

Third annual report of the managers of the State Lunatic Asylum : made to the Legislature January 23, 1846 / New York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica.

Contributors

New York (State). State Lunatic Asylum.
Hubbard, T. H.
Wetmore, Edmund A.
Brigham, Amariah.

Publication/Creation

Albany : Printed by E. Mack, 1846.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f8f4336v>

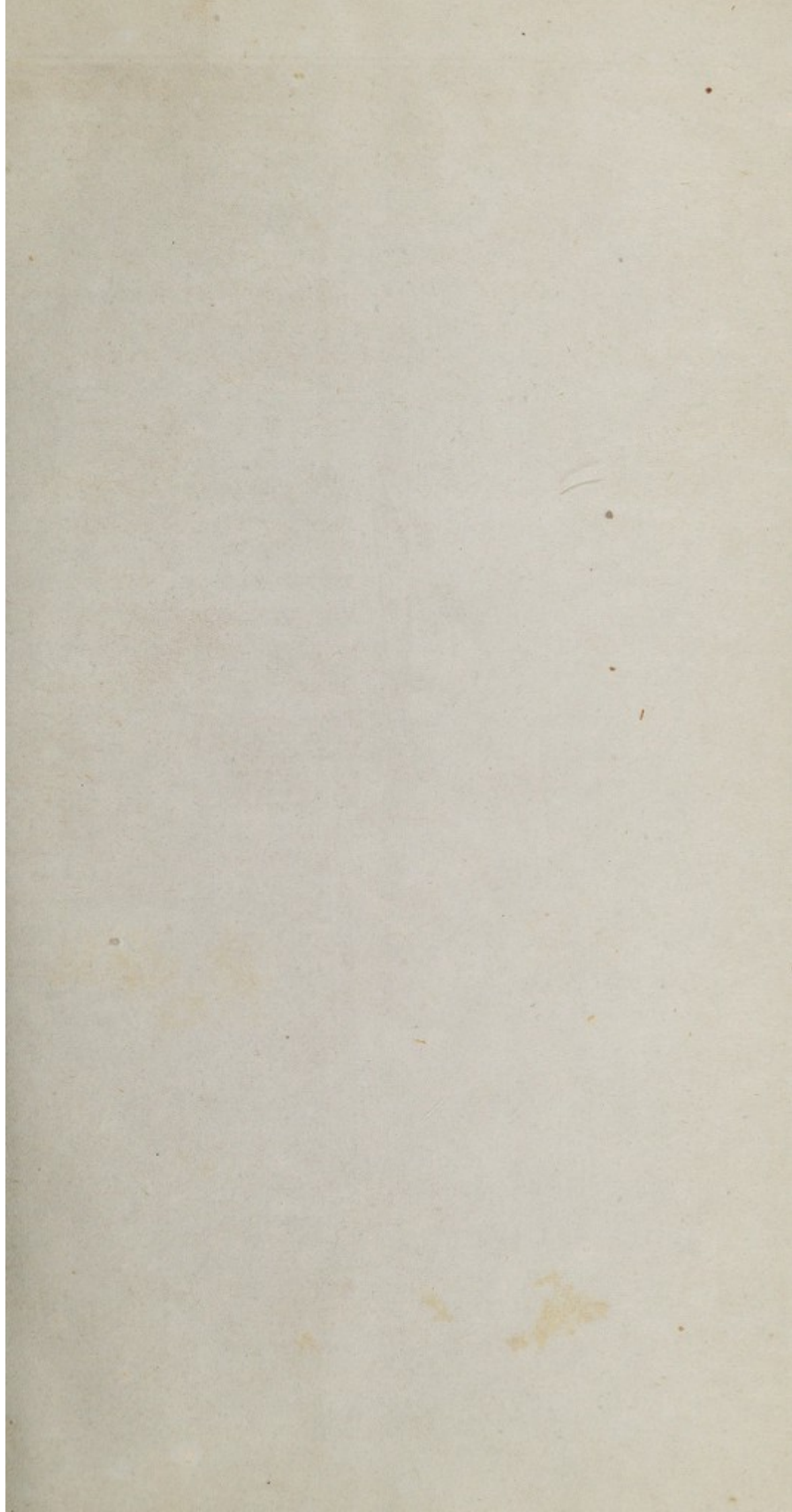
License and attribution

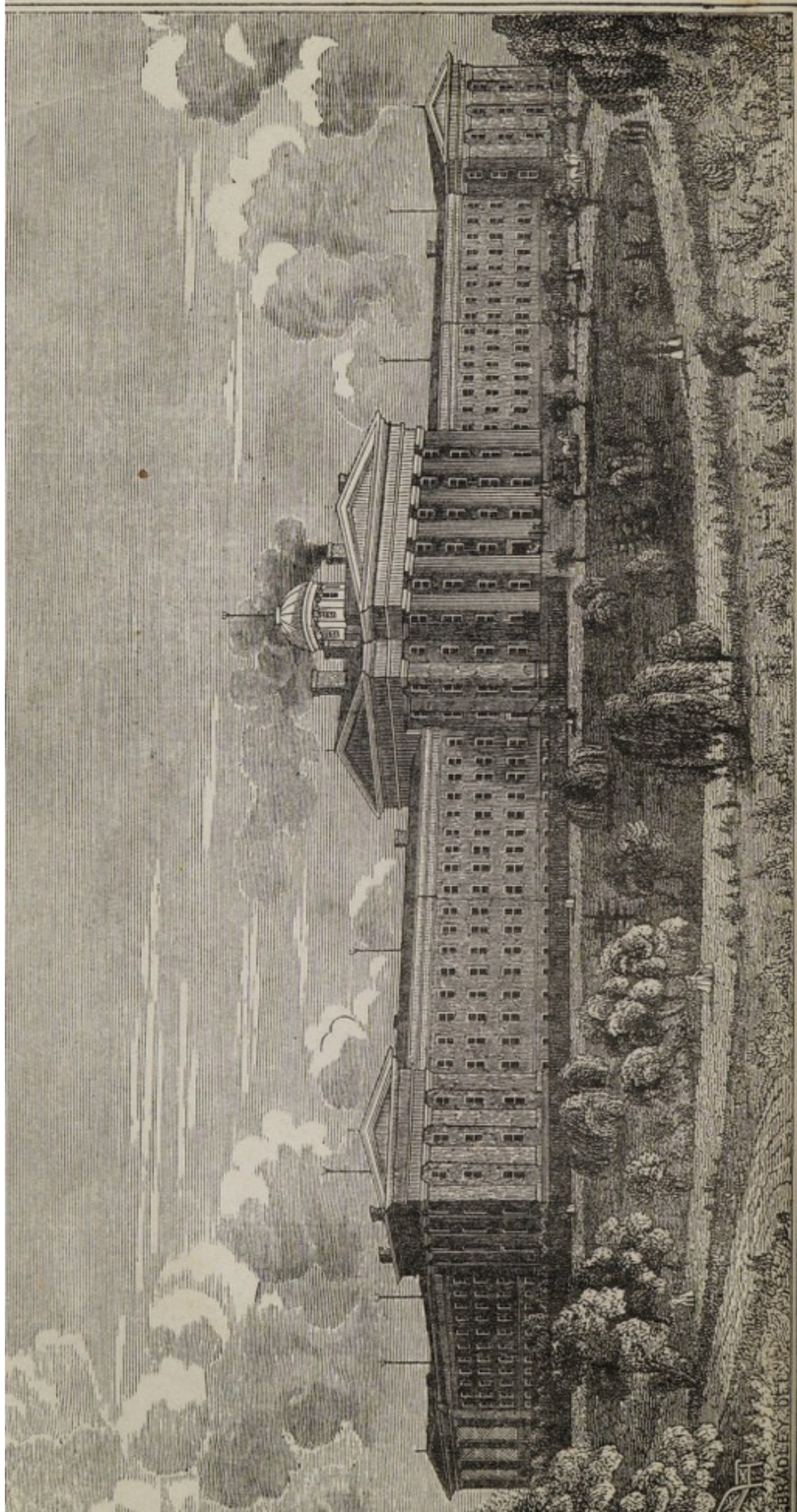
This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>





New York State Legislative Chamber. Front 550 feet—rear wings 250 feet each.

W. A. High

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MANAGERS

OF THE

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

~~~~~

Made to the Legislature, January 23, 1846.

~~~~~

ALBANY:

E. MACK, PRINTER TO THE SENATE.

.....
1846.

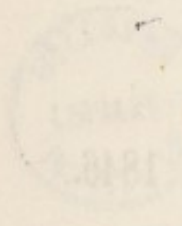
THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MANAGERS

OF THE

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.



Made to the Legislature

ALBANY:

E. MACK, PRINTER TO THE SENATE.

1846.

No. 25.

IN SENATE,

January 23, 1846.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

Utica, January 16, 1846.

To the President of the Senate :

SIR :

Herewith is submitted the annual report of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

Respectfully yours,

T. H. HUBBARD,
A. MUNSON,
N. DEVEREUX,
C. A. MANN,
C. B. COVENTRY,
T. ROMEYN BECK,
DAVID BUEL, Junior.
J. S. WADSWORTH.

STATE OF NEW-YORK

No. 25

IN SENATE,

January 23, 1846.



THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

Hereby is submitted the annual report of the Managers of the
State Lunatic Asylum, for the year ending 31st Decr. 1845.
Respectfully yours,
T. H. BURBANK

AS MANAGER,
M. DEVEREUX,
JOHN A. MANN,

G. B. COVENTRY,
T. ROMEYN BECK,
DAVID BUEL, Junior,
J. B. WADSWORTH.

J. B. WADSWORTH
[a. n. & 2000 ex.]
[a. n. & 2000 ex.]

OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.

MANAGERS.

THOMAS H. HUBBARD,	UTICA.
NICHOLAS DEVEREUX,	"
ALFRED MUNSON,	"
CHARLES A. MANN,	"
CHARLES B. COVENTRY,	GENEVA.
T. ROMEYN BECK,	ALBANY.
DAVID BUEL, Junior,	TROY.
JAMES S. WADSWORTH,	GENESEEO.

RESIDENT OFFICERS.

AMARIAH BRIGHAM, M. D., Superintendent and Physician.
HORACE A. BUTTOLPH, M. D., Assistant Physician.
CYRUS CHATFIELD, Steward.
Mrs. CHATFIELD, Matron.

EDMUND A. WETMORE, Treasurer, Utica.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, for
the year ending Nov. 30, 1845.

TO THE LEGISLATURE.

The Managers of the New-York State Lunatic Asylum respectfully
submit the following

REPORT.

The Institution under our charge has, during the past year, been constantly filled with patients, and has been the means, under the judicious management of its talented and experienced superintendent, and his assistants, of largely contributing to the comfort and restoration of that unfortunate class for whose relief it was established.

By the law providing for the organization and government of the Asylum, it is made the duty of the managers to maintain an effective inspection of it, and for that purpose some one of our number is required to visit it weekly, two monthly, a majority quarterly, and the whole Board once a year.

