

FIFTY-NINTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
LUNATIC ASYLUM  
FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 1881-82.

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COLUMBIA, S. C.  
CHARLES A. CALVO, JR., STATE PRINTER.  
1882.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

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

MR. PRESIDENT AND 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, 1882.

The number of patients under care at the beginning of the year was 490; 231 males and 259 females. Of these 303 were white and 187 colored.

There were admitted during the year 254—132 males and 122 females; and readmitted, 11—3 males and 8 females. Making the total number of admissions 265, and the whole number under treatment 755.

There were discharged 295, of whom 62 were considered as recovered, 29 as improved, 14 as unimproved; escaped, 3; not insane, 1; died, 78; and released on probation, 18.

The result at the end of the year is 530 patients, of whom 252 are males and 278 females.

Compared with last year there were 112 more under treatment the number of deaths 1 less; the recoveries 19 more, besides 29 discharged as improved, the number remaining 69 more, and the same number out on trial. The present population would certainly be larger had we not liberally tried the system of release on probation.

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, which 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.

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The Committee further report that the laundry, so necessary for all the different buildings of the Asylum, is nearly completed, but a further small appropriation is necessary to finish it. They recommend that the same be asked for.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN T. RHETT, Chairman.

W. B. STANLEY,

J. H. DAVIS.

Building Committee.

Summary of Receipts and

1881.		
Nov. 1. To balance from last year.....		\$ 1,685 32
Cash from Comptroller General:		
Maintenance.....	\$70,000 00	
Building.....	20,983 00	
Purchasing lands.....	4,000 00	
Laundry.....	3,000 00	
Furnishing new building.....	3,000 00	
Engine.....	1,200 00	
Regents' per diem.....	475 00	
Balance on building No. 1.....	2,166 33	102,658 00
"    "    "    "    2.....	6,200 22	
Deficit "    "    "    "    ".....	1,499 77	
"    "    "    "    "    laundry.....	94 45	
Balance water account.....	11 83	
Cash from patients.....	5,271 33	9,972 60
"    "    flowers.....	85 80	
"    "    cattle.....	145 00	
"    "    rope and tackle.....	42 20	
"    "    barrels and old lead pipes.....	8 40	5,552 71
		\$119,868 63

Disbursements for Year 1881-82.

1881.	
Nov. 1. By cash paid maintenance.....	\$ 73,809 50
"    "    "    buildings.....	20,849 32
"    "    "    water.....	11 83
"    "    "    laundry.....	3,094 45
"    "    "    furnishing.....	2,991 34
"    "    "    Regents.....	475 00
"    "    "    extra building.....	3,026 10
"    "    "    unexpended "land fund".....	4,000 00
"    "    "    engine fund.....	1,200 00
"    "    "    balance on furnishing account.....	8 66
"    "    "    balance.....	402 43
	\$119,868 63