

Ninth annual report of the managers of the State Lunatic Asylum of the State of New York : transmitted to the Legislature, February 14, 1852 / New York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica.

Contributors

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NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
M A N A G E R S
OF THE
STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM
OF THE
State of New-York.

Transmitted to the Legislature, February 14, 1852.

A L B A N Y :
C. VAN BENTHUYSEN, PRINTER TO THE LEGISLATURE,
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.....
1852.



State of New-York.

No. 46.

IN SENATE, FEB. 14, 1852.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

UTICA, *February* 11, 1852.

To the Honorable SANFORD E. CHURCH,

President of the Senate :

SIR—Herewith is submitted the Annual Report of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

Respectfully yours,

A. MUNSON,
N. DEVEREUX,
WM. B. WELLES,
CHAS. A. MANN,
SILAS D. CHILDS,
S. NEWTON DEXTER,
T. ROMEYN BECK.

State of New York.

No. 48.

IN SENATE, FEB. 14, 1882.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MANAGERS OF THE STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Presented to the Senate, February 11, 1882.



See—Hearings, is submitted the Annual Report of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum.

Respectfully yours,

A. MASON,

N. DUNBAR,

WM. B. WILKINS,

CHAS. A. JONES,

SHAS. D. COLEMAN,

S. NEWTON CROFTON,

T. HOMERUS BROWN.

Senate, No. 48, 1882.

OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.


MANAGERS.

ALFRED MUNSON, UTICA.
WM. B. WELLES, "
SILAS D. CHILDS, "
CHARLES A. MANN, "
N. DEVEREUX, "
S. NEWTON DEXTER, WHITESBORO.
T. ROMEYN BECK, ALBANY.
JOEL A. WING, "
JAMES S. WADSWORTH, GENESCO.

RESIDENT OFFICERS.

N. D. BENEDICT, M. D., SUPERINTENDENT AND PHYSICIAN.
GEORGE COOK, M. D., ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN.
JOHN P. GRAY, M. D., "
HENRY B. BARTLETT, STEWARD.
ANN W. SMITH, MATRON.

EDMUND A. WETMORE, TREASURER, UTICA.



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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, for the
year ending November 30, 1851.

The managers of the New-York State Lunatic Asylum, as required by law, respectfully submit the following

REPORT:

The annual report made to us by the superintendent, which is herewith submitted to the Legislature, gives full and detailed statements of the operations and results of the institution during the last year.

From this it will be seen that there were in the institution at the commencement of the year 429 patients; that 366 were received into the asylum during the year; that 112 were discharged recovered; 15 much improved; 51 improved; 134 unimproved, and 48 died, and that the whole number remaining at the close of the year was 435.

The whole number received into the asylum from its commencement on the 16th of January, 1843, to 1st December, 1851, is 3,109, of whom 1,300 have been discharged recovered; 23 much improved; 511 improved; 472 unimproved, and 368 have died.

The labors of the superintendent and his assistants, in the care and management of so large an institution, are at all times arduous and difficult, demanding constant watchfulness and devotion in the various duties that necessarily devolve on them.

The general results of the institution during the year which has just closed—the system, order and neatness which have been maintained throughout the entire household, its comparative

freedom from sickness, its diminished mortality, the ratio of deaths being less than for five years previous, show that these duties have been well and faithfully performed.

The annual report of the treasurer, which is also herewith presented, shows the receipts and payments on account of the institution during the year. By comparing the amount of all payments for the last year on account of the asylum, with the payments for the previous year, it will be seen that the sum expended last year is greater than for the previous year. This increased expenditure has arisen in several ways.

The asylum has been in use for nine years, and a greater amount of repairs were consequently needed than in former years, and many important alterations and fixtures have been made, which add to the convenience and comfort of the household, and many necessary and expensive repairs, especially about the water closets, bath rooms and water fixtures, yet remain to be made.

There has also been an improvement in the character of the supplies for the tables of the patients. The farm and garden have been essentially benefited by the construction, at considerable expense, of under-ground tile drains, although much yet remains to be done in that respect, to give to them their greatest productive capacity.

The act to organize the State Lunatic Asylum, and more effectually to provide for the care, maintenance, and recovery of the insane, passed April 7th, 1842, provided that "the price to be paid for keeping the poor, or any persons in indigent circumstances, in the Asylum, until the first of April, 1843, shall be two dollars and fifty cents per week, and thereafter it shall be annually fixed by the managers, and shall not exceed the actual cost of support and attendance, exclusive of officer's salaries." Under this law, "the price charged for keeping the poor, or any person in indigent circumstances," whose support was chargeable to a county or town, was \$2.50 per week, to the first of February, 1844. Prior to that date, the managers, as stated in their first annual report, (Assembly Documents, 1844, No. 21,) from a desire to extend the benefits of this institution to the insane poor, but not without some hesitation," fixed the price for that class of

patients, at two dollars per week, from and after the first of February, 1844, and it has been fixed at that price from that date to the present time. It is not easy to determine with precision the actual cost of support and attendance per week, unless we include all the expenses for permanent repairs and improvement of the grounds, buildings, and fixtures, connected with them, but we have ascertained that, "the actual cost of support and attendance, exclusive of officers' salaries for the last year," has been at least two dollars and fifty cents per week for each patient.

We have accordingly, in obedience to the requirements of the act, fixed the price for keeping "the poor or persons in indigent circumstances," whose support is chargeable to a county or town, at two dollars and fifty cents per week, from and after the first of August next, instead of two dollars, as heretofore charged. Bills for the support of patients are rendered semi-annually, on the first of February and the first of August in each year, and it seemed to us proper that an increased price should not be charged against the several counties and towns, chargeable with the support of the insane poor, or persons in indigent circumstances, without some previous notice to the county officers; so that they can, if they feel required to do so, remove from the asylum such patients as they are unwilling should remain at a greater cost to the county, than that heretofore charged.

