

Seventeenth annual report of the New York Asylum for Idiots : transmitted to the Legislature, January 19, 1868 / New York State Asylum for Idiots.

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SEVENTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEW YORK ASYLUM

FOR

IDIOTS.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE, JANUARY 19, 1868.

ALBANY :

VAN BENTHUYSEN & SONS' STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.

1868.

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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.

GOVERNOR FENTON, STEWART L. WOODFORD,
H. A. NELSON, WM. F. ALLEN,
VICTOR M. RICE.

Permanent Chairman.

HENRY N. POHLMAN.

Secretary and Treasurer.

ALLEN MUNROE.

Executive Committee.

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ALLEN MUNROE.

OFFICERS:

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Housekeeper.

MISS MARY L. COLTON.

Matron.

MISS ALVIRA WOOD.

Teachers.

MISS S. P. YOUNG,

MISS KATE CARROLL,

MISS K. W. BROWNING,

MISS FANNY LORING,

MRS. M. E. COOK.

Steward.

DAVID HUBER.

State of New York.

No. 68.

IN ASSEMBLY,

January 19, 1868.

SEVENTEENTH 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 respectively submit this, their

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT:

The total cash receipts, for the year ending September 30th, 1867, as per the treasurer's report herewith annexed, were as follows :

Cash from State Treasurer (annual appropriation) ..	\$21,000 00
Cash from State Treasurer (special appropriation) ..	8,000 00
Cash from pay-pupils	3,634 47
Cash from counties for clothing State pupils	1,772 00
Total receipts	\$34,406 47

The expenditures for the same period were as follows :

Provisions and supplies of all kinds	\$11,891 65
Salaries of officers and teachers	4,447 40
Wages of attendants, servants and farm labor	5,258 12
Furniture and furnishing articles, household linen, &c.	1,905 63
Supplies for farm, garden and stable	619 18
Repairs, improvements and additions to buildings ...	2,743 13
Drugs, medicines, paints and oil	231 06
School books, apparatus and stationery	225 59
Fuel	1,595 53
Gas	972 83
Clothing	2,621 00
Rent of land	108 67

Freight and express	\$41 37
Printing	18 84
Postage	53 20
Insurance	120 00
Bank loan and interest	1,772 45
Traveling expenses of trustees	41 00
Traveling expenses of Superintendent	62 07
Expenses sending children home (refunded)	148 17
Water rates	500 00
Sundry miscellaneous expenditures	107 76
Cash in Superintendent's hands	89 88
Overdraft at bank, October 1st, 1866	2,081 29
Total expenditures	\$37,655 82

[The articles included under the head of provisions and supplies are classified on the books of the Asylum under twenty-eight heads; and the amount of expenditure under each head is there given for each month in the year.]

From the above statement it appears there is now a cash deficit due the bank of

\$3,249 35

There was also due as of that date :

Salaries of officers and teachers for quarter,	\$1,100 00
Wages of attendants and servants	436 50
Bills for supplies of various kinds	1,087 92
Gas bill	104 25
Sundry small bills	160 64
	<u>2,889 31</u>
	\$6,138 66

Cash assets of Asylum, Oct 1st, 1867 :

Due from individuals for board, instruction, &c.	\$2,682 95
Due from individuals for clothing	260 00
Due from counties	160 00
Sundry small accounts	68 00

Total cash assets 3,170 95

Deducting this amount from the amount of indebtedness, we have an actual cash deficit

\$2,967 71

As against such deficit there is on hand available for current year's expenses, sundry supplies, thus :

Clothing	\$800 00
Household supplies	600 00
Farm products	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,400 00
	<hr/>

It is hoped that this general statement of the fiscal concerns of the Asylum will be satisfactory to the Legislature, as showing that a proper economy has been practiced in its management. It shows that the annual expenses of the Institution are less now than ten years ago, making allowance for the present enhanced price of everything that enters into its daily consumption. It shows that such current expenses compare favorably with those of similar institutions, both in Europe and this country.