These examinations have been highly satisfactory. The patients are, generally, quiet, clean and comfortable, and a large proportion seem happy, having the appearance of boarders in a large boarding establishment, rather than of insane persons in a lunatic asylum.

Many of the men are found engaged in useful labor, or in reading, writing, or in amusing themselves with games; and many of the

women are seen employed in reading, sewing, knitting or ironing. Nearly all, even among the most violent class, are entirely unrestrained, and are at perfect liberty to range, at pleasure, the large and spacious halls, in which most of their time, during the day, is spent.

Much attention is paid to the personal neatness and appearance of the patients, and all are encouraged, as far as practicable, to cherish feelings of self-respect. Great attention is also paid to the cleanliness and neat appearance of the whole establishment, and every part of it shows that it is under the charge of good housekeepers.

In winter the apartments of the patients are warmed by hot-air furnaces, which, with the means provided for ventilation, give an uniform and delightful temperature.

The interesting report and tables made by Dr. Brigham, and herewith presented, give so accurate a view of the condition and operations of the Asylum during the last year, that the Managers deem it necessary to give only a general summary :

There have been in the Asylum, in the course of the year, 553 patients ; 282 men, and 271 women. There have been admitted during the year 293, and discharged 268, of whom 135 were discharged recovered, 78 improved, 34 unimproved, and 21 died, leaving remaining at the end of the year 285 ; 143 men, and 142 women.

The whole number of patients received into the Asylum, since it was opened for their admission on the 16th of January, 1843, is 844, and the whole number discharged, 559. Of this number 320 have been discharged recovered, 139 improved, 56 unimproved, and 44 have died. Of the whole number admitted 509 have been supported by towns or counties, and 335 by their friends.

The treasurer's report, embracing the current receipts and payments on account of the institution for the last year, is also herewith submitted.

From this it will be seen that the whole amount, actually received into the treasury, for the support of patients, is \$34,306.88, \$22,547.13 of which was received from towns and counties, and

\$11,759.95 from patients who are supported by the assistance of friends, or by their own property.

The charge for board of the poor, or any person in indigent circumstances, whose support is chargeable to a town or county, has been two dollars per week since the first of February, 1844. Prior to that time it was two dollars and fifty cents per week.

The other patients are generally charged two dollars and fifty cents per week, but in some cases, peculiar in their character, three dollars, or three dollars and fifty cents per week is charged, though now nearly all denominated "pay patients" are charged at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents per week. This includes all charges except or clothing.

From the experience we have already had, we think it is safe to say, that the current receipts for the board of patients, at the prices now charged, and at the prices during the last year of provisions and labor, will be fully adequate to the payment of all the current expenses of the Asylum for general support, exclusive of the salaries of the resident officers, which are, by law, paid from the State treasury.

Such, at least, has been the case since the Asylum was opened for the admission of patients in 1843, and we cannot now foresee what contingency can arise, under the existing order of things, to reduce the current receipts to an amount not adequate to meet all the current expenses, for general support.

We have paid, during the past year, out of the current receipts, the sum of \$1,403.52 for alterations, additions, and repairs of the building, and \$1,616.65 for the purchase of additional furniture. These items are, probably, larger than they will be annually hereafter, although in such an institution there must necessarily be expended each year, considerable sums for repairs, and to replenish worn out beds, bedding, and furniture.

The original estimate, made by the former trustees of the Asylum, of the cost of furnishing the present building, was \$16,076.88. (Senate Documents 1842, No. 20, page 46). There have been expended to this date for furniture in all \$13,414.96.

There was a balance of \$8,287.24 in the treasury on the 1st of De-
[Senate, No. 25.]

cember, the date of the treasurer's report, about \$5,500 of which will be required to pay the bills payable in December, leaving \$2,787.24 for expenses until the semi-annual bills due 1st of February, for board, are collected.

By an act, passed May 7, 1844, in relation to the Asylum, the sum of \$60,000 was appropriated for the erection of "two additional wings of brick for the accommodation of patients, to be connected with the wings of the present building, each of said wings not to exceed 250 feet in length, 38 feet in width, and three stories in height, exclusive of the basement, and also for the erection of two buildings of brick, to be connected with the said new wings, for hospitals, washing and ironing rooms, and shops for the use of said Asylum." The buildings thus authorized to be erected were to be in lieu of those planned and commenced by the former building commissioners in 1836. The commissioners, originally appointed to adopt a plan and superintend the erection of this Asylum, planned and commenced in 1836 the erection of four buildings 550 feet in length each, only one of which (the present Asylum building) was erected, and the foundations of the others were commenced, and the basements partly laid.

In 1844, the board of managers recommended the abandonment of the original plan as too large and expensive, and the erection of the wings as authorized by the act of that year.

These additional wings, as erected, are each 240 feet in length, including the verandahs, and 38 feet in width; and the rear buildings for hospitals, washing and ironing rooms and shops, are each 137 feet in length, 25 feet in width, and two stories high, exclusive of the basement. These buildings, when erected, will complete the establishment, as no further enlargement is desirable or contemplated.

In the erection of these wings, we have varied the plan of the interior arrangement from what was originally contemplated, by making sixteen associated dormitories. This alteration considerably enlarges the capacity of the institution, without adding to the expense of building.

We commenced the erection of the buildings, authorized to be erected by the act of the 7th of May, 1844, in July of that year, and have expended, as will be seen by the treasurer's report, of the build-

ing fund, also herewith submitted, since we so commenced to this date, the sum of \$50,085.52, \$4,645.83 of which was expended prior to the 1st of December, 1844, and the balance \$45,429.69 has been expended during the year ending December 1, 1845.

For the expenditure of the moneys, appropriated for building, we are required by law to render vouchers to and account with the Comptroller.

The buildings are now all enclosed and can be finished in the course of next summer.

The unexpended balance of the \$60,000 appropriated for the erection of these buildings, will be insufficient for their completion.

Prior to making our report for 1844 (Assembly Document 1844, No. 21, page 16), we caused estimates to be made, by experienced and practical builders, of the cost of these buildings, including two frame buildings 70 by 20 feet, each for wood houses and store rooms.

They estimated the entire expenses, exclusive of painting, at \$69,016, and in that report the managers said : "making a reasonable allowance for contingencies, we think it safe to say that the whole expense of erecting the buildings will not exceed \$80,000."

In making the estimate as above, it was supposed that the stone in the old foundations, commenced in 1836, would be sufficient for laying the foundations of the new buildings; but in excavating for the foundations of one of the new wings, we struck a quick-sand bottom, which rendered it necessary to sink the foundation several feet through the quick-sand to the hard pan.

This subjected us to several thousand dollars expense, not originally contemplated or estimated. After using up all the stone in the old foundations, we were obliged to purchase additional stone to the amount of \$4,051.83, to which is to be added the additional expense of laying the stone, and of excavation.

The work was let by contract, after advertising for sealed proposals as required by law, and was let on very favorable terms; and has thus far been executed in a good and substantial manner. The

brick were furnished and delivered for three dollars per thousand, and were laid and mortar furnished at two dollars and twenty-nine cents per thousand, excluding openings in the measurement, so that notwithstanding the additional expense to which we were unexpectedly subjected in laying the foundations, the whole buildings, we think, can be finished for less than the sum estimated as their cost in our report of 1844.

According to the estimates, which we have procured to be made, and on which we confidently rely, an additional appropriation of \$17,000 will be sufficient to finish the erection of the buildings now in progress, including painting.

The buildings, when erected, must be provided with suitable means for warming and ventilation; and various fixtures and apparatus, indispensable in such an institution, the expense of which has not been embraced in the estimate of the cost of erecting the building.

We propose to adopt the same method of warming which is now successfully used in the present building. This will require six large and two small furnaces in all, which, with the necessary fixtures, are estimated to cost \$3,400, the large ones being estimated at \$500 each, and the two small ones at \$200 each. This is less than the cost of the large furnaces in the present building.

The necessary fixtures required in the kitchens, washing and drying rooms, bake-house and laundry, are estimated to cost \$1,500. It is difficult to make an accurate estimate of the cost of the various fixtures required in such an establishment; but we are confident, judging from past experience, that our present estimates are not beyond the sums which will be required, observing the best economy.

An additional appropriation of \$10,000 will also be required for furniture for the new buildings, when completed ready for occupation. The estimate for furniture is as follows:

350 beds and bedding at \$22 each,	\$7,700 00
viz: Bedstead,	\$3 00
Hair mattress,	11 00
Blankets and comfortables,	3 50
Carried forward,	<hr/> \$7,700 00

Brought forward,.....	\$7,700 00
Quilts and counterpanes,	\$2 50
Pillows,	1 00
Sheets and pillow cases,	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$22 00
Crockery for 350 persons, with tables, chairs, hardware, knives, forks and spoons, at \$4 each,	1,400 00
Cooking apparatus, stoves, pipes, and steam apparatus for two kitchens for 350 persons,	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$10,100 00
	<hr/>

Our attention was early directed to obtaining a sufficient supply of good water for the use of the Asylum. In this we have found great difficulty. An abundant supply of good water is indispensable, and the quantity required for washing, for cleansing the water closets, and other purposes, is necessarily very large.

There is no stream of water near the Asylum, from which a supply can be obtained.

Under these circumstances, after much examination, a well was sunk in the fall of 1842, sixteen feet diameter in the clear for the first 23 feet, and 8 feet diameter for the remaining ten or eleven feet, from which the water is forced into a reservoir in the attic of the building by a pump operated by horse power. This appeared to be the only practical mode of obtaining a supply of water under the circumstances in which we were placed, and the means at our disposal in the first opening of the Institution for the reception of patients in January, 1843.

But the quantity of water obtained from the well is not as great as we had hoped it would be before the well was made, and the water obtained from it is hard and unfit for washing.

For a considerable portion of the year the quantity of water in the well is as great as is required for the present number of patients, but we have found by experience that the well cannot, at certain periods both in summer and winter, furnish such quantity of water as it is indispensable to have for all the uses required in the Asylum.

During the last summer we made careful examinations of every probable source from which an additional supply of water can be obtained. We found that the only two sources from which a supply could probably be obtained, are the Chenango canal and the Starch Factory creek, from which creek Mr. E. H. Broadhead, by an act passed May 10, 1845, was authorized to supply the city of Utica with water. The water of this creek is very good, and the quantity, as appears from careful measurements made by Mr. Brodhead during the dryest part of last season is abundant.

If the water is taken from the Starch-Factory creek, it must, after the right to do so is obtained, be conducted in pipes about three and a third miles to the Asylum. What the cost of obtaining a supply of water from the creek will be, we have not ascertained. We have, however, requested Mr. Brodhead, who is now in Connecticut, to make estimates, and to submit a proposition of the terms and price on which he will stipulate to furnish us, from this source, the quantity of water required.

If water is supplied from the Chenango canal, it must be conveyed a little more than half a mile, and elevated about ninety feet, by means of a pump, to be operated by the surplus water discharged around the fifth lock on the canal, where a head and fall of about ten feet may be obtained, with sufficient power to operate a pump.

