

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Board of Regents:

Gentlemen: In laying before you my annual report for the year 1908, I must again dwell upon the problem of segregation, as the most important one which you have to consider and present to the General Assembly.

With a daily population of 1,500 patients the need of separating some of the many classes now per force assembled together is more insistent than ever. This is a necessity which we have all recognized for many years. The difficulty seems to be in deciding with what class and how to begin. Shall we go on erecting separate buildings on land you now hold in Columbia, or do you advocate beginning elsewhere,—in the country, near Columbia, or in other towns?

After due deliberation, I can make recommendations, but it is for you and the General Assembly to say whether or not these recommendations deserve serious attention.

In a study of the history of the Hospital from Watson's "Hand-Book of South Carolina," I presented several conclusions I had reached regarding the policy of the Hospital. These were:

First. That it has become the policy of the State to maintain in Columbia a large central colony for the insane of both races.

Second. That State care is a better system than was afforded by the old method of county support.

Third. That the separate or cottage plan of building of wards is better suited in our climate to the needs of the insane than are large conglomerate buildings.

Fourth. That the separation from the insane (properly speaking), of such classes as inebriates, idiots, epileptics, etc., who are now associated with them, would prove advantageous to all.

Fifth. That the improvement of the county alms-houses by having hospital wards, etc., would relieve this institution from receiving so many helpless dotards.

Sixth. That the establishment of a farm colony for the chronic insane, a school for the feeble-minded and a hospital for inebriates, should form part of the future policy of the State.

Seventh. That the erection of separate wards for the violent insane is desirable.

Eighth. That the establishment of a farm colony for the chronic insane is an important problem for future consideration.

Ninth. That the means of separating the tuberculous from the non-tuberculous is at the present time a question of vital importance.

It has never been the policy of this State to be precipitate in dealing with her defectives. This Hospital is the result of very slow growth. For one reason or another, but usually for economy's sake, no steps have been taken looking towards the placing elsewhere of any class of defectives once admitted to this Hospital. Besides the insane, epileptics and the feeble-minded have been admitted since 1828; the colored insane since 1848, and later the criminal insane and inebriate. Most attention has been given to the separation of the colored insane from the whites. Your Board has decided that the two races should be maintained in the same institution, but not till this year have the two races been absolutely isolated in separate buildings, the final step being in the removal of a ward of white women from the Old Building last May. Since 1894 the problem of the separation of the tuberculous from the non-tuberculous has been before you, but we have never provided means of even separating the two classes on different wards. A shack was added to the East Pavilion for tuberculous patients, but other sick patients have been associated with them.

Three years ago the General Assembly was on the point of purchasing property in the upper part of the State where inebriates and epileptics could be separated and provided for according to their several needs. This plan, too, failed, largely on the grounds of economy.

Other States are providing separately for these different classes of unfortunates, and with all the evidence before us we are still lagging behind. Once this was not so. Next to Virginia South Carolina was the first State to provide an asylum for her insane. To her credit this humane act dates from 1821, and the building then provided stands today as the oldest existing monument in the United States provided by a State for her insane. It was a glorious beginning, but in 1853 Dr. Trezevant wrote:

"That I am anxious about our asylum I do not deny. I have been connected with it from the time the first patient entered its walls up to the present moment. I was with it when it was viewed with pride, and I thought that our little State was far in advance of our sisters, though I then saw much that was faulty in its construction. In 1835 I became aware that we were falling behind. In 1840 we were distanced, and it was painful in '45 and '50 to see how inferior