

Twenty-fifth annual report of the Trustees of the New York Asylum for Idiots for the year 1875 : transmitted to the Legislature January 13, 1876 / New York State Asylum for Idiots.

Contributors

New York State Asylum for Idiots.

Titus, James H.

Wilbur, H. B. 1820-1883.

Munroe, Allen.

Eastman, Benjamin N.

Publication/Creation

Albany : Printed by Weed, Parsons and Co., 1876.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xk3w2nnv>

License and attribution

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

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



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

TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES


OF THE

NEW YORK ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS

FOR THE YEAR 1873.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE JANUARY 13, 1876.

ALBANY:
WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1876.



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

<https://archive.org/details/b30317745>

TRUSTEES.

JAMES H. TITUS,	FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
ALLEN MUNROE,	LYMAN CLARY,
GEORGE F. COMSTOCK,	E. W. LEAVENWORTH,
FREDERICK D. HUNTINGTON,	LAKE I. TEFFT.

STATE OFFICERS — EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES:

SAMUEL J. TILDEN, *Governor.*
WM. DORSHEIMER, *Lieutenant-Governor.*
JOHN BIGELOW, *Secretary of State.*
LUCIUS P. ROBINSON, *Comptroller.*
NEIL GILMOUR, *Superintendent of Public Instruction.*

PERMANENT CHAIRMAN:

JAMES H. TITUS.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

ALLEN MUNROE.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

E. W. LEAVENWORTH,	JAMES H. TITUS,
GEORGE F. COMSTOCK.	

OFFICERS.

SUPERINTENDENT:

HERVEY B. WILBUR, M. D.

MATRON:

MISS ALVIRA WOOD.

ASSISTANT MATRON:

MRS. F. A. HARDY.

HOUSEKEEPER:

MRS. M. A. YOUNG.

TEACHERS:

MISS S. P. YOUNG,

MRS. M. E. COOK,

MRS. R. VAN VLECK,

MISS L. E. KNIGHT,

MISS L. PETHERAM.

STEWARD:

BENJAMIN N. EASTMAN.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 22.

IN ASSEMBLY,

January 13, 1876.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

To the Legislature of the State of New York:

Agreeably to the provisions of the act establishing this institution, the undersigned trustees respectfully submit this their twenty-fifth annual report.

The total cash receipts for the year ending September 30, 1875, as will be seen by the treasurer's report, herewith annexed, were as follows.

RECEIPTS.

Cash from state treasurer, annual appropriation.....	\$36,000 00
County treasurer's, for clothing state pupils.....	2,506 95
Individuals, for board, instruction and clothing, pay pupils	5,904 89
Special appropriation for fence	1,500 00
Cash in hands of treasurer of asylum, October 1, 1874..	151 81
Cash in hands of superintendent, October 1, 1874.....	72 56
	<hr/>
	\$46,136 21

EXPENDITURE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1875

Provisions and household supplies	\$11,519 62
Salaries	6,878 00
Wages and labor.....	6,923 61
Fuel.....	3,871 87
Gas	1,180 82
Farm and garden	677 15
Stable, horses and cows.....	1,343 26
Furniture, furnishing articles and household linen.....	3,332 49
Clothing	2,892 53
Books, stationery and school apparatus	264 93
Discount.....	71 22
Drugs and medicines	315 91
Repairs and improvements	5,216 55
Postage.....	84 71
Printing	51 50
Water	300 00
Freight, express and telegraph.....	145 44
Traveling expenses of trustees.....	155 50
Traveling expenses of superintendent	91 40
Funeral expenses	117 40
Money to boys.....	9 10
Sending children home	56 04
Sundries	8 15
	<hr/>
	\$45,507 20

From the above statement it will be seen that there was in the hands of the treasurer, October 1, 1875.....	\$231 95
In the hands of the superintendent	396 96
There was also due from the friends of pay pupils, sums amounting in the aggregate to	2,003 45
Due from counties for clothing state pupils	430 00
	<hr/>
Total cash assets.....	\$3,062 36

