

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

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COLUMBIA, S. C.  
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# REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

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*To the Board of Regents of the Lunatic Asylum:*

The Building Committee respectfully report as follows: They desire to refer to their last Annual Report, on page 9 of the 58th Annual Report of this Institution, for the purpose of saying that the plans indicated in that Report and sanctioned by the Board have been persistently followed and the results therein anticipated have been achieved. The patients are now housed far more satisfactorily than has been the case at any time during our Regency of nearly six years,—indeed, we believe than at any time during the near past. But, satisfactory as has been the result, the necessity of completing the new Asylum by the erection of the centre and connecting building has become far more pressing now than when we urged it in our last Report, for the following reasons: In the transposal of the patients, which was advisable, even if it had not become absolutely necessary, the white patients, both male and female, are now in the new and far more comfortable buildings, entirely separate from the colored. But they are in buildings designed only for the accommodation of patients, not containing the necessary offices—kitchen, store room and other rooms,—without which it is not possible in any Asylum building (especially in one so large as this—designed when completed to hold nearly four hundred patients,) to have an administration efficient, economical and, in accordance with sanitary rules, conducive to their health, their comfort and perhaps their cure. The mere temporary makeshifts now in use are only justified by necessity. They therefore earnestly recommend to the Board that the Legislature be asked to furnish the means to erect said centre building. In order that the Legislature might better see exactly what is wanted, the Committee, with the sanction of the Board, has employed a competent architect, who will furnish the plans, (complete in every respect) specifications and probable costs, preserving the outward appearance of the original plan, yet making such internal changes as would place the building more in accordance with modern views on the subject. These will be held ready for the inspection of the proper Committees of the two houses. The Committee recommend that at least \$30,000 be asked for this purpose. Indeed, if the State finances would allow it, it would be better to finish the building at once, for the need for it can hardly be greater than just at present.



As this policy has been adopted to a greater extent than in other Asylums, it may be worth while to note the result of last year's experiment.

There were sent home on probation 93. Of these were afterwards discharged as cured 35; as improved 13; as unimproved, yet able to be cared for at home, 6; died, 5; 18 who were recently released are still absent, and only 16 have returned. It is gratifying to state that so far there has been no instance of violence on the part of those so released.

Of the 550 patients now present, 330 are white and 220 colored. Of the 60 increase during the year, 27 were white and 33 colored. A comparison of these figures with preceding Reports shows that the proportion of the colored to the white is steadily increasing.

54 of the present inmates are considered curable, 87 doubtful, and 409—44 more than last year—are incurable.

#### HOW SUPPORTED.

Of 550 patients, 525 are supported by the State and 25 by themselves or friends.

It was hoped that the Act of the last General Assembly requiring the County Commissioners to investigate the ability to pay, not only of all new cases, but also of those then present in the Asylum, would add considerably to the list of private patients; but I regret to state that such has not been the result. From several of the Counties no reports have been received, and many of the returns were too vague for value. Only two of the inmates were reported as having means for support, and from the friends of these we have only received promises to pay.

#### SANITARY CONDITION.

The general health has been good and we have been exempt from endemic or epidemic diseases and from any serious accident to person or property.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

The Institution in all the departments has been kept in thorough repair. One of the most important additions is the new laundry, for which we received a special appropriation. This building, now nearly completed, is a neat, substantial brick structure, and will be supplied with a new engine and boiler, with the most approved machinery for washing, drying and ironing. For convenience of arrangement and completeness of outfit it will bear comparison with any in the States.

But the principal improvement was the completion of the North wing of the new Asylum, which was received from the contractor on



October 1st. This building contains large, well-ventilated rooms, has every convenience of the modern Asylum, and, while it is well furnished throughout, two of the wards have been specially fitted for the accommodation of those who are able to pay for superior appointments. To carry out the original plan of assigning to this wing the white female patients, a general transfer of classes became necessary. The white men who were in the sections finished last year had to be returned to the South wing; to make room for these the negro men were moved into the wooden Lodge, which had been occupied by the colored women, who were in turn transferred to the old Asylum, from which, with the exception of one ward, the white female occupants were moved into the wing just completed.

