

LUNATIC ASYLUM  
OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA.

---

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REGENTS,  
REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN,  
REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT,  
Laws of the Institution,  
&c. &c.

---

**PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE REGENTS.**

---

Columbia, S. C.  
PRINTED BY I. C. MORGAN,  
Opposite Law Range.

---

1842



diment of the fabled Tartarus, encircled by its triple wall and fiery river, where no sound was heard, but the clanking of chains, and the wailing of miserable victims.

Some of the suggestions in this Report, and in that of your Physician involve an expenditure of money beyond the means of this Board. The building is deficient, and without proper architectural arrangements, a most important suggestion, the separation of the Patients cannot be carried out. It is one of those matters of prime necessity, in which your Committee think that an appeal to the Legislature is not only proper, but of binding duty. It cannot be believed that that body will withhold the proper appropriation. This noble charity will not be abandoned, and our beloved State will not be found wanting in the honorable struggle in which a Pinel, an Esquirol and others have acquired immortality, and in which so many of the governments of the earth are now engaged.

There are in the United States twenty-six Asylums for the Insane. Eight of these, are known to have cost from \$100,000 to \$500,000. The cost of the others is not known. The subject of Lunacy is one of absorbing interest throughout the whole country, and our State may well make additional appropriations, and yet fall short of many other States. None surely can reproach her for past Legislation, but rather all will rejoice, that at so early a period she gave such signal proof of her wisdom and humanity. The number of Insane in the United States, according to the late census is 18,000, and less than 3000 are under treatment. It is estimated that upwards of 5000 persons become insane annually. The present number of Insane in South Carolina is 513, and 376 of these are whites. As large as seems the provision for the Insane of the United States, it may well be said that the work has just begun. It is, we believe, a uniform law in the Asylums of the different States to give preference to applicants in their borders. Each State has enough to do with its own sufferers, and as the prejudices against Asylums are fast giving way, soon it may be difficult to get accommodations abroad. While writing this Report, there are 65 patients in this Asylum, and 52 of them are from our own State. Thirty-nine are Paupers, and twenty-six Pay Patients, and fifty-six of the sixty-five are incurable. These facts are important. There is but one unoccupied room in the building for Females, and about thirty for Males. Nearly 300 Insane whites among us are not provided for. It is a fact not to be overlooked, that there are more Paupers than Pay Patients. The Institution is becoming a Pauper Institution, and it is owing to the want of proper accommodations for the higher classes. The pay for Paupers is fixed by law at \$100; a sum insufficient to defray indispensable expenses. The

whole cost of a Pauper is \$160, and \$60 of this must necessarily come from the Board. The Pay Patients therefore, contribute upwards of 50 per cent. to the support of the Paupers, and it will be seen at once that the Institution cannot maintain itself without them. The pay for a Pauper in this Asylum, is less than in any Northern Asylum with which we are acquainted. Some few charge \$2 per week, but the pay generally is from \$2 50 to \$3 50. We have not the facts to make a comparative estimate in relation to the Private Patients. We observe however that in many of the best Institutions, they pay "according to their ability and accommodations," and in the Retreat at Hartford, a patient in the centre building, with a separate room and attendant, pays from \$10 to \$12 per week. There can be no reasonable doubt, that if the Board had at its disposal a sum sufficient to enable it to classify the inmates, the Institution would be placed beyond the reach of contingency. It is most desirable to erect an additional building for Females, and this is not within the means of the Board. If this was done, the increase of pay patients from the higher classes would be certain. It is for the proper authorities to decide whether this Institution shall be put in a condition to maintain itself by the revenue derived from the pay patients, or whether it shall be a dead weight on the State.

But your Committee will conclude this imperfect Report, in the humble hope that they have not written altogether in vain. In all schemes for the benefit of the Insane, the great principle in the language of Tuke, should be remembered, "that there are few who are not to a considerable extent, under the influences to which nature or habit has subjected them in a healthy state; and that the cultivation and extension of the remaining healthy feelings and associations forms one of the most important points of moral management." It is not necessary to insist, that on the Directors of this Institution has devolved a most sacred and honorable duty. The defects which have been pointed out, and the difficulties to be surmounted, should incite to greater exertion. These have been remedied and overcome elsewhere, and why not with us? Let the Board do its duty, and the blessing of Him who delights in works of charity will attend its labors.