The liabilities of the asylum at that date were as follows:

Salaries of officers and teachers for quarter ending Sep- tember 30, 1875.....	\$1,662 50
September bills for supplies	2,862 84
	<hr/>
Liabilities of asylum, September 30, 1875.....	\$4,525 34

There is thus an apparent deficiency of \$1,500; but this is owing to the fact that the coal bill for the coming year, amounting to \$1,700, has been paid out of the income of the past year. In the various store-rooms of the asylum, there is also, at this date, a stock of household supplies, clothing and materials for clothing, considerably in excess of that usually on hand at the close of a fiscal year.

The actual expenses of the pupils during the last year, including all bills except those for clothing and construction account, are at the rate of \$195 per pupil. This sum may be considered as a basis for calculating the future expenditures of the asylum, so long as the number of beneficiaries remain as at present. An appropriation of \$36,000, or the same as last year, will be sufficient for the next.

When this asylum was founded, it was distinctly established as an educational institution. The original members of its board of trustees saw that, sooner or later, it must be supplemented by another, to meet the needs of unteachable or custodial cases. From time to time they have called the attention of the legislature to this public need. At one time they hoped that provision would be made for such cases in connection with the asylum for chronic insane at Willard. No action has yet been taken by the legislature to accomplish this desired end. They now again call the attention of the legislature to the subject.

If provision were made for such custodial cases, this asylum would be relieved of a certain number of inmates whose unfitness, on account of disease and unteachableness, only embarrasses the present management.

The superintendent of the asylum, in his report to the board, hereunto annexed, has presented some conclusions as to the best policy of future state provision for idiots, derived from his observation of similar institutions in Great Britain. These we commend to the notice of the legislature for their consideration.

The asylum has now been in operation more than twenty-four years.

For the first four years the average number of pupils was forty; during the next ten years the average number was one hundred and twenty-five; during the last ten years the average number was probably one hundred and fifty.

Very few have come to the asylum in a positively vigorous state of health; many have come much diseased and enfeebled. During the whole twenty-four years there have been but sixty-one deaths.

The schools, the domestic affairs, the out-door operations, and, in short, the general administrative affairs of the asylum have been conducted in a manner to command the unqualified approbation of the undersigned trustees :

JAMES W. TITUS,
FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
ALLEN MUNROE,
LAKE I. TEFFT,
LYMAN CLARY,
GEO. F. COMSTOCK,
F. D. HUNTINGTON,
E. W. LEAVENWORTH.
JOHN BIGELOW, }
NEIL GILMOUR, }

Ex-officio Trustees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the New York Asylum for Idiots:

GENTLEMEN — I herewith submit a report of the affairs of the institution of which I have the immediate charge, for the year ending September 30, 1875.

The whole number of pupils connected with the asylum during that period was 216.

The average attendance for the school-year of 48 weeks was 210. Of this number 180 were state pupils. The remainder were pay pupils, either in full or in part of the actual cost of their maintenance and instruction.

The actual cost for board and instruction of each of the above average number of pupils in attendance was a little less than \$200 a year.

Accordingly, the charge for full-pay pupils from the state of New York has been but \$200 a year, with two exceptions. The two exceptions named have been cases requiring special attendance. For the few pay pupils from other states, in the asylum, the charge has been \$250 per annum, to meet the actual cost of maintenance, and a reasonable charge for rent.

It will thus be seen that there has been no disposition on the part of the management to speculate out of the misfortunes of any of its citizens. The aim has always been to keep down the current expenses of the asylum to as low a point as was consistent with the well-being and proper training of the pupils. By so doing the interests of the tax-payers have been protected on the one hand, and on the other, no family has been reduced to indigence by the effort to keep a child in the asylum at an exorbitant rate of payment.