From past experience in this institution, as well as in that of other hospitals for the insane, we cannot hope that the price charged for supporting this class of patients can be hereafter reduced to less than two dollars and fifty cents per week.

The actual expense of comfortably and properly maintaining and taking care of an insane patient in a well regulated curative institution, for the care and treatment of the insane cannot probably be reduced, under the best management, below that sum, two dollars and fifty cents per week is the lowest charge made in any of the other State asylums for the insane, except one, of which we have any knowledge in this country, while in many public and private asylums the price uniformly charged for many years past has very considerably exceeded that sum.

The time seems to have arrived, as will be seen by reference to the facts stated in the accompanying report of the superintendent when it is expedient that some changes should be made in the mode of warming and ventilating the asylum buildings. The apartments occupied by the patients have hitherto been warmed by means of thirteen large hot air furnaces placed in the basement of the buildings with flues constructed in the brick partition walls leading from the hot air chambers in the basement to the several stories above. Nine of these furnaces were constructed for the use of wood as fuel and four for coal. Most of these furnaces have become so much worn and damaged by use that it will be difficult to repair them so as to get comfortably through another winter; and experience has shown that this mode of warming buildings is not entirely safe against the hazards of fire; and those hazards, in this instance, are considerably increased by the necessity which is found still to exist to use stoves for warming some parts of the house.

Since these furnaces were constructed various methods have been tried in this country for warming and ventilating asylums, hospitals and other public buildings, in which a pure, warm, but not over heated and dried up atmosphere, is required for the health and comfort of the inmates, and it seems now to be conceded, by all who have paid most attention to this subject and who have had the advantage of the greatest experience, that steam can be better and more advantageously used for warming large public edifices than any other means that have yet been tried.

The apparatus for creating the steam can be placed entirely without the building to be warmed, and thus the hazards of fire, arising from several furnaces, stoves, or other fixtures within the building, be wholly avoided.

In large expensive public buildings, crowded with inmates whose lives would be endangered by a conflagration of the building, this consideration alone should be regarded of great importance. In addition to this it is found that a purer atmosphere, not burned or over heated and freed from the gases, smoke and other impurities escaping at times from the hot air furnaces now

perfectly tight, can be produced by steam conveyed by iron pipes into hot air chambers in the basement, from which moderately warmed air can be introduced in large quantities by suitable flues into all parts of the building required to be warmed. There is also another consideration of some weight in favor of the change now suggested: it will enable us to dispense wholly with the use of wood for fuel, and do away with the necessity of constructing large wood-sheds, which are much needed if the use of wood for fuel is to be continued. We think coal hereafter will be a cheaper fuel for warming the asylum than wood. Our present furnaces consume annually about fifteen hundred cords of wood, which now costs on an average $\$3\frac{5}{16}$ per cord and which has been, to the present time, a less expensive fuel than coal at the price at which coal could be purchased here, but during the last season the Leggets Gap railroad, in Pennsylvania, has been completed, by means of which coal will be furnished in future at Utica, through the Chenango canal, at about \$4 per gross ton.

With the improved mode of warming by steam, can and should be connected a better and more effectual plan of ventilating the asylum buildings, an improved mode of ventilation is much desired. Experience has shown that the method originally adopted of ventilating by small upward ventilating flues, in the partition walls is inadequate to accomplish the object intended. It is ascertained that some artificial or forced ventilation is necessary to render the atmosphere in public buildings of this character pure and perfectly healthful, and that the means of ventilation should be under such control and regulation that they can be adapted to the various changes of the weather; much greater ventilation being required in some states of the atmosphere, than in others. Their forced ventilation can be most advantageously secured by connecting the ventilating flues, from the various rooms of the house with the flue of the chimney which is heated, by the fire by which the building is warmed, thus creating a strong downward draft in the ventilating flues, and which draft may be regulated by a register over the opening flues in the rooms.

There are also some other changes and improvements in the supply and distribution of water which are alluded to by the

superintendent in his report which are much to be desired. The improvement of the grounds in front of the asylum building, by draining, leveling and the construction of walks, and the planting and rearing of more ornamental trees, would add greatly to the beauty and comfort of the establishment. We have foreborne for several years to make this improvement of the grounds in front for the want of means.

The only objection that can be urged against these suggested improvements, is the expense. The cost of constructing the necessary apparatus for warming the building with steam, and of connecting with that an improved method of ventilation, will be greater than if the plan had been adopted and carried into execution in the original construction of the buildings. It involves the necessity, expense and great inconvenience, of cutting out flues in the old walls, and of making various alterations, to adapt the proposed mode of warming and ventilation to the present structures.

We have not yet matured any plan for the work, so as to be able to procure any very reliable estimate of the cost. Before that can be done it will be expedient, if not necessary, to examine other buildings where this mode of warming has been recently introduced, and to consult practical mechanics who have had experience in this kind of work. But from inquiries made as to the cost of similar works in other institutions, and from the best judgment we have been able to form, we think it is not safe to estimate the entire cost of the proposed improvements, at less than forty thousand dollars. We are aware that this will seem to be a large sum to be expended for the purposes mentioned, but the importance of the proposed changes in the mode of warming and ventilating the buildings induces us respectfully but earnestly to recommend to the Legislature to appropriate that sum to enable us to make the improvements suggested. All of which is respectfully submitted,

A. MUNSON,
N. DEVEREUX,
WM. B. WELLES,
CHAS. A. MANN,
SILAS D. CHILDS,
S. NEWTON DEXTER,
T. ROMEYN BECK.

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 November 30th, 1851.

Receipts.

