

Report of committee to examine the financial condition of the Retreat

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1861 - 6mo: 27th

The Committee appointed in 3rd month last to examine into the Financial condition of the Retreat report.

That the re-building of the Women's Wing completed in 1859, involved the Institution in a debt which still amounts to 7,894.

During the last 3 years the surplus of Income over expenditure has averaged \$704. The Committee feel that if this surplus can be maintained, the accounts of the Retreat do not present special cause for anxiety: they therefore turned their attention to the character & sources of the annual surplus. It appears that upon the 91 Patients mentioned members of or connected with the Society of Friends, there is a large annual loss to the Institution whilst upon the 28 Patients unconnected with Friends, there is a profit sufficient to cover this deficiency & also to leave a considerable balance of Income over Expenditure. It is therefore to these Patients that we must look for the maintenance of the present annual surplus. The number of applications from persons unconnected with

The Society of Friends, willing to pay a high weekly charge, is largely dependent upon the personal standing & reputation & to some extent, also upon the connexions of the Medical Superintendent. Such a standing & reputation are enjoyed by the present Superintendent Dr Geo Hitching. His administrative ability, his professional skill & his personal influence are of a high order. The Committee conscious how largely these qualifications conduce not merely to the satisfactory working, but also to the financial prosperity of the Retreat, recommend that the salary of Dr Hitching be raised from £400 to £700 & that of Elizabeth Hitching, the Matron, from £80 to £100. They also recommend that the salary of the House Steward & Secretary Wm Wood be raised from £170 to £200.

In thus counselling a permanent increase in salaries of £350 per Annum, the Committee would also invite the attention of the Directors to a proposed alteration in the lowest terms of Admission. There are at the present time not less than 28 patients who, under the privilege of recommendation, pay only 6/- per week, whilst the actual cost of each

Patient, exclusive of any charge for rent is $2\frac{1}{3}$ per week. As the average cost of Pauper Lunatics is about 8/- per week, the Committee are of opinion that the present rate of 6/- per week is unreasonably low & they recommend that it be raised to 8/- per week in connexion with this subject, it may be mentioned that whilst the proposed lowest rate of 8/- per week is double the sum charged in the early days of the Retreat, the expenditure has, in the same period, increased at a greater ratio; soon after the establishment of the Retreat, the lowest rate of admission was 4/- & the average cost of each Patient 10/- per week, thus causing a loss of 6/- per week; but under the proposed arrangement, the loss will not be less than 13/- per week.

The proposed advance in the lowest rate of payment will amount to about $\pounds 150$ per ^{ann}, so that, should the Institution be as prosperous in the next few years as it has been in the past, there will still be more than $\pounds 500$ annually available for the reduction of the debt.

as closely affecting the best interests of the
Reheat, our attention has also been called
to the present plan of appointing the Com-
-mittee & with a view to insure a more
careful selection of friends suitable to fill the
Office than is practicable under the present
arrangement, we recommend that the four
friends annually appointed to examine the
accounts in the 6th mo: unite with the
Committee in proposing to the annual
meeting of the Directors, the names of two
friends in the place of those who go off by
rotation - The Committee feel that the
present is a crisis of considerable importance
in the history of the Reheat. The position
of such an Institution under the pressing
requirements of Government inspection
& in reference to the varied improvements
& to the high order of ability now brought to
bear upon the management of the Insane
necessitate a policy at once liberal and
energetic. The Committee have
pointed out the steps which they believe
to be both safe for the present & essential
to future prosperity & they commend

The subject to the thoughtful attention
of the Directors. Signed on behalf of the
Committee Josh Clark
York 26 of 6 mo 1861.