The water of the canal is so soft that it can be used for washing, but it may require filtering, and its quality is not believed to be as good as in the Starch-Factory creek.

In case it is decided to procure a supply from the canal, it will be necessary to erect a house of about 16 by 32 feet, one story high, in which the water wheel and pump will be placed. The water wheel should be constructed in the most durable manner, to which will be attached a pump to force the water through an iron pipe of three inches diameter, to the reservoir, in the attic of the asylum, from which, it is distributed to different parts of the establishment, in lead pipes. The cost of procuring a supply of water, in this manner, from the Chenango canal, is estimated at \$5,000, and which we are confident, will cover the expense. To be supplied from the Starch-Factory creek, from a source high enough to have water run to the attic of the building, would be preferable, to obtaining water

from the canal by means of a pump ; but the expense of obtaining a supply from the creek will be more by several thousand dollars, than from the canal.

If a pump is erected at the fifth lock of the Chenango canal, water can be obtained from Nail creek, which runs in the immediate vicinity of the lock, instead of from the canal, if found preferable. The obtaining an additional supply of water from some source is indispensable, prior to the reception of the additional number of patients, which can be accommodated in the new wings now being erected.

But little has been done, thus far, in laying out and improving the grounds in front of the asylum. The planting of trees and shrubbery, and the making of walks and avenues, in front, will greatly add to the external beauty of the establishment, and render it a more desirable and delightful retreat for the insane.

A new fence of about 240 rods in length is required to enclose the grounds in front, which are now enclosed by the farm fence, built before the ground was purchased by the State. Two large wood sheds and an ice house, are also much needed. For these purposes, an additional appropriation of not less than \$3,000 will be necessary.

When the new wings are completed, ready for the reception of patients, about 600 in all, can be received and accommodated in the institution. This will render it necessary to procure the services of a second assistant physician. The Board of Managers now have power to appoint only one assistant physician. We recommend that the law be so amended as to authorise the appointment of a second assistant in the same manner that the assistant is now appointed, and whose salary shall be fixed and paid in the same manner as now provided for the resident officers of the asylum.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

T. H. HUBBARD.

N. DEVEREUX.

C. B. COVENTRY.

C. A. MANN.

A. MUNSON.

T. ROMEYN BECK.

DAVID BUEL Jr.

J. S. WADSWORTH.

from the canal by means of a pump; but the expense of obtaining a supply from the creek will be more by several thousand dollars than from the canal.

If a pump is erected at the fall lock of the Chenango canal, water can be obtained from Nash creek, which runs in the immediate vicinity of the lock, instead of from the canal, it found preferable. The obtaining an additional supply of water from some source is indispensable, prior to the reception of the additional number of patients, which can be accommodated in the new wings now being erected.

Not little has been done, thus far, in laying out and improving the grounds in front of the asylum. The planting of trees and shrubs, and the making of walks and avenues, is in progress, and will greatly add to the external beauty of the establishment, and render it a more desirable and delightful retreat for the insane.

A new fence of about 240 rods in length is required to enclose the grounds in front, which are now enclosed by the farm fence, built before the ground was purchased by the State. Two large wood sheds and an ice house, are also much needed. For these purposes, an additional appropriation of not less than \$2,000 will be necessary.

When the new wings are completed, ready for the reception of patients, about 600 in all, can be received and accommodated in the institution. This will render it necessary to procure the services of a second assistant physician. The Board of Managers now have power to appoint only one assistant physician. We recommend that the law be so amended as to authorize the appointment of a second assistant in the same manner that the assistant is now appointed, and whose salary shall be fixed and paid in the same manner as now provided for the resident officers of the asylum.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

T. R. HUBBARD.

N. DEVEREUX.

C. R. GOVENTRY.

G. A. MANN.

A. MUNSON.

T. ROMEYN BECK.

DAVID BURL J.

J. S. WADSWORTH.

Treasurer's Report.

To the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum:

The undersigned, treasurer of said Asylum, respectfully submits the following statement of receipts and payments during the year ending November 30, 1845, on account of the Asylum, exclusive of the moneys appropriated by the act of the 7th of May, 1844, for the erection of additional buildings.

RECEIPTS.

Received from the State Treasurer for salaries of officers,	\$3,875 00
“ “ counties and towns for support of pa-	
“ “ tients,	22,547 13
“ “ sundry pay patients,	11,759 75
“ “ miscellaneous sources,	53 81
	\$38,235 69
	\$38,235 69

PAYMENTS.

To balance debited to new account, Dec. 1, 1844,	\$365 70
“ alterations, additions and repairs,	1,403 52
“ furniture,	1,616 65
“ improvement of grounds,	43 07
“ salaries of officers,	3,875 00
“ attendants, assistants and labor,	\$7,017 16
“ fuel and lights,	1,451 39
“ medical supplies,	322 70
Carried forward,	

Brought forward,	\$	
“ provisions, household stores and all other		
current expenses,	13,853	26
	<hr/>	22,644 51
Balance in the Treasury at this date,	8,287	24
		<hr/>
		\$38,235 69
		<hr/>

E. A. WETMORE, *Treasurer.*

Utica, December 1, 1845.

BUILDING FUND.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum:

The undersigned, treasurer of said Asylum, respectfully submits the following statement of the payments made on account of the buildings authorized to be erected by act of 7th of May, 1844, out of the moneys appropriated by that act, for building from 10th Aug., 1844, to 1st Dec, 1845.

Paid Cannady, Caughlin & Vaughen for excavation,	\$991	35
“ Lee & Oster, for stone,	4,051	83
“ J. D. Leland, for brick,	10,580	44
“ Porter & Brady, for stone masonry,	6,883	82
“ Regan, Healey & Pingle, for brick masonry,	4,448	32
“ Porter & Brady, for brick masonry,	4,498	12
“ David Wall, for cutting stone,	1,220	17
“ A. Rockwell, for window sills and water tables, ...	559	15
“ Nye & Scranton, for lumber,	5,159	59
“ G. W. Barker, for joists,	738	45
“ Lewis Lawrence, for lumber,	155	12
“ C. Churchill, for lumber and timber,	540	00
“ J. Burlingame, for joists,	70	00
“ Walker & Cozzens, for timber and lumber,	93	36
“ J. S. Fuller, for lumber,	23	16
“ C. Peckham, for lumber,	121	72
	<hr/>	
Carried forward,	\$	

Brought forward,	\$	
Paid S. Farewell, for timber,	294	47
“ A. Downer & Son, for timber,	101	80
“ Nye & Scranton, for carpenter's and joiner's work,	3,953	17
“ Sayre & House, for nails and hardware,	574	11
“ Landgraff & Sons, for window glass,	550	00
“ O. O'Neil on account of tin roof and copper gutter,	2,429	60
“ J. W. Bates, for anchors and iron work,	578	32
“ William Jones, for lath,	262	00
“ A. C. Palmer, for window springs,	64	69
“ D. Timmerman, for gate fastenings,	15	65
“ Hatch & Clark, for advertising,	5	50
“ R. Northway & Co., for advertising,	6	00
“ J. F. Kettle, for advertising,	2	88
“ J. S. Clark, for advertising,	9	50
“ E. & S. Croswell, for advertising,	4	25
“ W. Jones, for mason work,	7	04
“ J. Roberts, for window frames,	57	50
“ M. G. Dickinson, for pump,	10	00
“ D. Neuse, for stone,	4	87
“ J. Roberts, for window frames and excavation,	27	81
“ A. Lathrop, for drawing plans,	15	00
“ J. Roberts, for covering walls,	10	08
“ W. Stamford, for drawing stone,	18	50
“ M. Jennings, for cartage,	26	43
“ D. Reed, for measuring brick,	2	00
“ Hart, Higham & Co., for sawing strips,	5	00
“ G. O. Bussy, architect, for superintendence 17 months,	914	75
	<u>\$50,085</u>	<u>52</u>

E. A. WETMORE, *Treasurer.*

Utica, December 1, 1845.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Superintendent of the New-York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, for the year ending November 30th, 1845.

To the Managers of the Asylum:

GENTLEMEN:—At the beginning of the year the number of patients at the Asylum was

		Men.	Women.
Admitted during the year,.....	260 293	131 151	129 142
Total number in the course of the year,	553	282	271

Of this number there have been—

		Men.	Women.
Discharged, recovered,	135	76	59
“ improved,.....	78	39	39
“ unimproved,.....	34	14	20
“ died,.....	21	10	11
Total discharges during the year,....	268	139	129
Remaining in the Asylum Nov. 30, 1845,	285	143	142

Among the improved, we have classed a considerable number who were nearly well when they left. Several of these we have since learned have continued well. It is occasionally very difficult to decide when a person who has been affected by insanity, has entirely recovered. Some appear to be well soon after they come to the Asylum. Removed from their cares and troubles, and the exciting causes that tend to perpetuate their mental disorder, they become calm and rational: yet such are very apt to relapse if they return early. But others become nearly well at an asylum and then remain stationary. They cannot be considered entirely recovered as they remain irritable or eccentric; yet not unfrequently such persons recover on returning home. We have known many instances of this, and the present year several striking cases of the kind have come to our knowledge. While, therefore, as a general fact, patients are apt to be removed too soon from an asylum, some we are convinced are kept longer than is necessary. But as we have said, it is difficult always to discriminate correctly; though we are in favor of giving a patient who has nearly recovered, and then remains stationary several months, a trial at home.

The deaths have been but few, considering the large number of patients (553) that have been under our care during the year. Four died of consumption, five of marasmus, two of diarrhea, two of apoplexy, two of inflammation of the brain soon after admission, two of paralysis, one by suicide, one from exhaustion after high excitement, one from bronchitis, and one from congestion of the brain.

We have been remarkably exempt from sickness. No fever or any contagious or epidemic complaint has prevailed. For above two months past, including October and November, there has been no death, and no case of alarming illness. As evidence of the healthfulness of the location, we may mention, that since the opening of the establishment, now three years, no attendant or assistant has been seriously ill while in our employ.

TABLE 1.

Monthly admissions for three years.

MONTHS.	MEN.	WOMEN.	TOTAL.
December,	27	23	50
January,	32	29	61
February,	35	31	66
March,	36	25	61
April,	45	33	78
May,	62	41	103
June,	33	42	75
July,	37	51	88
August,	31	34	65
September,	28	34	62
October,	31	29	60
November,	34	41	75
	431	413	844

Seasons of the year seem to have but little influence in causing insanity. We think, however, that more cases occur in the summer than during any other season. The recoveries are also less in hot weather. Some are attacked periodically, every spring or summer, or what we have more frequently observed, every winter, and are well during the warm season. That the moon exercises some peculiar influence upon the insane, has been believed from remote ages. We have taken much pains to verify the correctness of this opinion, and believe it to be *incorrect*. It affects the insane in no other way than any brilliant light affects them. If they do not see it, they manifest no unusual symptoms.

TABLE 2.

Showing the number from each County for three years, and how supported at the Asylum.