1850.			
December 1	Balance in the treasury,	\$15,219	21
1850, Dec. 1	} From sundry counties and towns for support of patients,		
to			
Dec. 1851.		30,978	51
	sundry private patients,	25,175	76
	the State Treasurer for salaries of officers,	5,056	34
1850, Nov. 15	" " for furniture, appropriation of 1850,	2,500	00
Dec. 1, 1850,	} " " for support of insane convicts,		
to			
Dec., 1851.		1,956	72
	the steward for a span of horses sold,	300	00
	" for sundry articles sold,	433	01
	" for Journal of Insanity,	163	52
	Oneida Bank, difference of exchange,		50
		<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/> \$81,783 <hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	
		57	

Payments.

From Dec. 1, 1850, to Dec. 1, 1851. }	For provisions and household stores,.	\$25,768 20
	furniture,	5,177 67
	attendants, assistants and labor,...	13,442 59
	fuel and lights,	8,965 95
	miscellaneous expenses,	252 74
	farm, grounds, garden and barn,..	3,115 54
	books, stationery, printing, &c. . . .	661 83
	the steward, for petty expenses...	904 89
	salaries of officers,	5,021 03
	medicines and medical supplies..	757 89
	additions, alterations and repairs. .	7,147 30
	clothing of patients,	6,080 42
	patients' miscellaneous account....	576 04
	refunding to sundry patients on leaving the asylum,	106 62
1851, Dec. 1	Balance to new account,	3,804 86
		<u>\$81,783 57</u>

EDMUND A. WETMORE,

*Treasurer.**Utica, December 1, 1851.*

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Superintendent to the Managers of the New-York
Lunatic Asylum, for the year ending November 30th,
1851.

Gentlemen—The past year has closed with the usual success in the affairs of the institution.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
The number of patients at the commence-			
ment of the year was,	202	227	429
Received during the year,	185	181	366
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Whole number during the year,	387	408	795
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

There has been only one admission less this year than last. We have, however, been obliged to refuse a greater number of applications than in previous years. It is a matter of regret to have been thus under the necessity of denying a shelter to any one seeking a refuge within our walls, yet this has been unavoidable, under the law regulating the admission of patients, which gives preference to recent and curable cases. We refused forty-seven; sixteen of whom were from other states. The thirty-one refusals from our own State belong to the private class. None of them were recent, and the most of them were of many years standing. At one time when our population amounted to 468, we were obliged to postpone applications from county authorities until we could make vacancies by removing some of our incurable private patients.

Of the admissions, 99 were paupers, 114 indigent, 10 criminal, and 143 private. Of those sent as paupers, 70 were recent and probably curable; 29 doubtless incurable. Of the indigent class there were eight received who had been insane more than a year.

While the law regulating the admission of indigent patients states that the person shall have become insane within a year next prior to the order for admission, evidently contemplating recent and curable cases only ; still, improper persons occasionally obtain its benefits. Those in whom insanity has been of long standing, but not of a form to attract much attention, have been proved, to the satisfaction of the judge, to be of recent date, and sent accordingly. It is desirable, that as much accuracy as possible obtain in relation to this matter, and that protracted cases should not be sent under the law for the relief of indigent persons as now modified.

Of the criminal class admitted this year, 7 were from Auburn prison, 1 from Sing Sing prison, 2 from county jails, one of the latter awaiting trial, the other acquitted on the ground of insanity, and sent here for safe keeping. Last year we received 8 from Auburn and 2 from Sing Sing. There must be some causes for this striking disproportion in the frequency of insanity in these two prisons. Every incurable prisoner admitted becomes a life member of our family, and the accumulation of past years now gives us a criminal population of 33. The usefulness of the asylum as a curative institution, as well as common humanity, demands that all these facts should not pass unnoticed.

Of the private patients 93 were recent, and probably curable, 52 chronic and doubtless incurable. The law permits the admission only of recent and curable cases of this class, yet the custom has been to receive, when then there is room, old cases also. This has been continued during the past year, but it will be impossible to do so longer. Recently we have had to obtain the removal of incurable private patients to make room for those having preference by law, some of whom have been among the oldest residents of the house, and by right of possession, seemed to claim the privilege of remaining. The law, however, which must be our guide, says :

§ 41. "The managers upon the superintendent's certificate of complete recovery, may discharge any patient, except one under a criminal charge, or liable to be remanded to prison ; and they may discharge any patient admitted as "dangerous," upon the

superintendent's certificate that he or she is harmless and will probably continue so, and not likely to be improved by further treatment in the asylum, or when the asylum is full, upon a like certificate that he or she is manifestly incurable and can probably be rendered comfortable at the poor house; or, any patient sent to the asylum by the superintendents or overseers of the poor, or by the first judge of a county, so that preference may be given in the admission of patients to recent cases, or cases of insanity of not over one year's duration; and, they may also discharge and deliver any patient, except one under criminal charge as aforesaid, to his relatives or friends, who will undertake, with good and approved sureties, for his peaceable behavior, safe custody and comfortable maintenance, without further public charge."

There have been discharged :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Recovered,	58	54	112
Much improved,	9	6	15
Improved,	19	32	51
Unimproved,	57	77	134
Died,	24	24	48
	<u>167</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>360</u>

There remained at the close of the year, Nov. 30th, 1851 :

Males,	220
Females,	215
Total,	<u>435</u>

Of the recoveries 30 were paupers, 38 indigent, 1 criminal, and 43 private. There are also now in the institution 16 who are well, but remain to confirm convalescence. This precaution we consider so essential to permanent recovery, that we not unfrequently retain patients for months after they seem apparently well. Occasionally we feel obliged, by the incessant importunities of unreasonable friends, to consent to a premature removal, but are glad to be able to report this annoyance diminishing. As people become more enlightened on this subject, they trust less to their

own judgment, and an acquaintance with the regulations of the institution teaches them that they have no control over the matter. To guard against the recurrence of disease, patients generally co-operate cordially in these precautionary measures, and spend the time of convalescence contented and happy.

