

SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

FOR THE

YEAR 1902.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
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1903.

REPORT OF THE REGENTS.

To His Excellency, M. B. McSweeney, Governor of South Carolina.

The Board of Regents in presenting this their Annual Report approach the subject with a feeling of great responsibility. We announce this fact at this time not because we and our predecessors have before failed to realize the importance of the trust reposed in us, but because we recognize that now more than ever before the task of administering to the care of the insane of our State requires discretion and forethought, guided by the results of experience in our own and other States. In South Carolina, as in other modern commonwealths, the problem of public support of the insane has assumed a magnitude not dreamed of by our predecessors. Such has been the growth of our institution, especially of recent years, that we may be pardoned for presenting a brief review of its past, and tracing so far as we may the lessons taught by its history. We are further induced to take this step, as suggestions of certain changes of location of the hospital have been made by persons unfamiliar with the history of the subject.

As far back as 1813 an effort was unsuccessfully made by Mr. Farrow, of Spartanburg, while a member of the General Assembly, to induce the State to establish a hospital for the insane, who at that time were cared for by their families and friends, or supported by the parish or district. But in December, 1821, Mr. Farrow and Mr. Crafts, of Charleston, succeeded in prevailing upon the General Assembly to appropriate \$30,000 for the founding of an asylum jointly for the insane and deaf and dumb. A commission having been duly appointed began this institution in 1822 upon one of the four-acre squares in Columbia, and reported to the Legislature that it was not feasible to care for the insane and the deaf mutes in the same building. Work upon the new institution progressed slowly, and the building was not ready for use till 1828, the two founders having meanwhile died before its completion: Mr. Farrow in 1824, and Mr. Crafts in 1826.

No State except Virginia had undertaken the care of the insane before South Carolina and for several years our lunatic asylum was an experiment. Advertisements for patients were placed in the papers of this and the neighboring States, and so few were the patients and so meagre its income that the institution would have been

closed but for the timely aid given in 1831 by Governor Hamilton from his contingent fund.

After many vicissitudes the institution cannot be regarded as firmly established till 1836, when Dr. J. W. Parker was made resident physician.

The institution was supported by revenue from pay patients and from the county treasuries for beneficiaries or pauper patients down to 1870. Since that time beneficiaries have been supported directly from the State Treasury, which has proved to be a much more satisfactory method.

From the beginning applications for the admission of negro patients were received, but they were not admitted till 1848, when they were ordered by the General Assembly to be received upon the same terms and conditions as white patients. Only thirty negro patients were received, however, down to 1858, and in 1865 (at the close of the war) there were but five colored patients in the institution. In 1871 their number had risen to seventy-five; by 1880 it was one hundred and fifty-two; in 1890 three hundred and fifty; in 1900 three hundred and ninety-three, and at the close of the past year four hundred and seventy-eight.

In 1837 forty-two white patients were in the house, and by 1850 there were one hundred and twenty. These patients came for the most part from South Carolina, but nearly all the States south of Virginia were represented. In 1860 there were one hundred and ninety-two white inmates; in 1871 two hundred and twenty; in 1880 two hundred and sixty-eight; in 1890 four hundred and seventy-one; in 1900 six hundred and thirty-four, and at the close of this report six hundred and sixty-eight.

The original building was enlarged in 1838 and again in 1848, by which time it had reached the limitations of the original square of four acres.

For several years about the middle of the last century there was much acrimonious discussion as to the advisability of selling the asylum property in the city and moving it into the country, but these disputes were terminated for better or for worse in 1856 by the order of the Legislature to the Regents to begin a new building upon land across Pickens street from the original structure, and which had been secured before 1842. Thereupon was begun the south wing of the present main building of the Hospital, the second section being added in 1860.

The asylum was maintained throughout the war and an increasing

population required additions to the main building in 1872, 1878 and 1885, when the central part was completed, the wings having previously been finished.

The establishment of a separate and distinct asylum for the colored insane long remained an undecided question. The Regents, after careful study of the problem, have never favored separation, and when a concurrent resolution favoring a distinct asylum for the negroes was introduced in the General Assembly in 1885 it was defeated without debate.

