

**Seventeenth annual report of the managers of the State Lunatic Asylum :  
transmitted to the Legislature February 7, 1860 / New York State Lunatic  
Asylum.**

**Contributors**

New York (State). State Lunatic Asylum.  
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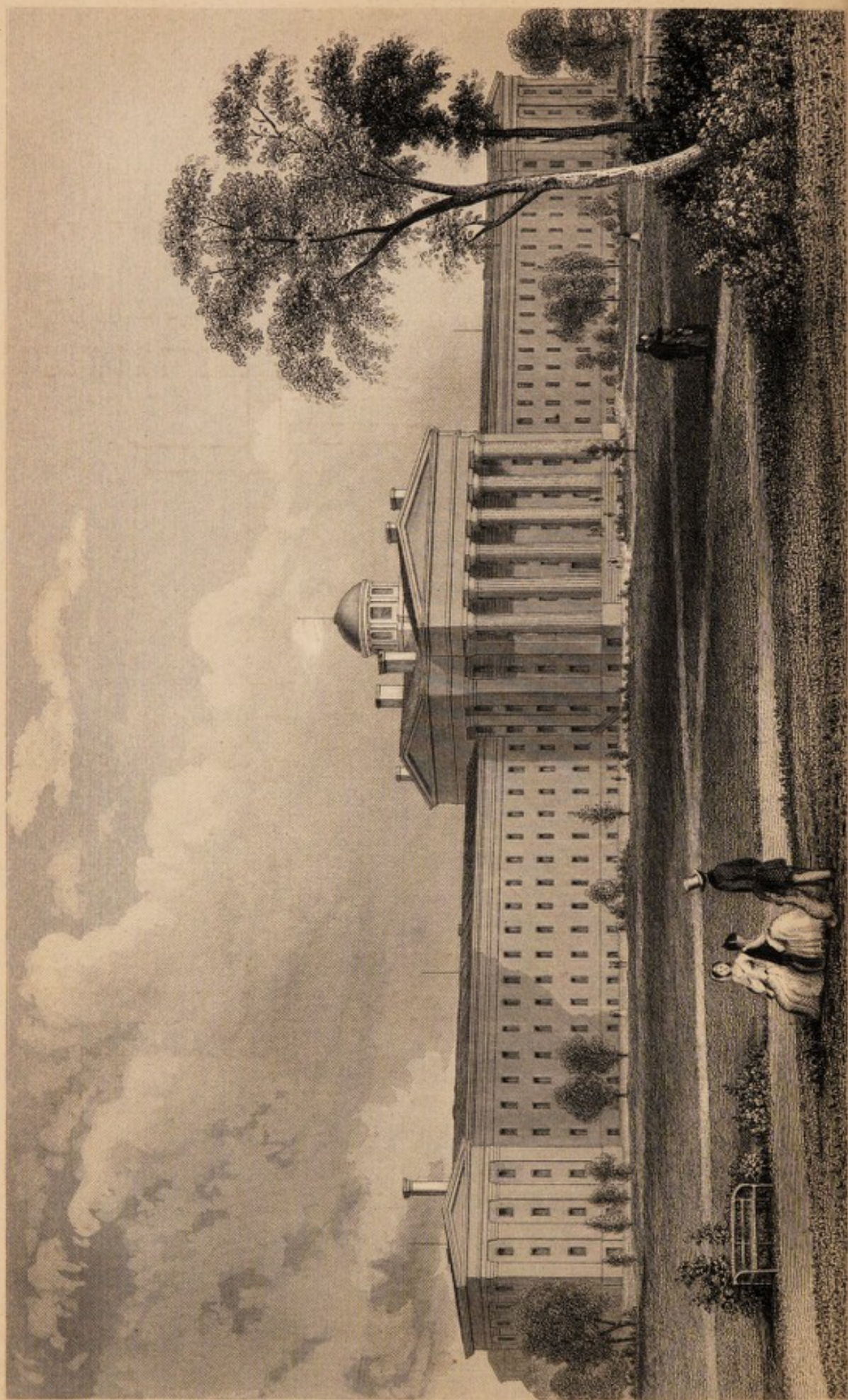
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MANAGERS  
OF THE  
STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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Transmitted to the Legislature, February 7, 1860.

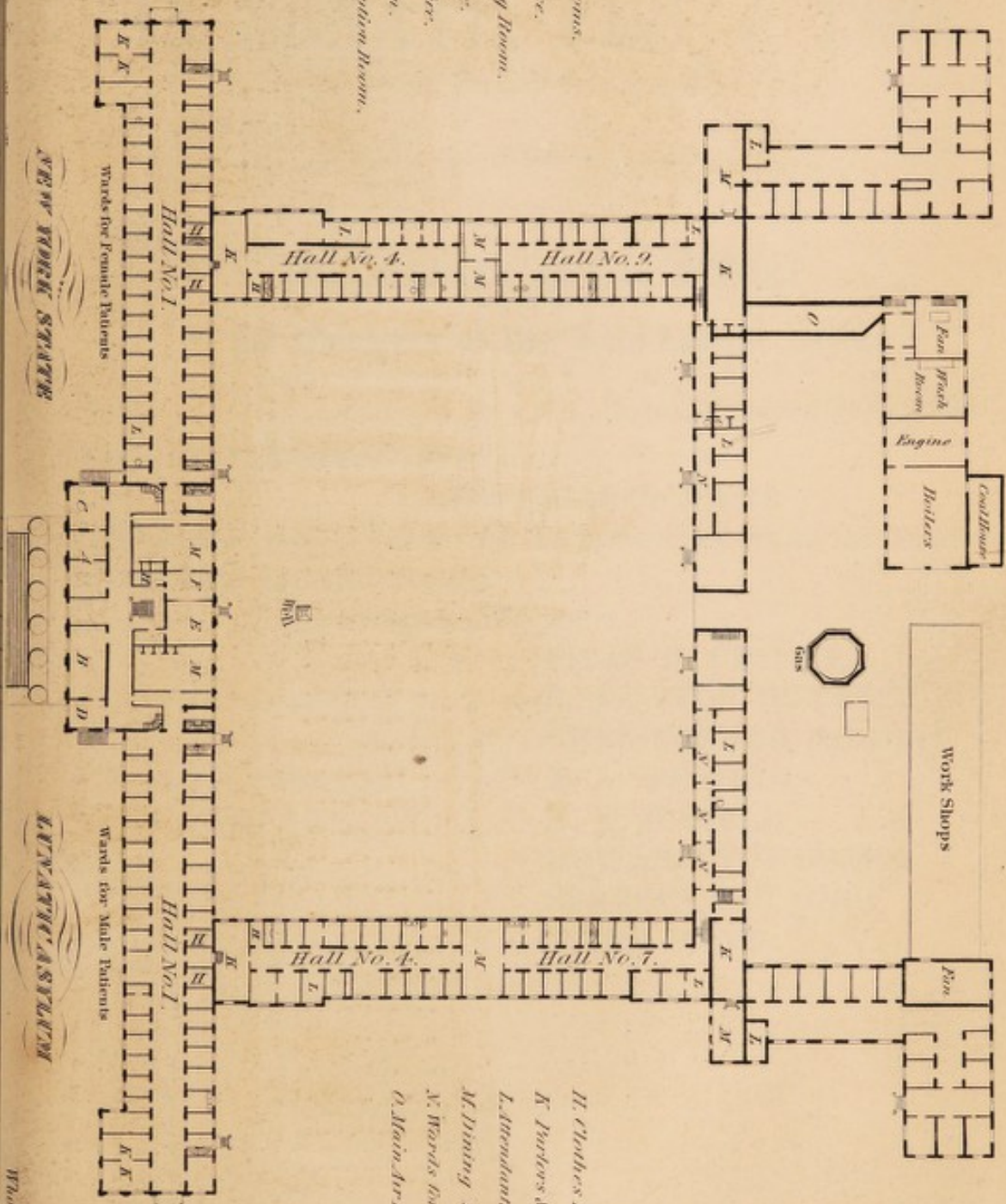
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ALBANY:  
CHARLES VAN BENTHUYSEN, PRINTER.  
1860




Designed by John Smith, Esq. of London.

*A. Reception Rooms.*  
*B. General Office.*  
*C. Officers Dining Room.*  
*D. Private Office.*  
*E. Stewards Office.*  
*F. Matrons Room.*  
*G. Female Reception Room.*



*H. Clothes Room.*  
*K. Porters & Bag Rooms.*  
*L. Attendants Rooms.*  
*M. Dining Rooms.*  
*N. Wards for the sick.*  
*O. Main Air Passage.*



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# STATE OF NEW YORK.

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No. 38.

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IN SENATE, FEB. 7, 1860.

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## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

UTICA, January 30th, 1860.

To the Hon. ROBERT CAMPBELL,

*President of the Senate:*

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

Very respectfully yours,

SILAS D. CHILDS,  
S. NEWTON DEXTER,  
CHRISTOPHER MORGAN,  
E. A. GRAHAM,  
D. P. BISSELL,  
HOWARD TOWNSEND,  
SPENCER KELLOGG,  
WARD HUNT.

STATE OF NEW YORK  
78  
IN SENATE FEB. 7, 1860.

## OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.

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### MANAGERS.

SILAS D. CHILDS, Utica.

S. NEWTON DEXTER, Whitesboro'.

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN, Auburn.

EDMUND A. GRAHAM, Utica.

DANIEL P. BISSELL, M. D., Utica.

HOWARD TOWNSEND, M. D., Albany.

SPENCER KELLOGG, Utica.

WARD HUNT, Utica.

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### RESIDENT OFFICERS.

JOHN P. GRAY, M. D., Superintendent and Physician.

JOSEPH M. CLEAVELAND, M. D., First Assistant Physician.

LOUIS A. TOURTELLOT, M. D., Second Assistant Physician.

F. MARKOE WRIGHT, M. D., Third Assistant Physician.

HORATIO N. DRYER, Steward.

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SARAH A. STARR, Matron.

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EDMUND A. WETMORE, Treasurer, Utica.



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE MANAGERS OF THE STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30th, 1859.

The Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum respectfully submit to the Legislature the following

REPORT:

They transmit herewith the annual report of the Superintendent, which, as usual, is referred to for an account, in detail, of the affairs and operations of the Asylum during the last year.

It appears, by its tables, that three hundred and twelve patients were received during the year ending on the 30th of November, 1859; that the whole number who were under treatment was eight hundred and fourteen; that one hundred and fourteen were discharged, "recovered," fifty-seven discharged, "improved," eighty-six "unimproved," and three "not insane," and that thirty-five died, leaving five hundred and nineteen patients in the asylum at the close of the year.

It also appears, that since the opening of the institution on the 10th of January, 1843, five thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight patients have been admitted, and that five thousand one hundred and ninety-five have been discharged; of which number two thousand three hundred and forty had recovered, eight hundred and fifty-nine had improved, twelve hundred and eighty were discharged "unimproved," six hundred and seventy one had died, and forty-two were not insane.

It was stated in our last year's report that the average number of patients, during that year, exceeded by *sixteen* the average of any previous year. The daily average during the year just closed, has been five hundred and nine, which exceeds by *thirty-six* the average of any year since the Asylum was opened. The report of the Superintendent shows by what means he has been able to afford accommodations to this increased number. It has been done by converting parts of the cross-rear-wing (which were formerly used for offices and shops) into sleeping apartments. With-

out this change, it would have been impossible to receive the full number of patients who have been admitted. Notwithstanding the accommodations thus obtained, the house has been continually, and sometimes very inconveniently crowded—a condition which would have been alarming in case of any epidemic disease, from which, however, we happily have been exempt. The Superintendent states that he has been compelled to refuse pressing applications for admission, from all parts of the State. These facts render apparent the necessity for the erection of at least one additional asylum for the insane—a subject which the Managers have ventured, in several former reports, to urge upon the attention of the Legislature. They doubt not that this desirable object will be attained as soon as the financial condition of the State will justify the necessary appropriations. It is hoped that a little relief as to numbers, and great relief as to a class of patients who can never safely be treated in such an institution as this, will soon be afforded by the completion and organization of the asylum at the Auburn Prison, and by making it an asylum for “criminal lunatics,” as well as for “insane convicts.”

The Superintendent's report contains professional statements and remarks, which will be particularly interesting to those who have the care of the insane, and which, it is believed, will be generally useful. It is gratifying to be able to present, again, so favorable an account of the general health of the patients. Considering their large number, and the enfeebled and dangerous condition in which many of them are brought to the Asylum, the proportion of deaths is very small.

The annual summary report of the Treasurer is also herewith submitted. It will be seen that the balance in the treasury, on the first of December, 1858, together with the ordinary receipts of the year commencing on that day, have been sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses; and to leave a balance of \$9,079.74 in the treasury, on the first of December, 1859. More than that balance, however, will be required to pay bills becoming due in this month.

On the first of December, 1858, there was also a balance of \$3,923.14 in the treasury, on the account “for warming and ventilating the buildings by steam, and repairs and improvements connected therewith.” Of this sum, \$3,654.56 has been expended in completing the new ward for the disturbed class of male patients, and in the introduction of the fan for the north wings, leaving in the treasurer's hands \$268.58 on that account.

It appears, also, by the Treasurer's report, that on the first of December, 1858, he held a balance of \$710.43, on the account "for rebuilding and repairing the centre building, barn, and part of the south wing, destroyed by fire;" and that there has been expended, on that account, during the year, the sum of \$1,602.87, leaving a balance due to the Treasurer, on the first of December, 1859, of \$892.44.

In our last year's report, in connection with the mention of the balance of \$3,923.14, in the account for warming and ventilating the buildings, it was stated, that the foundations of the fan-house for the north wings, and of the additional ward for disturbed patients, were laid, and the walls carried up to the water-table, when the fires of July, 1857, took place, and rendered it necessary to suspend the work; and that the work was resumed and nearly completed in the latter part of the year 1858; and that the fan for the north wings would be introduced in the spring of 1859. The whole work is now finished. The fan is in operation; and both fans fully answer the expectations which we had formed, and have heretofore expressed in relation to them.

Our last report contained a statement of the manner in which the appropriation of \$68,742 for rebuilding the central edifice, barn, &c., had been expended, and a particular description of the new buildings, and of the whole work of reconstruction and repairs. The improvements which were introduced, and the more suitable and substantial character of the work throughout the new and repaired portions of the buildings, have added greatly to their convenience and safety. They have also largely increased the facilities of the Superintendent and his assistants, in the interior management of the institution, and in an equal degree augmented the comfort of the patients.

It is a cause of much gratification that we are now able to speak confidently of the success of the whole plan for warming and ventilating the Asylum buildings by steam. Our reports, during the last six years, have contained accounts, in detail, of all that has been done respecting that matter. The work has twice undergone the inspection, and received the approval of committees of the Legislature. It is now completed; and considering the difficulties of making such thorough and extensive changes, in buildings already erected, and adapted to a totally different plan, the result is better than could have been reasonably anticipated. All parts of the house are easily kept at any required temperature, during even the coldest days of our severe winters; and it is believed

that the ventilation is as thorough as can be attained by any method now known to science, and which could be used here. There has been no difficulty with the fans. They have successfully performed their work ever since they were first put in motion. In speaking upon this subject, we deem it an act of justice to mention the name of our engineer, Mr. Joseph Graham, to whose skill, ingenuity, faithfulness and economy, we are much indebted for the satisfactory results to which we have alluded; and we take pleasure in acknowledging this indebtedness. The expense of warming buildings, fitted for the accommodation of six hundred persons, (and more than five hundred of them, in some degree, invalids,) is necessarily large; but we know of no effectual method which would be cheaper than that which we have adopted. Indeed, we know of no other safe plan by which the object could be accomplished.

We stated, in our report of last year, that in purchasing a large steam pump, with its fixtures and machinery; in making provision for a further supply of water from the large well; and in making some special changes which were mentioned, we had expended about \$3,000 that ought not to be a charge upon the general funds of the institution; that we had also been obliged to expend an unusually large sum in general repairs, some of which were rendered necessary by the fire; and that we had likewise been under the necessity of purchasing some lots for the accommodation and *protection* of the barn and outhouses, which had cost \$1,830, and which sum was also made a charge upon the general fund.

The large sewer of the Asylum passes down the front grounds, and through a street to the Erie canal, and thence by a stone culvert, under the canal, and thence under the Central railroad, to the Mohawk river. The distance from the Asylum to the canal is about ninety-three rods, and from the canal to the river is about one hundred rods. The sewer from the Asylum to the railroad, (except under the canal), is made with plank bottom and dry stone walls and covering, and was laid many years ago. From a short distance below the road to the river, it is the greater part of the distance an open ditch. It has for a long time been complained of as a nuisance, and needs to be reconstructed. The passage through the meadowland to the river has always been by the sufferance of the proprietors. It became absolutely essential to secure the right of continuing it there. We were unable to secure the necessary strip of land, with such a right of way to and from it as was requisite

for its use and protection, and were therefore compelled to purchase a lot containing forty-five and a half acres (through which the sewer runs), and for which we agreed to pay one hundred dollars per acre, making the purchase-money forty-five hundred and fifty dollars. The purchase was made by Mr. Mann, as a committee of the Managers, from the N. Y. Central Railroad company, who held a contract from Mr. A. B. Johnson. Mr. Johnson conveyed the land to Mr. Mann, for the Asylum. The sum of sixteen hundred and ninety-five dollars and fifty-five cents was paid down. Mr. Mann executed a mortgage to Mr. Johnson for three thousand dollars, and conveyed the land to the State, subject to the mortgage. The railroad company paid the Asylum such sum as was necessary to reduce the purchase money to forty-five hundred and fifty dollars, at the date of the agreement with them. Independently of the necessity caused by the condition of the sewer, we deem the land to be a desirable acquisition. We have, for several years, contemplated the purchase of an addition to the farm, for the purpose of raising a larger quantity of hay than is now produced by it, and thus saving us from buying at extravagant prices. We have now land enough both for hay and pasturage. After the present year, the annual produce of the forty-five and a half acres will be worth to the institution more than double the amount of the interest on the purchase money.