COUNTIES.	Supported by county or town.	Supported by friends.
Albany,	30	8
Allegany,	3	3
Broome,	4	0
Cattaraugus,	3	4
Cayuga,	16	6
Chautauque,	19	3
Chemung,	5	0
Chenango,	28	14
Clinton,	1	0
Columbia,	2	0
Cortland,	1	6
Delaware,	1	1
Dutchess,	1	6
Erie,	8	9
Essex,	0	1
Franklin,	1	0
Fulton,	4	3
Genesee,	6	6
Greene,	8	4
Herkimer,	19	11
Jefferson,	23	11
Kings,	1	2
Lewis,	4	2
Livingston,	8	1
Madison,	10	26
Monroe,	23	14
Montgomery,	12	8
New-York,	1	5
Niagara,	10	4
Oneida,	55	47
Onondaga,	21	14
Ontario,	8	3
Orange,	13	1
Orleans,	7	0
Oswego,	13	4
Otsego,	18	7
Putnam,	1	0
Queens,	1	1

TABLE 2. (CONTINUED.)

COUNTIES.	Supported by county or town.	Supported by friends.
Rensselaer,	24	12
Richmond,	1	0
St. Lawrence,	4	6
Saratoga,	9	6
Schenectady,	7	5
Schoharie,	7	1
Seneca,	3	3
Steuben,	9	2
Suffolk,	3	0
Tioga,	9	2
Tompkins,	6	8
Ulster,	12	0
Warren,	5	1
Washington,	7	2
Wayne,	8	10
Westchester,	0	1
Wyoming,	4	3
Yates,	2	8
From out of the State,	0	20
Total,	509	335

Patients have been received from every county in the State with the exception of Hamilton, Rockland and Sullivan. At the present time we have patients from *fifty* different counties. A few have been admitted from other States, under peculiarly afflicting circumstances, and when there have been vacancies.

TABLE 3.

Ages when insanity commenced.

Under 20 years of age,	105
From 20 to 25 years of age,	173
“ 25 “ 30 “	140
“ 30 “ 35 “	105
“ 35 “ 40 “	112
“ 40 “ 45 “	71

Carried forward,

Brought forward,	
From 45 to 50 years of age,	50
“ 50 “ 55 “	34
“ 55 “ 60 “	25
“ 60 “ 65 “	18
“ 65 “ 70 “	8
“ 70 “ 75 “	3
	<hr/>
	844
	<hr/>

TABLE 4.
Occupations.

	Men.
Farmers,	183
Laborers,	63
Merchants,	26
Scholars,	19
Clerks,	18
Joiners,	13
Shoemakers,	11
Attorneys,	11
Physicians,	9
Saddlers,	7
Teachers,	6
School boys,	6
Inn keepers,	5
Clergymen,	4
Blacksmiths,	4
Carriage makers,	3
Stone cutters,	3
Surveyors,	3
Cabinet makers,	3
Manufacturers,	3
Clothiers,	2
Coopers,	2
Butchers,	2
Tinners,	2
Horse farriers,	2
Tanners and currier's,	2
Gunsmith,	1

Tobacconist,	1
Painter,	1
Speculator,	1
Barber,	1
Glass cutter,	1
Boatman,	1
Hatter,	1
Engraver,	1
Miller,	1
Printer,	1
Millwright,	1
Tailor,	1
Portrait painter,	1
Pilot,	1
Dentist,	1

 431

Women.

Housework,	34 4
School girls,	27
Tailoresses,	13
Instructresses,	11
Milliners,	9
Mantuumakers,	6
Factory girls,	2
Music teacher,	1

 413

TABLE 5.

Civil Condition.

Married,	409
Single,	392
Widows,	31
Widowers,	12

 844

We continue to receive more married than single persons, while most Asylums in this country receive more single than married. We do not know the cause of this difference.

TABLE 6.

Places of Nativity.

State of New-York,.....	547
Ireland,	54
Connecticut,	52
Massachusetts,	44
England,	26
Vermont,	22
New-Hampshire,	19
Canada,	17
Scotland,	11
Rhode Island,	11
Wales,	8
Germany,	8
Maine,	7
New-Jersey,	7
France,	5
South-Carolina,	2
Pennsylvania,	2
Denmark,	2
	<hr/> 844 <hr/>

TABLE 7.

SUPPOSED CAUSES.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Ill health,	62	100	162
Unknown,	77	66	143
Religious anxiety,	52	50	102
Doubtful,	45	35	80
Puerperal, .....	....	40	40
Loss of property,	30	10	40
Excessive study,	27	4	31
Death of kindred,	7	24	31
Intemperance,	26	2	28
Perplexity of business,	15	7	22
"Millerism,"	12	7	19
Disappointment in love,	13	5	18
Fright,	7	7	14

TABLE 7. (CONTINUED.)

SUPPOSED CAUSES.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Blows on the head,.....	9	3	12
Abuse of husband,.....	.....	12	12
Epilepsy,	5	3	8
Jealousy,.....	3	4	7
Illness of friends,	1	6	7
Excessive labor,	4	2	6
Political excitement,.....	5	.....	5
Disappointed ambition,	4	1	5
Anxiety about absent friends,	1	4	5
Malformation of head,	3	1	4
Masturbation,	3	1	4
Infidelity of wife,.....	4	.....	4
Excessive pain,	4	.....	4
Seduction, .....	.....	3	3
Remorse, .....	.....	3	3
Bad conduct of children, .....	.....	2	2
Irregular decay of faculties from old age,...	1	1	2
Want of occupation, .....	.....	2	2
Going into cold water,.....	1	.....	1
"Fourrierism,"	1	.....	1
Sedentary life,.....	1	.....	1
Preaching 16 days and nights,.....	1	.....	1
Study of phrenology,.....	1	.....	1
Burn of head,.....	1	.....	1
Anticipation of wealth, .....	.....	1	1
Seclusion from society,.....	.....	1	1
Murder of son,.....	.....	1	1
Neuralgia,	1	.....	1
Inhaling carbonic acid gas,	1	.....	1
Exposure to excessive heat,.....	1	.....	1
Exposure to fumes of charcoal,.....	.....	1	1
Excitement from sea voyage,.....	.....	1	1
Opium eating,.....	.....	1	1
Imprisonment for crime,.....	1	.....	1
False accusation,.....	.....	1	1
"Mormonism," .....	.....	1	1
"Rechabiteism,"	1	.....	1
	431	413	844

As will be seen from the foregoing tables, the year passed has been a prosperous one. A very large number have been admitted, and many have been cured and returned to their homes. A still larger number have been made very comfortable and improved.

The good which an institution for the insane accomplishes, is not to be judged of, solely by the number of cures effected, as perhaps, as great an amount of good is done by giving comfort and enjoyment to a large class of incurable cases, who, but for it, would have passed their time in wretchedness in alms houses or in jails, or in wandering about exposed not only to want and to the inclemencies of the seasons, but to the insults and the abuse of the thoughtless and the vicious.

This, together with the relief an Asylum gives to the friends of the incurable insane—from watchful nights, from incessant noise and disturbance, and in many cases from the most anxious fears for the safety of their unfortunate relatives, leads us to regard such institutions, irrespective of the cures they effect, as among the most valuable.

We do not consider it necessary to particularize the management of the Asylum in the present report, as that was done very fully in our last ; we shall therefore but briefly allude to the *Farm and Labor*, *Religious Worship*, *Schools and Diet*.

FARM AND LABOR.

The farm continues to be productive, and together with our large garden, has been cultivated to a great extent by the patients. In addition to pasturage for 16 cows they have produced as follows :—

48 tons of	hay.
210 bushels of	oats.
75 “	Indian corn.
60 “	soft corn in the ear.
956 “	carrots.
60 “	parsnips,
200 “	beets.
100 “	onions.
230 “	turnips.
1600 heads of	cabbage.

80 bushels of	cucumbers.
30 “	summer squash.
8 loads of	winter squash.
400 bushels of	apples.
100 “	tomatoes.
400 “	potatoes.
50 “	green peas in the pod.
25 “	shelled peas.
19 “	shelled beans.
30 “	green beans in the pod.
18 “	Lima beans in the pod.
12 “	salsify.
4000 heads of	lettuce,
600 “	celery.

In addition, many other articles as radishes, spinach, pie-plant, asparagus, peppergrass, melons, &c., &c. were raised in large quantities. Our cows have furnished 38,000 quarts of milk, and we have fattened and killed during the year, 5,569 pounds of pork.

As will be seen, we have had an abundant supply of the best vegetables. In some we particularly excelled, as is evident from the fact, that at the *New-York State Agricultural Fair* last September, premiums were awarded to the State Lunatic Assylum for the best turnips, lima beans and squashes.

At the same State Fair, a *diploma* was given to the female patients of the Assylum for a large case of embroidery and needle work, and to the men, for a case of carved toys and wooden utensils.

Our own Annual Fair was held as usual on the anniversary of the opening of the Assylum, and was attended by a large number of the citizens of Utica and the adjoining towns. A great number of articles manufactured by the patients were disposed of, enabling us from the profits to make valuable additions to our library and green house.

The latter was erected from the proceeds of a previous fair, and now contains above *one thousand* plants. It is a source of great enjoyment to our patients, and in winter the daily resort of many.

In addition to the assistance thus received from the women, they have made during the year, for the use of the Asylum, the following articles :—

- 451 shirts.
- 240 pair of stockings.
- 260 sheets.
- 235 pillow cases.
- 40 table cloths.
- 200 towels.
- 231 womens' dresses.
- 61 mattress ticks.
- 148 pillow biers.
- 31 pairs drawers.
- 95 wrappers.
- 102 petticoats.
- 40 caps.
- 54 night gowns.
- 50 bed quilts.
- 26 toilet table covers.
- 30 window curtains.

Our workshops have been continued, though we have not had a sufficient number. When the new buildings are oompleted, we expect to be able to make all the clothing required by the patients, including shoes and boots, and also the cabinet work that is needed.

We consider labor as among the most essential of our curative means. Of this we become more convinced every year. Out door labor on the farm and in the garden is the best, and in the warm sea-son this is the only kind we want for our patients, as our large farm enables us to employ most of the men who wish to labor or to whom it would be beneficial. The work done by our patients on the farm, is not to be judged of by the produce above mentioned, as probably more labor has been expended in improving the farm and grounds by drains, filling up the foundations of the old buildings, making fences, planting trees, &c.

In winter, we find it difficult to furnish suitable and sufficient labor for all who would be benefitted by it. Some engage in sawing wood, but this furnishes but little labor for sixty or seventy men. Some

work in the joiners shop, and a few are employed in other kinds of business. Still, for a considerable number we have not sufficient employment, and we apprehend this is a difficulty which all large Asylums have to encounter. We have studiously examined this subject, and reflected much upon the propriety of establishing some kind of business in which many can engage. But we find it difficult to determine what kind is best. Hitherto we have found none better than *carving toys* and making small wooden articles. Hence we sometime since established what is known as a *whittling shop*, and which has been very popular. Several of our patients have become very skillful at this business, as is well known to those who have visited the Asylum or who saw the case of carved toys, exhibited at the State fair. Some articles carved here are not inferior to the handsomest Swiss specimens, of which in fact, ours are imitations.

