



## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

*To the Reports of the Asylum.*

**GENTLEMEN:** I have the honor to submit the following Report, with accompanying statistics, giving in detail the operations of the Asylum for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1886.

The number of patients under care at the beginning of the year was 595—287 males and 318 females. Of these 363 were white and 232 colored. There were 12 absent on probation.

There were admitted during the year 237—108 males and 129 females—making the whole number under treatment 854.

There were discharged 297, of whom 61 were classed as recovered, 29 as improved, 2 as unimproved, 6 were removed, 4 escaped, 87 died, and 18 remain absent on trial.

The result at the end of the year is 647 inmates—304 males and 343 females; of whom 371 are white and 276 colored.

The present population would be notably larger had we not liberally pursued the plan of release on probation.

As stated in a previous Report, we were induced to this course not only by the crowded condition of our wards, but because we think it often beneficial to certain classes of patients, such as those who, after considerable progress to restoration, cease to improve; some cases of melancholia, not suicidal, who, after several months' residence, instead of being benefited, are still more depressed by Asylum surroundings; the not inconsiderable class whose constant fretting to go home counteracts all other influences; and those whose physical condition would probably be benefited by the change. Moreover, it is often difficult to decide whether restoration to reason has been really established or whether it be merely the intermission of recurrent insanity.

In cases like these we have been willing, on application of friends, to release on three months' trial, with the understanding that the patient shall be readmitted, if at any time necessary within that period, without the trouble and expense of a new commitment. At the expiration of the term the leave of absence is extended, a return required or discharge given, according to the report we receive.

112 were thus sent home this year; of whom 58 were afterwards discharged as cured, 29 as much improved, and 2 as unimproved; 18 are still absent on unexpired leave, and only 5 of the whole number were returned.

## SANITARY.

The general health has been good, and we have been exempt from serious epidemic or contagious diseases. There were a few cases of measles, confined exclusively to the male wards. The number of deaths has been large, but in no instance could they be attributed to defective sanitary conditions, and in very few resulted from diseases considered curable. Each year adds to our large number of epileptics and idiots, and we are constantly receiving patients who come to us in the last stages of exhaustion. So long as these conditions last we may not hope to materially reduce our mortality list.

## EARTHQUAKES.

The most notable occurrence of the year was the series of earthquakes which began on the night of August 31st. 1886.

When we consider the awful nature of the visitation, its sudden occurrence in the darkness of night, when all the patients and most of the officers and attendants were in bed, and the excitable nature of our population, we have reason to be profoundly grateful that we passed through the terrible ordeal without serious panic, and without injury to a single person.

It is not surprising that there was demoralization on the part of some of the attendants, but it gives me pleasure to report that many of them very efficiently assisted the officers in their efforts to quiet the excitement in the wards. For a week after the first night the patients from the upper stories, which were thought to be less secure, were provided with pallets in the parlors and corridors on the first floor; the bed room doors were left unlocked; lights allowed during the night in all the wards, and every precaution taken for the quiet and safety of the patients. As to the effect of these extraordinary disturbances on the mind, we have failed to find any notable impression beyond increased nervous excitability in a few cases. We have, however, received several persons from the vicinity of Charleston whose insanity is attributed to the earthquakes. I am glad to be able to report that our buildings escaped serious damage. In the upper wards the plastering was broken in many places, and there were cracks in some of the partition walls, but the outer walls are intact. The latter, as a matter of prudence, have been strengthened in three places by iron anchors.

## IMPROVEMENTS.

In an institution as extensive as this, it becomes necessary to make every year many repairs and some alterations to meet the require-

ments of changed conditions. It would be tedious to mention in detail all that we have done in this way; but there are some permanent improvements which deserve notice.

In the department for white males there had been heretofore no indoor provision for the necessities of the patients. We have this year provided water closets for all the wards in the cross sections of the building, and changed to the same location the bath tubs. Special care was taken to select the best fixtures and to adopt the latest improvements in plumbing.

The bath rooms of the colored male department have also been more conveniently arranged and supplied with new fittings.