Our gas-works were erected in 1848. The retorts and other fixtures, subjected to the immediate action of fire, require, of course, frequent repair and renewal. The gas-house, and the building for the gasometer, should be rebuilt. In consequence of the erection of the carpenter's shop, the boiler and engine house, and the new ward for patients, and the change in the mode of the occupation of the rear wing, the gasometer is now in a dangerous place, and should be removed. An effort has been made for an arrangement with the city gas light company to supply the asylum, and thus get rid of the danger, and the disagreeable and unwholesome effects of its manufacture upon the premises; but the company would not agree to furnish the supply at such rates as we are willing to pay, unless the Asylum would contribute, at least, fifteen hundred dollars towards the expense of laying the necessary main iron pipes. If an agreement cannot be made with the company, we shall soon be obliged to erect new gas-buildings at a proper distance from the asylum.

It will be observed, by reference to the Treasurer's report, that the sum of eleven thousand, five hundred and sixty-seven dollars,

and seventy-one cents, has been expended for alterations, improvements and repairs. The repairs, for two or three years past, have been unusually extensive and thorough. The condition of the buildings and fixtures rendered them absolutely necessary. It does not appear to be right that the money, received from counties and individuals, for the support of patients, should be charged with any thing more than the expense of ordinary repairs. That fund should not be resorted to for replacing heavy fixtures and articles of furniture, and portions of the buildings which are worn out and destroyed; nor was this contemplated at the time of the establishment of the institution. A section of the act of April, 1842, provides for an annual appropriation (if deemed necessary by the Managers) of a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars, for ordinary expenses.

The sums which we have mentioned, in reference to the lots purchased, and the extra charge upon the common fund in 1858, to the purchase of the forty-five acres, and an arrangement for a supply of gas from the city works, amount in the aggregate to \$10,880. In addition to this sum, two thousand will be necessary to relay the main sewer, in such a manner as to be lasting, and to prevent it from being a nuisance; and at least four thousand dollars, of the eleven thousand five hundred and forty-seven dollars, paid for repairs, &c., from the patients' fund, should, in justice, be refunded.

We also stated in our last report that the expenditures therein mentioned, had been a large drain upon our ordinary funds, and ventured to express the opinion that if, during the next year, or thereafter, those funds should be found inadequate to defray the ordinary expenses, a reasonable appropriation would cheerfully be made by the Legislature. As will be seen by what we have now said, that drain upon those funds has continued, and will lead to embarrassment before the close of another year, unless an appropriation is made to cover at least a portion of the extraordinary items of expenditure which we have referred to. The total of those items is sixteen thousand eight hundred and eighty dollars. We are unwilling, at this time of State financial embarrassment, to apply for any legislative aid, but feel ourselves compelled to ask for a present appropriation of \$10,880, being the amount of the four items first above mentioned.

The institution is free from debt, except for the balance due for the land purchased from the railroad company.

Since our last annual report, Doctor Frederick Nash, in consequence of ill health, has been obliged to resign the office of third assistant physician, and Doctor F. Markoe Wright, of New York, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

This report, as appears by its caption, relates to the facts and proceedings of the year ending on the 30th of November, and thus far, is written as of the first of December, 1859. It is our sad duty now to add to it, a record of the death of our most highly esteemed and respected associate, the Hon. CHAS. A. MANN, who died at Utica, on the 19th day of January, instant. Mr. Mann was one of the first Board of Managers appointed by the Legislature on the 7th of April, 1842. He has been the president of the Board since the death of Dr. Beck, in the fall of 1855. This institution, and the people of New York, are indebted to him for nearly eighteen years of continual, faithful, and disinterested service in its behalf. He has, at all times, felt an earnest interest in its welfare, and has freely bestowed his time, his talents, and his influence, in establishing, spreading and perpetuating its usefulness. Here, as in every other sphere of his private and public life, his practical wisdom, and his true economical habits and principles, have been prominently displayed, and have produced their legitimate results. Long official and private intercourse, enables us to bear the most ample and confident testimony to the purity, integrity, and high moral elevation of his character. We mourn for his death as a public loss, and an individual affliction.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SILAS D. CHILDS,  
S. NEWTON DEXTER,  
CHRISTOPHER MORGAN,  
E. A. GRAHAM,  
DANIEL P. BISSELL,  
HOWARD TOWNSEND,  
SPENCER KELLOGG,  
WARD HUNT.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*To the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum:*

The Treasurer of the Asylum respectfully submits the following summary of his receipts and payments, for the year ending 30th November, 1859:

### General account.

#### RECEIPTS.

1858, Dec. 1,	Balance in the treasury,.....	\$12,686 35
Dec. 1, 1858, to Dec. 1, 1859.	From sundry counties for the support of patients, .....	67,628 27
do	From sundry private patients, .....	23,429 63
do	From the State Treasurer, appropriation of 1857, to refund interest,.....	1,319 58
do	From the State Treasurer, for officers' salaries,.....	6,634 97
do	From State Treasurer, for support of insane convicts,.....	4,092 01
do	From the State Treasurer, for support of Mark Jack, an Indian,.....	165 56
do	From M. M. Northrup, over-payment refunded,.....	80
do	From N. Y. Central railroad, by agreement on purchase of land,.....	120 95
do	From the steward, for peltry, pigs, hides, old lead, &c., sold, .....	2,467 08
		\$118,545 20

#### PAYMENTS.

do	For provisions and household stores,.....	\$34,657 81
do	For furniture,.....	6,389 75
do	For attendants, assistants, and labor, including the salaries of the chaplain, engineer, baker, butcher, tailor, farmer, bookkeeper, &c., .....	22,698 01
do	For fuel and lights,.....	5,781 66
do	For miscellaneous expenses,.....	906 78
do	For books, stationery, printing, &c.,.....	481 78
do	For officers' salaries,.....	6,634 97
do	For medicines and medical supplies,.....	2,399 38

Dec. 1, 1858,		
to Dec. 1, 1859.	For additions, alterations and repairs, . . . .	\$11,567 71
do	For farm, barn, garden and grounds, including \$1,696.55, on account of land purchased, . . . . .	7,620 17
do	For clothing of patients, (advances) . . . . .	8,879 31
do	For patients' miscellaneous expenses, . . . . .	719 67
do	For steward's petty expenses, . . . . .	700 00
do	For sundry patients, refunded on their discharge, . . . . .	28 46
Dec. 1, 1859.	Balance in the treasury, to new account, . .	9,079 74
		<u>\$118,545 20</u>

*Account for warming and ventilating the buildings by steam, and repairs and improvements connected therewith.*

1858, Dec. 1.	Balance in treasury, by report of this date,	\$3,923 14
Dec. 1, 1858,		
to Dec. 1, 1859.	Paid for material and work, according to report in detail, . . . . .	3,654 56
1859, Dec. 1.	Balance to new account, . . . . .	<u>\$268 58</u>

*Account for re-building and repairing the centre building, barn, and part of the south wing, destroyed by fire.*

1858, Dec. 1.	Balance in treasury, by report of this date,	\$710 43
Dec. 1, 1858,		
to Dec. 1, 1859.	Paid for materials and work, according to report in detail, . . . . .	1,602 87
1859, Dec. 1.	Balance due the treasurer, . . . . .	<u>\$892 44</u>

EDMUND A. WETMORE, *Treasurer.*

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOV. 30TH, 1859.

*To the Board of Managers of the Asylum:*

Gentlemen—In compliance with the act organizing the institution, the following report of its operations during the past year is respectfully submitted :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of patients at the commencement of the year,	260	242	502
Received during the year, . . . . .	170	142	312
Whole number treated, . . . . .	430	384	814
Daily average under treatment, . . . . .			509
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged, recovered, . . . . .	72	42	114
do improved, . . . . .	21	36	57
do unimproved, . . . . .	39	47	86
Not insane, . . . . .	3	..	3
Died, . . . . .	21	14	35
Whole number discharged, . . . . .	156	139	295
Remaining Nov. 30th, 1859, . . . . .	274	245	519

The past has been a year of general prosperity. The Institution has been constantly crowded, the daily average being 509, which is 36 above that of any previous year. The erection of the out-buildings for carpenter, paint, tailor, and smith shops, printing office, and washing and laundry purposes, during the past four years, has enabled us, from year to year, to extend the accommodations of the Institution, by gradually re-arranging a part of the second story rear wing, (formerly used for shops, &c.,) and converting it into sleeping wards for patients. We have now, however, reached the fullest capacity of the buildings, and cannot expect, nor would it be wise, to extend the arrangements for more than the present number of patients.

It will be observed that we have received an average of one patient for every week day throughout the year, and yet we have been compelled to refuse pressing applications from all parts of this, and from other States.

We have also been obliged, as in former years, to send home to the care of friends, and to the receptacles connected with the county houses, a number of patients as unimproved. Of the 86 thus discharged, 34 were quiet, harmless, and easily cared for in their families; 13 were incurable, and were removed to institutions in this or other States, for permanent custodial care; 9, whose friends were unable longer to meet their expenses, were removed in order to be taken care of in rooms especially arranged for them in their houses; 30 were more or less demented, though apt sometimes to be noisy and destructive, and therefore difficult of care in county receptacles, where the means of moral and even medical care are generally very inadequate. Indeed such cases are usually confined in small rooms, and not unfrequently chained and manacled, other restraint not being deemed sufficient to prevent them from destroying their clothing, and demolishing the wooden, or lath and plaster walls generally adopted in such cheap structures.