Recently we had one of the patients, and a person in our employ, instructed in the art of taking *daguerreotype likenesses*. A good instrument and apparatus has been presented by a friend, and they are now able to take likenesses inferior to none we have seen. They have already obtained very perfect ones of some of the patients, and we shall soon have an interesting gallery of portraits.

We are of the opinion that *printing* would furnish a very proper business for a considerable number of patients, and may we think be carried on without expense to the Asylum.

From the recent report of the visiting justices of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, near London, it appears that amongst other efforts which have been made for the improvement of the means of occupation for the patients, has been the introduction of a printing press and cases of type. The report goes on to state, that this proceeding has been very beneficial in its operation, inasmuch as that, whilst on the one hand it had afforded a pleasing employment to the inmates, so, on the other, the committee had turned the matter to a profitable purpose, for the patients were able to print a variety of documents which were necessary for the use of the Asylum itself.

It should be borne in mind that we have already a considerable number of patients who probably will remain with us for a long time. Some of them are not much deranged here, but when at large, in con-

sequence of their insanity, exhibit propensities that are dangerous to the community, and therefore require to be secluded in an Asylum. This class of persons is increasing, and from this being the only State Asylum, all such cases that hereafter occur, will be sent here, and we shall undoubtedly in a few years have a large number. Consequently it will be necessary to provide for them some steady employment. To all such, and to many others who are with us, regular occupation is essential to their quiet and comfort, and often to their recovery.

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

Religious services have been held in the chapel every Sunday. The Rev. Ira Pettibone officiates, acceptably, as chaplain. We could not dispense with these religious services on Sunday without, we apprehend, great detriment to our household. All the officers and their families, and all the attendants and assistants that can be spared from other duties, together with those patients who wish to attend and can control themselves so as not to disturb the audience, assemble and form a congregation of above two hundred.

Rarely any disturbance occurs. The patients are generally quiet and attentive and appear to derive enjoyment, and we doubt not profit from thus assembling. Several of them assist in singing, and Sunday evenings are set apart for improvement in singing.

Our *Monthly Concerts* or monthly meetings of the chaplain, with the officers, attendants and assistants have been continued. We have already, we think, derived much benefit from these meetings, and believe they will be very essential when we have a larger number of officers, and double the number of assistants, as we shall have, when the establishment is complete. We shall then need frequently to meet, not only for religious exercises, but to confer upon our respective duties, to compare observations and devise plans for the welfare and improvement of the patients, and means for carrying them into successful operation.

SCHOOLS.

Schools have been continued during the year with the exception of a long vacation in the summer, and are now in successful operation. Our confidence in their utility has been increased by experience and observation.

Many cases, we believe, cannot be improved, but by arousing and calling into exercise the dormant faculties of the mind. Hence we have found our schools particularly beneficial to the demented and those approaching this condition. In such, the active state of the disease, which originated the mental disturbance has passed, and left the brain and faculties of the mind in a torpid state. In these cases, medicine is generally of no use, and as we have said, they cannot often be much improved, but by exercising the faculties of the mind.

But others are also benefited by devoting a portion of every day to mental improvement. To those who are nearly or quite well and who remain with us for fear of relapsing at home, or for other reasons, our schools afford enjoyment and often means for improvement which they highly value.

Those that are uneasy and nervous, that are constantly restless and disposed to find fault and to annoy the attendants, and quarrel with all about them, because they have nothing else to occupy their minds, are also much benefited by the exercises of a school. We are every day surprised at the good effect they have upon this class of patients. Daily for two hours, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, twenty of this class of patients assemble with alacrity in one school, and after singing a hymn, read, spell, answer questions in geography and arithmetic, and use the black-board with the quiet and good order noticed in other schools.

Once a month all the schools assemble in the chapel for a general examination in the various branches taught, and for declamation and the reading of compositions. With but very few exceptions, all our household are interested in these exercises and pleased to attend.

If we are not greatly deceived, our schools and other mental exercises have been very beneficial to our patients; contributing largely to their contentment and cheerfulness, and giving to them a look of intelligence that they would not have, but for the adoption of the course we have mentioned.

Our observation for many years in various lunatic asylums, led us a long time since to regard the want of *mental occupation* as the greatest want in modern institutions for the insane. Go into any such establishment and you will find some few, in winter a very few, at

work, some playing cards or other games ; yet a still larger class will be found sitting about, listless, inactive, doing nothing, saying nothing, taking no interest in anything going on around them, gathering around the stove or place that is heated, looking forward to nothing but the hour of eating and retiring to sleep. For a short time each day, when the physician passes around, they will exhibit a little animation and say a few words and then relapse into their former condition.

When the weather is pleasant, some of them walk or ride out occasionally for a short time, but this to many of the class we are describing, after a few times, seems to be a mechanical kind of business and confers but little enjoyment ; they notice nothing and say nothing during the walk or ride, or after it. These patients make but little trouble in an asylum, and are very apt to be overlooked and neglected, and if not already demented soon become so. They are thought not to require much attention, as they have good bodily health, and are quiet, consequently they generally receive but little notice.

But this class require great attention ; they need mental exercise ; they should attend school and have their minds aroused into mental activity for an hour or two every day. Soon, by this course, their memories will improve ; they will become interested in singing or study, and by perseverance some will be cured, and many, very many, rendered capable of much enjoyment, and be kept from sinking into a state of hopeless dementia.

Governed by such views we have rarely repressed any new method proposed by the patients themselves for exercising and improving their minds. Hence we have a *debating society*, that meets once a week, which is conducted not only with good order but with ability. Occasionally original plays are acted. Albums are circulated, also a weekly newspaper handsomely printed with a pen ; all of which interest and amuse many, and do harm to none.

In addition to maps and a globe, geographies and historical works for the school, where those that are about well attend ; we have a large library from which the patients obtain books three times in the week. We have also a very large supply of newspapers and magazines.

In some halls reading parties are formed for the purpose of reading aloud new and useful works, as for instance, at the present time in one hall the "Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition," is being read; and in an other, "Wiley and Putnam's Library of choice reading."

By these means, we have the satisfaction of seeing many patients, not only recover from their mental disorder, but that their minds have been improved, a fact of which they themselves are conscious, and for which they feel grateful. In repeated instances we have been informed by the relatives and neighbors of patients who have here recovered and gone home, of their increased intelligence and marked improvement of mind.

Our teachers spend all their time with the patients, but have no labor nor any other duty to attend to, than to interest the patients and contribute all they can by their presence and conversation to their contentment and enjoyment. Thus they join in their amusements and walks, and are their constant companions.

The relief which they afford the attendants is great, and enables us to dispense with some that would otherwise be necessary. We are satisfied that an establishment like this, can be better managed and with equal economy, by having an arrangement by which some should devote their time to the ordinary duties and labors of the halls, while others should have nothing to do but to accompany the patients and endeavor to instruct and amuse them. The latter having nothing to do with any coercive measures, the patients, do not become prejudiced against, and will readily hearken to their suggestions. Thus they serve as a constant guard, and by their presence and management, prevent outbreaks and disorder, and make coercive measures, restraint and seclusion rarely necessary.

They also by their conversation and presence, quiet the timid, console the desponding, and by attention to *all*, contribute to the contentment and cheerfulness of the patients, and as we believe essentially aid in curing them.

DIET AND NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS.

While we are careful to guard against any unnecessary expendi-

ture, and by our arrangements, endeavor to prevent any waste whatever, holding all those who have charge of articles purchased for the use of the Asylum, to a strict accountability, we are also very careful that every patient has an abundant supply of good food, furnished in a handsome and proper manner, and that each one also has a good bed and comfortable apartments night and day, and kind attendants to see to all his wants.

By the following account of the articles consumed the past week, and which we suppose does not vary essentially from the other weeks in the year, together with the number of attendants devoted to the care of patients, the public may see that we have the means for carrying out our intentions as above expressed.

Flour, 10 barrels for bread, pies, cakes, crackers, &c.		
Buckwheat flour,.....	37	lbs.
Indian meal,.....	70	lbs.
Corned beef,.....	290	lbs.
Roast beef,.....	235	lbs.
Beef steak,.....	140	lbs.
Mutton,	330	lbs.
Salt pork,.....	30	lbs.
Fresh pork,	60	lbs.
Cod-fish,.....	60	lbs.
Mackerel,	60	lbs.
Chickens,	12	lbs.
Rice,.....	29	lbs.
Potatoes,.....	18	bushels.
Turnips,	3	"
Onions,	2	"
Sugar,.....	290	lbs.
Tea,	14	lbs.
Coffee,	42	lbs.
Molasses,	5½	gallons.
Oil,	12	"
Wood,	17½	cords.
Coal,.....	3450	lbs.
Butter,	279	lbs.
Lard,	20	lbs.
Eggs,	24	dozen.

Apples,.....	3 bushels.
Beets,.....	1½ "
Cheese,.....	22½ lbs.
Squashes,.....	100 lbs.
Starch,	8 lbs.
Soap, (hard,).....	78 lbs.
Soap, (soft,).....	3½ barrels.
Pepper,	1½ lbs.
Salt,	3 boxes.
Men attendants, 15, including the watchman.	
Women attendants, 15, including the watchwoman.	

The asylum has been constantly full the year past, and much of the time crowded. With but suitable accommodations for 250 patients we have at no time during the year, had less than 260, and much of the time, from 270 to 280. We have always considered this too crowded a condition, but so great has been the importunity of the friends of the insane, and so urgent the necessities of some who were brought from remote parts of the State, that we have admitted a considerable number when already too full. But notwithstanding all our efforts in this respect, we have been reluctantly compelled to refuse admission to a considerable number. This has been the most unpleasant duty we have had to perform in relation to the asylum, to close its doors to the insane who applied for admission, and who, in all probability, might have been benefited could we have received them. In many such cases, we have found it difficult to convince the friends of patients that we could not receive *one more*, and some we fear, have been dissatisfied. But we have endeavored to do what was just. To receive additional patients when we are already crowded, not only prevents our doing justice to the cases thus admitted, but jeopardizes the welfare of those already in the asylum.

To accommodate the most recent and curable cases, many old and incurable ones have been discharged, agreeably to the provisions of the law, passed May 7, 1844, which authorizes the managers so to do, "that preference may be given in the admission of patients to recent cases or cases of not more than one year's duration."

Owing to insufficient apartments for making numerous classes of patients, we have not been able to admit patients belonging to one

class while we could those of another. Thus we have only a few apartments for epileptic patients, and consequently have not been able to admit those belonging to this very necessitous class, but to a limited extent.

But we indulge the hope that soon all our difficulties in this respect will cease ; that when the large additions authorized by the Legislature are completed, we shall be able to admit for a considerable time, *all* that apply, and to afford better accommodations for our whole household than heretofore.

