

Fourth annual report of the trustees and superintendent of the Ohio State Asylum for the Education of Idiotic and Imbecile Youth, to the governor of the state of Ohio : for the year 1860.

Contributors

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE
OHIO STATE ASYLUM
FOR THE EDUCATION OF
IDIOTIC AND IMBECILE YOUTH,
TO THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO.
FOR THE YEAR 1860.

COLUMBUS:
RICHARD NEVINS, STATE PRINTER.
1861.

OHIO STATE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS,
COLUMBUS, *November 1, 1860.*

Gov. WM. DENNISON:

SIR: I have the honor of herewith communicating to you the Fourth Annual Report of the Trustees of this Institution, with the Report of Dr. R. J. Patterson, Superintendent.

Respectfully yours,
H. CANFIELD,
President.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION

TRUSTEES.

HON. H. CANFIELD.....MEDINA, O.
HON. ASHER COOK,.....PERRYSBURG, O.
N. S. TOWNSHEND, M. D.....AVON, O.

SUPERINTENDENT,

R. J. PATTERSON, M. D.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ASSISTANT,


G. A. DOREN, M. D.

MATRON,

MISS HARRIET F. PURPLE.

TEACHERS,

MISS JULIA B. BURBANK,
MISS EMILY C. WHITMAN,
MISS L. N. HUTCHINSON.



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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio :

In accordance with their official duty, the Trustees of the Ohio State Asylum for Idiotic and Imbecile youth, now submit their Fourth Annual Report.

During the year that has just closed the Institution has been steadily fulfilling the objects for which it was projected. The unostentatious, but arduous labors of the teachers have been rewarded with marked success in the general advancement of their pupils, and nothing has transpired to interfere with its usefulness or prosperity.

We exceedingly regret, however, to announce that Dr. Patterson, to whose able and efficient management the Institution largely owes its success, has, for reasons assigned in his Annual Report, herewith submitted, resigned his position as Superintendent. In parting with Dr. Patterson in his official relation, we cannot refrain from expressing our high appreciation of the zeal, faithfulness and ability with which he has discharged the duties of Superintendent. His connection with the Institution dates from its commencement, and has continued until his resignation compels the necessity of a successor. Eminent ability as a physician, united with great urbanity of manners, and devotedness to the cause in which he has been engaged, peculiarly adapted him for the position which he has filled with so much credit to himself, and usefulness to the Institution. No successor has as yet been appointed.

In connection with this our Annual Report, we take the liberty of calling attention to matters connected with the permanence and future usefulness of the Institution committed to our supervision. We assume with great confidence that every intelligent friend of humanity would deprecate the discontinuance of the generous effort now being made by the State to elevate and render comfortable to themselves and useful to society, an abject, helpless, and hitherto neglected class. To discontinue the Institution now by Legislative act, would in our opinion indicate a retrogression in humane feeling, and a mistake in political economy, as well as a departure from a maxim of legislation heretofore incorporated into the laws, and now retained by the general approval of the people ; that is, that the property of the State should educate its children. If this maxim be a correct principle of legislation, why should we discriminate against an unfortunate class whose intellects are too feeble to share in the benefits of common schools, but who are largely susceptible of moral and intellectual improvement.

That feeble-minded children, and those who as a class are usually termed idiots, may be educated, none who have the facilities of forming an opinion, will deny, unless it be those who are too indolent to investigate, or too prejudiced to submit to the convictions of evidence. The degree of culture which may be attained is sometimes exaggerated by the too sanguine, but has more often been underestimated by the indifferent and skeptical. No degree of culture will fully reclaim imbeciles from mental inferiority. The proposition is, not to create mind, but to develop and cultivate mind in its lower types. The imbecile child is capable of receiving impressions and of accumulating ideas by slow and laborious teaching and assiduous attention; impressions become permanent, and ideas are combined into practical purpose, and the child, who otherwise would drag a miserable existence, controlled by animal instincts and in brutish indolence, until death at an early or more advanced age removed a spectacle piteous to friends and repulsive to community, now takes rank among his species, a rank inferior in degree, but which fulfills every purpose of which he is capable.

But by the process of education another object is attained, of no small importance. The imbecile child ceases to be a public beneficiary, and infirmaries and county jails are relieved from prospective burdens of hopeless imbeciles or vicious idiots. The fact that the idiotic and imbecile are often the inmates of county infirmaries and county jails, forces the subject of idiocy upon the attention of the Legislature, and it is difficult to conceive how legislation upon it, directly or indirectly, can be avoided.