While many of these cases would have further improved by protracted treatment, the great majority were incurable. Among the more hopeless of recovery were those who remained more or less violent, and yet were necessarily removed to make room for recent cases, still more difficult of care, and who were in the stages of disease offering the best hopes of restoration.

Many of those heretofore sent away as incurable have been returned, the circumstances surrounding them among their friends, or at the county houses, exciting their violent propensities, and rendering them eminently dangerous, except under the discipline of an organized institution.

Of those discharged improved, the majority were so far recovered as to be able to resume, with some degree of success, the main duties and offices of life, with, however, a permanently impaired cerebral organization. In such cases, not unfrequently the entire man is lowered in tone, and though often superior to many about him, is nevertheless not himself in power and usefulness. As the same result follows apoplectic seizures, paralysis, and even sometimes severe neuralgia and rheumatism, it is not to be expected that insanity, the most formidable in many respects of physical diseases, should prove an exception.

Of those discharged not insane, two were cases of intemperance, and the third a boy who, at the approach of puberty, with paternal restraint removed, gave way to such paroxysms of temper and such hysterical demonstrations, as finally to place him in danger of insanity. A short residence under the discipline of the Asylum, with its regular hours for sleep and exercise, restored him.

Of the 312 patients admitted, 31 were received for the second, 11 for the third, 4 for the fourth, and 2 for the fifth time. Most of those received for the third, fourth, and fifth times, were subject to periodic or paroxysmal mania, the attack in the former, and the paroxysm in the latter case, usually being excited by some trifling cause or slight impairment of health, and often yielding to appropriate treatment in a few weeks. With increasing age and more frequent attacks, periodic mania is apt

to become persistent, and the paroxysmal form of disease, which is a state of mild though permanent impairment, not incapacitating the subject for most of the ordinary affairs of life, and characterized by irregular periods of excitement, is likely to degenerate into decided dementia. It is all important that such cases should, in their better states of health at home, avoid scenes calculated to produce unusual exhilaration of spirits, and should refrain from nursing the sick and from labors and exposures tending to lower the tone of health. Yet such advice, on their leaving the Asylum, is heeded but for a short time, as the pains and terrors of insanity, like those of other diseases, are obliterated from the memory by the enjoyment of returning health and the pleasures and duties of home. Many persons, by a little care and sacrifice, by retiring early and thus securing a more than ordinary amount of sleep; by absolute rest after any unusual labor; by avoiding protracted evening meetings of any kind, religious, social, or political, and by cultivating a quiet and equable temper, might be spared returns of disease, and ultimately that permanently disordered state of brain which, when reached, necessarily makes its subjects invalids, as all organic impairment must, and not only takes them from spheres of usefulness, but too frequently so transforms them that the normal relations and duties of life minister to their discomfort and unhappiness rather than their enjoyment.

Some of those returned, and now incurable, were persons removed by their friends against our remonstrances, before their convalescence had been fairly confirmed, and who might have fully recovered under further treatment. The period of convalescence, so important in all diseases, is rarely properly estimated by friends in cases of insanity. When the patient begins to improve and return to natural habits of thought, and expresses a wish to hear directly from home, (a reasonable request and one usually granted,) the friends become anxious to see him, and in many instances, on the reception of the very first letter from the patient, they at once decide on a visit. The improved health of the patient, his apparent self control and rationality, together with the appeals and promises which he makes, combine to overcome their judgment, and they insist upon his immediate removal. Many cases thus removed, do not actually relapse and return to the Institution, yet the progress of their convalescence is arrested, and they remain in depreciated physical and mental health, and are incompetent to fill successfully, the varied duties of life. In other instances, where the visit is made and the patient remains, a partial or complete relapse follows, and ultimate cure is always postponed, sometimes endangered, and not unfrequently prevented.

These probabilities set forth to some, have the force of truth, and restrain them; to others, they are as idle words or far off apprehensions of anxious physicians, or remote dangers which they feel themselves fully competent to avert. Persons not familiar with mental disease, being really unable to appreciate the fact that the general health may be fair, or even good, and yet the brain be disordered in function, or even sinking into

organic impairment, are apt to view the state of mind from the point of apparent health and rationality. They may comprehend the importance of rest to other organs in and after disease, and yet not see how the brain is to be in like manner strengthened and restored to its offices. Most of all, they find it difficult to understand how so agreeable a thing as a visit from a relative or friend, or general news of home, should do injury, although they can readily comprehend how the act of embracing a member of one's own family, even after an absence from home, might renew a fracture of the arm just united.

Several cases have, during the past year, been brought to us in the incubative stage of the disease, and before insanity was fairly developed. In some of these, the attack was probably thus averted, and in others, no doubt, modified in severity and lessened in duration.

As medical men now more generally recognize insanity in its true character, as a physical disease, demanding early medical care in institutions especially devoted to its treatment, they have done much to impress the truth upon the public mind; more rational views of insanity begin to prevail; superstitious notions as to the insane and asylums are being dissipated, and early treatment is resorted to more frequently, with corresponding advantages in a more sure and an earlier restoration to health. However, there is still much to be accomplished in the public mind in this regard.

The one-story wing, for the more disturbed class of male patients, was completed and opened for occupancy on the 4th of April. This ward accommodates 16 patients, and is admirably adapted to its uses, and proves very serviceable in the treatment of acute cases. The re-arrangement of several of the wards, within the past few years—the division of the dining-rooms in the rear wings, so as to allow each of the six classes, in that portion of the house, to take their meals as well as live separately—the conversion of the cross wing, formerly used for shops, washing, &c., into sleeping wards—and this additional wing, give us the means of a more extended system of classification, and not only secure greater quiet to the institution, but increase its curative power.

The male insane convicts, 16 in number, whose removal was contemplated in Session Laws of 1855, chap. 456, are still here, although the Institution especially designed for this class, has been in operation for many months. If the law referred to is not sufficient to secure this transfer, would it not be well to ask for the requisite legislative action, this winter, to effect it?

I understand that the officers of the convict asylum will bring before the coming Legislature, the subject of the reorganization of that establishment, and its conversion into a General Criminal Lunatic Asylum, in accordance with the views expressed by the officers of this institution in their reports of the past few years. I take the liberty of quoting, on this subject, from my last report:

“We still entertain the opinion heretofore expressed, that it would be well to make that asylum a general criminal establishment. As it is a

State institution, disconnected from the prisons in direction and support, having a competent medical head as resident, its discipline designed to be essentially that of this Institution, and its general construction and internal arrangements well adapted to proper treatment, as well as safe keeping, we cannot but hope the Legislature will deem it advisable, at no distant day, to extend it for the reception of all the criminal classes of the insane."

TABLE

*Showing general statistics of the Asylum from its opening, January 16th, 1843, to December 1, 1859.*

Total number of admissions, .....	5,828
do discharges, .....	5,195
do discharged, recovered, .....	2,340
do do improved, .....	859
do do unimproved, .....	1,280
do died, .....	671
do not insane, .....	42

TABLE

*Showing the percentage of recoveries on the average population and admissions of last year.*

Year.	ON AVERAGE POPULATION.			ON ADMISSIONS.		
	Average population.	Recovered.	Percentage.	Admitted.	Recovered.	Per centage.
1843, .....	109	53	48.62	276	53	19.20
1844, .....	236	132	55.93	275	132	48.80
1845, .....	265	135	50.94	293	135	46.07
1846, .....	283	133	46.99	537	133	39.46
1847, .....	415	187	45.06	428	187	43.69
1848, .....	474	174	36.70	405	174	42.96
1849, .....	454	203	44.71	362	203	56.07
1850, .....	433	171	39.49	367	171	46.59
1851, .....	440	112	23.45	366	112	30.60
1852, .....	441	156	35.37	390	156	40.00
1853, .....	423	169	39.95	424	169	39.85
1854, .....	444	164	37.16	390	164	42.05
1855, .....	467	128	27.40	275	128	46.54
1856, .....	454	100	22.24	242	100	41.73
1857, .....	463	95	20.52	235	95	40.42
1858, .....	489	114	23.31	333	114	34.23
1859, .....	509	114	22.40	312	114	36.54

TABLE

*Showing the percentage of deaths on the whole number treated, and on the average population, for seventeen years.*

Year.	Deaths.	Whole No. treated.	Percentage.	Average population.	Percent- age.
1843,.....	7	267	2.53	109	6.44
1844,.....	16	471	3.39	236	6.78
1845,.....	21	553	3.79	265	7.92
1846,.....	22	622	3.53	283	7.77
1847,.....	48	802	5.98	415	11.56
1848,.....	86	877	9.80	474	18.14
1849,.....	69	857	8.05	454	15.19
1850,.....	51	816	6.25	433	11.77
1851,.....	48	795	6.03	440	10.91
1852,.....	39	825	4.72	441	8.84
1853,.....	39	849	4.59	423	9.22
1854,.....	65	836	7.75	444	14.63
1855,.....	32	725	4.41	467	6.85
1856,.....	30	697	4.30	454	6.61
1857,.....	32	696	4.59	463	6.88
1858,.....	31	784	3.95	489	6.33
1859,.....	35	814	4.30	509	6.87



The deaths in the male department, during the year, have been twenty-one—the same number as in the year preceding.