For the current expenses of the coming year there will be needed an appropriation corresponding with that of the present year.

Beyond this exhibit of the manner in which they have executed their trust in the matter of the expenditure of the public money, the undersigned would call attention to the Superintendent's Report, which gives such other information and details of management as the spirit of the law in relation to the Asylum requires. It may be added that their faith in the worthiness of the objects for which the Asylum was founded remains unabated. The experience of each new year increases their conviction that it was an urgent public need that called it into being. They see no reason to change its general plan or the methods by which its ends are sought to be accomplished. Whatever change has been made from time to time, has been in the direction of a more practical training in the habits and occupations of every-day life, and the more complete subordination of all the exercises to such ultimate ends. The original scope and policy of the Asylum was shaped by such minds as the late John C. Spencer, Gov. Marey, Gov. Hunt, Bishop Kip, and other well known citizens, who at various periods had served on its Board of Trustees, and experience has not prompted any great departure from that original purpose.

While thus personally satisfied with the work that has been accomplished under their supervision, they still remember that their function is an administrative one. They are not unmindful that in

the lapse of time the public mind may be led to suppose that their relation to the Asylum may unduly prejudice them in its favor; that they may exalt its claims or fail to appreciate its relative importance as compared with other State institutions.

Besides the remedy for such a tendency on the part of the Board (if such a tendency exists) that lies in the periodical change in the Constitution of the Board of Trustees, who manages its affairs, there is now another which will be hereafter operative.

The new Board of State Charities now stands between the Legislature and this, as well as the other State institutions. We invite, then, their attention to this Institution. As they may learn the needs of the class for whom it was founded, they will be able to judge whether it meets those needs, at least to the extent of its capacity.

And, furthermore, we invite such a scrutiny of its affairs as may determine the degree of our fidelity in the past; and such a continued supervision as will stimulate us to higher efforts to fulfill our duties both towards the State and the subjects of our care and interest.

R. E. FENTON,
STEWART L. WOODFORD,
H. A. NELSON, *Sec'y of State*,
W. F. ALLEN, *Comptroller*,
VICTOR M. RICE, *Supt. of Pub. Ins.*,
JAMES H. TITUS,
HENRY N. POHLMAN,
FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
E. W. LEAVENWORTH,
LYMAN CLARY,
HIRAM PUTNAM,
S. E. CHURCH.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Trustees of the New York Asylum for Idiots :

GENTLEMEN—Another year has passed in the history of the Asylum, presenting very little noteworthy beyond the customary statistics of such an institution.

There have been in the Asylum during the school year terminating September 1st, 1867, 154 different pupils. The number in actual attendance on the average was 143.

There is an annual vacation of six weeks, from the middle of July to the 1st of September, at which period all parents who wish to remove their children temporarily may do so. Hitherto, however, owing to the distance from which many of the pupils are sent, and the indigence of the friends, considerably more than one half of the pupils are not removed at that time. There was no sickness among the inmates of the establishment during the year, except some forty cases of measles. These all terminated favorably as was supposed ; but one of the number died several months afterwards from the after effects of that disease. Another of the pupils died in a fit.

The annual cost of maintenance and instruction of the pupils, including all necessary repairs to the building, and the cost of furniture renewed, was \$221 each, or about \$4.25 a week.

By the Treasurer's report, and the table of liabilities and assets presented by the Executive Committee, it will be seen that there is an apparent indebtedness on the 1st of October, 1867, of about (\$3,000) three thousand dollars. But for a year or two past our purchases have been made more at wholesale than formerly, so that this is off-set in some measure. Besides, the last Legislature increased our annual appropriation somewhat, and as we have no extraordinary expenditures for the coming year, it is hoped that the expenses of the coming year will not exceed the means at our disposal.

Quite unexpectedly to the officers of the Asylum, the expenditures were more than in any previous year. However it may

have been elsewhere, in the Syracuse market the staple articles of consumption in the household were higher than ever before. In the two articles of breadstuff and meat consumed at the Asylum, the increase in the aggregate was more than \$2,000.