If the General Assembly abolish the Institution, it is in no way relieved from the subject. There must be some system, and that system must be prescribed by the Legislature. To ignore the existence of imbecile children, and deny their claims upon the State for an education befitting their condition, an education which it denies to no other class of children; to permit human beings, unfortunate in the deprivation of ordinary intelligence, to rot and decay in filth and wretchedness in county infirmaries, or to immure them in cells where the gloom of the dungeon is only enlightened by the clanking of fetters and chains and idiotic ravings, this is one system—a system of effectual degradation. We propose another system, its opposite—a system of education and elevation. This latter system was initiated by the founding of this Asylum, and commends itself by its humane spirit, and is at the same time, as we believe, the cheapest way of providing for idiots and imbeciles.

But the Institution designed to initiate this system, and which was sufficient for that purpose, is now, on account of its limited room, inadequate for the beneficial purposes which it ought to, and may accomplish. With its present capacity the expense is disproportioned to the number of pupils in training; although if we take into account the expense of new buildings and the repairs expended on the old, the purchase of furniture, and other expenses incident to the first years of its existence, it will compare very favorably with any similar institution in the country.

The present arrangement was designed by the Legislature of 1857, as a trial of what was deemed, by a majority of that body, an experiment ; the succeeding Legislature evidenced their satisfaction with its success by continued appropriations. The experience of three years, has, we respectfully suggest, demonstrated the success of the experiment, if appropriately so called, and has afforded sufficient evidence of the utility of the system it represents ; and hence we earnestly call the attention of the Legislature to the propriety of enlarging the Institution, and of placing it upon a permanent basis.

Should it be deemed advisable to remove it from its present locality, we are strongly of the opinion that it should be located on a suitable farm of at least fifty acres. The views of the Superintendent, as contained in his Report, herewith submitted, meet our approval, and we commend them to your consideration.

The present buildings cannot accommodate more than thirty-five pupils, and not even that number with due regard to convenience and comfort. With proper room, the expense of sustaining and training one hundred and fifty pupils would not much exceed double the aggregate cost of the present number. To obtain the requisite room, we deem the erection of large and expensive buildings entirely unnecessary. A plain and substantial edifice would subserve every purpose, and better comport with the straitened finances of the State. An institution thus enlarged, and under proper management, would, as we believe, meet the approval, both of the humane and economic spirit of the people of the State, and in addition to the direct benefits conferred upon immediate recipients, would be productive of great incidental benefits. It would incidentally enlighten public sentiment upon this particular object, and disseminate correct ideas as to the proper training at home of imbecile children ; and by educating the public mind more and more as to the causes of idiocy, it is not impossible that it may have the effect, prospectively, to decrease the number of that unfortunate class. We trust, too, that the example of the State may lead to the institution of private schools, so that the facilities for training may become acceptable to the larger number of those children who may be susceptible of improvement.

We consider the enlargement of the Institution a matter of so much importance that we should hold ourselves derelict in duty if we failed to press this subject upon the attention of the Legislature. At the same time, let us not be considered as urging the enlargement or even the perpetuation of this Asylum as of itself desirable. The erection of this and other similar institutions indicates the infirmities, the wants and sufferings of humanity. The necessities which human nature, in its present advancement, cannot wholly avoid, solicit from an enlightened and christian community, the means to obviate or relieve, and a judicious public policy sanctions the appeal.

It is estimated that there will be needed to carry on the Institution efficiently during the coming year—

For rent and insurance of buildings.....	\$525 00
salaries of Superintendent, Matron and Teachers.....	2,100 00
wages.....	1,321 00
fuel and lights.....	330 00
feed for stock	270 00
provisions, necessary repairs, &c	2,427 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,973 00

A detailed account of expenditures for the fiscal year will be found in the Superintendent's report, herewith submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

COLUMBUS, O., Nov. 26, 1860.

H. CANFIELD,
ASHER COOK,
N. S. TOWNSHEND,
Trustees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Board of Trustees :

GENTLEMEN :—The year just closed has been one of prosperity to this Institution. General health has prevailed, and no death has occurred since its opening, three years ago.

