

Nineteenth annual report of the New York Asylum for Idiots : transmitted to the Legislature Jan. 19, 1870 / New York State Asylum for Idiots.

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NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEW YORK ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

Transmitted to the Legislature Jan. 19, 1870.

ALBANY:

THE ARGUS COMPANY, PRINTERS.

1870.

MINISTRE DU REVENUE

THE YORK ASSOCIATION FOR IDIOTS

Transmitted to the Legislature Jan. 10, 1878

ALBANY

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

1878

OFFICERS.

Superintendent.

HERVEY B. WILBUR, M. D.

Matron.

MISS ALVIRA WOOD.

House-Keeper.

MRS. SUSAN E. LOESCHER.

Teachers.

MISS S. P. YOUNG,

MRS. M. E. COOK,

MISS M. CAVERT,

MISS M. AMIDON,

MISS ELLEN WILLIAMS.

Steward.

MR. WM H. WOOD.

TRUSTEES.

JAMES H. TITUS,
HENRY N. POHLMAN,
ALLEN MUNROE,
HIRAM PUTNAM,

FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
LYMAN CLARY,
SANFORD E. CHURCH,
E. W. LEAVENWORTH.

State Officers—Ex-Officio Trustees.

JOHN T. HOFFMAN, Governor,
H. A. NELSON, Secretary of State,

ALLEN C. BEACH, Lieut.-Governor,
WM. F. ALLEN, Comptroller,

A. B. WEAVER, Supt. of Pub. Instruction.

Permanent Chairman.

HENRY N. POHLMAN.

Secretary and Treasurer.

ALLEN MUNROE.

Executive Committee.

E. W. LEAVENWORTH,

JAMES H. TITUS,

LYMAN CLARY.

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STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 26.

IN ASSEMBLY,

January 19, 1870.

NINETEENTH 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 Asylum, the undersigned Trustees respectfully submit this, their nineteenth annual report.

The total cash receipts for the year ending Sept. 30, 1869, as will be seen by the Treasurer's report herewith annexed, were as follows:

Cash from State Treasurer (annual appropriation),.....	\$25,000 00
“ “ “ (special appropriation),....	3,000 00
“ County Treasurers for clothing pupils,	2,423 35
“ Friends of pay-pupils,.....	4,491 80
Over draft at Bank, Sept. 30, 1869,.....	1,560 89
	<hr/>
	\$36,486 04

The expenditures for the same period were as follows:

Provisions and supplies of all kinds,	\$12,449 69
Fuel,.....	1,380 26
Gas,	672 28
Water,	150 00
Furniture, bed-linen and other household furnishing articles,	2,102 35
Farm, garden and stable,.....	1,079 44
Repairs, improvements and additions,.....	\$2,796 41
Painting the buildings,.....	888 44

School furniture, apparatus, books, etc.,.....	\$300 47
Drugs, medicines, etc.,.....	130 83
Salaries of officers and teachers,.....	4,975 00
Wages of attendants and servants,.....	4,850 33
Clothing,.....	2,871 94
Insurance,.....	161 50
Freight, express and telegraph,.....	33 05
Printing, blanks, etc.,.....	29 45
Postage,.....	57 64
Interest on loans,.....	55 91
Traveling expenses of trustees,.....	71 50
Traveling expenses of Superintendent,.....	28 12
Sending children home,.....	26 97
Miscellaneous expenses,.....	68 59
Over draft at Bank, Oct. 1, 1868,.....	1,249 48
In hands of Superintendent, Oct. 1, 1869,.....	56 39
	<hr/>
	\$36,486 04

(The articles included under the head of provisions and supplies above, are classified on the books of the Asylum under thirty different heads, and the amount of expenditure under each head for the year is there given.)

From the above statement it appears that there is now an over draft at the Bank of Oct. 1, 1869,.....	\$1,560 89
There was also due at that date bills of various kinds to the amount of,.....	1,873 20

Making a total of liabilities of,.....	\$3,434 09
--	------------

Cash assets of Asylum, Oct. 1, 1869.

