

EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**South Carolina State Hospital
for the Insane**



FOR THE YEAR 1910

Columbia, S. C.
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1910-11

REPORT OF THE REGENTS.

To His Excellency, Cole L. Blease, Governor.

Sir: In accordance with the statutory requirements, the Board of Regents of the State Hospital for the Insane herewith submit their reports for the year ending December 31, 1910:

Following the Legislative investigation of the Hospital and the subsequent discussion of the needs of the institution, the General Assembly decided to place the development of the future plans for improving the institution in the hands of a Commission.

Our Board held a joint session with this Commission July 19, 1910, when the following general line of operations, submitted by the Commission, was agreed upon:

"1. That it is the sense and judgment of this Commission that it is impracticable to dispose of or move the State Hospital for the Insane from its present location.

"2. That the present plant should be improved and modernized.

"3. That, as it will require considerable time for the erection of buildings on the new purchase, the Commission respectfully and earnestly recommends to the Board of Regents the immediate erection of the following buildings for the relief of all the departments of the institution, namely:

"Finish the Taylor building for white men.

"Erect dormitory for negro men.

"Erect building for invalid white women.

"Erect similar building for negro women.

"It being contemplated that the occupancy by the negro patients may be only temporary.

"4. The needs of both the tubercular and pellagra patients demand special consideration and provision.

"5. That the Commission shall proceed at once to purchase lands and erect buildings in pursuance of the Joint Resolution of the General Assembly, and that provision be made first for the colored insane, and that they be moved there as fast as practicable."

The Commission has purchased, we understand, some 1,800 acres of land lying north of Columbia some six miles from our present holdings in Columbia.

In considering the future development of the institution, our Board had considered favorably the purchase of land in the neighborhood

of that bought by the Commission. We are, therefore, in accord with the Commission with the site finally selected.

As already stated, our Board is also in accord with any plans looking toward the further separation of the races than we have been enabled to secure in the past with the means at our command.

POLICY OF THE HOSPITAL.

In view of the fact that a report will be presented to the General Assembly by the Commission on the State Hospital, it, perhaps, hardly comes within the scope of this report to discuss at length the future policy of this institution. Yet our Board has labored long and faithfully in trying to solve many of the problems connected with it.

In the 80's, for several years, our Board directed the attention of the General Assembly to the needs of better provision for the colored insane. Finally, this resolution was passed:

"That the Legislature be earnestly requested to appropriate \$15,000 for the erection of a plain two-story brick building for the colored lunatics on land now owned by the Asylum, or to be obtained by purchase or otherwise, in the vicinity of the Asylum."

The General Assembly, being doubtful of the best course to pursue, appropriated \$3,000 to provide increased accommodations for the year and passed a Joint Resolution requiring the Board of Regents to advertise in each county of the State a notice to the effect that the policy of establishing a separate State Asylum for the colored insane has been under consideration by the General Assembly, and that said Board of Regents has been empowered to receive from counties, communities or persons in this State bids or proposals to donate at least three hundred acres of land, with or without suitable buildings, or money to be used in the purchase of the same, one or more, or all, for the purpose of establishing such institution within the county which shall submit a bid or proposal which may be accepted by the General Assembly; and the said Board of Regents shall report to the next General Assembly all such bids or proposals as may be submitted pursuant to such notice.

2d. "That the said Board of Regents shall also make inquiry in at least two of the counties of this State for tracts of land, of the area above named, adapted for such purposes, and shall report to the next General Assembly the result of such inquiries, and the price of such lands as they mention in their report."

Pursuant to this resolution, your Board appointed a Committee of its members to carry out the instructions of the Legislature, and this Committee made to the Board the following report:

Columbia, S. C., October 9, 1890.

To the Board of Regents of the Lunatic Asylum of South Carolina.

Gentlemen: The undersigned, your Committee of three Regents, to make inquiry in reference to sites for a Colored Insane Asylum, under provision of Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of South Carolina, at the session of 1889, beg leave to report: That in the month of September, 1890, they made inquiry in and visited the counties of Florence, Sumter and Lexington, to inspect the lands or sites offered for the Colored Insane Asylum.

The first place visited was the town of Florence, two miles south of which, and immediately on Jeffries Creek, three hundred and twenty acres of land touching the Northeastern Railroad, offered by Mr. R. P. Hamer for six thousand five hundred dollars. The creek would afford good drainage and sewerage facilities.

In Sumter county, some two miles south of the city, Messrs. Moise and — offer three hundred acres on the Central Railroad and Turkey Creek, for four thousand dollars. The creek affording the necessary fall for drainage and sewerage.

Mr. McDowell offers three hundred acres on the C., S. and N. Railroad for six thousand dollars. This place is about two miles from the city of Sumter, and is drained by a large creek on the south side.

In Lexington county, Mr. Taylor offers three hundred acres, on both sides of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, about one or two miles from New Brookland, for four thousand five hundred dollars, or he will give five hundred acres for six thousand dollars, with the privilege of the whole tract, some three thousand acres. There is plenty of pure spring water on this place, and it is only three or four miles from Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. C. WILSON,
W. J. GOODING,
JAS. A. MULLINS.