The Superintendent's Assistant, Dr. G. A. Doren, has shown much devotion, faithfulness, industry and efficiency in the discharge of his various duties. The Teachers and Matron, as heretofore, have given their valuable and efficient services, and the attendants have been kind and faithful in the performance of trusts assigned them. The Institution has always been fortunate in the selection of those charged with detailed duties.

The expenditures have been kept within available revenues, notwithstanding some improvements have been made, considerable furniture and some stock added, and a greater number of pupils supported than during the preceding year. And so it will be in the future ; as permanent building apparatus, furniture and fixtures are supplied, and as the number of pupils increase, the cost of support will be proportionately less.

The building is crowded with inmates, 35 in number, and yet during the year, many applicants have been excluded for want of room. It would seem that the time has fully come when this Institution should be made to take a wider range of usefulness by increasing its capacity. New buildings, plain, unexpensive, but substantial and commodious, and in my maturer judgment, a small farm, are most needed, and essential to that degree of usefulness and success which a discriminating public will demand at our hands.

New and larger buildings are now most pressingly needed, in order that a greater number of children may be accommodated, and share in those benefits which they cannot find elsewhere. In a large Institution with a farm attached, the larger boys may be profitably employed in agricultural pursuits, and thus at once be made useful to themselves and the State. A farm is needed with its stock and implements, as means of education, while it would also diminish to some extent, the expense of support.

A farm would also provide for the permanent retention and profitable employment of a certain number of adult idiots who would else be obliged to find homes in county infirmaries, jails or lunatic asylums. The State has incurred an

expense during the last year for rent and insurance of buildings, for pasturage of cows, for feed for stock, and for vegetables that a farm would supply free of cost, more than one thousand dollars. Good economy requires that these items of expenditure, with which other public institutions are not burdened, should not longer be required of this Institution.

The following letters are in reply to inquiries in regard to the amount of land which it is most desirable to have, in connection with such an Institution as is needed in the State of Ohio :

PENNSYLVANIA TRAINING SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE MINDED YOUTH,
Media, Pa., May 15, 1860.

*My Dear Doctor :—*I am in receipt of your note of inquiry concerning the quantity of ground necessary for the successful working of an asylum or school for imbeciles. I am decidedly of opinion that a farm is desirable. We occupied eight acres in Germantown, and as you know, removed to this locality, which is a farm of sixty acres, including ten acres of wood land in the rear of our buildings. Our present number of children is sixty-seven, and out of that number we can find twelve working boys, and when our household increases to twice its present size, have no doubt at all that we shall find it desirable to add to our acres likewise.

The industrial department in such an institution is of the highest importance, and agriculture being the most essential, and the most natural employment, it is best adapted to children such as you and I care for. I trust that your Board will see the wisdom of providing you with a farm of at least forty acres of arable land, and with ample buildings, which should be located upon an elevated and commanding site. The moral effect of fine landscape is more than any of us, I fear, can fully estimate ; I am more and more impressed with its value.

Most sincerely your friend,

JOSEPH PARISH, M. D.,

Superintendent.

NEW YORK ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS,
Syracuse, May 8th, 1860.

*My Dear Sir :—*In reply to yours of the — inst, I rejoice that you have all you need for current expenses, and I shall be still more happy to learn that the next Legislature gives you a good farm and money to build with. The education given to idiots must, in the main, be a practical one. They must be taught, if possible, some useful occupation. The longer I am in 'an Institution, the more convinced I am of this. Farm and garden work is the simplest of all labor. The graduates of asylums will always be far better off on a farm than a work-shop, even if capable of learning a trade.

We only own but 18 acres, but I have always occupied some 55 acres. This year I have taken a long lease of 20 more, making a farm of some 75 acres. You will observe that a farm enables the Institution to provide profitably for a certain number of adult idiots, who are beyond the school-attending age. In my judgment, a farm of 75 or 100 acres, is none too large to be connected with an asy-

lum for idiots. This year I shall raise, beside a profusion of summer vegetables and fruits, all the vegetables necessary for our consumption during the year, 15 tons of hay, 250 bushels of oats, 500 bushels of shelled corn, 1500 bushels of roots for my cows and horses, and 800 bushels of potatoes. This is an estimate based upon the result of last year. When I add the pasturage of 5 cows and the dozen hogs we are fattening, you will see that we do well even to hire land.