Due from individuals for board, instruction, etc.,.....	\$1,428 51
From counties and individuals for clothing,.....	276 41
Cash in hands of Superintendent,.....	56 39
	<hr/>
	\$1,761 31

Assets of various kinds on hand available for present year's support,.....	\$2,622 50
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Total assets,.....	\$4,383 81
--------------------	------------

It will thus be seen that the institution is practically out of debt at the commencement of the present fiscal year.

In the last annual report the Trustees suggested that the annual appropriation should be raised a small amount, and thus obviate the necessity of annually calling upon the Legislature for a sum to supply deficiencies. The present appropriation provides only at the rate of

\$200 for each State pupil. This is greatly less than the sums required for the support of the inmates of the other State charitable institutions, and not quite equal to our requirements. They would, therefore, suggest that the annual appropriation be raised from \$25,000 to \$27,000 (twenty-seven thousand dollars).

The special appropriation of last year of \$8,000 for heating the building by steam, was ample for the purpose, as will be seen by detailed statement in the appendix.

The Trustees will again state, as in several former reports, their conviction of the need of additional accommodations for training and educating the feeble-minded children, residents of the State, and capable of such improvement. Granting but a small portion of the idiots of the State are of a teachable age and condition, and we shall have more in number than this institution can now provide for.

In fact, the applications for admission would be overwhelming if the asylum were as well-known throughout the State as in its central portion. Judging by the number of applications for admission from the Judicial District in which the asylum is situated, a building twice as large as the present one would soon be full of proper subjects.

The State Board of Charities give the number of idiots in the State as 1,541, of which number only 563 are held in custody. These figures, taken from the census returns, are entirely unreliable, as is evident from the fact, that, in 1825, when the population of the State was only half what it now is, an equal number of idiots was then returned. It is only a proof of the difficulty of getting at that class of facts in large cities. The first step, however, that should now be taken to ameliorate the condition of the class in question is to provide a new and custodial institution to take a portion of the cases that are unteachable from age or any other cause.

The establishment of such additional Asylum was contemplated by those interested in the subject even when this institution was founded, and suggestions were made to that end from time to time in its annual reports. A year ago the way seemed open for the State to carry out such a purpose at a very moderate cost. The matter was fully set forth in the report of the Superintendent a year ago. As no action was then taken, he repeats the recommendation in his report of this year. He fortifies the views he then expressed by the confirmatory recommendation of the Board of State Charities. Attention is again called to the plan he proposes.

We may add, that it is understood that the Trustees of the new

Asylum from Chronic Insane at Ovid, will also recommend the same plan in their annual report for this year.

If this project is acted upon a temporary relief will be afforded to those in charge of the present asylum, as some twenty per cent of the present inmates could then be removed to the new quarters at Ovid.

The Trustees may be pardoned for quoting from the report of the Board of State Charities a sentence or two in relation to this institution. It will show their appreciation of the value of the peculiar work which they have been appointed to superintend, and it will, by this means, also reach some readers who would not otherwise have the opportunity of seeing it. "There is, perhaps, no charity in the State, which is in all respects in a more satisfactory condition than this. The Board of Managers have no thought except for the prosperity of the institution. The Superintendent is enlightened in his management and warmly interested in its practical success. The teachers are enthusiastic and patient and hopeful among many discouragements. The work itself is calculated to arouse the deepest sympathy and interest among philanthropists. It cannot but increase our interest in every undeveloped member of the human race. That science has discovered, and charity has shown, that there is scarcely one intellect, in its original form, so weak and feeble that patience and tact will not develope it, and kindness will not foster its growth."

The Trustees continue their high regard for the Superintendent, and full confidence in his ability for the administration of his peculiar and interesting charge. They would also express their satisfaction with the patient and faithful performance of arduous duties by teachers and subordinate officers.