A demented patient, a resident for several years, died of phthisis pulmonalis. The same disease proved fatal in a case of periodic mania, admitted to the house for the third time, suffering from a fourth attack of mental disorder. The first attack was at the age of twenty-one. In this case hereditary predisposition to insanity co-existed with the tubercular diathesis. The mental disease, while excited by the pulmonary affection, reacted with controlling effect upon the latter, arresting its progress, and undoubtedly prolonging the patient's life beyond the point which it would have attained had the pulmonary trouble alone existed.

To exhaustion from mental disease, are attributed six deaths, the result of acute mania in three instances, of melancholia in two, and of dementia in one. Of the first three, a man whose naturally excellent constitution had been impaired by frequent debaucheries and reckless exposure, and whose attack followed a protracted paroxysm of drunkenness, died six days after admission, and six weeks subsequent to the date of the attack. Another, whose life had been unexceptionable and characterized by industry and frugality, saw the results of his earnings swept away by a freshet, his house nearly demolished, and the products of his garden destroyed. With difficulty, he borrowed money to rebuild. At this time his wife and sister were taken sick and his child was scalded, and he acted as their nurse. Having endured two months of labor, weariness and anxiety, he became maniacal, and was brought to the Asylum, where, after seven months of unceasing excitement, he died. Of the third case, but little information was obtained, further than that his attack was of a few months' duration, and that he had been wandering about the country. When admitted, he was much emaciated, his body badly bruised, and erysipelatous inflammation had attacked one foot and leg. He lived but a few weeks, and his death was hastened by the erysipelas.

Of the two cases of exhaustion from melancholia, one occurred in a person of intemperate habits. The duration of the attack was seven months, during only the last one of which he was a patient in the Institution. The other case was characterized by hereditary predisposition, his father having been a patient here. Death occurred at the end of between five and six months. Freedom from maniacal excitement, with intense despondency, delusions of fear, sleeplessness, and aversion to food, marked these cases.

Three deaths occurred from general paralysis. In two of these the natural course of the disease was interrupted by epileptiform convulsions. In one case maniacal excitement followed sudden fright, general paralysis supervened, and an epileptiform seizure, six months afterwards, terminated fatally. In the other instance the insanity was produced by loss of property, and resulted similarly at the end of two years. Both were characterized by maniacal excitement. The history of the third case failed to indicate the cause of the disease. Its duration was two years, and during the latter the patient was in this Institution, in a condition of dementia.

Before his death he lost, almost entirely, all muscular and co-ordinating power, and during the few last days of his life, the ability to swallow. The day previous to death, consciousness seemed partially restored, and he appeared to appreciate his situation. All these patients had been temperate and correct in their lives.

A young man, aged 19, whose insanity was hereditary, while experiencing a relapse into acute mania, had a sudden epileptic seizure, from which he died. Another, an epileptic, long a resident in the Institution, and subject to paroxysms of violent maniacal excitement, died from the same cause.

The patient with senile dementia died at the age of 69, having suffered for three years from mental impairment. In this case ill health and the infirmities of age, were the exciting causes. An aged and feeble man, demented and for many years a sufferer from paralysis agitans, died from general debility. A demented case, for many years an inmate of the house, died from cardiac anasarca. The death from abscess was the result of the long continued discharge, and the constitutional irritation attendant upon a large abscess in the neighborhood of the rectum, which baffled all treatment. This patient had chronic mania. Two fatal cases of dysentery occurred in constitutions broken down by protracted mental disease. Fatal pneumonia developed itself in a case of dementia of four years duration.

The last case lived but two days after admission. Four weeks previous to his reception, he was attacked with acute mania, with violent propensities. In making an attack upon a neighbor's house he received severe injuries about the head, which, if they did not cause, undoubtedly hastened his death. He was an unusually powerful and well developed man, but had for many years led a life of vicious indulgence.

Of fourteen deaths in the female department, three were due to exhaustion from mental disease. Two of these cases, in which the mania was acute in form, terminated respectively at periods of ten weeks and one year from the date of the attack. In one the paroxysm of insanity was the third which the patient had suffered, and was developed suddenly at the second climacteric. From the first there was the most intense alarm and apprehension, refusal of food, sleeplessness, and the most determined efforts at self-destruction. The other was a young woman of feeble intellect, a house maid in the family of a widower, who seduced her under promise of marriage, and then turned her from his house. She at once became maniacal, and was brought to the Asylum, where she convalesced after a few weeks; but the sense of her guilty and degraded condition developed the most exaggerated and distressing delusions of wickedness, and coming punishment, under which she was at length exhausted. The case of exhaustion from chronic mania was that of an immigrant, in a helpless condition when received, and was, perhaps, connected with general marasmus.

In both the deaths from general paralysis, the mental disorder had existed about one and a half years, though the bodily health, in each, had pre-

viously been greatly impaired. Both patients had suffered extreme and long continued abuse from drunken husbands.

In one case, an abscess about the knee-joint, in a patient of marked strumous constitution, led to exhaustive suppuration and death. Phlegmonous inflammation of the arm, in another patient, whose insanity was of some thirty years' standing, took place during a paroxysm of mania following an apoplectic seizure, and death was caused by prostration. An attack of measles terminated fatally in the case of a young woman, whose mental disorder was primary dementia, developed under a strong hereditary predisposition to insanity. It had progressed almost to fatuity. The patient was exposed to the contagion of measles on her way to the Asylum, and died during the third week after her admission. Gangrene of the lungs supervened in a tuberculous patient, at the height of a maniacal attack, and was fatal. The death from typhoid fever was the only case of that disease in the department during the year. The patient labored under chronic mania, and was in impaired bodily health. The deaths by phthisis, cancer, dropsy, and paralysis were all in cases of chronic and hopeless insanity.

TABLE

*Showing the ages of those admitted, and of those discharged recovered, during the year ending Nov. 30, 1859.*

	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED RECOVERED.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
From 10 to 20, .....	16	7	23	10	6	16
20 to 30 .....	44	41	85	21	15	36
30 to 40, .....	38	34	72	16	9	25
40 to 50, ....	32	25	57	14	6	20
50 to 60, .....	23	26	49	9	5	14
60 to 70, .....	12	9	21	2	1	3
70 to 80, .....	5	..	5	..	..	..
	<u>170</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>114</u>

Of the 312 patients admitted during the year, eighty-eight males and sixty-eight females were married; seventy-three males, and fifty-three females were single; there were nine widowers and twenty-one widows.

Twelve had received an academic, and two hundred and twenty-six a common school education. Forty-seven could only read and write; eighteen could read only, and nine were entirely without education.

TABLE

*Showing the nativity of those admitted.*

New Hampshire, .....	4	England, .....	12
Vermont, .....	6	Ireland, .....	36
Massachusetts, .....	4	Scotland, .....	9
Connecticut, .....	9	Wales, .....	2
New York, .....	201	Germany, .....	14
New Jersey, .....	1	Prussia, .....	2
Pennsylvania, .....	4	Holland, .....	1
Virginia, .....	1	France, .....	1
Canada, .....	5		
Total, .....			312

TABLE

*Showing the occupation of those admitted.*

Farmers, .....	66	Wagon makers, .....	3
Farm laborers, .....	18	Coopers, .....	3
Laborers, .....	10	Clergymen, .....	2
School boys, .....	3	Harness maker, .....	1
Shoemakers, .....	5	Book binder, .....	1
Physicians, .....	3	Prison keeper, .....	1
Lawyer, .....	1	Bookseller, .....	1
Merchants, .....	5	Washerwoman, .....	1
Housekeepers, .....	83	Miller, .....	1
Housework, .....	41	Saddler, .....	1
Seamstresses, .....	10	Painter, .....	2
School girl, .....	1	Baker, .....	1
Teachers, .....	8	Tanners, .....	2
Factory operatives, .....	3	Tailors, .....	3
Carpenters, .....	9	Boatmen, .....	3
Clerks, .....	5	Waiter, .....	1
Blacksmiths, .....	3	Saloon keepers, .....	2
Masons, .....	1	Brick maker, .....	1
Stone cutters, .....	2	None, .....	3
Machinists, .....	2		
Total, .....			312

TABLE

*Showing the form of mental disease in those admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Acute mania, .....	56	55	111
Sub-acute mania, .....	18	21	39
Periodic do .....	7	1	8
Paroxysmal do .....	9	2	11
Chronic do .....	4	14	18
General paralysis, .....	5	1	6
Melancholia, .....	13	27	40
Dementia, .....	53	21	74
Senile dementia, .....	2	0	2
Drunkards, .....	2	0	2
Not insane, .....	1	0	1
	170	142	312