It is now twelve years since the Asylum, with its out buildings, was constructed, and the same period since its heating and water apparatus was purchased. The repairs and changes necessary involved unusual expenditures in all these respects.

So, too, during the period of extreme high prices that prevailed during the war, the furniture and bed linen had been allowed to get very low, and a liberal replenishment was at last unavoidable. The labor account, too, was some more the last year than before, but this was owing to the increase in the amount of land cultivated which would have been compensated by an increase in our farm productions had not the drouth interfered.

It may not be improper to state that the salaries of the officers remain the same as when the institution was founded. The salaries paid the other assistants are only sufficient to command the services of competent persons, and there has been no increase except that the teachers now have \$50 a year more than in 1851, and the steward \$100 a year more than before the war.

So far as the management of the finances of the Asylum is concerned, the Superintendent desires to say (after a service of sixteen years) that to the best of his ability he has tried to keep its annual expenditures within reasonable limits. There has never been employed a single person whose services, in his judgment, could well be dispensed with.

In regard to the general expenditures, he is compelled to confess that his power goes but little ways. He can only watch against waste and wear. The general policy of the management of the institution is determined somewhat by that which prevails in similar asylums elsewhere, or analogous institutions in our own State. The public are jealous of the management of any State institution, and demands that it shall keep up with what are supposed to be the requirements of the age. In our own case, the pupils must be decently clad, well fed, properly instructed and thoroughly cared for. The requisite amount of fuel, of suitable food, of comfortable clothing and sufficient attendance, must be furnished at whatever cost.

Then he is made the custodian of the building and furniture. The one is to be kept in order, and the other, from time to time,

to be renewed. It often occurs that the repairs of the one or the renewal of the other, are to be made unavoidably whenever the necessity occurs. Still he has no hesitation in appealing to the experience of the Board of Trustees in proof that the annual percentage of repairs and renewal in the matter of building and furniture has not been out of proportion to the original cost, in view of their uses.

It may be mentioned in this connection, that the annual cost of support and instruction of the pupils in this Asylum to this time, has in no case exceeded that of any similar institution in this country or in Europe, or that in the case of kindred institutions in our own State.

Related to this question of the cost of support and appropriate education in a State institution, is the social condition of the pupils, who require this outlay.

It may be premised that this State has long recognized an obligation to extend charitable aid to certain classes, that may be called unfortunate, under circumstances where such aid could not properly be rendered by local authorities.

Within the limits thus indicated, it would seem that there could be no question of the duty of the State, even where no return could be hoped for. There are other circumstances where motives of political economy alone make it quite imperative to use the public money to secure the end in view. And again, there are circumstances where there seems to co-exist with the obligation of charity a certain degree of expediency, as a question of political economy. The considerations prompting legislative action are, in other words, two-fold.

The establishment of this institution was based upon this double motive, as may be seen by consulting the reports of the committees of the Legislature that preceded the original legislative action.

No class of unfortunates in the State could make a higher appeal for relief on the strictest grounds of charity. In no other case was the power of amelioration at the hands of individuals or even local authorities so inadequate. Furthermore, in a large percentage of cases it may be affirmed that an appropriate education substitute a capacity for productive industry for otherwise utter inability for any useful occupation. But the indirect benefits of such an Asylum, or to the friends and care-takers of the class for

whom it was designed, would be none the less marked in both respects named.

There were scattered all over the State, in country institutions and in private families, idiots of every grade. As a class, they were feeble, stupid, and helpless; and where this was not the case, only the more troublesome. For an active, restless, and mischievous idiot—one apt enough to be taught deviltry at the hands of street boys or through other malign influences—is not only a burden, but a care, measured only by the degree in which these qualities possess him. In the one case you have dependence for support and care-taking upon the family, the neighborhood or the local authorities. In the other, added to this the necessary expenditure of time and labor to protect against the exercise of blind, perverted and uncontrolled instincts and energies.