Of the 112 cases discharged recovered, the duration of insanity before admission was :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
One month and under,.....	25	11	36
Two months.....	14	18	32
Three do	4	8	12
Four do	6	4	10
Five do	2	3	5
Six do	0	3	3
Seven do	1	0	1
Eight do	1	3	4
Nine do	1	1	2
Ten do	0	1	1
Eleven do	1	0	1
One year and over,.....	1	2	3
Unknown,.....	2	0	2
Total,.....	58	54	112
	==	==	==

The duration of insanity in many cases, cannot be accurately ascertained. The change from a natural, healthy, vigorous condition of mind, to the opposite, is often so gradual and imperceptible as to elude observation until the disease is fully developed and established. The popular mind is apt to disregard the slighter symptoms of mental aberration, and even the county officers, on whom the law imposes the duty of investigating the subject closely, are often deceived. Hence it happens, that during the past year we have received on a judge's order, patients who have been deranged for many years, some ten years, certified by physicians that their insanity commenced within a year.

Of the 112 recoveries, the period of residence in the Asylum was :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Two months and under,..	9	1	10
Three months,.....	4	2	6
Four "	13	11	24
Five "	7	6	13
Six "	10	7	17
Seven "	1	7	8
Eight "	3	3	6
Nine "	4	2	6
Ten "	1	3	4
Eleven "		3	3
One year and over,.....	5	8	13
Two years,	1	1	2
Total,.....	58	54	112

Of this number 38 were indigent. The law humanely entitles this class to a residence of two years, but the above table will show how few have needed this time. The early admission of the majority of these cases is favorable to prompt recovery.

The perfection and permanency of recoveries not unfrequently is cause of doubt and anxiety. Of the 1,300 recoveries of the past nine years, 206 have been re-admissions. Of the 51 re-admissions of this year 11 were persons who had been discharged well in 1850. Two of these 11 were discharged recovered in 1846 and 1847, one in 1847 and 1849, one in 1846, two in 1849, making in 11 persons 20 recoveries, and 31 admissions. No one discharged recovered, since Nov. 30, 1850, has yet returned.

There have been discharged, as in former years, many improved and unimproved incurables, more belonging to the class of private patients than heretofore. This has been necessary from the increasing demand for admission by pauper and indigent persons, to whom preference is given. All or nearly all of the private incurables will doubtless have to be removed at no distant day. While the benefits of the institution are extended to a much

greater number by those changes, its labors and anxieties are correspondingly increased.

Our report this year shows a smaller proportion of recoveries than usual, for the reason that we have been cautious in pronouncing a case recovered, though apparently well. We place all the cases of insanity from intemperance, from epilepsy, from general and gradual impairment of the faculties by age and paroxysmal cases, though leaving the institution "well," under the head of improved, instead of recovered. The reason is obvious, there being no certainty that any of these classes will remain well any considerable time. Though a man made insane by excessive drinking, may by six or twelve months residence become well, and remain so while here, yet it is doubtful, whether after restraint is removed, the propensity will not again return. It is only after a fair exposure to the temptations and disturbing cares of the world, that the result can be known. Insanity from epilepsy cannot in fact be cured, except by recovery from the epileptic disease which rarely if ever, takes place. So also of the other forms mentioned, of which we report no cases of cure. This curtailing of the list of cures does not give us a good show of figures, but we hope the recoveries will be more permanent, gaining on this hand what is lost on the other.

We have much cause of gratitude for the diminished mortality, the ratio of deaths being less than for five years previous. There has also been less sickness. Dysentery, diarrhœa and erysipelas, are the diseases with which we have to contend most frequently, and when our ventilation shall be improved, we hope to see these disappear. We have had, during the year, 41 cases of dysentery, 25 males, 16 females. Duration of the disease varied from three to twenty days; average, nine days. One case in December, 1 in February, 3 in April, 1 in May, 1 in June, 2 in July, 23 in August, 10 in September. Fifty-five cases of diarrhœa: 23 males, 32 females; duration from 2 days to 2 months. These cases occurred during the same months with those of dysentery, 30 of them in August; 24 cases of erysipeles, 9 males, 15 females; 3 of them were in December, 1 in January, 6 in March, 3 in April, 4 in May, 2 in June, 1 in August, 1 in September, and 3 in October. Average duration 11 days. Six cases of typhoid, 3

of remittent, and one of intermittent fever. Acute affections of the lungs have been rare. We have had 5 cases of purulent ophthalmia, the first of which came to us from Erie county. Soon after her admission, 4 of her companions were attacked, and all 6 were immediately isolated from the other patients, and recovered without loss of vision. One case of insanity, complicated by chorea and pregnancy, recovered after parturition, which occurred here.

The 48 deaths were, by

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Dysentery,	1	5	6
Diarrhœa, .....	..	1	1
Erysipelas, .....	..	4	3
Phthisis pulmonalis,	5	6	11
Chronic insanity,	7	3	10
Acute mania, .....	..	1	1
General paralysis,	2	..	2
Epilepsy,	3	2	5
Pleurisy,	1	..	1
Malignant pustule, .....	..	1	1
Rheumatism,	1	..	1
Intemperance,	1	..	1
Suicide,	3	2	5
Total,	24	24	48

Deaths occurred in the following months :

	Males.	Females.
December,	4	2
January,	2	1
February,	2	1
March,	1	1
April,	5	1
May,	4	1
June,		3
July,	4	1
August, .....	..	2
September, .....	..	6
October,	1	2
November,	1	3
	24	24
	=	=

We report but one death from exhausted mania, though we have received 22 cases, 11 of each sex, a much larger number than usual, and of a more alarming character than any I have before witnessed. We attribute our success entirely to the stimulant treatment.