Indoor hydrants, with sufficient hose, have been provided for the laundry and carpenter shop.

Great inconvenience having resulted at the laundry from an accident at the City Water Works, it was determined to obtain an independent supply, if possible, by digging a large well in the rear of the building.

The experiment having proved highly satisfactory, we have purchased a steam pump, which will be put in operation as soon as the tank is constructed.

In the original arrangement for heating the centre building, there was necessarily the same pressure on the radiators for warming the house as was required in the kitchen. This has been so altered that the heat for the rooms can be regulated to suit the season, thus affecting a very considerable saving in fuel.

The experience of last Winter having shown that the end section of the North wing was not sufficiently warmed, an additional hot air furnace has been provided.

At the old Asylum several important changes have been made. The plan, alluded to in my last Report, of establishing a central kitchen instead of the two at the ends of the wings, was carried out, and in economy and convenience has met our expectations.

The three-story wooden structures annexed to each wing for water closets having become unsafe, were taken down, and substituted by a substantial brick building, supplied with well ventilated hoppers and flushing tanks, and entirely new pipes. All the plumbing of the bath rooms was renewed, and increased supply of hot water provided throughout the house. An account of other improvements will be found in the appended report of the Farmer.

## CAPACITY.

According to the last summary of daily reports there are vacant beds in

<i>Male Department.</i>		<i>Female Department.</i>
White, 38; Colored, 2.		White, 9; Colored, 25.

From this it appears that while there is ample room for white men and for colored women, there is practically none for increase in the department for colored males or for white females. In the latter there are already 15 single rooms which contain two beds, so that there is really no vacancy. Excepting last year, when seventy of the imbecile class were remanded to the County Commissioners, there has been for the last eight years an annual increase in population of about 40.

The Census of 1880 gives for South Carolina 1,112 insane and 1,588 idiots, which class is made to include all under puberty who are unsound in mind. The total number then of those who may be sent to the Asylum is 2,700. However reluctant we may be to incur any expense beyond the cost of mere maintenance, we cannot afford to ignore the facts just stated or fail to suggest some provision for the future. For temporary provision for white women, I can think of but three practicable plans:

1st. To build in the rear court a wooden pavilion like those at the old Asylum, which, with a capacity for 25 patients, would cost about \$3,000.

2d. Construct a two-story plain brick building to connect with the North wing (female), which would contain a general dining room for the State patients. The ward dining rooms, thus vacated, would afford room for twenty-five patients, and the building would cost about the same as the first.

3d. Build a plain brick ward, single story, and detached from the wing, which should be specially adapted for the refractory class. I have no estimate of the cost of this, but it would be more than the others.

The first plan is so objectionable that it should only be adopted in case of extreme necessity.

The second and third are both highly desirable for reasons apart from the question of capacity; but the former would probably supply our most pressing needs.

In immediate provision for the negro men, I see no other way than to add to some of the frame buildings in which they are now quartered.

But, after all, none of these expedients would give more than temporary relief, and the State must come at last to the plan, so often urged in these Reports, of establishing a separate Asylum for the colored insane.

All that is necessary is plain, substantial buildings, of one, or, at most, two, stories, of such design that it could be built gradually from small appropriations. The room thus provided each year would make just so much more room for the white patients in the quarters vacated. For reasons of economy, it should be located within a mile or two of this institution, so that it might come under the same general supervision.

**COST OF MAINTENANCE.**

The accompanying report of the Treasurer and Steward contains a statement in detail of all the receipts for the year, and "an exhibit of the sums paid each month for the various purposes set forth in the Appropriation Act, together with the persons to whom paid, and the purpose for which paid, and the items referred to by the number of the voucher."

It will be observed that the whole amount expended on maintenance account was \$91,262.38, and that there is in bank to the credit of this account \$8,691.47.

This favorable result is due mainly to continued low prices of the leading articles of consumption; to the great care taken in their purchase by our Steward, and to the strict economy which, under your supervision, has been practiced in all the departments.