All these changes, requiring simultaneous movement of persons and furniture, were, fortunately, effected without accident and with very little confusion.

After all these transpositions, it is important to note the location of the different classes of patients and the capacity of each department.

We have then the white women occupying the North wing of the *New*, and one ward of the Old Asylum; the white men in the South wing; the colored women in the Old Asylum; and the colored men in the Lodge, which is a one-story wooden building in rear of the South wing of the New Asylum.

The department for white females, as now constituted, is about full, and the only way we can provide for an increase is to vacate one ward of the old Asylum by removing its colored occupants to one of the wooden pavilions in the rear courts.

For white males there will probably be room enough for one year more.

In the Lodge the accommodation for negro men will possibly be sufficient for two years.

In the department for colored females, if another ward be taken for white women, there will remain one pavilion, with 24 beds for any further increase. It hence appears that the end of another year will find us without room for white patients and with very little for colored females.

While the Board deems it inexpedient at this time to ask for construction anything more than an appropriation for the centre building, the necessity for which is fully and forcibly stated in the accompanying Report of its Committee on Building, the Section of the General Statutes requiring it "to report annually the state and condition of the institution fully and particularly," makes it our duty to warn the Legislature of the near necessity of increased accommodation for the insane.



It will be surprising to learn how many of this class we have in the State.

As the returns of the census of 1880 had not been published, I applied some months ago to the Bureau in Washington for information on the subject, and beg leave to quote from the reply: "With respect to the statistics of insanity, I can say to you that the census will show for the State of South Carolina, in round numbers, about 1,300 insanes and 1,600 idiots. The number reported in 1870 was: Insane, 333; idiots, 465. The difference is, of course, not due to any sudden and surprising increase in the number of unfortunates, but to the imperfect methods adopted in 1870 and the improved methods now in vogue. Where the census reported in 1870 62,000 insane and idiots in the United States, I shall report probably 165,000 of these two classes." It is proper to remark that in the above classification all persons of unsound mind below the age of puberty are rated as idiots. In view of the large number of these dependent classes still out of the Asylum, the population of which steadily increases at the rate of sixty or seventy a year, it becomes a question for the serious consideration of the Legislature whether the State can better afford additional provision or additional delay.

#### FINANCES.

The last General Assembly made for the Asylum various special appropriations, for maintenance, for buildings, for purchasing land, &c. For each appropriation a separate account has been kept, and, as required by Section 1597 of the General Statutes, we have made to the Comptroller General a full report of the receipts and expenditures, including "an exhibit of the sums paid each month for the various purposes above set forth, together with the persons to whom paid, (including persons on the pay roll,) and the purpose for which paid, and the items referred to by the number of the voucher."

But to show the general results, I insert the following extracts from the Treasurer's report:



## SUMMARY ON EACH ACCOUNT.

## Maintenance received :

Balance left from last year.....	\$ 1,685 32
Amount appropriated.....	70,000 00
Amount received from patients.....	5,271 31
Amount received from sale of flowers, cattle, &c...	281 40
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	\$77,238 03

## EXPENDED.

For maintenance.....	\$73,809 50
Extra building purposes.....	3,026 10
Leaving balance.....	402 43
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	\$77,238 03

The item for extra building includes the cost of extending the brick wall in front of the new Asylum, fencing the rear courts, and minor constructions, for which there was no special appropriation.

If the cost of maintenance, \$73,809.50, be divided by 520, (the average number of patients,) we shall find \$141.94 to be the *per capita* expense for the year. Last year it was \$153.24—a difference of \$11.30.

## FURNISHING NEW ASYLUM.

Of the \$3,000 received, \$2,991.34 were expended, leaving balance to credit \$8.66.

## FOR PURCHASING LAND.

The purchase has been made for the amount appropriated, \$4,000, but the money will not be paid until the titles are perfected.