The number of deaths by suicide is very large. The general prevalence of the suicidal propensity, which was mentioned in my last report as subsiding, returned with increased intensity, and continued through the winter and spring. In one case the act was committed soon after the admission of the patient, in whom there was no knowledge of the existence of the propensity; another had been, during a residence of many months, remarkably cheerful and happy; an attack of erysipelas of the face confined him to bed, and rendered him very uncomfortable, and at the height of the disease, he suspended himself from his window. All the suicides were by suspension from the window bars, except one. To guard against such accidents, we have now adapted to a part of them, sash locks, which secure the windows from being opened and exposing the bars. This arrangement, while it accomplishes one object, deprives these rooms of natural ventilation, which when we have no artificial ventilation is a great desideratum.

Statistics of the Asylum from its opening, January 16th, 1843, to December 1st, 1851.

Total number of admissions,	3,109
discharges,	2,674
as recovered,	1,300
much improved,	23
improved,	511
unimproved,	472
died,	368

The form of derangement in 366 cases admitted during the year ending Nov. 30, 1851, was:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Exhausted mania,	11	11	22
Acute mania,	33	36	69
Sub-acute mania,	48	39	87

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chronic mania,	37	22	59
Monomania,	3	10	13
Melancholy,	15	38	53
Paroxysmal mania,	3	11	14
Acute dementia,	7	6	13
Chronic dementia,	8	6	14
General paralysis,	1	..	1
Epilepsy,	5	1	6
Moral insanity,	1	..	1
Intemperance,	9	..	9
Feigned insanity,	4	..	4
Idiocy, .....	..	1	1
	<hr/> 185	<hr/> 181	<hr/> 366
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The cases of exhausted mania were all of an aggravated character, such as we have in previous years treated with painful want of success. While we attribute the recovery of these cases exclusively to the use of stimulants, yet we consider rest and nutrition important adjuvants in their treatment.

The cases classed as acute mania are the ordinary cases of high maniacal raving of recent origin, while the term sub-acute is applied to those of longer duration, with a lower grade of excitement.

The ages of 366 patients admitted during the year, are,

Under 15 years,	3
From 15 to 20 years,	16
20 to 25 do	64
25 to 30 do ..	59
30 to 35 do	46
35 to 40 do	40
40 to 45 do	46
45 to 50 do	39
50 to 55 do	26
55 to 60 do	10
60 to 65 do	8

From 65 to 70 years,	5
70 to 75 do	2
75 to 80 do	2
	<hr/>
Total,	366
	<hr/>

Our youngest patient at this time in the house is 11, the oldest 94 years.

We have not carried out the idea suggested last year of employing experienced teachers for the young, still we do not abandon it.*

Monthly admissions for the year ending Nov. 30th, 1851 :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
December,	15	10	25
January,	22	6	28
February,	12	22	34
March,	14	13	27
April,	14	17	31
May,	16	20	36
June,	17	25	42
July,	12	13	25
August,	16	23	39
September,	23	18	41
October,	13	11	24
November,	11	3	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand total,	185	181	366
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Occupation of 366 patients admitted during the year ending Nov. 30th, 1851.

Farmers,	51
Laborers,	37
Joiners,	8
Schoolboys,	8
Merchants,	6

* We have one patient attending a boarding school in the city who is still under our care, and reports himself weekly at the Asylum.

Shoemakers,	6
Clergymen,	5
Clerks,	4
Scholars,	3
Teachers,	3
Lawyers,	3
Cabinet makers,	3
Coach makers,	3
Tailors,	3
Silversmiths,	3
Physicians,	2
Blacksmiths,	2
Coopers,	2
Tanners and curriers,	2
Inn-keepers,	3
Pedlers,	2
Speculators,	2
Dentists,	2
Butchers,	2
Druggists,	2
Theological students,	1
Law do 	1
Medical do 	1
Telegraphic operators,	1
Stage proprietors,	1
Weavers,	1
Grocers,	1
Hatters,	1
Machinists,	1
Gunsmiths,	1
Operative,	1
Porter,	1
Comb maker,	1
Book-keeper,	1
Quack-doctor,	1
Idlers,	1
House-keepers,	93
House-work,	65
Mantau-makers,	6

Seamstresses,	5
Instructresses,	4
School girls,	4
Tailoresses,	2
Milliners,	1
Laundresses,	1
Total,	<u>366</u>

Civil condition of 366 patients admitted during this year :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Married,	96	89	185
Single,	80	76	156
Widows, .....	..	16	16
Widowers,	9	..	9
Total,			<u>366</u>

Nativity.

New-York,	246
Ireland,	29
Connecticut,	15
Vermont,	12
Germany,	12
Massachusetts,	11
England,	10
New-Hampshire,	5
Canada,	4
Pennsylvania,	4
New-Jersey,	4
France,	4
Switzerland,	3
Rhode-Island,	2
Wales,	2
Maine,	1
Virginia,	1
West Indies,	1
Total,	<u>366</u>

Probable cause of derangement in 366 cases :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Intemperance,	44	1	45
Masturbation,	31	3	34
Grief,	3	18	21
Strong predisposition from previous attacks,	10	12	22
Puerperal, .....	..	18	18
Change of life, .....	..	13	13
Fatigue and anxiety, .....	..	13	13
Domestic trouble,	7	12	19
Disappointment in love,	1	6	7
Dyspepsia and constipation,	3	5	8
Epilepsy,	6	1	7
Suppression of menses, .....	..	6	6
Menorrhagia, .....	..	4	4
Ammenorrhœa, .....	..	6	6
Continued Fever,	4	3	7
Defective training,	5	..	5
Religious excitement,	3	6	9
Business perplexities,	13	3	16
Excessive labor,	8	..	8
Religious anxiety,	1	2	3
Fright,	1	2	3
Imprisonment,	3	..	3
Apoplexy, .....	..	2	2
Want and destitution,	1	5	6
Seduction, .....	..	1	1
Remorse,	1	..	1
Measles,	1	1	2
Loss of sleep,	4	..	4
Excessive venery,	1	..	1
Violent temper, .....	..	2	2
Phthisis,	2	1	3
Nostalgia,	1	1	2
Celibacy, .....	..	2	2
Deafness,	1	1	2
Coup de soleil,	2	..	2
Meningitis,	2	6	8

