

The hospital's own archives contain a number of documents recording daily life on the wards. There is a great many different pieces of documentary evidence available to me. One of the most obvious were the patients' case notes. Although, in actual fact, these case notes which document the social background and the diagnosis and the admissions procedure ~~pertaining~~ pertaining to the patients, as well as some very bizarre three-sided photographs, weren't in fact available to the nursing staff. These were kept separate, by the medical fraternity, and, as I say, weren't available at ward level at all, which made things rather difficult for many of the staff on the wards who had some problems of management with people who they didn't know why they had been admitted or their often criminal backgrounds. You think some of them were of normal ability? Aye, if it hadn't for their criminal record, I don't think they'd ever have been in Lennox Castle. You could have picked up any amount in Glasgow with the same IQ as them. See they took them to Barlinnie and examined them in Barlinnie, and if their IQ was slightly below, that was enough. It was one way of getting them off the streets, habitual criminals. Which ~~was~~ ^{could} ~~make~~ make things quite difficult for yourselves? Aye, cos they got sentenced to maybe six months in jail, then finished up in the Castle, and it extended to years if they didn't run away. We have the daily report book which tells us the staff who were on the wards,

number of patients on the wards, number of patients who are out on pass, and details again the incidents that might happen:

Somebody who's noisy aggressive to a fellow patient - prescribed chlorpromazine, 100mg or whatever; somebody stealing; somebody refusing to eat or whatever. These are the day-to-day incidents that are recorded here. What would be the main problems you would have in the wards, in terms of looking after the patients? There was the usual-sometimes or wee bit of a fracas with some of them fighting one another; and sometimes fighting with the staff, you know. Like everything else, if you get 82 together all the time, they must fall out. So, what sanctions would you be able to take? The whole thing was obviously, send for more staff.

When you got them, nobody ever told us. So, did you actually have to end up fighting? Aye, struggle with them putting them to bed. That was it. They were put to bed. Then they were on punishment after that. They missed their woodbine. Got bare notions. And if they ran away, they'd come back - they were brought back and we'd put them into a white moleskin suit. And they kept that on for maybe three months. That was to try and make sure they didn't run away again. TTY and m.

Did they have a name for that regime? The only name that they ever had was "5 o'clock treatment."

They got up, went out and worked. When they came in at 5 o'clock, they went to bed. And were they put on a diet at all?

At the beginning they were put on a diet - bread, bread and tea. The only thing they missed was their porridge. And was it something that worked at all? I don't think it worked at all. If they wanted to run away, they would run away. They had enough intelligence. They knew fine, "I'm not staying in here." As far as the patients are concerned, I think the documentary evidence concerning them only illustrates a patient's life who might be a problem in some ways, or whose life is filled with certainly, incidents that are recorded. It doesn't tell you very much about the day-to-day life of patient. How did you get on with the staff, the nurses? Some staff was good and some staff wasn't. Did you have any who you would call friends among the staff? I had a lot of friends here - some of them. Among the staff, but? The nurses? I used to like Fiona Roberts, Maurice, Bill McEnaney and all them - the ward they used to be in. What about the staff you didn't get on with?