

REPORT  
OF THE  
REGENTS OF THE LUNATIC ASYLUM  
TO THE  
LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
NOVEMBER, 1849.

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COLUMBIA, S. C.  
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1850

The ordinary business of the house has been carried on regularly, from day to day, in usual routine, and our people passing their time more harmoniously and pleasantly than their peculiar situation would authorize you to believe.

At the commencement of the year we had ninety-one patients in the house; during the year we received forty-nine, thirty-three pay and sixteen paupers—making one hundred and forty. Of this number, twenty-one have been discharged and eleven died, leaving now under care one hundred and eight; of whom fifty-one are pay and fifty-seven pauper patients; fifty-eight males and fifty females. Our house has been very much crowded for months past, of the inconvenience of which our patients are not sensible, as we appropriate some of the passages for sleeping apartments. By the free ventilation of the building during the day, we have experienced none of the evil effects of confined and bad air, having enjoyed continued good health, and are now pleased at the idea of so soon having the use of our new buildings; we will then have ample room and very comfortable quarters.

As we report an unusual number of deaths, it may be well to remark, that each case was of that character which seemed more the result of exhausted nature, than from any prevailing disease of the season.

For the health as well as pleasure of our patients, we continue to allow all to exercise freely, and at all times, in the courts, and many of them to take long walks in the country every day, accompanied by an obliging attendant. All of our patients are encouraged to work, and many engage freely at any employment offered; none are forced, yet I believe many would be much benefitted by it, if I knew how to effect this without losing the confidence of the patients.

From the large number of that class of persons who occupy respectable and important positions in society, who have been cured in our Asylum, and who have been pleased to make very favorable mention of it, will all tend, I hope, to inspire confidence, and encourage those who have friends that are fit subjects for such an institution, to avail themselves of its benefits before all chance of cure is lost.

That a correct idea may be entertained of the manner in which the duties of this very important trust are discharged, I avail myself of the opportunity, when strangers call, to show them through the interior of the house, allowing them to pass such of the patients as may chance to be in the apartments at the time: in no instance, however, exposing to view any who should be kept retired. I much prefer this plan of showing the building to visitors, to the one which has so long existed, and which has always been a nuisance, and particularly offensive to many of our patients, that of being looked down upon from the top of the house, from which

place they are occasionally mortified by impertinent questions; consequently some of our patients will not be seen walking in our courts at any time.

The extensive additions to our main building, together with the Asylum for the colored insane, reflect great credit on the contractors, Messrs. Killian & Fry; they are not only complying faithfully with the terms of the contract, but have voluntarily done even more for the same cost. The execution of this work must recommend them strongly to public favor as mechanics of the first order. The cost of these improvements will overgo the amount appropriated, about \$1200, including necessary furniture, which the funds of the institution will promptly meet.

The Green House has been paid for, and is now an ornament to our town, being well filled with rare and beautiful plants, tastefully arranged.

By reference to the Secretary's Account, you will find \$17,093 13 have been received on account of patients, which, with \$2,518 28, which we had in Bank 5th November, 1848, makes \$19,611 41. Our disbursements, for general expenses, salaries and payment for Green House, (not including Killian & Fry's contract,) was \$16,859 57. Messrs. Killian & Fry's contract is for \$15,750. They have thus far received \$8,500, leaving in Bank of the appropriation \$6,500. The amount of indebtedness to the Asylum is about \$7,000, all available, and nearly all will be required to put our institution in complete order.

Our Chaplain continues to take great pleasure in the conscientious and faithful discharge of his duties, by which our religious services are becoming more interesting to our inmates.

The attendants employed at this time are all faithful and kind; so well has each performed their duties, I would be wrong to designate one as having done better than the other.

Very respectfully,

J. W. PARKER,  
Superintendent Lunatic Asylum, S. C.

#### PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

*To the Regents of the Lunatic Asylum:*

GENTLEMEN: The period has now arrived, when it becomes my duty to make a general statement of the occurrences of the year, and the result of the means adopted for the government of the institution, and the effects produced on our patients, by those means, and to call your attention to such facts as may be deemed of importance to the welfare of the patients and their proper management.

