

were our accommodations, when compared with those of other institutions."

This was written at the time of the controversy about moving to the country.

Unfortunately, as we now see it, that controversy ended with the decision to remain within the city,—a policy wisely avoided by neighboring States. Consequently, the Hospital has been developed by a slow process of building and by the purchase of adjoining real estate as it came upon the market.

It is not necessary to trace minutely this evolution, as that has already been done in former reports and in Watson's "Hand-Book."

The point is that recognizing that our population about doubles every fifteen years, would it not be wise, on many accounts, to consider again the question of moving into the country a portion at least of our large number of patients? In the course of time we know that this must be done. It is for you to secure the co-operation of the General Assembly and determine when this shall be done.

TUBERCULOSIS.

It is a matter of record that in the annual report of 1894 I wrote that, "As in recent years, tuberculosis leads the list as the chief cause of mortality among our patients, especially those of the colored race. Statistics show that one-seventh of all the deaths of the world are due to this fatal disease. In institutions, such as large asylums, prisons, etc., tuberculosis is proportionately much more fatal, causing from 20 to 60 per cent. of the whole mortality. Again, in 1895, it is stated that "The fact is again brought out that the disease prevails most in the Old Asylum, and that daily life out of doors, with well ventilated sitting rooms and dormitories is preventive, as is shown in the low fatality among white men. On the other hand, the mortality among negro men shows that even employment and life out of doors by day can not counterbalance the evils of overcrowding at night in unsanitary dwellings. The rapidity of the course of tuberculosis in the colored race as compared with the white also calls for comment."

Similar quotations might be made from later reports, but these are enough to establish the fact that attention has been emphatically called to the prevalence of tuberculosis here for many years. But such efforts at its prevention as our means allowed have been of little avail.

As recent contributions to the subject from others, I may be allowed to quote.

From the Reports of the State Board of Health for 1907, I beg to quote:

"The Asylum is well kept and in a good condition from a sanitary standpoint, but the place is very much overcrowded. They have room to accommodate about eleven hundred patients, but have there about seventeen hundred. This necessitates seven or eight having to sleep in one room in some of the wards, which should not be the case in an institution, for this class of patients is untidy at best. It also necessitates keeping patients in the basement rooms, which were never intended for living apartments, for they are damp and poorly ventilated. To obviate this crowded condition, the Regents are making an effort to purchase a farm near the city of Columbia, where the mildly insane, epileptics and tubercular patients can be kept. We heartily agree with this plan and hope the proper support will be given the Asylum authorities at this coming session of the Legislature to carry out this plan. Under the present conditions, the tubercular patients can not be separated from the non-infected. This condition should not exist, for, because one is so unfortunate as to be insane is no reason why he or she should be subjected to tuberculosis, and that is the condition when you force one to occupy the same room or apartment with one having consumption. We hope the necessary provisions will be made for these unfortunates as soon as possible."

This quotation is from the report of the Board of Health one year ago. In the report for this year they discuss the Institution in these words:

"During the past year we have visited the Asylum several times, always finding it in an excellent sanitary condition, considering the class of patients they have to deal with.

"The Asylum is still very much over-crowded. This fact was brought to your attention in our last report, but as yet nothing has been done to relieve it. They have room for one thousand patients, but are at present accommodating fifteen hundred. As many as eight have to occupy sleeping space that is only sufficient for four. This congestion also necessitates the use of basement rooms which were never intended for living apartments, as they are damp and poorly ventilated.

"We find that no provisions have been made for the isolation of tubercular patients, and they are allowed to sleep and intermingle with others not affected, thereby causing a continual spread of this disease in this Institution. This condition should not exist, as we

well know that tuberculosis is a contagious disease and every precaution should be taken to prevent the spread of this disease. Because one is so unfortunate as to be insane, there is no reason why either he or she should be subjected to tuberculosis, and that is the condition when you force one to occupy apartments with one having the disease.

“We would heartily recommend that the Regents of this Institution be provided with sufficient means to purchase lands near the city of Columbia to establish a Farm Colony for the care of inebriates, epileptics, mildly insane, and for the treatment of the tubercular insane. This matter is of too much importance to be overlooked any longer. We can not too strongly insist on some definite action being taken at the next session of the General Assembly.”

PELLAGRA.

A year ago a report was made by the medical staff of this Hospital to the State Board of Health calling attention to the possible presence in South Carolina of pellagra,—a disease common in Southern Europe, especially in Italy and Roumania. During the year we have had in this Hospital cases of pellagra, , white , colored, males, females. The Board of Health has learned that the disease exists practically throughout South Carolina. It is now recognized in the asylums of North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and in a Baptist Orphanage Asylum in Tennessee. It may, therefore, be claimed that our observations here have been a contribution to progress in medicine.

The mortality from this disease is very high, and when the patients do not die, they are left damaged in mind and body. They are ataxic in gait, emaciated in body, demented and mute.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

In 1892 a training school for nurses was established in this Hospital. It has been in continuous operation since that time. The intelligence and skill of the members and graduates of the school have in no small degree contributed to the welfare and comfort of the patients, especially of the white women.

In the appendix is printed the names of the female graduates of the Training School from its inception to 1908—66 in all.

I beg to thank the Governor and the members of your Board for leave of absence—the first in seventeen years—the past summer for a trip to Europe, during which I took the opportunity to study