M. LABORDE, *Chairman.*

April 18, 1842.



confined twenty years in one of the jails of this State. He was very violent, and continued so for some years, but is now uniformly quiet, and quite a useful man.

— was chained for many years to a block, and was so violent when admitted into the Asylum, that she ran every body out of the yard, and had to be subdued by the male Keepers. She is now the most useful patient in the house, among the females.

AN ACT TO CARRY INTO OPERATION THE LUNATIC  
ASYLUM.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives, met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same,* That there shall be elected, by both branches of the Legislature, nine Regents of the Lunatic Asylum, who shall hold their offices for six years from the day of election, except those who shall be first elected, who shall go out of office according to a ballot, to be drawn by the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, and reported to the Legislature in the following order, viz: The three Regents whose names are first drawn, shall go out of office at the end of two years from the day of election; the three Regents whose names shall be next drawn, shall go out of office at the end of four years from the day of election; and the remaining Regents shall go out of office at the end of six years from the day of election. The Regents shall be re-eligible. A vacancy in the Regency shall be filled by the other Regents, till the next regular Legislative election.

The said Regents, by the name of "The Regency of the Lunatic Asylum of South Carolina," shall form a body corporate, in deed and in law, for all the purposes of the said Institution, with all the powers incident to corporations; and they shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to make and establish all rules, regulations and by-laws for the government of the institution; which, when made, shall be reported to the next Legislature, for their approval or rejection; but, until rejected by the Legislature, shall be in force—to appoint a keeper and all officers, and medical at-

tendants of the institution, which, by the said rules, shall be provided for, and to remove them from office at their pleasure; and to fix the amount of the salary or emoluments of such keeper, officers, or medical attendants; to establish the rate of admission, maintenance and medical attendance of all the subjects of the said institution, providing such rates as shall support the institution, without any charge on the Treasury of the State; and to expend any surplus income, which may be derived from the institution, in the two first years, in improving the grounds of the Asylum.

It shall be the duty of the Regency, to admit as subjects of the institution, all idiots, lunatics and epileptics, being citizens of this State, according to the following regulations, and subject to the following conditions, that is to say:

All persons who shall be found idiots or lunatics, by inquisition from the Courts of Chancery, or on trials in the Courts of Common Law, where the Court shall order such admission, or where it shall be requested under the hand of the husband or wife, or (where there is no husband or wife) of the next of kin of the idiot or lunatic:

All persons who shall be declared lunatics, idiots or epileptics, after due examination by one Justice of the Quorum and two licensed practising Physicians of the State; where the subject is a pauper, the admission shall be at the request of the Commissioners of the Poor of the district, town, or parish liable to support such pauper; otherwise, the admission shall be at the request of the husband or wife, or (where there is no husband or wife,) of the next of kin of the idiot, lunatic or epileptic:

All idiots and lunatics from any of our sister States, shall be admitted on such evidence of their lunacy or idiocy as the Regents regard sufficient; but no foreign lunatic or idiot shall be admitted, or kept in the institution, to the exclusion of subjects being citizens of this State—they shall pay the same rates as citizen subjects.

No lunatic, idiot or epileptic, who shall be declared a fit subject of the institution by a Justice of the Quorum and two Physicians, or who shall be sent from a sister State, shall be retained in the institution more than ten days after his admission, except where there shall be entered in the records of the institution an order for his retention, made, after full examination of his state of mind, by the medical attendant or attendants, and not less than three of the Regents; and upon such order being made, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Regency to make out a certified copy of the declaration of the Justice and Physicians, and of the order of retention, and immediately send the same to one of the Chancellors of the State, or to one of the Judges of the Courts of Common Law, who shall, thereupon, either in



open Court or at Chambers, make such order in relation to the custody of the estate of the said subject, as would have been made, had the proceedings been under a writ *de lunatico inquirendo*.

No subject shall be admitted into the institution until one half year's expense of maintenance and medical attendance there shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Regency, and a bond and good security shall be given to pay the said expenses, half yearly in advance, so long as the subject remains in the institution, and to pay all funeral charges in case of his death; but such bond shall not be required of the Commissioners of the Poor, sending a subject to the institution.