## FOR PURCHASING ENGINE AND BOILER.

For these a contract has been made for \$1,150, which is \$50 less than the appropriation. This balance will probably be absorbed by the cost of belting and connections.

## FOR BUILDING LAUNDRY AND WORK SHOP.

Amount appropriated.....	\$3,000 00
“ expended.....	3,094 45
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Making a deficit of.....	\$94 45



The following table shows the leading expenditures for the year:

Groceries and provisions.....	\$24,035 24
Salaries and wages.....	23,025 98
Dry goods.....	5,828 63
Beef and sausages.....	5,054 45
Fuel.....	4,474 79
Lights and gas.....	1,738 98
Poultry and eggs.....	792 45
Shoes. ....	731 83
Postage and telegrams.....	114 38
Stationery.....	78 75
Improvements and repairs.....	3,910 79
Drugs and hospital stores.....	1,028 33

#### ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR.

It may safely be assumed that the average number of patients will be 585, which, multiplied by \$141.94, the *per capita* cost last year, would make \$83,034.90; \$80,000 would give a *per capita* of less than \$140, which is extremely low compared with other institutions and cannot be prudently reduced.

Besides the deficiency on the contract for the laundry building, improved machinery is needed in this department and also in the work shop. For the centre building, your Committee recommend an application for \$30,000. What its entire cost will be may now be easily estimated from the full specifications made by an experienced architect.

To sum up, our estimates are:

For maintenance.....	\$80,000 00
For deficit on contract for laundry.....	1,194 45
For machinery for laundry.....	800 00
For machinery for work shop.....	700 00
For deficit on appropriation for completing North wing of new Asylum.....	1,499 77
For centre building.....	30,000 00
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	\$114,194 22

#### FARM.

The seasons of the past year have been favorable to the operations of the garden and farm. The detailed statement in the Appendix of expenses and of products show gratifying results. To those who think that the estimated values are too high, I would state that they are based on the current prices in this city. Compared with other farms the profit



the task was almost hopeless ; yet, by persevering appeals to the Legislature, they have from time to time received such appropriations as enabled them this year to finish and occupy the entire North wing.

But the erection of this permanent building was necessarily slow, and it became necessary to provide at once for the constant increase of population. As a temporary resort, it was decided to construct a cheap, single story lodge for the colored women. This wooden building was soon finished, and was enlarged as required from time to time, until its capacity reached one hundred and thirty rooms.

To meet the demand for more room in the white female department, a wooden pavilion for twenty patients was constructed in one of the rear courts of the old Asylum, and the following year another with twenty-four rooms was built in the opposite court. The result of all this is that in the last five years accommodation has been provided for one hundred and seventy-five patients in the North wing of the main Asylum by special appropriations amounting to \$85,000, and for one hundred and seventy-four in the provisional buildings by the savings from the annual appropriations for maintenance.

In the matter of improvements it would be tedious to detail all that has been done ; but this much it is worth while to recall : That the efficiency of the service has been advanced by establishing an out-door night watch ; by increasing the in-door night watches from two to six, and by keeping the proportion of attendants to patients at one to ten ; that, by providing a bakery, better and much cheaper bread has been supplied ; that, by increasing the herd of cows, an annual expense of over \$1,200 has been saved ; that three tracts of land, aggregating one hundred and seventy-one acres, have been added to the farm, which has been provided with all necessary buildings ; that a large sewer of cemented brick, three and a half by two feet and over four hundred yards long, has been so laid that it affords convenient drainage to all parts of the premises and so debouches that it may contribute to the enrichment of the farm ; that a one-half acre lot has been purchased in Elmwood Cemetery where our dead can be decently buried ; that an ample supply of water has been secured by laying a six inch main over five hundred yards long, and protection against fire by placing in the various buildings the necessary hydrants and hose ; and that a new laundry, with improved machinery, is now nearly completed.

How far the financial condition of the Institution has improved will appear in the following statement :

The debt of the Asylum November 1, 1877, amounting to \$29,714.12, has been discharged ; and the Regents, by using their personal credit, obtained such advances as enabled them to make all purchases for cash,