JAMES H. TITUS,
HENRY N. POHLMAN,
E. W. LEAVENWORTH,
LYMAN CLARY,
ALLEN MUNROE,
HIRAM PUTNAM,
SANFORD E. CHURCH,
FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
JOHN T. HOFFMAN, *Governor*,
ALLEN C. BEACH, *Lieu't Governor*,
H. A. NELSON, *Secretary of State*,
W. F. ALLEN, *Comptroller*,
ABRAM B. WEAVER, *Sup. Pub. Inst.*

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Trustees of the New York Asylum for Idiots :

GENTLEMEN—I submit the following as my report of the affairs of this institution for the past year. There have been in the asylum during the school year terminating September 1st, 1869, 149 different pupils. The actual average attendance for the school year of eleven months was 140. In other words, the full capacity of the asylum has been occupied. In fact, such is the relation of our limited accommodations to the number of teachable idiots in the State, that there would never be a vacancy for a week, except that it is expected of the officers of the asylum to keep each judicial district in the State properly represented among the pupils. This cannot always be done. In the remoter districts, less is known of the peculiar work of the institution, and fewer applications are therefore received for admission to its benefits. This institution has now been so long established, it does its work so quietly from year to year, that the only modes of extending a knowledge of its scope and function is through the annual reports to the Legislature, and by direct communication from the friends of pupils in the immediate localities from which they come. It thus happens that most of our applications for admission now come either from members of the Legislature, in behalf of some one in their districts, or from those who, in their applications, refer to some case now or at some former time an inmate of the asylum.

During the year and in the annual vacation twenty-one pupils have been dismissed, and two have died. The dismissals were for various reasons. Most of these were pupils whose term of residence had expired. Three were removed on account of sickness. Five of the number because they proved to be unteachable. These last need a home in such a custodial institution as was recommended in the annual report of a year ago.

There has been little sickness in the institution for the year past. The two deaths that occurred were from disease of the brain supervening after slight attacks of other disease. In each case there had evidently been, at some earlier period, organic disease of the brain that had produced the original idiocy.

It may be mentioned, in passing, that death, in the case of idiots, usually results from one of two causes. Where the idiocy has originated in disease of the nervous centers, in infancy, death comes, at last, by a renewal of disease in the organ or part originally affected, no matter what the character of the final sickness, at the outset. Again, where there is a congenital defect or infirmity of the brain or general nervous system, the case succumbs at last by the failure of vital power at critical periods in the life of the individual.

The annual cost of maintenance and instruction of the pupils, both paying and State pupils, including all items of expenditure for addi-

tions and all necessary repairs of buildings, and the cost of renewals of furniture, etc., was \$227 each.

Of the whole number of pupils, 123 were the beneficiaries of the State, in whole or in part. The pupils, whose entire support comes from the State appropriations, are received only on a certificate of indigence, based upon affidavits made before the county judge from which they come, and verified by these officers.

The other statistics relating to the asylum, will be found in the reports of the Trustees and Treasurer.

From the nature of the case, the statistics of an institution for some time established, and changing annually less than twenty per cent of the number of its pupils, furnish but meagre materials for an annual report.

There are, however, accumulating in the records of the institution some facts which may be of interest in the course of years, when, by their aggregation, they may furnish the basis of generalizations bearing upon the causes, conditions and effects of idiocy and its social relations.

Inasmuch as what is commonly understood by the term idiocy is only one of the symptoms of a general degeneracy in the subject of it, there are other matters besides the mental and moral features that have an interest to some outside of the medical profession. Care has therefore been taken by those in charge of this institution to make observations from time to time that will, as they accumulate, be of interest in this regard.

A pretty extended description is taken of the pupils on entering, embracing all the facts that can be elicited from those who have them previously in charge. These facts are arranged in a tabular form in the register of the asylum.

