

SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

FOR THE

YEAR 1897.

COLUMBIA, S. C.,
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1898.

increase of population. This explanation applies to the present population of South Carolina considered as a whole, but does not apply to the colored people of to-day as compared with the negro slaves."

INEBRIATES.

From its foundation this Hospital has admitted violent inebriates. To prevent the abuse of this privilege a law was enacted in 1884 requiring that persons suffering from the abuse of alcohol, opium or chloral be received only as pay patients, being supported by their friends, or where they were not able from the county treasuries, in other words, it was clearly the intent of the law that these cases should not be beneficiaries of the State in the same sense as the insane.

In its purpose this is a wise and just law. It is not specific enough, however, in its requirements of county support nor does it specify the minimum length of time that such patients may be kept here. It is of little use for inebriates to be sent to this Hospital for a week or ten days till they recover from the effects of a debauch and then discharge them to return to their evil habits before their power of will is normal.

This policy has in the past, as your Board knows too well, reflected little credit upon the inebriate or the management of the Hospital. As a rule county officers ignore the requirements of pay for this class of patients. I would therefore suggest that your Board recommend to the General Assembly the enactment of a law requiring the detention of inebriates for a period of not less than sixty days and exacting from the family of the patient or from the County Supervisors, the payment of the full rates required of pay patients, that is, \$20.85 per month.

CRIMINALS.

During the year several criminals were sent here as insane. It appears that the number of this class is increasing. The commitment of such cases to the Hospital serves more frequently to evade the just penalty for crime than it fulfills the humane purpose of an asylum for the unfortunate. Without here discussing at length this serious question I would suggest that a law be enacted providing for the confinement in a separate department of the Penitentiary of insane

criminals as has been done within the past year by the State of North Carolina. I would also raise the question of the jurisdiction of probate judges over persons accused of crime. The decision of such cases would seem to me to be outside the pale of the probate courts and to belong rather to one of the higher courts.

THE PARKER BUILDING.

At its last session the General Assembly appropriated \$7,500 for a new building for colored men. Your Board had most properly decided to call this building the Parker Building not only because its erection had been proposed by Dr. Parker in 1869, but also because of Dr. Parker's long and eminent service to the State as an officer of this Hospital.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature plans for the building were prepared. Owing to the small appropriation it was understood that we should so far as possible do this work within ourselves. We, therefore, were debarred the services of both architect and contractor.

The excavations having been completed by negro patients the foundations were laid June 1st, and owing to favorable weather the erection of the building has since been carried on continuously.

The building is a combination of the modern English Hospital system, and the American slow burning mill construction.

It fronts the South and consists of three stories above an ample basement except that the central portion is carried one story higher, thus appearing as a center building with two wings. With the view of possible future extension of the Hospital the middle line of the first cross section of the southern wing of the main building was continued through the new building. The length of the building is 240 feet, the main portion 40 feet wide and the extremities 67 feet wide. The cellar as well as each story is 12 feet high. That portion of the basement nearest to and upon the same level as the main kitchen is planned for the dining room, having dimensions of 62x37 feet. The front extension at the eastern end is to be a bath-room equipped with apparatus for rain-bath. The first story will be used as the infirmary ward. The three large rooms over the dining-room will serve as associate dormitories each accommodating 40 patients. Three similar