The Asylum has now been sustained some more than sixteen years upon the same considerations upon which it was founded. In our annual reports occasionally have been presented facts showing that the results attained in many cases had met the expectations of its founders.

At this time a few facts may be given as to the social condition of the State pupils in the Asylum during the past year.

Over 25 per cent. of the number were received from county or orphan asylums in different parts of the State. At least 15 per cent. more were either orphans or the children of parents so indigent that the expense of getting them to the institution was defrayed by charitable individuals in the neighborhoods from which they came. And of the whole number more than 60 per cent. obtained admittance upon affidavits taken before the county judges that the parents or friends were so indigent that they could not afford to supply them with necessary clothing.

In some cases it has occurred that the immediate cause of the family dependence upon the the superintendents of the poor for pecuniary assistance, has been the fact of having one or more idiot children; and also that when relieved of such burden through the opened doors of this Asylum, the need of other assistance has been obviated.

To a poor mechanic or laborer, with a family of children, and especially to a poor widow, the support and care of a troublesome idiot child is a burden almost insupportable.

The late John C. Spencer, when in your Board, secured the admission of an idiot boy into the Asylum. He knew all the cir-

cumstances of the case. The mother, a woman once in comfortable circumstances, was left a widow with three boys, all dependent upon the labor of her hands. The eldest was an idiot of thirteen years old, exceedingly troublesome and mischievous. In fact, he was a very serious interference in her struggle to support the family. Freed at last from his care, through Mr. Spencer's influence, she was enabled not only to support and educate her other boys, but ultimately take and manage a farm which they now own. The boy was returned to her after a term of years, in many respects improved, though not to the degree anticipated. The case had passed from idiocy into a mild form of insanity. When one of the officers of the Asylum expressed to her the regret that the results had not been as satisfactory as usual in the case of the pupils, she replied, that the institution had been of inestimable benefit to her by his mere custody for that period, for she had thus been enabled to provide for him a home.

It will be observed, therefore, that the separation of these unfortunates into a class by themselves, or the establishment of an institution to meet their precise needs, does not make any real addition to the cost of their maintenance and care to society at large. It merely transfers it to other hands. It takes it from the local authorities, perhaps, who cannot perform the duty as well from the nature of the case; or it relieves the poor, or even those of moderate circumstances from a burden that is borne tolerably only through the impulse of strong affection or family ties.

There has thus been presented a brief statement of the affairs of the Asylum for the past year, and a few thoughts upon the social condition of its inmates, and here the report of the Superintendent to the Board might appropriately close. One of your number, however, has suggested that, in view of the organization of the new Board of State Charities, that the present report should furnish a brief statement of the designs and aims of the Asylum, and the means taken to accomplish the same. The New York Asylum for Idiots was established in 1851. Preliminary efforts for the same purpose had been made in the Legislatures of 1847 and 1848. That, however, failed of their immediate purpose.

It was founded as an educational establishment. It proposed to take all idiots of a teachable age and condition in the State and give them a practical education; such an education as would increase their future comfort and efficiency. It was supposed, however, that there would always be a certain proportion of those

received upon whom the efforts at instruction would be unavailing. These, by the by-laws, were not to be retained only long enough to give such efforts a fair trial.

It is obvious that the range of instruction for such a class of pupils is widely different from the ordinary educational courses. It was to take the helpless and weak-minded as well as ignorant. It must then seek not only to impart what knowledge it may to those committed to its care, but increase the range and use of their mental powers, and render them capable of caring for themselves as far as may be. Thus only could educational efforts in their behalf be justified. The proper elementary exercises of the gymnasium and the school-room were to be subordinated to the training in helpfulness and practical industry of all the pupils. Thus, the control of the limbs, and the dexterity acquired in the systematic physical exercises, were to be applied in accustoming them to care for themselves in all personal matters. The cultivation of the observing faculties, and the habits of self-control acquired in the school-rooms, were to be put to a useful purpose in the various forms of household occupations, the simple labors of the farm and garden, and in meeting the conditions of humble every day life.