Their physiological conditions are noted from time to time. Thus within two or three years past a series of careful observations have been made upon the temperature of the pupils, the condition of their urine, upon the action of the heart, etc.

In the case of the invalid portion of the pupils persistent medical treatment has been applied as occasion required, and the results noted. These, in time, may be reported. But in the annual report of the superintendent, the main point is to set forth what is, for the time being, of most value to those likely to read it, namely, the object for which the institution is designed and the success hitherto attained. The same has been true in previous years. And so is involved the necessity of reiterating in substance, if not in precise form, much that has been presented in former reports.

Besides, the Legislature, to whom it is addressed, is a constantly changing body of men. There are still many persons, in various parts of the State, who are ignorant of the existence of the institution, that should avail themselves of its advantages. Its special design is not comprehended even by many to whom its existence is known.

Craving, then, the indulgence of those, if any such there be, who have had occasion to read our reports for a series of years, I proceed to a statement of the scope and object of the institution.

It is then an educational establishment, designed to meet the cases of idiocy as they arise in the community, and applying an appropriate education to these, or all such of these as may prove to be teachable, and lead them along, as far as practicable, toward an intelligent self-direction and self-support.

It is hardly necessary to dwell upon the conditions and features of idiocy that make a special training and management necessary. There are few persons but have, at some time or other, had opportunity of noticing the general peculiarities of the class.

A faulty physical organization, however arising, carries with it impaired functions; the one, the measure of the other. If the degeneracy is extreme, we have the unfortunate subject of it almost destitute of the distinctively human attributes. And between this condition and that of a sound mind in a sound body, we have every degree and shade of physiological disorder and mental deficiency, defying classification. From the very start, all of these, of whatever degree, are behind their companions in the race of life, and each year only widens the distance. They are incapable of development under the circumstance that ordinarily cause growth in telligence and capacity, and this fact, in time, reacts upon what mental and moral endowments they may have had at the outset. And thus the natural isolation is increased and still increasing. Human progress is always the result of successive efforts, constantly availing itself of the increasing momentum derived from the previous trials. But when failure is the rule, and the natural incentives to action are gradually falling away, in time all efforts cease. And so it is in the case of idiots, when left to the influence of common social conditions.

This institution has now been in operation for more than eighteen years. Its success has met all reasonable expectations. If disappointment there has been, it has arisen mainly from two sources. The general truth of the teachableness of idiots has been established. The number of the class in reference to whom it may be said that education is practicable, may have been less than some had supposed. So, too, the degree and extent of education for the class may not have been as great as was at first predicted.

In other words, limiting the scope of the institution to the work of training and instruction, and viewing this in the cold light of political economy, the proportion of teachable to unteachable is a little less than at first hoped. In this aspect, the dividing line would be drawn, leaving above it only those who make an adequate return for advantage of education received, in an increased and compensating capacity for usefulness, or in a lessened cost of future support and care.

Again, some limitations must be set to the amount of time and labor expended in any State institution, and so the practical results of training, in the way of independent self-control and self-support, have fallen a little short of what may be called the possible fruits under circumstances of less restriction.

It is not claimed even now that the precise ends of education in the different grades of idiocy has been yet fully determined; not that the best methods of attaining those ends have been in all cases

reached. A longer and wider experience will doubtless bring out new aims and new adjustments to meet those aims.

Still the general direction in which the efforts to improve the condition of the class in question should tend, are now pretty well established. Their instruction and training demand no new principles of education. It simply applies such as are well-grounded to the peculiar conditions that idiocy presents. It finds them, as a class, as has been said, cut off from society by certain defects or infirmities of a physiological character. It seeks to diminish or remove that separation by means directed to modify or do away with those underlying peculiarities. It thus begins by attempts to restore a normal condition of the various functions. It stimulates the exercise of these functions by suitably adapted means. It opens the avenues of sensation, so that the torpid brain is brought into communication with the awakening influences of the outer world. It develops the instrumentalities of resulting action, whether simple or co-ordinate. It twines the feeble impulses of impaired volition into the stronger cord of a determining and out-reaching will. It sharpens the natural instruments of thought and action. It aims to remove the power of habit from the side of hindrance to that of help, in the way of individual progress. And when these first steps are accomplished, and the pupil is brought within the range of the customary educational means and appliances, it resorts to these.