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Injury of head,	1	..	1
Rheumatism,	1	1	2
Chorea, . . . . .	..	1	1
Mammary abcess, . . . . .	..	1	1
Menstrual irregularity, . . . . .	..	3	3
Care of insane relation, . . . . .	..	2	2
Protracted lactation, . . . . .	..	3	3
Scrofula, . . . . .	..	1	1
Popular errors,	5	5	10
Unknown,	19	14	33
	<u>185</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>366</u>

Number of persons admitted during the year ending November 30th, 1851, and how supported; also the number of patients at the close of the year, and the counties from which they came.

COUNTIES.	How sent.				Total number at close of year.					
	Paupers,	Indigent.	Criminal.	Private.	Total.	Paupers.	Indigent.	Criminal.	Private.	Total.
Albany,	10	2	....	4	16	15	8	1	8	32
Allegany, .....	....	....	....	4	4	....	1	....	3	4
Broome,	2	1	....	3	6	3	1	....	3	7
Cattaraugus, .....	....	....	....	1	1	1	1	....	1	3
Cayuga,	4	5	....	4	13	4	6	1	3	14
Chautauque,	4	....	....	1	5	5	1	1	2	9
Chemung, .....	....	2	....	2	4	1	1	....	1	3
Chenango,	1	....	....	3	4	3	....	....	2	5
Clinton, .....	....	1	....	....	1	2	2	1	....	5
Columbia, .....	....	1	....	3	4	1	2	....	6	7
Cortland, .....	....	3	....	2	5	....	2	....	2	4
Delaware, .....	....	3	....	1	4	....	2	....	....	2
Dutchess,	2	....	....	2	4	2	2	....	1	5
Erie,	5	....	....	3	8	3	2	....	3	8
Essex, .....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....
Franklin, .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Fulton, .....	....	2	....	1	3	1	2	....	....	3
Genesee, .....	....	2	....	2	4	....	2	....	1	3
Greene,	1	4	....	2	7	2	3	....	2	7

Number of persons admitted, &c.—(CONTINUED.)

COUNTIES.	How sent.				Total.	Total number at close of year.				
	Paupers.	Indigent.	Criminal.	Private.		Paupers.	Indigent.	Criminal.	Private.	Total.
Hamilton, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Herkimer,	1	9	...	5	15	...	2	...	...	...
Jefferson,	4	3	...	6	13	...	5	...	3	10
Kings, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lewis,	1	1	...	1	3	...	1	...	1	3
Livingston, .....	...	1	...	2	3	...	...	...	3	5
Madison, .....	...	7	...	5	12	...	...	1	6	11
Monroe,	8	5	...	7	20	...	4	1	2	13
Montgomery, .....	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	6
New-York, .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	8
Niagara,	1	2	...	1	5	...	1	...	...	6
Oneida,	16	5	1	16	38	...	18	2	...	46
Onondaga,	7	5	...	2	14	...	1	...	5	19
Ontario,	3	7	...	4	14	...	3	...	7	16
Orange,	6	...	...	3	9	...	5	...	4	10
Orleans,	2	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	1	2
Oswego, ..	3	...	...	2	5	...	3	1	...	7
Otsego, .....	...	3	...	7	10	...	...	1	5	8
Putnam, .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Queens, .....	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	2	3
Rensselaer,	5	2	...	5	12	...	4	...	5	11

The time is perhaps not far distant when it may be deemed by the Legislature, necessary as well as expedient to make some further provisions for the insane, than what is furnished by this institution. If the increasing population of the State, hereafter demands that provisions should be made for the care and cure of a greater number of the insane than can be received into this asylum, the State may deem it wise not to give this any greater capacity, as was originally contemplated by its founders, but to provide other institutions in such other sections of the State as will best accommodate the class for whose benefit they are intended.

But every consideration demands that this institution should be first perfected. If a thing once well done is twice done; if there is to be progress in the provisions for the insane; if the State has a commendable pride in seeing her institutions rank with those of sister States; if, indeed, the safety and protection of its inmates is matter of moment, no time should be lost in putting this asylum in thorough repair, in providing safe, convenient and abundant arrangements for warming, ventilation and the distribution of water, all imperiously demanded, both by the condition of the house and the necessities of its inmates. This matter was referred to last year, and must now be plainly set forth. This institution is now defective in its mode of heating.

It appears from the history of the institution, that my lamented predecessor, Dr. Brigham, and the board of managers associated with him in organizing and conducting it prior to his death, labored under great embarrassments in providing all the different arrangements for a supply of water, and for needful warmth and ventilation, and for cooking. The State had already expended a large amount in the construction of the main front edifice; the commercial revulsions of 1842, left its treasury with limited means to prosecute its enterprises. In addition to this, many of our legislators were impressed with an opinion that the expenditures on that part of the edifice above specified, were inordinately large, and they consequently were reluctant to consent to further appropriations.

Under such discouraging circumstances they were therefore necessarily confined to the most rigid economy in all the arrangements requisite to prepare the institution for its intended use, and to place it in a condition to display at once its usefulness and necessity to the whole community. The success of their joint endeavors entitles them to great credit.