TABLE

*Showing the probable cause of derangement in those admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Intemperance and vice, .....	24	1	25
Vicious habits and indulgences, .....	9	5	14
Popular errors, .....	1	1	2
Domestic trouble, .....	3	12	15
Hereditary predisposition, .....	19	5	24
Predisposition from previous attacks, .....	6	8	14
Epilepsy, .....	10	4	14
Business perplexities, .....	9	2	11
Injury to head, .....	5	1	6
Loss of sleep, .....	6	2	8
Ill health, .....	16	19	35
Excessive labor, .....	14	9	23
Exhaustion from heat, .....	1	..	1
Religious excitement, .....	1	5	6
Fright, .....	2	2	4
Phthisis pulmonalis, .....	6	1	7
Old age, .....	2	..	2
Paralysis, .....	..	2	2
Puerperal, .....	..	14	14
Menstrual irregularities, .....	..	8	8
Change of life, ....	..	11	11
Prolonged lactation, .....	..	2	2
Disappointed affection, .....	..	3	3
Uterine hemorrhage, .....	..	2	2
Grief and anxiety, .....	4	12	16
Unascertained, .....	29	11	40
Not insane, .....	3	..	3
	<u>170</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>312</u>

TABLE

*Showing the duration of insanity previous to admission, and the period under treatment in one hundred and fourteen cases discharged recovered.*

Period of insanity.	BEFORE ADMISSION.			UNDER TREATMENT.		
	Male	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 3 months, .....	49	28	77	15	9	24
do 6 do .....	12	9	21	21	16	37
do 12 do .....	8	4	12	27	11	38
do 2 years and more than 1,	1	1	2	6	5	11
do 3 do do 2,	2	..	2	2	1	3
do 5 do do 3,	..	..	..	1	..	1
	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

TABLE

*Showing the number of patients admitted from each county during the year ending Nov. 30, 1859, the number remaining at its close, and how supported.*

Counties.	How SENT.			REMAINING.		
	Public.	Private.	Total.	Public.	Private.	Total.
Albany, .....	5	10	11	20	10	30
Allegany, .....	1	3	4	6	2	8
Broome, .....	6	1	7	9	..	9
Cattaraugus, .....	1	1	2	3	..	3
Cayuga, .....	7	3	10	13	2	15
Chautauqua, .....	2	1	3	3	..	3
Chemung, .....	1	..	1	2	1	3
Chenango, .....	5	1	6	9	2	11
Clinton, .....	..	..	..	5	..	5
Columbia, .....	3	3	6	8	4	12
Cortland, .....	6	1	7	6	1	7
Delaware, .....	2	..	2	5	..	5
Dutchess, .....	14	2	16	16	2	18
Erie, .....	1	3	4	4	2	6
Essex, .....	2	1	3	8	..	8
Franklin, .....	..	1	1	..	1	1
Fulton, .....	..	..	..	4	2	6
Genesee, .....	..	..	..	1	..	1
Greene, .....	1	1	2	5	..	5
Herkimer, .....	6	4	11	6	3	9
Jefferson, .....	..	..	..	1	2	3
Kings, .....	..	1	1	1	1	2
Lewis, .....	2	..	2	5	..	5
Livingston, .....	3	1	4	5	1	6
Madison, .....	7	7	13	8	7	15
Monroe, .....	7	2	9	17	2	19
Montgomery, .....	3	1	4	1	2	3
New York, .....	1	..	1	3	4	7
Niagara, .....	3	..	3	6	..	6
Oneida, .....	27	9	36	48	15	63
Onondaga, .....	14	2	16	14	3	17
Ontario, .....	..	..	..	2	3	5
Orange, .....	5	3	8	8	6	14
Orleans, .....	1	2	3	1	2	3
Oswego, .....	6	1	7	19	2	21
Otsego, .....	2	5	7	4	1	5
Putnam, .....	..	..	..	1	..	1
Queens, .....	..	1	1	1	1	2
Rensselaer, .....	7	..	7	8	1	9
Richmond, .....	1	..	1	2	..	2

Counties.	How SENT.			REMAINING.		
	Public.	Private.	Total.	Public.	Private.	Total.
Rockland,.....	1	..	1	1	..	1
Saratoga,.....	7	2	9	5	3	8
Schenectady,.....	7	2	9	14	2	16
Schoharie,.....	4	..	4	9	..	9
Schuyler,.....	1	1	2	3	..	3
Seneca,.....	2	2	4	3	3	6
Steuben,.....	5	2	7	12	1	13
St. Lawrence,.....	6	3	9	11	4	15
Suffolk,.....	3	..	3	3	1	4
Sullivan,.....	1	..	1	4	..	4
Tioga,.....	3	..	3	5	..	5
Tompkins,.....	3	4	7	3	..	3
Ulster,.....	6	1	7	12	1	13
Warren,.....	1	..	1	2	..	2
Washington,.....	1	2	3	1	2	3
Wayne,.....	8	1	9	7	2	9
Westchester,.....	9	..	9	10	1	11
Yates,.....	..	..	..	1	..	1
Auburn Prison,.....	..	..	..	5	..	5
Clinton do.....	..	..	..	2	..	2
Sing Sing, do.....	..	..	..	11	..	11
Other States,.....	..	1	1	..	2	2
Total,.....	220	92	312	412	107	519

The Matron makes the following report of articles made :

Sheets,.....	618	Pairs ladies' hose,.....	77
Pillow cases,.....	786	Cravats,.....	362
Curtains,.....	52	Pocket handkerchiefs,.....	334
Cupboard spreads,.....	109	Aprons,.....	169
Towels,.....	731	Chemises,.....	1,410
Mattress ticks,.....	141	Night dresses,.....	1,065
Straw, do.....	159	Dresses,.....	577
Comfortables,.....	196	Skirts,.....	331
Table cloths,.....	76	Ladies' sacks,.....	54
Shirts,.....	1,062	Caps,.....	81
Drawers,.....	1,021	Collars,.....	185
Wrappers,.....	1,292	Bonnets trimmed,.....	36
Pairs socks,.....	62		

The system of farm drainage commenced several years ago, has been continued, as will be observed from the following report of the Steward, and the good results are apparent in the improved condition of the farm and garden.

*Farm and Garden Report.—Nov. 30th, 1859.*

Hay, 100 tons,.....	\$15 00	\$1,500 00
Green corn-stalks, 25 tons,.....	5 00	125 00
Oats, 150 bushels,.....	44	66 00
Buckwheat, 25 bushels, .....	56	14 00
Potatoes, 1,027 do .....	30	308 10
Green peas, (pods) 380 bushels,.....	50	190 00
String beans, 132 do .....	50	66 00
Dry do 100 do .....	1 50	150 00
Cranberry beans, 50 do .....	1 50	75 00
Beets, 1,000 do .....	35	350 00
Onions, 500 do .....	60	300 00
Peppers, 5 do .....	1 75	8 75
Carrots, 300 do .....	35	105 00
Parsnips, 400 do .....	35	140 00
Turnips, 3,000 do .....	30	900 00
Salsify, 200 do .....	1 25	250 00
Cucumbers, (pickled) 15 bbls., .....	2 75	41 75
Cucumbers, (green) 43 bushels,.....	1 00	43 00
Spinach, 415 bunches,.....	4	16 60
Parsley, 456 do .....	4	18 24
Peppergrass, 105 bunches,.....	4	40 20
Cauliflower, 400 heads,.....	9	36 00
Cabbage, 5,000 do .....	4	200 00
Celery, 5,500 do .....	4	225 00
Asparagus, 2,500 bunches,.....	6	150 00
Lettuce, 10,000 do .....	$\frac{1}{2}$	50 00
Rhubarb, 2,000 do .....	4	80 00
Summer and winter squashes, 7,000,.....	3	210 00
Currants, 1,050 quarts,.....	6	63 00
Gooseberries, 15 do .....	8	1 20
Strawberries, 1,200 quarts, .....	15	180 00
Sage, (green) 25 lbs., .....	25	6 25
Tomatoes, 400 bushels, .....	75	300 00
Pumpkins, 470 do .....	4	18 80
Sweet corn, 100 do .....	50	50 00
Nasturtions, 36 quarts,.....	25	9 00
Pears, 20 bushels, .....	4 00	80 00
Apples, 200 do .....	75	150 00
Citrons, 436, .....	4	18 44
Grapes, 300 lbs.,.....	7	21 00
		<hr/>
Milk, 61,921 quarts, 3c., .....		\$6,556 33
		1,857 63
		<hr/>
		\$8,413 96

Stock on farm: 7 horses, 3 yoke of oxen, 23 cows, 1 bull and 97 hogs.		
Amount received for pigs sold, .....	\$468	58
Amount of pork slaughtered for use of house during		
the year, is 18,808 lbs.,.....	1,316	56
Value of swine on hand at date, .....	1,197	00
		<hr/>
		\$2,982 14
Value of swine on hand at commencement of year,.	\$910	50
Amount paid for feed,.....	605	79
		<hr/>
		1,516 29
		<hr/>
		\$1,465 85
		<hr/>

The twenty-three cows have yielded during the year 61,921 quarts of milk.

Ditching on the farm and grounds during the year, as follows: 455 rods, including 80 rods in meadow; 22 rods in barn-yard.

In addition to the ordinary repairs, many improvements in and about the institution have been made during the year. A large ice-house, capable of containing three hundred tons of ice, has been erected; also, a slaughter and meat house. Additions and repairs have been made to other farm buildings, and an additional exercising ground for male patients has been enclosed with a substantial board fence.