Hitherto we have only been able to divide patients into *four* classes, but when our additions are completed we shall be able to make twelve distinct classes of each sex, and the arrangements will be such as to afford every requisite facility, so far as the architecture of the building is concerned, for the safe keeping, the comfort and the cure of patients.

The additions to which we have alluded, consist of two wings running backwards from the centre of the wings of the present building, 240 feet by 38, with verandas at each end, and a dining room in the middle. They are built of brick, three stories high above the basement story, and the latter is wholly above the ground. These wings are 300 feet apart, but conveniently connected in the rear by a two story range of buildings intended for a wash-house, ironing rooms, bakery, infirmaries, school rooms and various shops, and also to afford accommodations to some of the most noisy patients requiring seclusion.

Thus it will be seen that we have no detached buildings for patients. The establishment forms a hollow square, and is so connected that every part can be visited with facility by the officers at any time, night or day, and in any weather.

We shall then have separate rooms for 400 patients and 20 large dormitories capable of accommodating from eight to fourteen patients each, enabling us to admit into the establishment 600 patients. These dormitories are preferred by a considerable number of patients, particularly by those that are timid, and they are better and safer for many, especially for those disposed to suicide. Between two dormitories is placed the room of the attendants, so that in fact the patients

thus associated are not left alone, as the contiguity of the attendants' room, with lattice doors between it and the dormitories, enables the attendants to immediately hear any noise or disturbance, and to easily attend to the wants of patients in the night.

We have long had four large dormitories thus arranged, and have found them very useful, and in no respect objectionable.

Some portions of these additional buildings will probably be completed the ensuing summer. When they are, we shall be able to receive a larger number of patients that we now have ; but the whole will not be finished, we presume, before a year from this time. Judging from our past observation, we do not apprehend that patients will be sent to us faster than we shall be able to admit them after a part of the additions are completed. Neither do we expect that our buildings will be filled immediately, for although there are more insane poor in the state than we can accommodate, yet many of them being harmless and incurable, it is not probable the counties that support them, will send them to an Asylum. No county in the state has as yet proposed to adopt this course, and we presume no county will, until the law compels them thus to support all their insane poor, the old and incurable cases, the quiet and harmless, as well as the recent and curable, and the violent and dangerous.

Should it be found, however, that this Asylum cannot receive all that apply for admission, we have no doubt, the State will soon provide for them, other and suitable accommodations, and we indulge the hope, that before many years, *all the insane poor* of this State, will be separated from the other subjects of charity in the county houses, and be well provided for in Asylums erected especially for them.

Hitherto no state or country has been more liberal in providing for its insane population than the State of New-York, and none has more ample accommodations for this class, than this State will have when the additions to this Asylum are completed. The various Asylums of the State will then be able to receive above 1,200, or more than one half of all the insane and idiotic ascertained to be in the State by the census of 1840.

We do not, however, know the number of the insane and idiotic in the State with accuracy.

According to the State census of 1825, there were 819 insane and 1,421 idiots in the State ; in 1835, there were 967 insane and 1,684 idiots in the State; in 1840, according to the United States census the total number of the insane and idiotic was 2,340. According to the recent State census of 1845, the number of the insane is 2,142, and the number of idiots 1,610.

The following table obtained at the office of the Secretary of State, exhibits the number of the insane and idiotic in the several counties of the State according to the State census of 1845.

STATEMENT.

COUNTIES.	IDIOTS.					LUNATICS.							
	MALES.		FEMALES.		Total No. Idiots.	MALES.		FEMALES.		CIRCUMSTANCES.			
	Under 21.	Above 21.	Under 21.	Above 21.		Under 21.	Above 21.	No. supported by charity.	No. in Lunatic Asylums.	No. not supported by public or private charity.	Whole No. of Lunatics.		
Albany,.....	14	23	6	11	54	5	22	3	10	17	6	25	40
Allegany,.....	4	3	3	4	14	1	2	...	5	...	2	5	8
Broome,.....	4	7	10	8	28	...	5	1	12	8	...	3	18
Cattaraugus,.....	8	3	5	5	21	...	9	...	6	7	1	3	16
Cayuga,.....	11	12	11	18	52	2	18	...	16	12	5	17	36
Chautauque,.....	6	12	5	7	30	2	8	1	15	12	3	11	26
Chemung,.....	3	3	3	2	11	...	5	1	8	1	...	9	14
Chenango,.....	7	13	5	9	34	...	13	2	18	3	5	25	33
Clinton,.....	1	3	10	5	19	1	1	3	4	3	...	5	9
Columbia,.....	4	16	7	8	35	...	28	1	31	21	26	29	60
Cortland,.....	2	10	1	6	19	...	8	...	8	8	1	10	16
Delaware,.....	9	7	4	9	29	1	5	...	10	2	10	5	16
Dutchess,.....	4	12	4	10	30	...	18	...	20	8	6	20	39

Niagara,	5	7	4	3	3	19	4	3	19	50	19	...	2	1	9	4	2	9	12
Oneida,	8	19	7	16	4	14	8	9	39	50	19	...	152	9	147	209	273	108	327
Onondaga,	8	14	7	9	9	14	8	9	30	39	19	...	14	...	17	15	...	10	33
Ontario,	6	10	7	7	7	10	7	7	30	30	19	...	6	1	3	3	1	7	11
Orange,	6	9	12	11	4	9	12	4	38	38	19	...	6	...	12	15	2	6	29
Orleans,	4	8	13	3	5	8	13	5	28	28	19	...	1	...	3	1	...	3	4
Oswego,	7	12	8	8	9	12	8	9	32	32	19	...	12	...	9	9	1	8	21
Otsego,	11	19	11	21	23	19	11	23	62	62	19	...	21	1	26	18	4	25	48
Putnam,	5	1	3	3	...	1	3	...	12	12	19	...	3	...	3	1	...	4	6
Queens,	6	7	2	4	4	7	2	4	19	19	19	...	17	...	16	1	22	9	35
Rensselaer,	8	10	8	4	8	10	8	8	30	30	19	...	15	...	23	10	6	23	38
Richmond, .....	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	...	4	4	19	...	8	...	3	7	1	4	11
Rockland,	1	3	2	3	...	3	2	...	9	9	19	...	3	...	2	1	...	3	5
Saratoga,	5	17	6	9	14	17	6	14	45	45	19	...	11	1	16	11	2	12	38
Schenectady,	4	5	3	3	4	5	3	4	15	15	19	...	3	...	2	...	...	5	6
Schoharie,	6	11	7	8	3	11	7	3	32	32	19	...	10	1	6	3	1	8	17
Seneca,	6	3	3	4	6	3	3	6	16	16	19	...	5	1	12	5	4	4	18
St. Lawrence,	17	6	7	6	3	6	7	3	46	46	19	...	9	2	14	5	5	12	27
Steuben,	6	11	7	4	8	11	7	8	28	28	19	...	2	2	11	11	2	7	16
Suffolk,	2	8	3	9	9	8	3	9	22	22	19	...	4	...	13	8	...	20	29
Sullivan,	4	5	7	7	...	5	7	...	23	23	19	...	3	...	6	6	...	...	6
Tioga,	2	9	2	6	2	9	2	6	19	19	19	...	3	...	11	10	3	5	14
Tompkins,	7	12	4	6	3	12	4	3	29	29	19	...	7	...	8	3	3	10	18
Ulster,	9	22	6	12	12	22	6	12	49	49	19	...	12	1	18	20	8	11	33
Warren,	9	1	3	1	3	1	3	3	14	14	19	...	4	...	10	8	3	5	15
Washington,	4	10	4	6	4	10	4	6	24	24	19	...	19	...	31	30	5	18	50
Wayne,	5	4	8	3	6	4	8	6	22	22	19	...	16	...	10	10	6	12	26

STATEMENT.—(CONTINUED.)

COUNTIES.	IDIOTS.						LUNATICS.							
	MALES.		FEMALES.		Total No. Idiots.	No. supported by charity.	MALES.		FEMALES.		CIRCUMSTANCES.			
	Under 21.	Above 21.	Under 21.	Above 21.			Under 21.	Above 21.	No. supported by charity.	No. in Lunatic Asylums.	No. not supported by public or private charity.	Whole No. of Lunatics.		
Westchester,	11	12	4	2	29	5	14	...	9	...	3	18	23	
Wyoming,	5	8	2	2	16	2	7	...	8	...	2	4	15	
Yates,	6	7	2	8	23	...	6	...	10	8	2	8	16	
	370	439	315	388	1610	334	946	65	1084	1114	1228	785	2142	

We believe the foregoing table to be incorrect in two particulars. *First*, it will be seen by the heading of the columns, that those who took the census, were required to ascertain the number of the insane in Lunatic Asylums. This knowledge they obtained at these asylums, as will be seen by looking to the numbers assigned to Oneida and New-York counties. Unfortunately they have again been enumerated, *a part of them we are certain*, in the various counties from which they were sent. This, however, has not uniformly been done, as we find to some counties are assigned more than they have in Lunatic Asylums, while to others not as many as they have in this. We suppose, therefore, that some confined in the county houses have been classed among those in Lunatic Asylums. Be this as it may, we are certain that a considerable number have been twice enumerated.

Secondly, we apprehend that under the head of idiots are included demented insane persons. Strictly speaking, idiocy is not like insanity, a disease, or the result of disease, but the consequence of the malformation of the brain, and exists from birth or from very early life. This distinction, however, is not generally made, as those who, from long continued insanity, have become demented and exhibit but little mind, are considered, though incorrectly, to have become idiots. Hence we suppose that many enumerated as idiots should have been classed with the insane.

But the table is also very incorrect in other respects. For instance, it will be seen that by this table, there are only ten insane persons in the county of Genesee, and but three of them supported by charity, and only one idiot thus supported. We know, however, of twice as many lunatics and idiots in that county as are enumerated in this census. Mistakes very similar have been made in other counties and justify us in saying that the table is *valueless* for the purpose of showing the number of the insane and idiotic in the State.

But although we have not learned from the late census, the number of insane persons in the State, we know that they are numerous and we believe increasing. The full number will not, we apprehend, be learned from any census, as the insanity of many is known only to the family, and sometimes only to a portion of the family, with which they are connected. Thus we are often consulted in relation to per

sons who have been for several months unquestionably insane, though their condition has been studiously concealed.

Some appear to be deranged only as regards their feelings or moral qualities. They are noticed to be different from what they formerly were; to be more restless and sleepless, or unnaturally morose and irritable. Some manifest an unfounded dread of evil, say but little, shun society, and are suspicious of their dearest friends and relatives; while others are unusually vivacious and pleasant, or quarrelsome and abusive. Such changes of character and habits will usually be found to be subsequent to some reverse of fortune, loss of friends or sickness, and should excite alarm. Persons thus affected will converse rationally, and in company or before strangers will conceal their peculiarities and thus are known to be insane, but to a very few, until some violent act leads to an investigation, and then it is found they have long been partially deranged. This is the case with most of those who commit suicide. They are known to be melancholy and a little insane by their nearest friends, who however, often conceal the fact until after the catastrophe.