It is with much pleasure that I am able to say that the general health of the inmates has been good—there has been no epidemic among them,

and by the care and attention paid to their wants, and a proper system of cleanliness, they have been kept free from the diseases that have prevailed in the town. Although there has been no serious disease, yet there has been much mortality arising from exhaustion, from diarrhœas, &c. At the commencement of the year, many evidenced a broken-down condition of their vital organs, characterized by debility, which usually is the precursor of death, and from that fact, I anticipated much mortality. During the year we have had eleven deaths—but you will perceive from my monthly reports, that none of them have been from the usual disorders of the season. Twenty one have been cured and removed. This number is less in proportion to the number under treatment than we usually have, but is attributable to the want of proper airing, exercise and accommodation. We have had in the Asylum during the present year one hundred and forty patients, and our airing grounds and rooms have been much curtailed by the buildings which were erecting. We were compelled to take away a considerable portion of the yard for the use of the workmen; this produced a sensible effect on our patients, though every thing was done to remedy the inconvenience. The wings are now nearly completed, and we will then be able to extend our accommodations, and render our patients far more comfortable than we have ever before had it in our power to do.

I must earnestly entreat of the Regents to employ their influence to obtain the street to the end of the Asylum, so as to join our lands and throw them all into one, and increase the ground allotted for exercise and recreation. I have for several years looked closely into the travelling on that street, and have done so still more this year, to ascertain the validity of the objections made to our having it, and am satisfied that the closing of that street can in no way interfere with the comfort or business of the inhabitants of the town. I am sure now that my last year's statement was correct, and that not twenty persons would be incommoded in the course of the year. This inconvenience to so small a portion of the community is but a trifle, compared with the advantage to one hundred and eight human beings, now cooped up within our walls. I cannot imagine for one moment how any could object to granting those afflicted beings the free privilege of earth and air, of both of which they are deprived. Reflect for one instant on the fact, that one hundred and eight beings, dependant on you for comfort, are confined in a space of little more extent than one acre, surrounded by high walls on every side, which excludes from them the free circulation of air, and increases in summer the intensity of the heat of the sun, and in winter excludes the rays of the sun, and keeps the yard damp and consequently unfit for delicate females to walk in. Is there any one who ought to scruple to add to the comfort of those unfortunates, even though they might entrench somewhat upon their own?

In the present state of civilization, when in every country the lunatic is looked after with the most scrupulous care, and every possible comfort given—a simple statement of their wants should be sufficient to induce the benevolent to step forward with their aid. I thought so last year, and felt satisfied that amongst the intelligent gentlemen of the Legislature, we should have met with ready and efficient aid. I was mistaken; the strong competition signed by persons who knew nothing about the subject, and acknowledged that they were mistaken, and regretted having written against us, was sufficient to have an undue influence, and the inmates were doomed to another year of close confinement. I well know that it is difficult to get persons to examine these matters properly. I also well know, that for the comfort and happiness of those afflicted beings entrusted to our care, it is necessary that the space allotted for their use should be far more ample than it is—and it is my duty to make every exertion to secure what I deem absolutely necessary for their well doing. I think this subject is now better understood, and that there is now a feeling in the community better calculated to effect our wishes. One thing at least has been accomplished by the improvements of our grounds: a large number of visitors have been induced to call and examine, and the result has been a more ardent desire to add to the comfort of our patients. I feel satisfied that the street can be obtained by a strong representation of the Regents on the propriety of yielding it. The injuries to be done the town are imaginary—no one can be inconvenienced by it, but a few who make that street a part of their ride of a summer's afternoon, and as it has no peculiar attractions, any of the others would answer the same purpose. As for the business part of the community, they do not know that there is such a street, and had it been shut up without asking permission, it would not have been missed by the inhabitants of the town. The idea of its becoming necessary now, that the Rail Road Depot is to be located in that section of the town, is erroneous.

You are well aware of the effect of confinement on the patients, and know that in every institution of the present day, where it has been practicable, that from twenty to one hundred acres of land have been given to the Asylums. No institution of this kind should be built in a crowded city. They should be located at from two to six miles from the town, and in a healthy location, and the utmost freedom given the patients compatible with their safety.