Again in 1890 a committee of three Regents, having been appointed under Legislative direction to inspect sites for a colored insane asylum, reported that while this Board had not changed its opinion as to the advisability of building a separate asylum for the colored insane they would, should the Legislature differ from the Board in this matter, respectfully recommend the purchase of a farm in Lexington County. Since then the matter has been dropped. In 1897 the Parker building, a three and a half story brick structure, was built for negro men on land adjoining the main building. The negro women are housed in four of the six wards of the original asylum building, and in two adjoining wooden pavilions.

To provide for this ever increasing population our Board has from time to time secured adjoining property as follows:

1877, Wigg Farm.

1880, Parker Farm.

1881, Black Farm.

1896, Wallace Property.

1902, Jones Land.

The whole tract now includes about three hundred and sixty acres of land. A fair estimate of the value of the Hospital plant—land and buildings—would be half a million dollars.

The Constitutional Convention of 1895 changed the old name and style of Lunatic Asylum to State Hospital for the Insane.

From time to time evidence has been presented to the Regents that indicates that a certain amount of pressure is brought to bear upon Judges of Probate for the commitment to the State Hospital of persons not to be considered as proper patients. Among these may be mentioned troublesome old people or persons under criminal charges. In this way the Hospital is required to receive harmless dotards or to shield criminals. We have endeavored to devise plans to obviate such imposition, but have heretofore failed to do so.

As will be seen from the above the problem of caring for the in-

sane of our State was formerly simple, but has grown more and more complex. The trouble is there has been no differentiation—no separation of the classes originally consigned to the asylum. On the contrary, to the "idiots, lunatics and epileptics," whose care the original law calls for, have been added inebriates, criminals, and cases of senility or old age. The Regents have for years advocated in our reports to the General Assembly and by one of our number before the last Constitutional Convention that steps be taken requiring the several counties to perfect their almshouses so that indigent invalids may be properly cared for nearer home instead of being sent to the already overcrowded wards of this Hospital. With the growing wealth of our State we trust that ere long this subject may receive the attention it demands.

From such a brief review of the development of the Hospital in the eighty years of its existence, what are some of the conclusions we may arrive at as to its present and future management?

First. That it has become the policy of our State to maintain one large central colony for its insane of both races.

Second. That "State care," i. e., support from the State Treasury, has proven a better and more satisfactory method than "County care," i. e., payment by each County for its patients.

Third. That the separate or cottage plan of buildings is in our climate better adapted for the purposes of the insane than large conglomerate buildings.

Fourth. That the separation from the insane proper of such classes as are now associated with them here would prove advantageous to all.

Fifth. That the improvement of County almshouses by having hospital wards would relieve this institution by receiving helpless dotards.

Sixth. That the establishment of a farm colony for epileptics would benefit a most unfortunate class of our fellow citizens, now compelled to live with the insane when their disease forces their removal from home.

Seventh. That a separate hospital for inebriates would be in keeping with modern humane ideas as to proper provision for this class.

Eighth. That the founding of a school for the feeble-minded would benefit the most unfortunate class of children.

Ninth. That for the insane proper a further differentiation of the more violent into wards in buildings separate and remote from the quieter classes is needed.

Tenth. That we trust our successors may eventually provide a farm colony upon land within three miles of Columbia where the chronic insane still under the management of this institution may be maintained and assist in maintaining themselves.

So much for the past and some of its lessons.

The year just ended has been an eventful one. The admissions were over five hundred, the total discharges 492, and the total under treatment 1,611. The care of such a number of patients has taxed the institution to its utmost capacity. To properly maintain a daily average of 1,134 patients within our appropriations has been a cause of anxiety to our Board and to the resident officers, when the prices of all provisions and hospital supplies have been so high. The actual total cost of maintenance has been \$114,906.37; this divided by the daily average number of patients (1,134) gives a per capita of \$101.32, an amount which proves to be the smallest per capita in the history of the institution. Experience has proven that with the present demands upon the institution it is impossible to maintain it for a less amount than \$10,000 per month. The Treasurer reports a balance of \$1,287.35.

Upon the same business principles that the Board has heretofore petitioned the General Assembly for the several appropriations, we have determined to ask this year for the following amounts:

Support	\$120,000
New building and repairs	25,000
Regents	1,200

Among the many improvements needed, a new building for excited white women is the most urgent.

Again commending the wants of the State Hospital and its inmates to the careful consideration of your Excellency and the General Assembly, we have the honor to subscribe ourselves.

B. W. TAYLOR, M. D., President.
W. J. GOODING, Vice-President.
IREDELL JONES.
J. PERRY GLENN.
W. W. RAY, M. D.