Furthermore, as the work of education, from the nature of the case, is, in the main, to be finished here, it applies this education in a certain practical way, not always or even commonly necessary in other systems of instruction. And so it subordinates all the theoretical training to developing a capacity and a willingness for some form of useful occupation.

When this has been accomplished in the case of any pupils, the special office of this establishment is ended.

This brief statement will answer to give a general idea of the scope and purpose of this institution. In former reports the subject has been treated at greater length, including descriptions of methods of instruction and results in individual cases.

It may be added here that the cost of the work thus outlined has not been out of proportion to the results attained. The average expense of maintenance and instruction of the pupils has never exceeded, and in most instances fallen much short of, that of pupils in similar or kindred institutions.

As has been mentioned, there are some idiots not susceptible of any very marked improvement with the most persistent efforts. With another class, the results attained by training will fall short of a capacity for any form of useful occupation. For these something yet remains to be done at the hands of society.

In our last annual report some suggestions were made upon this point. As no action was taken for the relief of this class by the last Legislature, the remarks then made may be repeated:

"It has already been mentioned that quite a percentage of cases in this institution, designed as an educational one, are, in a measure,

unteachable. The presence of these not only embarrasses the general management, but swells the average cost of taking care of the pupils generally.

"This general question of State policy in regard to the proper disposition of the idiots within its borders thus becomes a practical one to those interested in the management of this asylum.

"Within two or three years the State has settled upon a policy in reference to the future care of the insane poor. It has now nearly completed the erection of a large building in the central part of the State, at Ovid, where such are to be sent by the county authorities. This building is located on a large farm, where the labor of the patients can be, to some extent, made available in diminishing the cost of their support. The plan of the building is capable of some degree of expansion to meet future necessities, and when this fails of accommodation, it is proposed to erect upon other portions of the farm moderate-priced structures to meet additional wants.

"Here, then, in time, will be congregated the insane poor of quite a portion of the State. Under the new and more intelligent management to which they will be submitted, it is expected that the cost of their proper support will be but slightly more than now; and the difference in the degree of comfort afforded them an immense one.

"A plan thus admirably devised for the insane may well be copied with reference to the idiots of the State; the present condition of both classes, as a rule, being alike a disgrace to modern civilization. To accomplish so desirable a purpose, only the slightest amount of legislation is necessary. It would consist only of an amendment to the present law relating to the Ovid asylum, making its provisions inclusive of idiots as well as of insane, and upon the same conditions.

"And for the accommodation of the number thus added, a building is already provided, if it can be but devoted to their use. The farm upon which the new asylum has been erected at Ovid is the one upon which the Agricultural College was erected. That building now stands unoccupied. It is a new structure, commodious, and quite well adapted for the purpose proposed. A slight alteration would make it all that could be desired. The same organization that has the oversight of the insane asylum could extend its supervision, medical and otherwise, over the proposed addition.

"It would seem as if the mere presentation of the facts would suffice to ensure the necessary legislation.

"It must not be supposed that those who are classed as unteachable from any cause (except epilepsy) are beyond the reach of some degree of improvement, under the comparatively favorable circumstances that would be supplied even in the custodial institution recommended; for, judging by the experience at this asylum, in the cases that have been dismissed as incapable of education, even these have, with very few exceptions, been regarded by their friends as having been greatly improved by their residence here — improved in habits, causing much less trouble, more capable of helping themselves, and more easily controlled.

"Such provision being made for the unteachable, the present State

Asylum for Idiots could be left to follow out strictly the plan of its founders."

