the Asylum to have been eighty-four; and at the date of this report there are ninety patients in the institution.

REGISTRATION.

An omission occurred in my last report relative to the system of registration. It may not be out of place therefore to state here that on the admission of a patient the name is entered in the register with all particulars as to country, age, &c., but more especially as far as can be ascertained the cause of his affliction. In addition to this a photograph is taken, a copy of which is placed in the first column opposite to the name. This plan, which I conceive to be a novel one, is attended with many advantages, not the least of which is, that should a patient escape, great facility is afforded for tracing him. Moreover, as many of them are strangers with no known connections in this colony, friends who may hereafter make enquiry may at least have the satisfaction of learning their fate.

MANAGEMENT.

I have seen no reason since my last report to make any alteration in the method of management. Many satisfactory cases have been discharged; amongst the most interesting is that of M. McC., from Westland. When admitted, she was prostrated both mentally and bodily. At this time her death was daily anticipated, but by adopting the usual system of treatment, the following satisfactory results were attained. During her illness she was extremely violent, frequently tearing her clothes into shreds, and more frequently her bedding; she required the constant care and watchfulness of an attendant. During the first lucid interval an experiment was made by admitting her to an entertainment given by the Christy Minstrels. The following day a favorable change was observed from the fact of her crying a great deal, but very quietly. Although relapses occurred, her recovery gradually progressed until she attained perfect health and strength, and was ultimately discharged, and is now residing in Westland with her relations. Having corresponded with her since her arrival there, I am happy to state that she is still doing well. Experience has proved the fallacy of coercion as a remedial means, and it has further proved that contradiction, argument, or ridicule, will only irritate the insane, and confirm them in their delusive opinions, however absurd such opinions may be. Above all, great care is needed that all cases of incipient insanity should be separately treated: If allowed to mingle with others whose disorders are of a