These repairs, improvements and erections, although involving a considerable expense, were absolutely necessary to make secure the original buildings, meet the material wants of the establishment, and promote the comfort, as well as aid in the restoration of the patients.

The workshops are in successful operation, and we feel them to be much safer, located, as they are, in buildings disconnected from the Asylum proper. They have also this advantage: that the line of shafting from the engine room to the two fans, for ventilating the male and female divisions, passes through them. The line running to the fan, for the female department, drives the Shaker washing-machine, the clothes-wringer, and the mangle for ironing; the line running in the opposite direction, passing through the blacksmith and plumber shop, tailors' shop, printing office and carpenter's shops, drives a large sewing machine, a turning lathe and grindstone, and may be made useful still further. The length of the whole line of shafting is 260 feet.

The warming and ventilating apparatus has proved entirely satisfactory. The boilers and the greater portion of the piping have been in use since 1853, and seem now to be in as good condition as when first put up. No repairs have been required for the boilers. Few even of the grate-bars have been replaced, and these only after a service of six years.

Although the pipe-chambers are numerous and more or less remote from the boiler house, no difficulty has been experienced in securing a circulation of steam through all the piping, with a pressure of twenty pounds at all times, and even with the thermometer at twenty-six degrees below zero. The most distant chambers are five hundred feet from the boiler, and sixty-six

feet in length ; each containing four coils of two thousand three hundred and seventy-six feet of one inch pipe,—in all, nine thousand five hundred and four feet. These coils are nine pipes wide and four deep ; the steam, therefore, to circulate through any particular branch of the coil, must travel five hundred feet through the main pipe, two hundred and sixty-four through the branch, and return in a condensed form as water, to the boilers,—in all a distance of one thousand two hundred and sixty four feet. The coils are formed at one end by branch T s, and at the other by return bends, and so connected that the steam can be turned into the whole or half of each, according to the state of the weather. The cold air is supplied to each chamber through twelve openings, twenty-six by fifteen inches each, and passes thence to the various wards through thirty-six openings, sixteen by eleven inches each. These facts may give some idea of the success of the apparatus and the wisdom of its arrangement. For the excellent and judicious care of this extensive department, during all the period of its use, we are indebted to the vigilance, skill and good judgment of our engineer, Mr. Joseph Graham.

Mr. Graham has also devised and introduced a mangle, by which the labor of ironing is greatly diminished. This consists of a series of hollow rollers on a horizontal frame, driven by machinery, an endless web passing between them, on which the articles to be ironed are carried. The rollers are heated by steam, and so arranged that the steam passes from one to the other as in a coil. They are so adjusted and weighted as to allow articles to pass through of various thicknesses, up to three-eighths of an inch. The machine requires but little power to drive it and two persons to attend to it ; one to spread the articles on the web in front of the rollers, the other to remove them, when ironed, to a table for folding. Two persons can thus easily iron three hundred peices per hour. The mangle was made by Messrs Wood & Hurlbut of Utica, and has been in use since May last with entire success.

The subjects of the employment and amusement of patients have not been noticed at much length in our reports, though the practical prominence given them, in the management of the Asylum, would, perhaps, warrant more extended remark. Among the means of moral and hygienic treatment for the insane, appropriate employment is deservedly held to be of the first importance. Whether, indeed, this class of means should be directed mainly to the discipline or to the diversion of patients must greatly depend upon circumstances, which vary with different institutions. The true theory of a public asylum is generally acknowledged to be, that it shall retain under its care all the insane of the community, except, perhaps, those so far demented that there is no possibility of their becoming again maniacal, or even exhibiting any paroxysms of excitement. In an asylum constituted upon something like this plan, having a large proportion of its cases those of the various forms of chronic mania, a system of regulated labor and mental and moral discipline would be properly, and with much advantage, carried out. But these institutions have

not yet attained their true place in the practical workings of public charity and public policy. Various causes have given public asylums a tendency to become either chiefly curative, or merely custodial institutions. Thus, in an asylum like this, from which chronic cases are, by a stern necessity, constantly being crowded out, and whose means must greatly resemble those of a general hospital, it is not practicable to introduce any system of compulsory employment; it is nevertheless true, as the reports of the steward and matron show, that, during the past, as well as in former years, a large amount of voluntary labor has been performed by patients, and we believe, much to their gratification, as well as improvement. Among the few unqualified advantages of a very large institution, is the necessity for organizing and keeping up the all ordinary trades and occupations. Under the care of experienced workmen, the patient may thus occupy himself in his accustomed manner, during a period of his convalescence when unwonted labor would be distasteful, or call for so much mental effort as rather to injure than benefit him. The extensive farm and garden, besides giving ample employment to the farming class, also require a large amount of unskilled labor, and furnish an agreeable diversity of occupation for all. Besides the clothing and articles for household use, made up by the females, fancy articles to the value of several hundred dollars have been manufactured and sold to visitors, or at our annual fair. This money has been, as usual, devoted to the purchase of books, pictures, and other means of interest and enjoyment.

Amusements, to be a source of benefit to convalescent patients, should generally be such as are in the least degree liable to fatigue the attention and understanding; such as music, light dramatic entertainments, tableaux, and other spectacles, with games of no very absorbing interest, and which may afford exercise, as billiards, bowling, &c.

Some years ago, a platform was erected at the end of one of our convalescent wards, and almost entirely by the labor and talent of the patients, a fine proscenium was placed upon it, stage-machinery and properties adapted to it, scenery painted, and all the other necessities for dramatic representations prepared. Each season a company is made up from the attendants and patients, and performances given with much success. This is now looked forward to with great interest by all. Much credit is due to several attendants and employees, who have taken the principal parts in the performances, with no inconsiderable labor and pains. During the past winter season, upwards of thirty entertainments were given. The stage was also occupied, at various times, by young ladies and gentlemen from the city, in private theatricals, and by several troupes of minstrels, vocalists, &c. The plays selected were mostly short and simple comedies, with which were given music, vocal and instrumental, tableaux, readings, and recitations.

In our last report, we acknowledged the very liberal gift of a billiard table and furniture from Mr. Michael Phelan, of New York city. This has proved, even more than we anticipated, an excellent means of exercise

and amusement to the patients. Combining, as it does, every requisite for a healthful and pleasing recreation within doors, it is peculiarly adapted to our wants, and we gladly embrace this opportunity of renewing our thanks to the generous donor.

We are under obligations for acceptable entertainments given at the asylum, to Father Kemp's Old Folks' Concert Troupe, to the Zavistowski Troupe of Musicians and Pantomimists, to Goodale and Young's Amateur Minstrels, to Mordo & Hernandez' Campbell Minstrels, to the New Orleans and Metropolitan Opera Troupe, and to the Continental Band of Vocalists.

Our grateful acknowledgments are due to Messrs. Mason Brothers, publishers, of New York city, for one hundred copies of their Temple Melodies, a bountiful supply of one of the best small collections of sacred music, with hymns adapted, for our chapel and all the wards. We also render our thanks to Mr. Walton Van Loan, for one hundred and ten volumes added to our library; to Mr. Moreau Langford, for books and pictures; to Mr. Alfred Walker, for an oil painting of "Evangeline;" and to Messrs. Oliver Ditson & Co., publishers, of Boston, for music books.

We have again to acknowledge the favor of a free invitation for our patients, from the Utica Mechanics' Association, to their annual fair; and of a similar liberality on the part of the proprietors of Dr. Beale's Arctic Entertainment.

To Professor O. J. Shaw, of this city, we are indebted for his weekly services at the organ, in our chapel, and for several excellent musical entertainments.

We are under renewed obligations to the Smithsonian Institution, D. C., and to the Regents of the University of the State of New York, for valuable publications.

To Mrs. P. Burr, of Cazenovia, our thanks are due, for a supply of bulbs and plants for our conservatory.

Religious services have been held in the chapel regularly throughout the year, on Sunday evening, instead of in the afternoon as heretofore. This arrangement enables us to give to a larger number of patients and employees the opportunity of attending the various churches in the city. The usual service on the first Monday evening of every month has also been observed. To the Rev. Wm. E. Knox, of Rome, and the Rev. P. H. Fowler, of Utica, who have, on several occasions, conducted for our chaplain, Rev. Chauncey E. Goodrich, those exercises, we tender our sincere thanks.

I take pleasure in this opportunity of acknowledging the services of the officers associated with me in the care and direction of the affairs of the institution. Drs. J. M. Cleaveland and L. A. Tourtellot who have shared with me all the responsibilities and professional labors of the year, as you are well assured, are gentlemen in whose ability and good judgment I can entirely confide for the faithful and thorough performance of any duties assigned them.

It is a matter of personal as well as general regret that Dr. Frederick Nash, the third assistant physician, has been compelled, by the state of his health, to resign. During his period of service he showed himself well qualified for duty in such an institution as this, and endeared himself to all by his amiable character and deportment. Dr. F. Markoe Wright, who now holds the position, enters upon his duties with the advantages of previous hospital experience in New York city.