But this is the least part of the good results from having a farm attached to an institution. I have to-day at least 40 boys at work about the place. It is a very stupid boy that cannot pick up stones under the eye of an attendant, while some of our farming operations require considerable intelligence and judgment. Where there is only land enough for play-ground, there can be no work for the large boys. The consequence is that it takes twice the number to care for such children out of school hours than in. Thus, the proportion of teachers to attendants will generally be less than one to two. Our trustees are so convinced of this, that they have recommended the purchase of more land.

I remain,

Yours truly,

H. B. WILBUR, M. D., *Superintendent.*

To the foregoing letters may be added the testimony of Dr. George Brown, of the School for Feeble-Minded Youth at Barre, Mass., who thinks we need in connection with a large Institution, including building grounds, sixty or seventy acres, and where land is cheap, that it will be well to have land in the proportion of an acre to each inmate of the Institution.

Each succeeding year's experience and observation, impresses me more and more with the importance of giving greater attention to the physical employment of our pupils; of teaching them those simpler agricultural pursuits which they can most easily follow, and by which, in Ohio, they can always most nearly become self-supporting after the school attending age shall have passed.

The foregoing letters in regard to lands, coming as they do from gentlemen who have had large experience and observation in connection with the largest institutions of our country, are entitled to great weight, and to which I am compelled after more mature experience and observation, to add my own opinion, that the best interest of this Institution, would be greatly promoted by an early removal from our present location to a farm in the country.

The State of Ohio owns a beautiful tract of land, sixty-five acres, near the city of Columbus, with a stone quarry for all buildings upon it, which we would do well to build upon; and as it is at present unoccupied, is, of course, useless to the State. There is also another lot of eleven acres owned by the State, with cheap lands adjoining it that could be procured in exchange for the first mentioned tract, all situated near the city of Columbus. Either of these would make an eligible site for buildings, and I would suggest that authority be asked of the General Assembly to take and appropriate these lots, which are now unoccupied, to the benefit of this Institution, and that a sufficient amount of money be asked to erect suitable buildings thereon.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

GENERAL EXPENSES.

Receipts.		Disbursements.	
1859. Bal. in Treas Nov. 15,	\$203 09	Cash paid for sundries during year.....	\$4,270 52
“ Nov. 16, approp....	500 00	Balance in Treasury, Nov. 15, 1860.....	1,432 57
1860. Jan. 18, “	500 00		
“ Mar 26, “	4,500 00		
Total.....	\$5,703 09	Total.....	\$5,703 09

SALARIES.

1859 Bal. in Treas. Nov. 15,	\$377 50	Disbursed	\$1,752 50
“ Nov. 16, approp....	550 00	Bal. in Tres., Nov. 15, 1860,	525 00
1860. Mar. 26, “	1,350 00		
Total.....	\$2,277 50	Total.....	\$2,277 50

The above balances, \$203 09 and \$377 50 remaining in the treasury Nov. 15, 1859, were only nominal, checks having been issued at that date sufficient to absorb those amounts. So also the balances, \$1,432 57 and \$525, reported above as remaining in the treasury Nov. 15, are only nominal, being for the most part, required to cancel issued checks still unpaid. A more detailed account of disbursements as required by law, will be found in the Appendix to this report, herewith submitted. There is an unexpended balance remaining in the hands of the Superintendent of moneys received on account of paying pupils amounting to \$518.79, which is subject to your order.

Estimates for the year 1861.

For rent and insurance of buildings	\$525 00
Salaries for superintendent, matron and teachers.....	2 100 00
Wages	1,321 00
Fuel and lights	330 00
Feed for stock.....	270 00
Provisions, necessary repairs, &c.....	2,427 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,973 00

IDIOCY.

Without attempting a precise, unexceptionable definition, Idiocy, though not a disease, may be regarded as that condition, in which, from the effects of physical disease in foetal or infantile life, or from defective organization of the nervous system, the intellectual and moral powers have never been developed, except in a slight degree.

Idiocy, then, has a physical rather than a mental origin, and like all the other forms and grades of deficient, deranged and mental manifestation, depends upon certain abnormal physical conditions or physical diseases ; and hence, it is absurd, strictly considered, to speak of diseases of the mind ; and though long established custom renders it convenient still to adhere to this mode of expression, it is pleasant to indulge the thought, if we may, that each and every human mind is essentially perfect in its degree, and as alike unsusceptible to disease, as it is indestructible, and though often darkly obscured by imperfect instruments, giving forth discordant notes, and reflecting distorted images, as promising when freed from its corporal clogs to shine again as God made it.