A lunatic should not see or feel, if possible, that he is confined, and should only be restricted when doing wrong. Give them room for exercise, plenty of air and water, keep them employed both mentally and bodily, and you will have a healthy and contented people, and the cures will be double those in an institution where the limited space restricts them in their exercise, amusement and work. A man who has been engaged in

healthful exercise all day, enjoys at night the blessing of sleep, while one who has been lounging about and doing nothing, suffers from the want of nightly rest. So it is with our inmates. Those who are about the fields and gardens, with their minds and bodies both engaged, are more contented, have better health, sleep well, while the reverse is the case with those who will not move about; and our keepers well know it by the quick, hurried tread and the distressing shrieks of those who have doomed themselves to misery by their determination not to work.

Can you place any one hundred and eight sane men in one and a half acres of land and keep them confined there, without their feeling that the space is too limited, and that it is intolerable to remain there so confined? And if such be the case with those enjoying reason, and who can resort to numberless means for passing their time and to dispel the monotony of seclusion, how much more irksome must it be to the insane, who have no other resource than bodily exercise, and when deprived of that, many of them are as restless as caged tigers, and pace their cells with all the restless anxiety of that ferocious beast, and sometimes even partake of his character, by the irritation induced by his confinement. It is very proper that some plan should be adopted to enlarge the airing grounds. With the females, we propose moving them to the western wing and giving them the grounds now occupied by the males, and add to this the whole front yard, which I wish to convert into pleasure grounds and gardens for them. The experiment already tried has been satisfactory to me, although I have not as yet been fully able to carry out my plans; yet it has been advantageous to such of our patients as have been allowed to walk in the garden. Many have not been able to do so, on account of the workmen, who were constantly about, and the gates being kept constantly open to enable them to carry on their operations; but all who could, have enjoyed the garden and green house, and all have expressed themselves much gratified by the privilege.

I stated, in my Report of 1847, that the garden and green house might be made to support themselves, and I am now satisfied that they could. It will, however, require some little assistance to enable the gardener to procure such seeds and roots as will furnish a succession of flowers as will induce visitors and purchasers. We have been fortunate in procuring the services of one who is thoroughly acquainted with his business, and who, by his persevering industry, under every disadvantage, has enabled him to make a collection of plants that would be creditable to a garden of five years standing. I said, gentlemen, in that Report, that I wanted a head, and not a spade; but the latter is absolutely necessary, and it is a waste of money to keep such a man as you have, at the ordinary toil of the mere workman, when he might be so much more profitably employed in directing the labor of others, and laying out and

regulating what they were to do. But if he could, by his own individual manual labor, do all that was required in the garden, I would not wish him to do so; my principal object for making up a garden, was the employment it would furnish the patients; it is their labor that I wish there, and it is to have them employed that I wish him free from the spade, so that he may use his head for their advantage. To arrange those grounds in the order in which I wish to see them, would require at least ten hands, two years, constantly employed; but with such assistance as our people would render, it would take five times that period; but then employment is all I want, and the time they may consume in doing it is of no moment. I am aware of the difficulty of inducing many of our people to work, and that it is impracticable, with the limited number of our keepers. I must beg of you to turn the matter over in your minds, and see whether you cannot adopt some means to urge the keepers to effect our wishes. Under any circumstances, gentlemen, it is advisable to increase the number of our attendants. At present there is not a sufficient number. The experience of every institution is, that there should be at least one keeper to every ten lunatics, in order to manage them properly. That number, with the assistance of the private keepers, will enable us to get on with more advantage to the patients, and more comfort to all parties. There has been a manifest improvement in the vigilance and attention bestowed by our attendants; they are kind and respectful, and do their duty with gentleness and feeling, and I hear no complaints, nor of any violence being offered. They deserve credit for their efforts, and if they continue their exertions, we shall have no reason to wish for a better set. Mr. Levy, the head keeper, still maintains his influence over his patients, and has their respect and affection; they exhibit their attachment by doing whatever he requests. He is well calculated for such a situation as the one he occupies; he does his duty with great kindness and judgment, and is entitled to our thanks. On the female side, the assistants are very able, and, as I remarked in my former Report, one of them is the best that I have ever seen, Mrs. Jenkins; her conduct towards them is uniformly kind and correct, and she manages to combine great firmness with an affectionate manner, and it affords me great pleasure to testify to her zeal, kindness and tact, in managing those entrusted to her care.