Wealthy persons naturally seek to place their children in private asylums. As a rule, therefore, the pupils in this institution are from families in moderate circumstances, from indigent families and

from the very poor. Many of the pupils were a public charge before coming here. Many came on application of county superintendents of the poor. Of these last the great majority would ultimately become a public charge, because of their mental incapacity or the fact that they were either whole or half orphans. The general dependent social condition of our pupils will, perhaps, be as well illustrated by the following statement as any other:

In our last report to the board of state charities, of the 196 pupils from the state of New York, 56 were whole orphans and 84 half orphans, leaving only 56 who had both parents living. Of the whole number, 196, 92 were children of native and 104 were children of foreign parentage.

The degree of improvement in the condition of the pupils, resulting from their residence in the asylum, will in a large measure inure to the benefit of the public, in their diminished helplessness and unproductiveness, if they become the future wards of the state or the several counties. Of many of them it might be said that, out of their dependence and incapacity, will be developed some degree of self-care and productiveness.

During the year past four deaths have occurred. Three of these were from pulmonary consumption; the fourth from congestion of the lungs. But in this case an investigation revealed the existence of tuberculous disease of the lungs. Aside from these cases, there has been almost no sickness among the pupils. The site of the institution is a healthy one, and the diet and regimen seem to be well adjusted to the needs of the class for whom they are provided. The total number of deaths for more than 24 years in the history of the asylum has been but 61.

The present capacity of the asylum buildings is about 220, depending a little upon the ages and sex of the pupils. During the last year it has been nearly full, and the present year there will doubtless be no vacant beds.

In accordance with the efforts of the state board of charities to get the children out of the county poor-houses, the superintendents of the poor of the several counties have sought to obtain admission for idiot children now in their charge in the county poor-houses. This has been met by the management of this institution to the extent that the state provision would allow.

The county authorities are also anxious to rid the poor-houses of other idiots who are too old for instruction, and yet need management and care other than that afforded by the county poor-houses.

It has become quite obvious that the present state provision in the way of buildings for the reception of teachable cases of idiocy is no longer adequate.

The question, then, as to the form which future provision for the needs of the whole class of idiots, becomes a pressing one to all interested in their welfare or their management.

It was known that the attention of the authorities of Great Britain had already been turned to this subject. Steps had there been taken with reference to meeting the needs of all by a degree of classification and appropriate care. With the permission of the trustees, I made a brief visit to that country to study the methods adopted there.

During that visit I inspected all the institutions of that country, except a small establishment at Dundee, in Scotland. Knowing also that more or less of the total number of the class were still to be found in the insane asylums, I visited nearly thirty of such institutions. I am therefore enabled to speak of the present and prospective plans for providing for idiots both a suitable training, where such training would be of service, and also mere custody for the more helpless and hopeless cases.

In Great Britain there are, as in this country, well-ordered private institutions for the care and training of idiots.

There is another class of institutions for the same purpose, endowed and supported mainly by donations and legacies of the wealthy and benevolent. These admit a certain number of indigent cases gratuitously, as also pay cases.

These, by their mode of support, have been constrained to receive not only teachable cases, but also custodial cases.

Thus, donation of a certain amount, carries with it the right to vote in the selection of pupils. At the annual elections, the circumstances of the family from which the candidate comes, have more influence than the question of teachableness in the person whose admission is desired. It is not necessary to show the unwisdom of selecting pupils on the ground of sympathy, rather than of judgment. It is beginning to be strongly felt in England, and will soon doubtless be abandoned.

The question of the proper care and training of idiots, as a public measure and at the expense of the tax-payers, is now being discussed, and practically answered in the affirmative.

Two large custodial asylums, the one at Groyden, and the other at Caterham, are now receiving the adult idiots at the metropolitan lunatic asylums and poor-houses.

Within a year, one of the counties constituting a part of London has founded an asylum for the care and training of nearly 300 young idiots. This establishment has temporary occupation of one of the London orphan asylums. New buildings are now being erected for its accommodation in the suburbs of London.