Such has been the aim of the institution. And this object has been pursued year after year, and with quite satisfactory results. Improvement in personal habits, in order and obedience, increased intelligence and a greater capacity and willingness to be employed have been developed in the pupils, as a class.

The results, of course, have varied with the peculiar inherent condition of the different pupils when received. But a general progress in the directions mentioned has been seen. Most of your number can bear witness to this fact, from years of observation. Visitors generally have measurably appreciated it. But the best judges of the results spoken of, namely, the parents and friends of the pupils have borne willing and earnest testimony to the successful accomplishment of the purposes for which the Asylum was founded.

The only dissatisfaction that has ever been manifested by these persons most interested, has been when the removal of the pupils has been required for any reason, and in one or two cases where fault has been found with the individual management of some person or other employed at the Asylum. The objection made was not to the system, but to the administration of the system, of some connected with the institution.

With the peculiar features of the institution, there was from the outset a disposition on the part of the Managers to have it conform, as far as possible, to the plans of other State institutions, previously established. This ruled in the provisions of the law organizing it. This shaped the by-laws that regulated its internal economy. It was assumed by the trustees that this was only an extension of the general educational policy of the State to a new class that needed education. The natural defect that threw the class of idiots outside the pale of the common educational facilities of the State, was a little deeper-seated than in the case of the deaf mute and blind, but not entirely beyond the reach of proper ameliorating agencies.

The pupils then were to be selected as equitably as possible from the different sections of the State. They were to be of a proper school-attending age. They were to be free, at least, from acute disease and extreme deformity. They were to be taken for a term of years, and this to correspond, as far as might be, to that adopted in similar institutions. But this allotted term of residence was not expected to sunder or weaken the relation that bound the pupils to their families, or these interested in their admission to the Asylum. It offered them a maintenance and suitable instruction for a term of years, but not a home for life. When circumstances permitted, it was assumed that occasional visits home were of service, not only for the good effects upon the pupils, but in keeping up the family interest in them. An annual vacation was, therefore, appointed in which certain of the pupils were to be removed, as the Superintendent should determine.

Furthermore it was hoped (and it may be here mentioned that this hope has been realized) that the annual, *per capita*, outlay, to accomplish these ends, would not exceed that found necessary in the case of the other classes referred to.

In former reports, at different times, attention has been called to the peculiar characteristics of the pupils in this and kindred institutions. The methods of instruction have been presented at some length, and some of the results, immediate and ultimate, have been described. At this time it may be well to glance briefly at what may be called the machinery of the Asylum—its internal organization.

It is exclusively a State institution. It was founded by the State, and has been supported by the State for the benefit of its own citizens. In a few cases pupils from abroad have been admit-

ted, when vacancies existed, and on the payment of such a sum as would cover the actual cost of their support and instruction.

Its management is vested in a board of trustees, five of whom, State officers, are *ex-officio* members; the remaining eight are appointed by the Governor and Senate, to serve for a period of eight years, going out in classes, every two years. This leaves an opportunity for a change of management, if a change is deemed necessary.

There is a general law framed on the model of that relating to the State Lunatic Asylum that is to guide the trustees in the administration of their trust. To these are added a series of by-laws for their own conduct, and for the direction of the officers of the institution in carrying out its objects.

There is a Treasurer, a member of the Board, who has the custody of all its funds, and who disburses no moneys except on the warrant of an executive committee of the Board.

The Superintendent is the executive officer of the Asylum. He is responsible for a suitable administration of its internal affairs, in accordance with the instructions contained in the by-laws of the institution.