In reference to the suggestions then made the Commissioners of Public Charities make the following remarks in their annual report for 1869 (p. 35):

"Experience shows that while there is an almost infinite variety in the forms of idiocy, shading, by degrees, from perfect intelligence to absolute fatuity, persons of this class may be broadly divided into two great divisions—those who can, and those who cannot, profit by instruction. For those of the second class, nothing is needed but custody, in a spirit of kindness. They should be properly housed, fed and clothed, and permitted to pass a comfortable physical existence. For those of the sound class another kind of institution is needed. None should be excluded from this class who show any prospect of improvement, however faint. The case should be plain and the necessity stringent, before a person is relegated among those who are to be abandoned to their fate. But in a clear case such abandonment should be made. The State institution of New York is of an educational character, and not calculated simply for custodial purposes.

"On these grounds, a suggestion made by the superintendent of that institution carries with it great weight. He recommends that those who can derive little or no advantage from instruction should be cared for in separate buildings. The unteachable class compose about one-fifth of the whole number. There is a building belonging to the State, situated at Ovid, of large dimensions, and not likely to be wanted for other public purposes. This structure might be advantageously used for the custody of such idiots as should be removed, as unteachable, from the State Asylum, or as might be gathered together from the various poor-houses of the State."

In bringing this report to a close, a word or two may be added, that will show the relations that have existed between the management of the institution and the parents and friends of the pupils. Not alone as a cause of self-gratulation, but for the benefit of such of the readers of this report, as may think of placing children in the asylum.

During the more than eighteen years since it was founded, it has had, for longer or shorter periods of residence, more than five hundred different pupils. These have come from all parts of the State, and a few from distant portions of the Union. They have been gathered from homes of luxury and homes of want; not a few of them from the orphan asylums and poor-houses of the State.

But within the walls of this asylum, these outside distinctions of social position never reach. It is meant that such adequate provision shall be made for the comfort, welfare and improvement of the pupils as shall satisfy the reasonable wishes of every parent; that a spirit of kindness, forbearance and affection shall pervade every department of the care-taking and instruction. But no special privileges are allowed or indulgences granted, except such as are unconsciously yielded by those in charge, to such of the pupils as are of more win-

ning ways and dispositions; or to the reflected influence of the strongly manifested interest of the friends who bring them.

During the whole period, the institution has been open to the public, subject only to such restrictions, in time and circumstances, as the proper care of the children demanded. No visitor is ever refused admission in school-hours. An officer of the house is always present to show whatever there is of public interest in the methods of management and instruction, and to answer the proper questions of all comers.

To the parents and friends opportunity has been afforded to see their children at all times, to remove them when they pleased, and to assist in their care whenever sick. Many of the pupils are of sufficient intelligence to clearly express their feelings as to the care bestowed upon them and the general treatment received by them.

Besides this there are very many persons now residing in the vicinity of Syracuse who have, at some time or another, been in some way connected with the asylum, or have had children inmates there. In view of all these circumstances, it is a source of great satisfaction that, within the knowledge of its officers, there has never been complaint of neglect or ill-treatment of the pupils, but in two or three instances, and these on examination proved unwarranted and trivial. On the contrary the kindest expressions of confidence and satisfaction have been tendered by very many of the parties most interested in the good management of the institution.

Whatever merit there is in this belongs not to the Superintendent, who quite remotely fulfills his mission in the care of the pupils, but to the subordinate officers, teachers and all of every grade who minister more directly to their comfort and improvement, and who have in the past, as now, rendered intelligent, faithful and kindly service.

H. B. WILBUR,
Superintendent.

SYRACUSE, Oct. 27th, 1869.

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 30th, 1869.