Out of the maintenance fund a considerable sum was spent for necessary permanent improvements, such as

- Water closets in Male Department.
- Bath rooms in Male Department.
- Water closets and bath rooms, old Asylum.
- New kitchen, old Asylum.
- Alterations at boiler house and laundry.
- Well and tank for laundry.
- Steam pump.
- New furnace, Female Department.
- Arrangements for regulating steam.
- Anchors for walls.
- Poultry house and potato house at farm, and clothing, and amount refunded on account of pay patients. This amounted in aggregate to..... \$ 3,887 51

Deducting from the total expenditures..... 91,262 38  
 The extraordinary expenses..... 3,887 51

We have current expenses..... \$87,374 87  
 Dividing by 623, the average number of patients, we have annual per capita cost..... 140 27

Deducting from current expenses..... \$87,374 87  
 The receipts from pay patients and from other sources... 10,724 01

We have cost to State of current expenses..... \$76,650 86  
 Dividing by 623, average number of patients, we have per capita cost to the State..... 123 03  
 Whole daily cost per capita..... 38 1/4  
 Daily cost per capita to the State..... 33 3/4  
 Daily cost of dieting prisoners in Jail..... 35

**PER CAPITA COST OF MAINTENANCE IN THIS ASYLUM FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.**

1875-76.....	\$202 83	1876-77.....	\$194 21
1877-78.....	189 02	1878-79.....	176 25
1879-80.....	155 78	1880-81.....	153 24
1881-82.....	141 94	1882-83.....	146 54
1883-84.....	142 78	1885-86.....	140 24

**COMPARATIVE COST PER CAPITA OF MAINTENANCE IN VARIOUS ASYLUMS FOR THE INSANE.**

North Carolina Insane Asylum.....	\$201 15
Iowa Hospital for the Insane.....	218 27
State Hospital for Insane, Norristown, Pa.....	198 53
West Pennsylvania Hospital for Insane, Dixmont.....	219 94
Butler Hospital for Insane, Providence, R. I.....	446 73
Columbus Asylum for Insane, Ohio.....	189 80
State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y.....	302 10
State Homœopathic Asylum, Middletown, N. Y.....	310 94
McLean Asylum, Boston.....	817 44
Dayton Asylum for Insane, Ohio.....	171 13
Asylum for Insane Criminals, Auburn, N. Y.....	180 99
Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Philadelphia, Department for Males.....	485 68
Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Philadelphia, Department for Females.....	464 88
East Lunatic Asylum, Virginia.....	191 94

Connecticut Hospital for the Insane .....	\$157 37
State Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburg, Pa.....	205 92
State Asylum for the Insane, Morristown, N. J.....	258 03
State Lunatic Asylum, Miss.....	138 00
Maine Insane Hospital .....	229 96
Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum.....	155 14
Iowa Hospital for Insane .....	380 95
Danvers Lunatic Hospital, Mass .....	188 19
New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, Trenton .....	236 25
Willard Asylum (Chronic), population 1,835 .....	123 44
Eastern Kentucky Asylum, Lexington .....	188 70
Government Hospital for the Insane .....	233 33
Asylum for Chronic Insane, Worcester, Mass .....	155 49
Central Lunatic Asylum (colored), Richmond, Va.....	130 82
North Hampton Lunatic Asylum, Mass .....	166 47
Longview Asylum, Ohio.....	147 67
Worcester Lunatic Hospital, Mass.....	193 01
Taunton Lunatic Hospital, Mass .....	180 05
Maryland Hospital for the Insane.....	199 65
Cleveland Asylum, Ohio.....	162 38
Indiana Hospital for Insane, population 1,421 .....	173 43
St. Louis Insane Asylum, Mo.....	165 00
West Kentucky, Frankfort.....	143 56
Buffalo State Asylum, N. Y.....	228 34
State Hospital, Warren, Pa.....	223 02
Athens Asylum, Ohio.....	167 44
New Hampshire Asylum.....	271 92
Alabama Insane Hospital, (1884).....	156 42

From all these statistics it appears that the *per capita* cost of maintenance has, during the past ten years, been steadily reduced from \$202.83 to \$140.25; that this rate compares favorably with other institutions for the insane; and that it costs the State less to supply food, clothing, nursing, medicines and medical attention for its insane than is legally allowed for diet of the prisoners of its Jails. If I may seem to recur too often to this subject in these Reports, I can only state that it is forced upon us by the vague charges of extravagance which are made in every political campaign.