In Great Britain, the tendency now is to a proper classification of all the dependent classes. One obvious reason for this lies in the fact that when thus classified, the needs of each class can be more readily seen and more economically met. This same disposition is seen in the action of the public authorities of Scotland and Ireland. This motive moves those who have to deal with pauperism and dependence in its aggregations. There is another influence in the same direction, that has its rise in an enlightened observation of the individual and family tributaries, that go to swell these collections of unfortunates. In the families of the indigent, the occurrence of an idiot member is seen materially to diminish or cripple the productive industry of a whole family. In the older civilization of Europe, indigence means a struggle for existence, in which every member of the family, old enough to be put to work, is a participant; even then, the family, perhaps, can only just keep its head above water. In such a case, an idiot child may sink the whole family into absolute pauperism. When this becomes apparent, it is a short sighted public policy that will not assume the lesser, rather than the greater, burden.

So in Great Britain social economy prompts the separation of this class and their proper management in institutions expressly designed for them.

Fortunately in this country, away from the large cities or the large centers of manufactures, such positive indigence is not common. And yet the burden of an idiot member is a serious one in many a family in the state.

In general terms, it may be said that what is the part of wisdom in Great Britain, in such a matter of social economy, is wise in the United States. At all events, their example may be safely followed in the matter of classification, so far as the public institutions are concerned, subject to such modifications as difference of circumstances may demand.

To confine the comparison in circumstances to Great Britain and our own state, it may be observed that the population of this state is much sparser than that of England, and so there is no occasion for the building up of mammoth establishments, which only a sup-

posed necessity would justify anywhere. Even the limits of size, in point of economical administration, are reached, when are collected as many inmates as one superintending head can grasp in all the required details of executive management.

Land is much cheaper here, than there, which permits the occupation of the inmates to a greater degree in farming and gardening operations, in which employments the best financial results are attained.

In many cases here the county poor-houses are very moderate in size, and when well managed the inmates sustain almost a family relation to their care-takers. In all such cases those who have come from them to receive an education at the state institution could, after their terms of instruction were fulfilled, be returned to the same poor-houses, with the expectation that habits of self care and industry may be kept up by judicious management there.

After these exceptions, my observations of the British institutions and policy of management of idiots, leads me to the conviction that their experience and example would confirm the opinions and views of the trustees of this asylum, expressed in their earliest reports, and often reiterated since.

The practical expression of these views would lead to the continuance of this institution in the same line of policy as hitherto, namely, as an educational establishment. It might be enlarged to a moderate extent, to cover a slight modification of present plans. In fact, I think that this would be quite desirable. Thus we could add to our present capacity, accommodations for about sixty pupils. This would add to the convenience of a structure built when the precise needs of the inmates of such an institution were a matter of surmise, rather than actual knowledge. At the same time, it would provide a few work-rooms and work-shops.

A few of the best pupils might then be retained a little longer than the customary period, to assist in household matters and in the care of the children, and also to constitute a nucleus for extended industrial occupations. This would not interfere with the past educational policy of the institution, but would enable the officers to apply this education to a little wider range of industrial pursuits.

By this change, two things would be accomplished. The real practical ends of the training and instruction in the school department, would be more constantly before the eyes of those engaged directly in the work of instruction.

Again, for some years to come, it is not to be expected that all

or a majority of the idiots of the state will be gathered into institutions specially designed for them; nor is it entirely certain that such aggregation is the best mode of providing for the care of all included in the wide range of the term idiot. This would then be, in one sense, a model institution; its immediate aim, to develop capacity out of incapacity; its incidental purpose, by its practical training, to modify favorably the management and treatment of all the class wherever situated. It would be seen that a fair proportion of their number were capable of some degree of work, and of a varied character. It would point the way to the best and most economical methods of managing even the most helpless ones of the class. The additions proposed to accomplish this plan would not exceed the sum of \$35,000.