Considering the alarming nature of insanity, its strong hereditary tendency, and the liability of those affected to relapse after recovery, we feel there is occasion for the anxious inquiry of those who wish to promote the welfare of the human race; *if there is no way of arresting the increase of this disease?*

In our opinion we should not remain satisfied with providing curative institutions and comfortable abodes for those affected by insanity, but we should endeavor to prevent it, by timely care and wise precautions, by avoiding whatever is likely to predispose to it or to excite it. With the hope that some suggestions on this subject, in this report, may be useful to the citizens of this State, we subjoin the following remarks on

THE PREVENTION OF INSANITY.

Under this head, we wish to include *measures for arresting the disease in its incipient state.*

Often insanity exists in a slight degree for months, and as we have said, is only noticed by the most intimate friends or relatives, and then *suddenly* assumes an alarming form, leading in some instances

to homicide and in others to self-destruction. Of the latter, almost every newspaper contains accounts, and of the former we have known many instances. Three instances, within a few years, have fallen under our observation of mothers killing their own children. In all these cases, the insanity previous to the act, though observed by a few, was very slight and unknown to their neighbors, and in one instance only to a part of the members of the family in which the person resided. In two of these instances, the act seemed to have been committed from a sudden impulse ; the other was premeditated, and done for the purpose of securing the happiness of the child, and also the death, by execution, of its mother, who wished not to live, but was unwilling to commit suicide. Contrary to our expectations, these cases have all recovered, and all have been well and with their friends for more than a year, and some of them longer. Two of them have since become mothers and still continue well.

The suicidal form of insanity often exists in a slight degree for a long time, but unfortunately attracts but little or no attention ; and hence the frequency of suicide, which in this State has become truly alarming. We have the names of *seventy-four persons, forty-four men and thirty women*, who have committed suicide in this State during the last twelve months, but we do not suppose we have heard of all.

They occurred in the following counties :

New-York,	21
Oneida,	7
Kings,	4
Erie,.....	4
Rensselaer,	4
Onondaga,.....	3
Ulster,.....	3
Madison,	2
Cortland,.....	2
Clinton,.....	2
St. Lawrence,.....	2
Chenango,.....	2
Delaware,	1
Albany,	1

Livingston,	1
Otsego,	1
Ontario,	1
Sullivan,	1
Cayuga,	1
Oswego,	1
Genesee,	1
Richmond,	1
Tompkins,	1
Chautauque,	1
Washington,	1
Monroe,	1
Orange,	1
Putnam,	1
Jefferson,	1
Westchester,	1
	<hr/>
	74
	<hr/>

Most of those included in the foregoing list, are reported to have been insane. We presume this is correct, and that many of them might have been saved had their friends adopted early and judicious precautions.

Of this we feel confident from the fact, that of the 844 patients admitted into this asylum, 111 viz. 49 men and 62 women, were disposed to suicide when admitted, and several of them had repeatedly attempted it, and we have no doubt many of them would have accomplished their purpose but for the timely precaution of their friends in sending them to an asylum. Here they have not only been prevented from committing suicide, but many of them have recovered. The suicidal form of insanity is, we think, generally curable by early and judicious treatment.

Surely all must see the urgent necessity of attention to the first symptoms of mental derangement, especially when accompanied by gloom and despondency, or consequent upon misfortune, loss of relatives or sickness. In such cases, even when the mental disorder is slight, the friends should be as anxious and ready to seek a remedy, as in attacks of other diseases. Often the advice of a judicious

physician with a little medicine, with change of business, or a journey, will affect a cure.

The *recurrence of insanity* might often be prevented by proper care. This fact we consider it important for the community to know, and also that *re-attacks* are very common. Thus, of the 844 patients who have been at this asylum, 145 or more than one-sixth had been previously insane. We are often surprised at the apparent thoughtlessness of the friends of the insane, and their neglect of the precautions necessary to prevent a relapse. Thus not unfrequently those who have here recovered, are returned to their homes in a manner likely to injure them—exposed to cold and to excessive fatigue by riding too far in one day, and by being deprived of their rest by journeying in the night. Some are permitted to recur to those habits and practices that are known to cause or perpetuate the disease from which they have just recovered, such as the use of stimulating drinks, the excessive use of snuff, tobacco or strong tea. Others are permitted to attend and to take part in exciting political and religious meetings, and to be out late at night. As a general rule we find no advice so useful to those who have recovered from an attack of insanity, as to carefully avoid everything likely to cause loss of sleep, to pass their evenings tranquilly at home, and to retire early to rest.

In this connection we deem it proper to allude to the

NEGLECT OF THE STUDY OF INSANITY BY PHYSICIANS.

Many physicians in general practice are, we think, too apt to consider insanity a disease with which they have but little or nothing to do. Hence they often neglect to qualify themselves, by study and careful observation, to treat it properly. Their attention is not directed to it, the same as to other diseases, by lectures in the medical schools, and they seldom purchase and read the best treatises on the subject.

It is very true, that in most cases, when the disease becomes established, it cannot be well treated at home. Patients often become prejudiced against their nearest friends, and will not hearken to their advice nor take any medicine. For these reasons and to remove them from the exciting causes of their disease, as well as to have

them treated properly in all respects, it is usually necessary to place them in an asylum. Still there are instances, though they are not common, when none of these objections nor any other exist to the patient remaining at home, and being treated by his ordinary physician. It is therefore very necessary that physicians in general practice, should qualify themselves to prescribe in cases of insanity, as well as in other diseases.

But admitting that no such cases occur, it is still important for them to thus prepare themselves in order to *prevent* insanity, and to *arrest* it in its incipient stage.

We have no hesitation in saying, that if the physicians of the country were fully aware of their duty to the community in this respect, and would exert themselves to prevent insanity by timely advice, and to arrest it in its early stage, that they would do those predisposed to insanity and the insane themselves, an amount of good unequalled by that of the asylums of the country.

They should understand and be able to recognize its earliest symptoms, for as has been said, insanity often, and we believe we may say most generally, exists in a slight and scarcely perceptible degree for months, before it is generally noticed. They should know how liable many are to this disease from hereditary predisposition, from previous attacks, long continued menorrhagia or other diseases, from repelled eruptions and extreme nervous susceptibility, and be able to advise such and warn them in time of impending danger. How many cases of puerperal insanity, or of that insanity that comes on after child-birth, might be prevented by timely precautions?

Physicians should study the various causes of mental diseases, and learn the danger of over-excitement of the nervous system, especially in early life by too strong emotions, by prematurely tasking the intellectual powers, by the improper indulgence of the appetites and passions, and by the neglect of moral and religious education; and thus be able to advise parents and others whenever they are pursuing a course likely to lead to this disease.

In this way, physicians would do great good in individual cases, and also very much towards arresting those alarming *epidemic delusions* that occasionally prevail through the country; a lamentable

instance of which is within the knowledge of all, known by the name of "Millerism," or the doctrine of the immediate destruction of the world. This has not only sent many to the grave and rendered a vast number insane, but predisposed, we apprehend, a large number, by the excitement and terror it has produced, to nervous diseases and to insanity hereafter.

Physicians are often called upon to give their testimony in relation to the mental condition of individuals, and sometimes in cases where not only property but *life* is at stake. In such cases, their responsibility is very great, and furnishes strong additional reasons for their applying themselves diligently to the study of mental diseases.

The treatise of Esquirol on insanity has recently been translated and published in this country in a cheap form. It is a valuable book, and worthy of a place in the library of every physician. The works of Prichard and Combe, on the same subject, have also been republished here, and are considered standard authorities.

To enable us to prevent insanity it is necessary to know its causes. These are various, but may properly be divided into the *predisposing* and the *immediate* or *exciting*. We will briefly allude to both kinds, and first of

THE PREDISPOSING CAUSES OF INSANITY.

The most important of these may be considered under *hereditary transmission, education and habits of life*.

That a predisposition to insanity is very often transmitted, is a fact well established. Thus of 844 patients who have been in this Asylum, viz, 431 men and 413 women, 224 were known to have insane relatives. That many of the others were thus predisposed, we do not doubt, but we were not able to learn anything respecting their relatives. 104 were known to have insane parents, viz. 58 men and 46 women.

It would appear from our inquiries, and they have been very carefully conducted, that insanity is a little more likely to be transmitted by the mother than by the father, and that mothers are considerably more likely to transmit it to daughters than to sons, while the fathers most frequently transmit it to the sons. Thus out of the 58 men,

35 had insane fathers and 23 insane mothers, while of 46 women, 16 had insane fathers and 30 insane mothers. We have known, however, of repeated instances in which insanity was transmitted by one parent both to sons and daughters.

But a predisposition to insanity is also transmitted from parents, who though not actually insane, are remarkable for violent and ungovernable temper, eccentricity, wanderings of the imagination or weakness of mind. Mothers in whom the nervous system predominates, who are prone to hysteria and who have suffered much from affections of the nervous system, are very apt to transmit a tendency to similar diseases to their offspring and sometimes to insanity; especially if they have during pregnancy experienced violent emotions, such as terror and extreme anxiety of mind.

Children begotten in old age, or when the difference in the ages of the parents is very great, and also the offspring of those that have been very intemperate, are believed to be predisposed to mental disorders. Sometimes great originality of mind in the parent, intense study and entire devotedness to a particular pursuit, appear to predispose the offspring to insanity or idiocy.

EDUCATION AND HABITS OF LIFE.

"There are," says Prichard, "two different points of view under which the injurious effects of wrong education may be considered. By too great indulgence and a want of moral discipline, the passions acquire greater power, and a character is formed subject to caprice and to violent emotions: a predisposition to insanity is thus laid in the temper and moral affections of the individuals. The exciting causes of madness have greater influence on persons of such habits than on those whose feelings are regulated. An overstrained and premature exercise of the intellectual powers, is likewise a fault of education which predisposes to insanity, as it does also to other diseases of the brain."

That education, which consults the good of the whole man, that tends to develope and strengthen in equal and just proportion the moral, intellectual and physical powers, is conducive to health of body and mind. But in all countries the intellect or some of the intellectual faculties are cultivated to the neglect of the moral qualities, while

in others the feelings, appetites and propensities are too greatly indulged and cultivated, to the neglect of just intellectual improvement. Hence, arise unbalanced minds, which are prone to become disordered. They feel too intensely, and are too ardently devoted to the accomplishment of certain purposes to bear disappointment without injury. They have not been taught *self-denial*, without which all education is defective.

Thus we find that insanity prevails in all civilized countries, and the most in those where there is the greatest intellectual activity, where there is the most political and religious discussion, and where the strife for riches and honors is the most intense. In fact, insanity is almost wholly confined to the civilized race of man. It is rare among the uncivilized and uneducated Indians and Negroes. It is uncommon in China, Persia and Hindostan, and prevails but little in Turkey and Russia out of the large cities. No case was heard of by the United States Exploring Expedition among the natives of the South Seas. There is but little in Spain and Portugal, compared with England, France, Germany and the United States.