In case the half yearly advances are not paid, the bond shall be immediately put in suit, and no imparlance thereto shall be allowed; and in case Commissioners of the Poor neglect to pay such advance, the Comptroller General shall issue his warrant to the Tax Collector of the district or parish liable to pay the same, requiring him immediately to collect the same, with five per cent. advance thereon for his commission, from the taxable inhabitants of the district, town or parish, liable to support such pauper, on the principles of the general tax of the State.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall be the duty of the said Regents, to remove from office and cause to be indicted, any person employed in the said institution, who shall assault any idiot, lunatic or epileptic, or use towards such lunatic or epileptic, any other or greater violence than may be necessary for his or her restraint, government or cure.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That whenever any lunatic or epileptic shall have recovered, it shall be the duty of the Regents to discharge him or her from the Asylum.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall be the duty of the Regents hereby directed to be appointed, to report annually to the Legislature, the state and condition of the institution, fully and particularly—and they shall also annually report to the Comptroller General, the amount of income of the said institution, and the amount of the expenditures and the items thereof.

Whenever a Chancellor, or Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, shall direct an order to any Justice of the Quorum, to enquire as to the idiotcy, lunacy or epilepsy of any person, it shall be the duty of such Justice to call to his assistance, two licensed practicing Physicians, and examine such person, and the evidence of his or her idiotcy, lunacy or epilepsy; and if, after full examination, they shall find

such person an idiot, lunatic or epileptic, they shall certify to the said Judge or Chancellor, whether in their opinion such person is curable or incurable, and whether his enlargement would be harmless, or dangerous, or annoying to the community; and thereupon, the Judge or Chancellor, in his discretion, may make an order that the said person shall be sent to the Lunatic Asylum.

When information, on oath, shall be given to any Justice of the Quorum, that a person is an idiot, lunatic or epileptic, and is chargeable for his support on the district, town or parish, it shall be the duty of such Justice, forthwith to call to his assistance two licensed practicing Physicians, and examine the said person, and the evidence of his or her idiotcy, lunacy or epilepsy; and if they shall find such person an idiot, lunatic or epileptic, it shall be the duty of the Commissioners of the Poor of the district, town or parish, charged with his or her support, to send him or her to the Lunatic Asylum; unless the said Justice and Physicians shall certify that, in their opinion, he or she is incurable, and that no danger, annoyance or disturbance will result to the community by his or her not being confined in the Asylum.

In the Senate House, the eighteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, and in the fifty-second year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JACOB BOND FON, *President of the Senate.*  
JOHN B. O'NEALL, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

#### AN ACT CONCERNING THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*, That the Commissioners of the Poor in each and every district, and all persons and bodies corporate having charge of paupers, idiots, lunatics and epileptics, resident in the several districts and parishes, shall be and they are hereby required to send them to the Lunatic Asylum; and to support there such idiot, lunatic or epileptic, at the expense of the city, town, parish or district chargeable with



the support of such paupers; and for the support of each pauper, lunatic, idiot or epileptic, now in the Asylum, or hereafter to be sent, there shall be paid to the Regents of the Asylum the sum of one hundred dollars per annum, in lieu of the sum heretofore payable.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That transient paupers, lunatics, idiots or epileptics, sent to the Asylum by the existing laws, shall be supported at the public expense; and the Regents are hereby authorized to draw from the Treasury for the support of every such transient pauper, lunatic, idiot or epileptic, at the rate of one hundred dollars per annum, until the Regents shall have ascertained his or her former permanent domicil, when the district to which he or she may belong, shall be charged with such support: *Provided nevertheless*, that the Commissioners of the Poor of the district so adjudged by the Regents to be chargeable, be and they are hereby authorized to appeal from such decision, to the next Court of Sessions to be holden for the said district, by which Court the liability of the district for the support of such pauper shall be tried; and the Solicitor of the Circuit is hereby required, upon such appeal, to defend the interest of the State: *Provided*, that the Treasury in no instance shall be liable to pay for the maintenance of paupers other than such as are citizens of the State.

In the Senate House, the seventeenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, and in the fifty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

HENRY DEAS, *President of the Senate.*  
H. L. PINCKNEY, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

LAWS, REGULATIONS, &c., OF THE LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
PASSED JANUARY 5, 1828; AND REVISED AND ALTERED  
AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS CALLED  
FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE, ON MONDAY, APRIL 13,  
1835.

1. The monthly meetings of the Regents shall be held at 4 o'clock, P. M. of the first Saturday of each month, from April to October inclusive, and at 3 o'clock, P. M. on the first Saturday of each of the other months.