The arrangements for heating, cooking and supplying water to this extensive establishment were matured and carried out within the limited means at their command; and, considering that circumstance, as well as the general want of experience and scientific knowledge which at that time existed, in regard to warming and ventilating great public institutions, they accomplished their object at a small expense more perfectly and satisfactorily than it could have been anticipated. Indeed, the fact that other institutions adopted similar arrangements for similar purposes, shows that they were then considered better than those in general use. For comfort, safety, and economy of construction, they were well worthy of commendation at that day.

But time and use have greatly impaired the furnaces and other warming apparatus until they are now far from being adequate to the present wants of the institution; and, like all other arrangements for heating, where the fire itself, whether the fuel be wood or coal, is within the building, they expose it to the hazard of fire, and more particularly in our case, because of long usage and consequent decay. They have, from the same causes, become troublesome and noxious by permitting the escape of smoke and gases, from which we suffer, at times, very seriously. Protection against these eminent hazards to life and health, is imperatively demanded.

The only remedy seems to be a change in the mode of heating and ventilating, and new apparatus for that purpose.

The latest experience and authorities concur in commending the use of *steam* or *hot water*; as the most efficient, manageable, and safe means for warming hospitals, asylums, and other large edifices; and although the first outlay is considerable, the completeness of the result, is such as to justify it.

Of the two, *steam* is well adapted to our purposes, for various reasons :

1. When the necessary apparatus is properly constructed, it relieves us from all hazard of conflagration.

2. It perfectly distributes warmth in all parts of the edifice : and effectually prevents all annoyance from smoke, gas, and dust.

3. It produces a balmy, pure, and healthful warmth, and does not impart to the air that dryness which is caused by other modes of heating generally in use.

4. The apparatus which is the source of heat, being entirely beyond the reach of the patients, is peculiarly adapted to asylums for the insane on the score of safety, as well as of health and comfort.

5. The facility with which it may be connected with advantageous modes of ventilation ; a point hitherto greatly neglected, but which should on no account be omitted in connection with any provision for warmth. The discharge of impure air is as necessary as the introduction of pure air, into any dwelling, but more especially is forced ventilation requisite in buildings occupied by great numbers, and where the sources of impurity are abundant.

I am fully aware of the expense which must attend the changes and improvements suggested. But my sense of their absolute necessity is so strong that I should fail in my duty to the institution intrusted to my charge, not to press them upon you as forcibly as I can, and through you upon the Legislature. All the experiments made up to this time convince me that the mode I have recommended for warmth and ventilation, is the only one worthy of being adopted ; and the first expense should not be in the way of its immediate application. When you consider the time required to mature and accomplish such changes as are suggested, and reflect upon the present imperfect and decayed state of our apparatus for heating, the almost entire want of ventilation, and the constant hazards by fire, to which are exposed 450 patients and their attendants with this noble structure, the

urgency and immediate need of a radical reform in these particulars, will be so obvious as to prompt instant efforts to secure it.

The magnitude of the proposed work to warm and ventilate the building, and its expense, would seem to forbid my urging upon you, at this time, other improvements and repairs; but their absolute necessity compels me, reluctantly, to bring to your notice the defective condition of the fixtures for distributing the water required for the purposes of the asylum.

Our tanks and reservoirs for receiving and distributing water, being made of wood and lined with lead, have caused us much trouble by leakage, and consequent damage to the ceilings and walls, and have been very expensive in repairs. Our distributing pipes are also mostly of lead, and worn out.

Experience has proved that iron tanks and reservoirs, and distributing pipes of wrought iron, are the only safe and proper fixtures for this purpose. We shall very soon be absolutely compelled to adopt them. This change, however, urgent as it is, may be deferred until the more important one for warming and ventilating has been accomplished, unless a sufficient appropriation can be obtained to prosecute them both at the same time.

Our water-closets and washing and bathing rooms, from long use and decay, absolutely require thorough renovation, at a considerable expense. This improvement cannot be longer delayed with propriety.

We have not permitted the year to pass without doing much towards the improvement of the farm. Eleven thousand five hundred feet of tile drains have been laid, and with such decided advantage, that we purpose continuing the work till twenty thousand tile are put down. One hundred and thirteen rods of large open water courses have also been constructed, into which these drains empty, and roads, and stone and brick arched bridges built, all of which, though expensive, are highly satisfactory in their results.

The removal and re-arrangement of the farm buildings also procure comfort and satisfaction,

The plan of medical and moral treatment detailed in our last report, is still continued, adding from time to time such improvements as are within our reach. Especially do we strive to occupy our whole household, and have succeeded probably to an extent not heretofore equalled.

The amount of reading matter we are able to place in the hands of the patients is very large. Our patients receive, in exchange for "The Opal," a newspaper edited by themselves, two hundred and twenty weeklies, 4 semi-weeklies, 8 dailies and 33 monthlies, and the list is still upon the increase. These embrace most of the popular magazines, such as Harper, Graham, Godey, Sartain, &c., and papers and periodicals from every part of our own State, and from nearly all the other States of the Union, representing every party of politics, every religious denomination and many published in the French, Welsh, and German languages. We are therefore enabled to offer intellectual food and a constant intercourse with the transactions of the world, to our whole family. This is a source of unspeakable comfort, especially to those who have been long here and who cannot look for actual reunion with society. The Opal was published at 50 cents per annum, and from the year's proceeds, 650 volumes, standard works, have been purchased as a nucleus for a "patient's library." These books are read with interest and profit. It will be continued, but in magazine form, double its former size and subscription price. Plays, tableaux, theatrical exhibitions, fairs, were frequently repeated during the year. These amusements are more generally enjoyed by our household than any other pastime. A limited number have enjoyed excursions. Several parties visited Trenton falls, three parties Niagara falls, some the State fair at Rochester, and returned by way of Seneca and Cayuga lakes, and the Erie railroad. Scarcely a concert given in Utica, from Jenny Lind's down, to which we have not sent a delegation; and the scientific, literary and religious lectures, with which our city is abundantly favored, have been equally well attended.