In all the countries last mentioned, it prevails extensively, and is uniformly increased by events that excite deep and general feeling among the inhabitants. The French Revolution increased it in France, the American Revolution in this country. The Reformation of Luther, the noted South Sea speculation in England, about 1720, and the wars of Bonaparte, augmented the number of the insane. When Napoleon made and unmade kings and queens with great rapidity, kings and queens increased in the mad-houses of France. When the Pope came to Paris, an event that excited the religious community of that country, cases of religious insanity became more numerous. "So great has been the influence of our political commotions," says Esquirol, "that I could give the history of France from the taking of the Bastille to the last appearance of Bonaparte, by that of the insane of the hospitals, whose delusions related to the different events of that long period of history."

In this country similar results have been realized from our political and religious commotions. Thus, the Antimasonic excitement, the United States Bank excitement, the Abolition excitement, the speculating excitement and the Miller excitement, and other intensely

anxious and protracted religious excitements, have each furnished the Asylums with inmates.

IMMEDIATE OR EXCITING CAUSES.

Some of the causes already alluded to occasionally produce immediate insanity, though we consider their most dangerous tendency, is, to predispose a larger number, and to render them liable to this disease from a very slight exciting cause.

The exciting causes are mostly enumerated in our Table of *Supposed Causes*. They are such as the various forms of domestic trouble, reverses of fortune, religious anxiety, fright, &c.

We regard them as far less important than those which predispose to this disease. We are too apt to regard the excitement of mind that immediately precedes the attack, as the cause, while in fact the mind had previously been driven to the verge of madness by perhaps an entirely different cause. Many a case of insanity attributed to ill-health, to religious anxiety, domestic trouble, or to some sudden reverse of fortune, had its origin, we apprehend, in anterior causes; often in the want of proper moral discipline in early life, in the too great indulgence of parents, and in gloomy and erroneous religious views early inculcated.

We regard the religious discipline of the mind, or religious education, which teaches our duty to God and our obligations to our fellow men, obedience to the precepts of the gospel, and that we do not live wholly for ourselves, as the most effectual safeguard against insanity. It is this, and this alone, that can give to men that Christian courage that will enable them to bear the contrarieties and ills of life without danger to their mental peace.

But while many, very many, become insane for the want of religious instruction, we have no doubt others are made so, by that which is erroneous, and by the untimely and too urgent inculcation of peculiar religious views. Thus, we regard the teaching of the extreme danger of committing the "*unpardonable sin*," and of being under the influence and in the "*possession of the devil*."

The truth of these doctrines we do not purpose to question, but to state, what much observation has taught us, that their frequent and

urgent inculcation makes a dangerous impression on the minds of some.

Intense study and application to business, without any relaxation or amusement, sometimes appears to produce melancholy and a tendency to insanity. In no other country is there so much danger to be apprehended from the incessant application of the mind to one pursuit, as in this; and we regret that innocent amusements are not more common and fashionable. Napoleon frequently played at blind man's buff with spirit and enjoyment, and Mr. Canning, Mr. Huskisson and other statesmen of England, according to Mr. Rush, often took an active part in similar pastimes. We have no doubt the amusements and dinner parties of large towns, though perhaps in other respects often injurious, beneficially relax the mind and save many from despondency and mental disease.

These brief and imperfect views of the causes of insanity and means of prevention, we hope, will not be valueless to the community. They certainly will not, if they awaken the attention of others to the same subjects—subjects well worthy the most careful attention of the patriot and philanthropist.

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

By the term *Idiot*, we mean to designate a person in whom the mental faculties have been wanting from birth, or have not been manifested at the usual period, owing to an original defect or to disease of the brain in very early life. The same persons are sometimes denominated *imbeciles*.

From each enumeration of the inhabitants of this State, we learn that the number of idiots is very great. By the census of

1825, there were	.....	1421
1835, “	.....	1684
1845, “	.....	1610.

We have already stated our opinion that some demented insane persons are classed with the idiots in the census; still we believe the actual number of the latter is very great.

What is their present condition? Where and how are they kept? We fear that full and correct answers to these questions would reveal

a mass of wretchedness and misery wholly unexpected to the people of the State.

Some we know are in the county houses, while many are left to wander about, exposed to the inclemencies of the seasons, to want and suffering, and very frequently to the insults and gross abuse of the vicious. Not unfrequently some become mothers. Several affecting instances of this kind have come to our knowledge. One of the most abject and pitiable of this class; a white female, has had two children, one white and one black. Humanity, the preservation of public morals and true economy, call for the better guardianship and protection of this unfortunate portion of the human race.

Can any thing be done for the improvement and welfare of this neglected portion of our fellow creatures? If so, we have no doubt the benevolent spirit of the age will soon require it to be done.

We are of opinion that very much may be done for their improvement and comfort; that many, instead of being a burden and expense to the community, may be so improved as to engage in useful employments and to support themselves; and also to participate in the enjoyments of society.

Idiots exhibit different degrees of intelligence. While some possess no more knowledge or capacity for acquiring it, than the brutes—others exhibit considerable intelligence or aptitude to acquire particular kinds of knowledge. They are capable of learning trades and to read, and of being taught music. Some are particularly interesting from the simplicity of their manners, quick observation and witty remarks, as we know from the history of those times, when it was common to have such at the courts of kings.

But they all need protection and guidance, and as they now exist in this State, are a very necessitous and altogether too much neglected class of persons.

As we have said, we believe many of them may be much improved and be rendered far more intelligent and comfortable, and capable of supporting themselves. This has been found to be the case in other countries where asylums and schools for idiots have been established.

Various have been the attempts of benevolent individuals for the improvement of idiots, but no thorough and systematic means have been adopted until within a few years. So early however as 1828, M. Ferrus, Inspector-General of the Lunatic Asylum, of France, organized a school for idiots in Paris, and in 1830, M. Voisin, Physician to the Bicêtre Lunatic Hospital of Paris, and to whom the honor seems chiefly if not wholly due of directing attention to the various capacities of idiots with a view of improving them, published a work on the subject. Since then successful attempts have been made to cultivate their intellects and improve them. In France, Switzerland and Prussia, asylums and schools have been established for their benefit, and from recent accounts we learn that more good has resulted to these unfortunate beings than the most sanguine expected.

In Paris, at the school of M. Seguin, and at Abendberg in Switzerland, at Dr. Guggenbulh's Institution for Cretins, and at Berlin, under the care of M. Saegert, many have been raised from the lowest and most wretched state of animal existence to comparative happiness. Their habits have been improved, propensities regulated and their affections awakened. A considerable number have learned to read, write, draw, play on musical instruments and to labor. The change in some is described as almost miraculous by gentlemen from England and the United States, who have visited these institutions.

Abundant proof of the vast improvement that has been affected in the condition of idiots, is furnished by a recent report of a committee appointed by the Academy of Sciences at Paris, to examine the *Memoir of M. Seguin, on his method of instructing young idiots and imbeciles*. This able report drawn up by M. Pariset, after mentioning the wretched condition of the idiotic, and the great difficulties to be encountered in efforts to instruct them, declares that M. Seguin has, for the most part, overcome these difficulties, "opened a new career to benevolent exertion, and given to hygiene, medicine, and moral philosophy, an example worthy to be followed."

Confident in the success of an experiment to improve this class of persons and to render their condition far more comfortable, we cannot but hope that it will soon be made under the direction of the State of New-York. We scarcely know of a subject more worthy of the attention of the patriot, philanthropist and christian.

CONCLUSION.

There has been no change of the resident officers of the Asylum since its organization. Dr. Buttolph continues as Assistant Physician, and Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield as Steward and Matron. They are well qualified and efficient officers, whose services have eminently contributed to the prosperity of this Institution.

The numerous attendants and assistants have been industrious and faithful. They here constitute a highly respectable class of persons, to whose intelligence, fidelity and kindness, we are largely indebted for whatever success has attended our efforts.

To the Board of Managers I beg to express my grateful sense of their kindness to me personally, and for their zealous efforts to complete and perfect this establishment.

From various individuals we have received during the past year numerous favors. A large supply of newspapers have been regularly forwarded to the Asylum, among which are the following : The Daily N. Y. Commercial Advertiser ; Daily Sun, N. Y. ; Daily Albany Argus ; Daily Albany Evening Journal ; Daily Troy Budget ; Daily Utica Gazette, two copies ; Utica Observer ; Utica Democrat ; Liberty Press, Utica ; Gospel Messenger, Utica ; Jeffersonian, Watertown ; Troy Whig ; Journal & Eagle, Poughkeepsie ; Long Island Farmer ; Ontario Repository ; Spirit of the Times, Batavia ; Northern Journal, Lowville ; Herkimer Journal ; N. Y. Evangelist, two copies ; Christian Advocate and Journal, N. Y. ; Freeman's Journal, N. Y. ; Phrenological Journal, N. Y. ; Olive Branch, Boston ; Hartford Times, Ct. ; National Intelligencer, tri-weekly ; Graham's Magazine, Philadelphia ; Columbian Magazine, N. Y. ; Knickerbocker Magazine, N. Y. ; Missionary Herald, Boston ; Weekly News, N. Y. ; N. Y. Organ ; Northern Christian Advocate, Auburn ; Sandy Hill Herald ; Massachusetts Cataract, Worcester, Mass. ; Jefferson County Democrat, Adams ; Onondaga Standard, Syracuse ; Liberator, Boston, Mass. ; Trenton Journal, N. Jersey ; Cultivator, Albany.

To all those who have thus contributed to supply us with interesting and valuable reading, we return our grateful acknowledgments.

To the Hon. Ezekiel Bacon and Dr. Bachelder of Utica, we are indebted for some of our best papers. The latter, early in the year, sent us a *barrel* of old newspapers, which afforded much amusement to our patients, and from which they have made several interesting and valuable scrap books.

From all parts of the State we occasionally receive newspapers, pamphlets, and other favors, reminding us of what we desire never to forget, that in every section of this great State, are some, whose fondest hopes are centered here. That to this Asylum many are looking with the most anxious feelings; and reposing in us, in our skill and fidelity, confidence we fear unmerited, but which, we hope by constant attention to the welfare of those committed to our care, never to forfeit.

AMARIAH BRIGHAM.

*New-York State Lunatic Asylum, }
Utica, November 30th, 1845. }*

To the Hon. Ezekiel Bacon and Dr. Bushnell of Utica, we are indebted for some of our best papers. The latter, early in the year, sent us a barrel of old newspapers, which afforded much amusement to our patients, and from which they have made several interesting and valuable scrap books.

From all parts of the State we occasionally receive newspapers, pamphlets, and other favors, reminding us of what we desire never to forget, that in every section of this great State, are some, whose labored hopes are centered here. That to this Asylum many are looking with the most anxious feelings; and reposing in us, in our skill and fidelity, confidence we feel warranted, but which, we hope by constant attention to the welfare of those committed to our care, never to forfeit.

AMARIAN BRIDHAM.

New-York State Lunatic Asylum,
Utica, November 30th, 1845.