1868.		<i>Dr.</i>	
Oct. 1.	Cash from State Treasurer,	\$10,000 00	
Dec. 2.	do do	5,000 00	
	Clothing ac't for month of February, 1869,	2,423 35	
March 12.	Cash from State Treasurer,	5,000 00	
May 15.	do do	5,000 00	
June 2.	do do	3,000 00	
Sept. 30.	Receipts from pay-pupils,	4,491 80	
	Overdraft,	1,560 89	
			<hr/>
			\$36,476 04
			<hr/>

1868.		<i>Cr.</i>	
Oct. 1.	Overdraft,	\$1,249 48	
1869.			
Jan'y 1.	By cash paid on warrants for quarter ending December 31st, 1868,	14,163 76	
April 1.	By cash paid on warrants for quarter ending March 31, 1869,	4,385 09	
July 1.	By cash paid on warrants for quarter ending June 30, 1869,	7,674 81	
Sept. 30.	By cash paid on warrants for quarter ending September 30, 1869,	4,511 10	
	Accounts audited by Ex. Com. and paid by steward during year,	4,435 41	
	In hands of Superintendent,	56 39	
			<hr/>
			\$36,476 04
			<hr/>

APPENDIX A.

An appropriation of \$8,000 was made by the last Legislature for the purpose of putting up apparatus to heat the building by steam.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, in June, the executive committee of the board, and the Superintendent, were directed to issue proposals for the work, and to let the same; the price of the contract not to exceed the appropriation, including all necessary carpenter, mason and painters' work. Proposals were accordingly issued, five bids were received for the work from as many different parties, and the lowest was accepted. The plan adopted heating both by direct and indirect radiation.

By the terms of the contract, a horizontal boiler, fifteen feet long, by four feet in diameter, with forty-eight three-inch flues, including all necessary steam and water guages, and with self-regulating steam damper, was to be set in the cellar of the building. A chimney was to be rebuilt from foundation to the roof, to provide a safe and ample flue.

Cast-iron radiators were to be placed at points indicated upon the plan of the building submitted with the proposals, of sufficient radiating surface to thoroughly heat every room in the house, except a few in the upper stories that could be warmed enough from the surplus heat in the halls.

These were to be connected with the boiler by pipes of proper size, carrying the live and returning the condensed steam to the same.

All these were to be supplied with the necessary valves and stop-cocks to make a complete and perfect job.

All injury to the mason and wood-work of the house was to be repaired, and the building left in good condition. The whole work to be done to the satisfaction of the committee of the board.

The work was commenced in July, and the contract fulfilled in due time. It was accepted by the committee, and the amount due on the contract paid. The balance of the appropriation, \$79.75, was returned to the State Comptroller.

From the first day the fire was lighted under the boiler it has worked admirably. Though tested up to a pressure of 150 lbs. of steam to the inch, it is not expected to be used ordinarily above 5 lbs. pressure. The usual pressure to this time has not been above 3 lbs.

During the coldest weather yet experienced this winter, the thermometer at 10°, varying during the day to 20°, and with a strong wind. The house was warm in every part, and the heating apparatus not taxed to its full capacity.

The apparatus was in the main planned by George Walker & Co., of Boston. The work was done by F. E. Carroll, of Syracuse, and in the most satisfactory manner.

The abundant heat in every part of the house, the character of the heat from the form of the radiator used, and the entire freedom from gas and dust, is a great improvement over the old method of heating by furnaces.

Careful experiments, by weighing the coal consumed each day, shows a saving of some 25 per cent over the former method of heating.

APPENDIX B.

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, in what part and degree of relationship, or other circumstances of 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 committee 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, &c., 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 this 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 afterwards. 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 the 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.

It is a common error to suppose that the only way to get the most out of a book is to read it straight through from beginning to end.

It will be seen by reference to the foregoing that a book is not a single entity, but a collection of many parts, each of which may be read in its own right, and which may be read in any order, and at any time, and in any place.

It is the duty of the reader to select the parts which interest him, and to read them in his own way, and at his own convenience. This is the only way to get the most out of a book, and to make it a part of his own knowledge.

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