As heretofore, the farm and garden in summer, and the work shops and wood yard in winter, have furnished the chief occupation for the males, and the sewing rooms for the females.

The steward reports, as raised on the farm :

Corn,.....	150 bushels.
Potatoes,.....	548 "
Hay,	80 tons.

Valued at \$900.

On the garden :

Cress, or pepper grass,	206 bunches.
Lettuce,	778 "
Radishes,	72 "
Parsley,	145 "
Asparagus,	700 "
Rhubarb,	720 "
Goosberries,	95 quarts.
Raspberries,	48 "
Strawberries,	96 "
Currants,.....	1,797 "
Green peas,.....	37 bushels.
Cucumbers,.....	10 barrels.
Melons,.....	500 "
Winter squashes,.....	1,000 "
Summer "	42 dozen.
Tomatoes,	160 bushels.
Salsify,	4 "
Cabbage,.....	6,000 heads.
Cellery,.....	1,300 "
Beets,	400 bushels.
Carrots,.....	500 "
Parsnips,	300 "
Onions,	210 "
Turnips,	220 "
String beans,	6 "
Peppers,	8 dozen.

Valued at \$1,100, and all used in the house.

We keep 20 cows to furnish milk for the tables, 8 horses for riding, driving and farming. We have now a four horse establishment, carrying 25 persons, for the use of the patients.

We employ some twelve mechanics, who, in the various shops, take charge of the patients, and, with their assistance, turn out much work. The tailor shop, alone, has made at the rate of 500 garments per year. The female patients, and their attendants, have made up articles used in the establishment, numbering over 5000, the labor of which would have cost about \$1,500.

Permit, me, gentlemen, in conclusion, to express to you my appreciation of your demonstrations of continued confidence in me. With the assistance of your advice and counsel, I feel assured that all our undertakings will be crowned with success.

Dr. Cook and Dr. Gray, my associates in the labors and anxieties of this great family, deserve special commendation for the zeal, ability and success with which they have discharged their respective duties.

The matron, Mrs. Smith, has continued to render very efficient and valuable service, in the conduct of all matters entrusted to her charge.

To all, indeed, who have been engaged in the institution, and devoted their energies to its self-denying labors, faithfully, cordially, and kindly, we gladly accord the praise they justly merit.

To our friends, abroad, who have remembered our sorrowing household, and afforded pleasure and profit by their contributions, we return our warmest thanks.

Imploring the continued blessing and protection of Heaven upon all here assembled, we respectfully submit this report.

N. D. BENEDICT.

November 30th, 1851.

APPENDIX.

For the information of those who may desire to place their friends in this institution, we add the law regulating the admission of patient:

“ Each county may at all times have one indigent insane patient in the asylum, whose disease at the time of admission was a first attack, and did not exceed six month; and such further number of either old or recent cases as the Asylum can accommodate, in proportion to the insane population of the county. The patients shall be designated by the superintendents of the poor, or, if the county has no such superintendents, by the first judge. (Chap. 135, Session Laws, 1842, sect. 25.)

“ 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.”

Under this law an order of the superintendent of the poor for the county, or of the overseers of the poor of the town to which the patient is chargeable, and which pays the expense without recourse to the county, is all that is necessary for admission of any poor person. Where the order is made by the overseers of the poor of a town, it should be stated that the town alone is liable for the support of the patient, and not the county.

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, is as follows:

“ When a person in indigent circumstances, not a pauper, becomes insane, application may be made in his behalf to the first

judge of the county where he resides; and said judge shall call two respectable physicians and other credible witnesses, and fully investigate the facts of the case, and either with or without the verdict of a jury, at his discretion, as to the question of insanity, shall decide the case as to his indigence. And if the judge certifies that satisfactory proof has been adduced showing him insane, and his estate is insufficient to support him and his family, (or if he has no family, himself,) under the visitation of insanity, on his certificate, authenticated by the county clerk and seal of the county courts, he shall be admitted into the asylum and supported there at the expense of said county, until he shall be restored to soundness of mind, if effected in two years. The judge, in such case, shall have requisite power to compel the attendance of witnesses and jurors, and shall file the certificate of the physicians, taken under oath, and other papers, with a report of his proceedings and decision, with the clerk of the county, and report the facts to the supervisors, whose duty it shall be, at their next annual meeting, to raise the money requisite to meet the expenses of support accordingly."

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

"No person in indigent circumstances, 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 cure, maintenance and recovery of the insane,*" passed April 7th, 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 persons in the asylum it 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 enquire 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 a 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 travelling expenses to and from the Asylum. If not recovered in two years, the law requires that they then be removed, and if their friends do not remove them, the superintendents of the poor may have the disposal of them, or they may be sent to the county from which they came.

“Whenever there are vacancies in the Asylum, the managers may authorize the superintendent to admit, under special agreements, such recent cases, as may seek admission under peculiarly afflictive circumstances, or which, in his opinion, promise speedy recovery.”

No patient can now be received at private expense, not coming strictly within the meaning of this law. The incurable patients of this class are now in course of removal.

Patients supported by their friends are received without any other papers 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 N. Y. 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, 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 1850.”

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.

The charges for board for this class of patients vary from three to five dollars per week according to the circumstances of the case. Indigent persons who pay their own expenses are received at two dollars and fifty cents per week.

“ 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.”

As all or nearly all insane persons are “fit” patients for a Lunatic Asylum, and as all such as are unable to take care of themselves would be “benefited” by being properly cared for in such an institution, therefore the law doubtless contemplates cases that are likely to result in, or approach at least to recovery, and only in such cases would we feel justified in making the certificate the law demands.

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 them, see that he is in a state of per-
[Senate, No. 46.]

fect 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 seasons. For males, great-coats and boots are required in winter; shoes will 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 their 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 the Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y.

