

REPORT
TO
HON. RICHARD I. MANNING
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ON THE
State Hospital for the Insane
AT
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
WITH
RECOMMENDATIONS

BY
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From the above statements it is evident that the institution does not in any way conform to the standards existing in a modern hospital for the insane. The physical condition of the buildings are given in detail in the 91st report of the Board of Regents and also in the report of the Legislative Investigating Committee of 1909, by the architect, Mr. George Lafaye; so that it is hardly necessary to repeat them in detail in this report. I would, however, call your attention to several defects which need immediate attention.

1. The fire protection is entirely inadequate. Not only are these buildings veritable fire traps in their present condition, but the lack of fire extinguishers and the condition of the hose, as found in some of the wards, makes the danger from fire a real and terrible disaster to contemplate. Only recently has the thread on the standpipes been standardized, so that now the hose of the city fire department can be used on any of the fire plugs.

2. The sanitary conditions throughout the entire institution are in bad repair and entirely inadequate. The free and constant use of individual receptacles is practiced. With one bath tub on each ward to accommodate over forty patients, it is self-evident that the bathing facilities are not satisfactory.

3. The heating and ventilating system is old, out of repair and inadequate. The buildings are heated by about eighty stoves and furnaces.

4. The method of cooking and serving the food in several kitchens and numerous dining rooms, delivered through tunnels in the basement, and then by dumb waiters to the wards, renders it absolutely impossible to have the food hot and palatable when served.

5. The floors, ceilings and interior walls in nearly every part of the institution are badly in need of repairs.

6. In their present physical condition many of the buildings are not fit for human beings to be housed in, and immediate repairs should be made. In another part of this report are given plans for the future use of these buildings. The exterior walls of all the buildings are in splendid condition, substantially constructed, and bid fair to stand for a great many years to come. The present run-down condition of the interior of the buildings is due to the fact that inadequate repairs have not been made for several years.

In summing up the present condition at the State Hospital for the Insane, we find: First, that the physical condition of the interior of the buildings is very bad; that the internal organization of the hospital needs a thorough reorganization to bring it up to the

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sary in a large institution. This would be one of the most valuable departments, both from a therapeutic and financial standpoint. Without a building of this kind no hospital is complete.

The buildings for the women need not be changed, except for the general repairs as suggested on the men's side, but there is need for a new building for convalescent women. A part of this building could be used as a sewing room for the women. Here the women would engage, under the direction of a competent teacher, in diversional occupations, play, as well as work, would be made an important part of their hospital life. In this building most of the clothing could be made for the patients and all of the repair work on clothing done, and a great many things especially interesting and attractive to women would be carried on in this building.

The Dix Cottage, which is a frame building, and is now used for the convalescent women, would make an ideal nurses' home. At the present time there is practically no satisfactory accommodations for the nurses—some of them sleeping in the wards with the patients, while others have rooms on the top floor of the new building, which is an attic that has been converted into sleeping quarters. So much for the general arrangement of the present buildings.

In addition to the improvements already suggested, there should be erected a central kitchen and congregate dining rooms. The present system of numerous kitchens and dining rooms is unsatisfactory in every way, and there should be an up-to-date laundry. The present building could be utilized by enlarging it somewhat and installing modern equipment. A central heating plant would also be necessary, and this would probably be the most expensive item in the entire plan of reconstruction.

A number of small buildings about the place would naturally be done away with in the general clean-up. A new ice house, a new bakery, refrigerating plant, etc., will all be included in the plans for the central kitchen.

STATE PARK COLONY.

Under the present plans a colony for the negro insane of both sexes would be established at State Park. There is a building at this location which is now occupied by less than one hundred negro women. None of the work on this building was done by the labor of the patients. Under our proposed plan at least a hundred able-bodied negro male patients would be transferred to State Park and housed in the small wooden building now on the place. These patients would be utilized in doing all of the general labor, such as

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