The other suggestion of this board, so often reiterated in their reports, was the establishment of a supplementary institution to receive the unteachable and adult cases of idiocy. It is important to bear in mind, in this connection, that the line that separates the teachable from the unteachable is not one of original mental defect, so much as of associated disease or deformity; that is to say, the majority of idiots who would prove to be unteachable under proper efforts of instruction, are so diseased or deformed as to be fairly rated as hospital or infirmary cases. Intelligent children or persons, with the same amount of disease, would hardly be put to school. This has a bearing on the question of the kind of provision that should be made for the two classes.

This supplementary provision might be made in connection with the asylum for chronic insane at Willard, or by the erection of an independent establishment at some convenient point in the state. In either case, the necessary buildings would be of a very inexpensive character; so, too, the cost of maintenance of such cases would be very moderate.

In closing this report, it is my good fortune to be able to express my entire satisfaction with the conduct of my assistants of every grade, in their several departments of duty and labor. I have found them ever ready to do not only their customary duties, but whatever of unusual service the exigencies of an asylum like ours demanded. If any credit attaches to my management as superintendent, I desire to share it with those, without whose cordial and efficient aid, my labors would have been in vain.

H. B. WILBUR,

Superintendent.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., *January 1, 1876.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Allen Munroe, Treasurer of the New York Asylum for Idiots, in account current with the state of New York, for cash received and expended for the general supplies, and the salaries and wages of officers, teachers, attendants and servants of said asylum, during the year ending September 30, 1875.

1874.	Dr.	
Oct. 1.	To cash from state treasurer.....	\$9,000 00
Dec. 31.	To cash from state treasurer.....	9,000 00
1875.		
Mar. 31.	To cash from state treasurer.....	9,000 00
June 30.	To cash from state treasurer.....	9,000 00
July 14.	To cash from state treasurer, special	1,500 00
Feb. and March.	To cash from county treasurers for cloth- ing state pupils.....	2,506 95
	To cash from pay-pupils, board, instruction and clothing	5,904 89
1874.		
Oct. 1.	In hands of superintendent for contingent ex- penses	72 56
Sept. 30.	In hands of treasurer of asylum	151 81
		<hr/> \$46,136 11 <hr/>

1875.	Cr.	
Jan. 1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee, for quarter ending December 31, 1874.....	\$12,154 53
April 1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee, for quarter ending March 31, 1875	8,108 80
July 1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee, for quarter ending June 30, 1875	11,573 34

Sept. 30. By cash paid on warrants of executive committee, for quarter ending September 30, 1875.....	\$8,000 04
Sundry bills paid by steward and superin- tendent	5,580 49
Balance in hands of treasurer.....	231 95
Cash in hands of superintendent.....	306 96
	<hr/>
	\$46,136 11

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Allen Mearns, Treasurer of the New York Asylum for Idiots, in
account current with the state of New York, for cash received
and expended for the general supplies, and the salaries and
wages of officers, teachers, attendants and servants of said
asylum, during the year ending September 30, 1875.

Oct. 1. To cash from state treasurer	\$8,000 00
Dec. 31. To cash from state treasurer	5,000 00
1875.	
Mar. 31. To cash from state treasurer	5,000 00
June 30. To cash from state treasurer	5,000 00
July 14. To cash from state treasurer, special	1,500 00
Feb. and March. To cash from county treasurer for chob- ing state pupils	2,500 22
To cash from pay-pupils, board, instruction and clothing	2,501 22
1874.	
Oct. 1. In hands of superintendent for contingent ex- penses	25 22
Sept. 30. In hands of treasurer of asylum	131 21
	<hr/>
	\$46,136 11

1875.	
Jan. 1. By cash paid on warrants of executive committee, for quarter ending December 31, 1874	\$8,000 00
April 1. To cash paid on warrants of executive committee, for quarter ending March 31, 1875	5,000 00
July 1. By cash paid on warrants of executive committee, for quarter ending June 30, 1875	5,000 00

STEWARD'S REPORT OF PRODUCT OF FARM AND GARDEN.