The Rev. Mr. Hort still remains with us as Chaplain, and I am happy to say that the patients corroborate my opinion of his kindness to them; his wish to benefit, and his success in gaining their confidence, respect and affectionate regards.

I look forward with much pleasure to the completion of the wings, now nearly finished, and feel satisfied that our patients will be greatly benefitted by the enlarged rooms and greater comforts afforded. Let us but be able

to furnish the ground appropriate to their other accommodations, and I have no doubt but the cures will be doubled.

The difficulty of employing the patients continues, and I know of no means I can recommend, but such as will compel those who will not work willingly. You do not agree with me as to the means I have suggested, and I would be glad if you would adopt some plan to effect so desirable an object.

Since the fifth day of November last, we have received into the Asylum forty-nine patients, and we then had ninety-one; of this number twenty-three have been cured; twenty-one of them removed; eleven have died, and there now remains in the Institution one hundred and eight. Two of those reported cured are yet in the house.

Respectfully submitted.

E. H. TREZEVANT, Physician.

Columbia, Nov. 5, 1849.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
OF THE LUNATIC ASYLUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

From 5th November, 1848, to same period, 1849.

|                |   |            |             |
|----------------|---|------------|-------------|
| Nov'r 5, 1848. | Amount in Bank,.....                    | \$2,518 28 |             |
|                | " of appropriation,.....                | 15,000 00  |             |
| 1849.          | " rec'd on acc't of patients, 17,093 13 |            | \$34,511 41 |
| DISBURSED.     |   |            |             |
| Nov'r 7, 1848. | Am't for supplies and salaries,..       | \$1,033 30 |             |
| Dec'r 4, "     | " " " ..                                | 1,068 45   |             |
| " 21, "        | " refunded, &c.....                     | 230 29     |             |
| Jan'y 4, "     | " Dr. Trezevant,.....                   | 785 00     |             |
| " 15, "        | " supplies, &c.....                     | 1,457 93   |             |
| " 29, "        | " salaries and negro hire,..            | 1,195 00   |             |
| Feb'y 7, "     | " " supplies,..                         | 1,606 46   |             |
| Mar'h 7, "     | " " " ..                                | 1,400 14   |             |
| April 9, "     | " " " ..                                | 1,346 33   |             |
| " 17, "        | " Killian & Fry,.....                   | 2,000 00   |             |
| May 7, "       | " supplies and salaries,..              | 1,122 92   |             |
| " 30, "        | " Killian & Fry,.....                   | 2,000 00   |             |
| June 2, "      | " refunded Andrews,....                 | 92 31      |             |
| " 4, "         | " supplies and salaries,..              | 708 30     |             |
| " 11, "        | " N. Scofield,.....                     | 59 16      |             |
| " 14, "        | " refunded McHaile,....                 | 100 00     |             |
| " 29, "        | " Killian & Fry,.....                   | 100 00     |             |
| July 9, "      | " for supplies and salaries, 1,476 96   |            |             |
| " 9, "         | " paid Killian & Fry,..                 | 900 00     |             |
| " 27, "        | " refunded Mr. Buiham,..                | 55 45      |             |
| " 31, "        | " " Mr. Black,..                        | 45 08      |             |
| Aug. 4, "      | " paid for supplies,.....               | 581 70     |             |
| " 14, "        | " " Killian & Fry,..                    | 1,000 00   |             |
| " 27, "        | " " Killian & Fry,..                    | 400 00     |             |
| Sept. 27, "    | " " supplies, &c.....                   | 1,052 22   |             |
| " 13, "        | " " Killian & Fry,..                    | 1,600 00   |             |
| Oct. 9, "      | " " supplies, &c.....                   | 1,358 97   |             |
| " 26, "        | " " Killian & Fry,..                    | 500 00     |             |
| " 26, "        | " " Dr. Fisher, coal bill,              | 83 60      | \$25,359 57 |
| Nov. 5, "      | Balance in Bank,.....                   |            | \$9,251 84  |

J. W. PARKER,  
Secretary and Treasurer Lunatic Asylum.

COLUMBIA, November 5, 1849.