A steward, matron and housekeeper, and a corps of teachers perform the duties incident to their respective offices. By an experience of more than sixteen years these duties have been pretty thoroughly systematized. Especially is this true of all relating to the details of financial management. Thus, no purchases are made in any department without the sanction of the Superintendent is previously given. The supplies received are always accompanied by a bill, with which the articles are compared by the steward. They are then sent to a store-room to be dispensed only by the officer in whose department they belong; and a daily record is kept of such disbursements. The bills are payable monthly, and all bills, before being paid, are compared with the bills of details accompanying the daily purchases, and certified by the steward. These are then examined by the Superintendent and presented at a monthly meeting of the executive committee, and they are then audited by them, and a record of such audit preserved in a book kept for that purpose. These are then paid by the treasurer at the bank where the account of the Asylum is kept.

These vouchers accompany the quarterly statements of the treasurer made to the board at its meetings, and are duly examined

by an auditing committee of the board appointed for that purpose. A summary statement of these expenditures are embodied in the annual report of the Trustees to the Legislature. The contingent expenses by the steward are made up in the form of a monthly bill, and are audited in the same manner as any other bill, and a record of them, with the proper vouchers properly filed, are kept at the Asylum.

A record of every bill paid by the treasurer, and of all moneys received by him, are kept in books arranged for the purpose. The original bills and vouchers are also preserved, suitably filed and numbered, so that reference can be made to any individual bill or voucher without delay.

An annual inventory of the property of the Asylum is made, and an account kept of all articles worn out or destroyed.

Besides these details as to the mode of managing the financial matters of the Asylum, a few particulars may be given in regard to the admission and classification of pupils. It has been already mentioned that these are selected as equitably as possible from the several judicial districts in the State. They are received on application of parents or next friend. The facts stated in the application are authenticated by the affidavits of two persons acquainted with the circumstances thus set forth, before the county judge, who vouches for their credibility. This last officer then recommends their reception as proper subjects of the State's charity.

On being admitted to the Asylum, this document is filed among its papers. The [pupils' names are entered in a register kept for the purpose, in which is recorded the name, sex, age, general health, physical peculiarities, habits, mental traits, disposition, capabilities, use of language, ability to talk, to dress and feed themselves, parentage and supposed cause.

With reference to these various conditions, they are then classified; some entering the school rooms at once, and others are placed in a preparatory or nursery department. Such briefly are the aims of the institution and the organization, by means of which these ends are to be secured.

Yet laudable as may be the objects, or complete the organization of any institution, it may fail of its purpose unless there is both fitness and fidelity on the part of the agents employed in carrying out such purpose.

Speaking in behalf of the officers, and those immediately engaged in the work, I solicit your continued close supervision and your words of encouragement, if merited. I avail myself, as in previous reports, of the opportunity of commending the continued fidelity of my assistants of every grade.

Respectfully submitted,

H. B. WILBUR,

Superintendent.

SYRACUSE, *October 10th, 1867.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

ALLEN MUNROE, *Treasurer of 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, 1867.*

1866.

DR.

Oct.	1.	To cash from State Treasurer	\$7,500 00
Nov.	7.	do do	4,500 00
Dec.	21.	To cash from Co. Treasurer for clothing	80 00

1867.

Jan.	4.	To cash from State Treasurer	4,500 00
Jan.	14.	To cash from County Treasurer	80 00
Jan.	22.	do do	20 00
Jan.	31.	do do	1,592 00
March	30.	To cash from State Treasurer	4,500 00
May	8.	do do	8,000 00
		To cash from pay pupils	3,544 59
		do do	3,249 35

\$37,565 49

1866.

CR.

Oct.	1.	Over draft	\$2,081 29
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1867.

Jan.	1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee for quarter ending Dec. 31, 1866	10,334 11
April	1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee for quarter ending March 31, 1867	8,472 99
July	1.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee for quarter ending June 30, 1867,	8,461 41
Sept.	30.	By cash paid on warrants of executive committee for quarter ending Sept. 30, 1867,	8,216 14

\$37,565 94

(Signed.)

ALLEN MUNROE, *Treasurer.*

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, in what part, and the 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 that 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.