Asparagus, bunches.....	175 at \$.08....	\$14 00
Rhubarb, bunches.....	320 at .04....	12 80
Radishes, bunches.....	65 at .04....	2 50
Beets, green, bushels.....	30 at .40....	12 00
Garden beets, bushels.....	50 at .40....	20 00
Beans, Lima, bushels.....	26 at 2.50....	65 00
Beans, French, bushels.....	30 at 2.00....	60 00
Beans, cranberry, bushels.....	10 at 1.00....	10 00
Lettuce, heads.....	450 at .04....	18 00
Peas, bushels.....	85 at .75....	63 75
Corn, sweet, bushels.....	75 at .75....	56 25
Spinach, bushels.....	28 at .60....	16 80
Cucumbers, bushels.....	16 at 1.00....	16 00
Cauliflower, heads.....	50 at .10....	5 00
Cabbage, heads.....	1,100 at .05....	55 00
Celery, heads.....	700 at .05....	35 00
Melons.....	162 at .08....	12 96
Squash, summer, bushels.....	45 at .20....	9 00
Squash, Hubbard, bushels.....	60 at .65....	39 00
Squash, Boston, bushels.....	40 at .50....	20 00
Squash, crooked, bushels.....	15 at .40....	6 00
Tomatoes, bushels.....	135 at .50....	67 50
Potatoes, bushels.....	1,200 at .40....	480 00
Carrots, bushels.....	400 at .30....	120 00
Beets, farm.....	1,000 at .20....	200 00
Parsnips, bushels.....	50 at .60....	30 00
Turnips, bushels.....	50 at .25....	12 50
Hay, tons.....	10 at 12.00....	120 00
Milk, quarts.....	24,375 at .05....	1,218 75
Hogs, pounds.....	5,000 at .09....	450 00
Apples, bushels.....	30 at 1.00....	30 00
Pears, Bartlets, bushels.....	25 at 3.00....	75 00
Pears, Bergamot, bushels.....	30 at 1.50....	45 00
Pears, Seckel, bushels.....	200 at 1.75....	350 00

Currants, quarts.....	300 at \$.10....	\$30 00
Gooseberries, quarts.....	50 at .20....	10 00
Raspberries, quarts.....	40 at .15....	6 00
Grapes, quarts.....	150 at .10....	15 00
Cherries, bushels.....	12 at 3.00....	36 00
Plums, bushels.....	10 at 2.00....	20 00
Strawberries, quarts.....	50 at .20....	10 00

\$3,874 91

BENJAMIN N. EASTMAN,

Steward.

APPENDIX.

EXTRACT FROM THE BY-LAWS OF THE ASYLUM.

“The design and objects of the asylum, as established by the action of the legislature, are not of a custodial character, but to furnish the means of education to that portion of the youth of the state not provided for in any of its other educational institutions. Those only will, therefore, be received into the asylum who are of a proper school-attending age, and for such periods of time as shall, in the estimation of the board of trustees, suffice to impart all the education practicable in each particular case, and in conformity with the regulations hereinafter specified.

“Children between the ages of seven and fourteen, who are idiotic, or so deficient in intelligence as to be incapable of being educated at any ordinary school, and who are not epileptic, insane or greatly deformed, may be admitted by the superintendent, with the advice and consent of the executive committee. Applications in behalf of others shall be referred to the action of the board of trustees.