When the question how best to use the special appropriation for more room came to be considered, it was found that the most crowded were the department for white women and that for colored

men. It was decided to relieve the former by adding a two-story brick building to one of the sections of the north wing—the lower story to be used as a mess room, thus vacating four ward dining rooms—and the second story to be an associate dormitory; the result being an increased capacity of thirty-five beds.

In the colored male department an addition, 60x30 feet, was made to the detached building, thus providing twenty more rooms.

After due consideration of this Committee report, and the verbal statement that “no proposals to donate land” had been received, the Board adopted the report and passed the following resolution:

“*Resolved*, That while this Board has not changed its opinion as to the advisability of building a separate Asylum for the colored insane, yet, if the Legislature should differ from the Board in this matter and determine to build at some other place, the Board would respectfully recommend, as the most suitable location offered, the Taylor place, in Lexington county.”

We beg to call attention to this ancient history in justice to ourselves and our predecessors, to show that both our Board, the resident officers and the General Assembly were fully cognizant of the needs at that remote time for better provision for the colored insane, and that plans were devised looking towards the separation of the races, which has through all subsequent years, been the well recognized policy of our Board.

That such steps have not been taken before is clearly no fault of our Board.

Following this earnest effort on our part, the attention of the State has been directed to the full development of the educational institutions.

Meanwhile the population of this Hospital has more than doubled, so that we have continued earnestly to advocate the necessity of securing merely lands suitable for the development of a country hospital or colony.

The decision which seems to have been reached by the newly appointed Commission varies but slightly from that which we have long advocated. This is hardly the place for details, but the records show the position taken by our Board, usually unanimously upon this important subject.

REVISION OF LAWS.

Our Board has long recognized the need of careful revision of our laws relating to insanity. At last we have succeeded in placing the whole subject in the hands of J. Wright Nash, Esq., one of our Board, and of Messrs. R. O. Purdy and Geo. B. Cromer, of the Hospital Commission. While we recognize that this subject, because of its importance and the care and study required, may not be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at this session, we trust that the Committee having charge of it may complete their labors by the session of 1912.

For some years the Superintendent has directed attention to the fact that alleged lunatics who have committed crimes are sent to the State Hospital by the Judges of Probate with too great facility. In his report herewith appended he cites several cases which clearly indicate the ease with which the functions of both grand jury and the Circuit Courts are ignored. We trust that your Excellency will direct the attention of the General Assembly to this apparently growing tendency to facilitate the miscarriage of justice.

CHANGES IN OUR BOARD.

During the year we have suffered the loss of one of our members, Mr. J. Perry Glenn, of Anderson, who resigned because of ill health, and died soon afterwards. Resolutions passed by our Board, in honor of Mr. Glenn, appear elsewhere in this report.

In October, Governor Ansel appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Glenn's resignation, J. Wright Nash, Esq., of Spartanburg.

FINANCIAL.

The Treasurer's report herewith submitted gives in detail the financial operations for the year.

While we regret to again report a deficit, the report shows that the added expenses incurred in carrying out the suggestions of the State Hospital Commission bear part of this responsibility.

After carefully looking into the needs of the Hospital for the coming year, in view of the lessons and experiences of the past, we have unanimously agreed to ask for the following appropriations:

IMPROVEMENTS.

Among the improvements made during the year were: A dining hall for white men, the extension of the Taylor building for white men and a dormitory for negro men. These steps were taken after a conference with the State Hospital Commission. In planning the dormitory for negro men, who, in the next few years, will be moved to the country, the building was so arranged that it may eventually be used as a day assembly room for white men. In addition, the interiors of most of the wards of the institution have been painted. Most of the dining rooms throughout the institution have been screened against flies. All veranders have been, or are being sashed, so as to be used for day rooms during cold weather. Besides these improvements many minor changes for the betterment of the equipment and for greater fire protection have been carried out.

NEEDS.

In a plant so large as this institution has grown to be the needs are numerous. In the uncertainty about the removal to the country, it is not easy to say just where these needs are greater and most urgent so as to be carried out with due economy.

It is only a question of a short time, however, when the North building will have to be extended for the accommodation of white women patients.

An ice plant has been an urgent need for years.

The present amusement hall is not large enough to accommodate the white patients who regularly attend the dances and other forms of amusements.

Our experience with tile floors teaches the need of flooring at least all the first story floors of the main building and the stairways with tile, both for cleanliness and for fire protection.

A dormitory building for nurses and other employees would prove a great addition to our equipment.

FIRE PROTECTION.

With your permission, Mr. W. J. May, Chief of the Columbia Fire Department, has been employed to supervise carefully the matter of developing and keeping up the fire protection of the institution. During the year 20 three-gallon chemical hand extinguishers have been placed in different parts of the Hospital. New hose has also been purchased.