Those who are charged with the administration of this great charity feel the full measure of their responsibility to the State, and have earnestly studied every method of economy. I do not hesitate to say that further retrenchment in the cost of maintenance cannot be made without lowering the standard of the institution. There is

now more danger of excessive economy than of extravagance. In future provision for the ever increasing number of the insane, less expensive buildings can doubtless be made to meet every requirement, but the current expenses of this Asylum cannot well be reduced without also reducing its means of usefulness, and reducing the few comforts and pleasures possible to its unfortunate inmates. The people of the State are not yet poor enough to make such a demand.

#### ESTIMATES FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

For current expenses at least \$90,000 will be required. Deducting the amount saved this year, \$8,691.47, leaves \$81,808.53. As instructed, I therefore ask for the following appropriations:

For maintenance.....	\$82,000
For insurance.....	3,000
For beginning brick building for colored insane on the Black farm.....	6,000
	<hr/>
	\$91,000

#### AMUSEMENTS AND OCCUPATION.

We have tried in every way that we could to provide employment for the patients of both sexes. Many of the men worked on the farm and flower gardens, and some were constantly employed in cutting wood and in keeping the premises in order.

In the female department a large number of the inmates were engaged in various domestic offices in the wards, in the kitchens and in the laundry. Most of the clothing for both men and women was made by the female patients. The quantity and variety of work done in the sewing rooms will appear in the appended report of the Matron.

In addition to the employments thus provided, we have endeavored to vary the monotony of asylum life by diversions of many kinds, such as walks and drives, croquet and bowling parties, the various parlor games, and in the Amusement Hall minor theatricals, tableaux, concerts, dances and roller skating.

These simple pastimes are enjoyed by all who can attend, and to many are of decided benefit as a means of treatment.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The full and satisfactory report of our venerable and devoted Chaplain leaves me little to add on this subject. I may state that the attendance, although voluntary, is usually large, and the patients deport themselves with remarkable propriety. These services un-

FURNISHING ACCOUNT.

1885.		Dr.	Cr.
Nov.	1 To balance.....	\$785 32	
		Cr.	
	16 By voucher 49, cash paid South Carolina Railway Company.....		\$ 1 70
Dec.	16 By voucher 12, cash paid Brown & Bro. ....		11 00
	8 By voucher 8, cash paid R. N. Richbourg .....		500 00
1886.			
Jan.	16 By voucher December, 13, cash paid McCreery Furniture Co....		75 44
	27 By voucher December, 21, cash paid R. N. Richbourg .....		16 50
April	12 By voucher March, 13, cash paid J. H. Davis .....		36 00
May	15 By voucher April, 13, cash paid M. H. Berry.....		8 00
	15 By voucher April, 47, cash paid J. H. Davis .....		47 95
June	16 By voucher May, 56, cash paid McCreery Furniture Co.....		18 20
July	14 By voucher June, 18, cash paid J. H. Davis .....		3 50
	12 By voucher July, 13, cash paid Mason Ford Co.....		63 75
	Balance still on hand.....		3 28
		\$785 32	\$785 32

HOSE AND HYDRANT ACCOUNT.

1885.		Dr.	Cr.
Nov.	1 To balance .....	\$154 97	
		Cr.	
1886.	May 19 By voucher 29, cash paid Wm. Heaton .....		\$ 26 40
	Balance still on hand.....		128 57
		\$154 97	\$154 97

BUILD

1886.	May 25 To cash from Com To cash transferring Chapel fur		
			C)
1885.	Nov. 1. By deficit.....		
	By architect's fee Wright, Attor		
REP			
1886.	March 4 To cash from		
	May 25 To cash from		
	March 18 By voucher 3		
	25 By transfer and paid		
	By balance		

1886.	March 4 To cash f		
	March 24 By vou		
	May 24 By vou		
	By bal		