“The parents or next friends of those in whose behalf applications are made for admission as pupils shall make answers in writing to such questions as the superintendent and committee shall prescribe. They shall, moreover, if of sufficient ability, engage to pay such reasonable sum for the education and support of the pupils, and to furnish them with such proper clothing while in the institution, as shall be stipulated by the superintendent, and they shall in all cases be bound to receive them back, when required, free of expense to the asylum. But no idiots shall be received into the asylum without there shall have been first lodged with the superintendent thereof a request to that effect, under the hand of the person by whose direction he is sent, stating the age and place of nativity, if known, of the idiot, his christian and surname, the town or city and county in which they severally reside, the ability, or otherwise, of the idiot, his parents or guardians, to provide for his support, in whole or in part; and if in part only, what part and degree of relationship, or other circumstances or connection between

him and the person requesting his admission; which statement shall be verified in writing by the oath of two disinterested persons, residents of the same county with the idiot, acquainted with the facts and circumstances so stated, and certified to be credible by the county judge of the same county. And no idiot shall be received into said asylum, unless the county judge of the county liable for his support shall certify that such idiot is an eligible and proper candidate for admission to said asylum as aforesaid.

"The state pupils in the asylum will be selected in equal numbers, as far as may be, from each judicial district, from those whose parents or guardians are unable to provide for their support therein.

"The state pupils will be expected to come to the asylum provided with a supply of neat and substantial clothing for the first six months, after which period the clothing will be furnished by the asylum, at the expense of the respective counties of which they are residents, as in the case of the deaf and dumb, and the blind asylums of the state.

"A bond will be required in all cases, except the case of a state pupil, to insure the removal of the pupil free of expense to the institution.

"All pupils will be received upon trial for one month, at the end of which time a report upon the case will be made to the parents or parties sending them.

"The education furnished by the institution will include, not only the simpler elements of instruction usually taught in common schools, where that is practicable, but will embrace a course of training in the more practical matters of every-day life, the cultivation of habits of decency, propriety, self-management and self-reliance, and the development and enlargement of a capacity for useful occupation.

"There shall be a vacation during the whole month of August, unless otherwise directed by the board, at which period all pupils must be removed from the asylum by the parents or guardians, if required by the superintendent.

"Applications for admission to the asylum, stating age, sex, general health, and such other particulars as will enable the trustees to judge of the teachableness of the person for whom application is made, must be directed to the superintendent, Dr. H. B. Wilbur."

It will be seen by reference to the foregoing, just what the mode of admission is. Application is first made to the superintendent of the asylum, furnishing such particulars of the condition of the person for whom application is made as will enable the executive com-

mittee to decide whether the party is a suitable subject for admission.

If the case come within the purpose of the institution, a blank form of application is at once sent, which, when filled up and returned to the superintendent, furnishes a statement of the name, residence, etc., of the party, and his or her pecuniary condition, or the pecuniary condition of his or her parents, verified by the affidavit of two persons acquainted with the circumstances related in the statement, and confirmed by the certificate of the county judge.

On the return of this circular, if there is a vacancy from the judicial district in which the party resides, permission is at once given for his or her admission.

If no vacancy exists at the time, the parties interested are so notified, and the application is filed, the applicant to receive the benefit of the first vacancy, in turn.

It is provided in the by-laws that each pupil shall be taken on trial. The probationary period named is one month. The practice has been otherwise. The cases rejected on trial have usually been retained a much longer period; at all events, till it was certain they were not suitable subjects for improvement.

The grounds upon which pupils have been dismissed under the rule hitherto have been, first, serious ill-health that seemed likely to terminate in a speedy death. In most of the cases included under this head, the wisdom of the decision requiring their removal has been verified by the fact that they died not many months afterward. Next, confirmed epilepsy. When this disease has been fully developed, the same reasons that suggested the article in the by-laws against the admission of epileptics would require their dismissal.

Again, true dementia, or a loss of mind resulting from organic lesion of the brain, as a consequence of some disease in infancy or childhood.

Again, cases of idiocy conjoined with insanity. In these, the very measures of management and instruction adopted in the case of idiocy, only excite and aggravate the peculiarities presented; and as there is no proper provision in this institution for confinement, seclusion or restraint, their dismissal is rendered unavoidable.

In a few cases only it could be said that all efforts to educate or radically improve, that the asylum afforded, had failed of their purpose.