Mr. H. N. Dryer and Miss Sarah A. Starr yet fill the positions of steward and matron most satisfactorily. They are valuable officers, and uniformly acquit themselves, under their various responsibilities, with zeal and integrity.

I am happy to be able to say that the attendants and employees, with few exceptions, have performed their duties, often onerous and disagreeable, with a fidelity entitling them to much praise, and to the gratitude of those for whom they have labored.

To you, gentlemen, allow me here to express my deep sense of personal obligation, for the kindness with which you have at all times extended to me the aid of your valuable counsel and assistance in the performance of my official duties.

We turn with sincere gratitude to God, through whose watchful providence the institution has been brought prosperously to the close of another year, and for our future labors devoutly implore His protection and guidance.

JOHN P. GRAY.

UTICA, *Nov. 30th*, 1859.



## APPENDIX.

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Reference to laws passed by the Legislature relative to insane persons.

Part 1, chap. 20, title 3, art. 1, of the Revised Statutes, "Of the safe keeping and care of lunatics."

Session Laws, 1842, chap. 135, "An act to organize the State Lunatic Asylum, and more effectually to provide for the care, maintenance and recovery of the insane."

Session Laws, 1850, chap. 282, sec. 2, relating to sending indigent insane persons, not paupers, to the Asylum.

Session Laws, 1851, chap. 446, amending the law respecting indigent insane persons.

"The county superintendents of the poor of any county, and any overseers of the poor of any town to which any person shall be chargeable, who shall be or become a lunatic, may send such person to the Lunatic Asylum by an order under their hands."

The order of a county judge secures the admission of indigent persons, not paupers, in which order it must be stated that the applicant became insane within one year prior to the date of the order. (Sec. 26 of act of 1842.)

The above law was changed by chap. 282, Session Laws, 1850, sec. 2 of which is as follows:

"No person in indigent circumstance, not a pauper, shall be admitted into the Asylum on the certificate of a county judge, made under and pursuant to the provisions of the twenty-sixth section of the "*Act to organize the State Lunatic Asylum, and more effectually to provide for the care, maintenance and recovery of the insane,*" passed April 7, 1842, unless such person has become insane within one year next prior to the granting of such certificate by the county judge; and it shall be the duty of said judge, when an application is made to him, pursuant to said twenty-sixth section of said act, to cause such reasonable notice thereof, and of the time and place of hearing the same, to be given to one of the superintendents of the poor of the county, chargeable with supporting such person in the Asylum, if admitted, or if such expense is chargeable to a town, or city, then to an overseer of the poor of such town, or city, as he may judge reasonable under the circumstances, and he shall then proceed to inquire as to the time when such person became insane, and shall, in addition to the requirements of said twenty-sixth section, state in his certificate that satisfactory proof has been adduced before him, that

such person became insane within a year next prior to the date of his certificate. On granting such certificate, the judge may, in his discretion, require the friends of the patient to give security to the superintendent of the poor of the county, to remove the patient from the asylum at the end of two years, in case he does not sooner recover. When a patient, who is admitted into the asylum on the certificate of the county judge, given pursuant to the twenty-sixth section of the aforesaid act, has remained in the asylum two years, and has not recovered, the Superintendent of the asylum shall send notice by mail to the overseer of the poor of the town where the patient resided at the time of his admission into the asylum, or to the county judge of the county from which he was sent, that such patient has remained two years in the asylum, and has not recovered, and that he should be removed from the asylum, and that in case he is not removed, the expense of his support will be chargeable to the county, until he is so removed, and then such expense shall be chargeable to the county accordingly; but in every case where a patient admitted into the asylum, pursuant to the provisions of the twenty-sixth section of said act, shall have remained there two years, and has not recovered, the managers of the asylum may, in their discretion, cause such patient to be returned to the county from which he came, and charge the expense of such removal to the county."

The object of this humane provision is undoubtedly to extend the benefits of this institution to persons with limited means, whose insanity is of a recent date, and therefore probably curable, and if recovered in the space of two years, restoring them to their families and their property unimpaired, and saving them from the paralyzing influence upon their future life, of finding themselves, by the loss of health and reason, reduced to beggary. Patients sent through this channel, generally supply their own clothing, and pay their own traveling expenses to and from the Asylum.

Patients supported by their friends are received without any other paper than certificates from county or bank officers, or other prominent individuals, of the ability of those who become bound for their support in the Asylum, to meet all expenses incurred. The form of agreement entered into by the person or sureties who become bound for the patient admitted, is as follows:

Whereas, ———, of the town of ———, in the county of ———, an insane person, has been admitted as a patient into the New York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica: Now, therefore, we, the undersigned, in consideration thereof, bind ourselves to Edmund A. Wetmore, treasurer of said Asylum, to pay to him and his successors in office, the sum of ——— dollars and ——— cents per week, for the care and board of said insane person so long as he shall continue in said Asylum, with such extra charges as may be occasioned by his requiring more than ordinary care and attention, and also to provide him with suitable clothing, and pay for all such necessary articles of clothing as shall be procured for him by the steward of the Asylum, and to remove him from the Asylum whenever the room

occupied by him shall be required for a class of patients having preference by law,<sup>5</sup> or whenever he shall be required to be removed by the Managers or Superintendent; and we also engage to pay all expenses incurred by the managers or Superintendent in sending said patient to his friends, in case one or either of us shall fail to remove said patient when required to do so as aforesaid; and if he shall be removed at the request of his friends, before the expiration of six calendar months after reception, then we engage to pay board for twenty-six weeks, unless he should be sooner cured, and also to pay, not exceeding fifty dollars, for all damages he may do to the furniture or other property of said Asylum, and for reasonable charges in case of elopement, and funeral charges in case of death; such payments for board and clothing to be made semi-annually, on the first day of February and August in each year, and at the time of removal, with interest on each bill, from and after the time it becomes due.

“In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our names this the — day of —, in the year 185—.”

This agreement, or understanding, is generally signed by near relatives or other friends of the patient, or legal guardians, if any such there be, at or prior to the time of admission, or subsequently, upon the deposit, on the admission of the patient, of a sum of money sufficient to secure its execution.

“When an insane person in indigent circumstances shall have been sent to the Asylum by his friends, who have paid his bills therein for six months, if the Superintendent shall certify that he is a fit patient, and likely to be benefited by remaining in the institution, the supervisors of the county of his residence are authorized and required, upon an application under oath in his behalf, to raise a sum of money sufficient to defray the expenses of his remaining there another year, and to pay the same to the treasurer of the Asylum. And they shall repeat the same for two succeeding years, upon like application and the production of a new certificate each year, of like import, from the Superintendent.”

We regret to be obliged to call the attention of county officers to the following law, which is too frequently overlooked or disregarded:

“All town and county officers sending a patient to the Asylum, shall, before sending him, see that he is in a state of perfect bodily cleanliness, and is comfortably clothed and provided with suitable changes of raiment, as prescribed in the by-laws.”

We request especially that patients brought to us from county houses be clean and free from vermin.

All patients require at least two suits of clothing and several changes of under garments. Most of the patients go out regularly, and consequently require clothing suited to the season. For males, great-coats and boots are required in winter, shoes answer in the summer, slippers are worn in the house. Females also need ample clothing for riding or walking in the winter.

The supply should be liberal when it can be afforded. All clothing is

marked with the name of the patient to whom it belongs, and much pains are taken to have it kept in good order and repair.

The removal of a patient should not be attempted while laboring under severe bodily disease, as fevers, erysipelas, large and dangerous wounds or sores, consumption, &c.

In conveying a patient to the Asylum, let it be done by force rather than by deception. Truth should not be compromised by planning a journey to Utica, or a visit to the Asylum, and when there, suggesting the idea to the patient of staying, while his admission [was already decided upon; nor should patients be induced to come and stay a few days to see how they like it, under the impression that they can leave at pleasure. Such treachery not only destroys confidence in friends, but also too often in us, by the seeming conspiracy to which we are supposed to be a party, than which there can scarcely be a greater barrier to improvement. The patient should be brought by an intelligent and intimate acquaintance, who will be able to give a minute history of the case, or a written account should be transmitted. In the latter should be stated the name, age, married or single, number of children, occupation, degree of education, profession of religion, habits, nativity, residence, predisposing and exciting causes. Here give a minute history of the patient from youth up, temperament, peculiarities, disposition, &c.; also the cause supposed to have affected the patient immediately preceding the attack; state what relatives, near or remote, are or have been insane or peculiar; also what diseases the patient has suffered from: fits, skin diseases, dyspepsia, constipation, piles, ulcers, &c. Give the date of the attack, going back to the first noticeable disturbance, no matter how slight; also the duration of the more marked and decided symptoms, the number of attacks (if this be not the first,) and if ever before admitted, the number of admissions to this Asylum, and how complete was the recovery in the intervals between the attacks; state fully the condition of the patient at the time of admission, whether suicidal or homicidal, whether he eats, sleeps, strikes, breaks, destroys, or is noisy, or inattentive to personal cleanliness, and whatever else may occur to the friends likely to be useful to us.

It is desirable that application for admission be always made before the patient is brought to the Asylum, in reply to which any desired information will be cheerfully furnished. All correspondence about or with patients should be post-paid, and addressed to Dr. Gray, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y.