It is assumed that the brain is the material organ of the mind, and believed that any and all protracted disease of this organ results in impaired mental manifestation, and that the degree of the impairment of the intelligence will always be in proportion to the departure from a healthy organization of the nervous system, or to the extent and severity of the cerebral disease.

Idiots and imbeciles as a group, though presenting certain characteristic peculiarities, properly belong to the great generic class of insane persons, the mentally deranged, and the mentally infirm ; and though idiocy is, for the most part congenital, it properly includes a large number of persons who are feeble-minded from the effects of disease occurring in infancy and early childhood, before the age at which much mental development is usually seen.

Morel, a recent French author, in writing of hereditary transmission of insanity and other mental infirmities, says : " I have proved that from the slightest eccentricity of conduct, from the slightest disorder of the moral sensibility down to those states known as idiocy, imbecility and cretinism, there exist different degrees of one and the same affection."

Idiocy may be either congenital or accidental. It may have its origin prior to the birth of the child or subsequently. When it is congenital, and especially when it is the result of hereditary transmission, it will be likely to be of a lower grade and more permanently fixed than when occurring during the period of childhood from accidental causes. In all cases, however, the essential pathological conditions are probably the same or similar, and the obstacles in the way of proper intellection identical or similar.

Although a majority of the cases admitted to this Institution seem to have been congenitally defective, at least ten per cent. are believed to have been healthy in body and mind in early childhood, but subsequently, from certain physical diseases they became imbecile, and in a few cases, insane. In examining the history of over one hundred children who have applied for admission, I am of the opinion that insanity is more common among children than has been generally supposed. Although our statistics are not sufficiently extended to be of much value, it has appeared to me that not less than from five to ten per cent. have shown signs of insanity rather than idiocy, occurring in children who either inherit a strong predisposition to mental unsoundness, or who possess highly nervous temperaments, and are exposed to circumstances favoring the development of mental dis-

ease. Though not of a low grade of intelligence, they are *peculiar*, nervous, excitable, subject to fits of passion, have strange caprices and eccentricities, submitting poorly to established rules.

The causes of physical and mental deterioration, crowding our benevolent institutions with infirm children, (grouping together the idiotic, the blind, and the deaf mutes,) are many and various. Ill-health of parents, ill-judged matrimonial alliances, over-indulgencies, hereditary tendencies to physical infirmities, and consequent infirm mental and moral manifestations, together with defective treatment in infancy, and ill-directed education in childhood, will account for a large per cent. of those composing the above named group. Consumption, gout, and other hereditary diseases are not more certainly transmissible from parent to child than are those other degenerate conditions of the body, and those peculiar temperaments in which deranged and enfeebled mental manifestations are prominent. Upon this subject, says Nathaniel Hawthorne, "the weakness and defects * * * * * are handed down from one generation to another, by a far surer process of transmission than human laws have been able to establish in respect to the riches and honors which it seeks to entail upon posterity."

Other, and accidental circumstances serve to augment the numbers composing the infirm group, as the various diseases peculiar to children, blows on the head, and shocks and harassing states of the mother's mind experienced by her during the period of gestation, and with which the delicate, nervous system of the unborn babe readily sympathises, affecting its nutrition and growth.

In short, such is the reciprocal influence of the body over the mind, and mind over the body, and so intimate is their union with each other, that every violation of physical or moral law, will leave its indelible impression ; every ill judged matrimonial alliance, every vice, every excess, and every circumstance which tends to the deterioration of the physical health of the parents or their future offspring, will tend also to mental deterioration, to nameless other degenerate conditions and diseases, and to the final extinction of the race.

Therefore, that children may grow up to usefulness in the world with sound minds, they must have also, sound bodies. The various causes of physical deterioration must be avoided, and the mental and physical training be made to harmonize with each other, and with the laws of nature. Cheerfulness, and all innocent instructive amusements, and appropriate useful occupations, athletic sports, not in the shade, but in the open broad sunshine of heaven, are to be encouraged and regulated. Over-indulgence and over-government are alike evils, and alike are to be avoided. The mind should not be over-tasked at a tender age, nor at any period forced into activity at the expense of the integrity of the brain and nervous power ; for children, whose intellects are made to scintillate and flash like the meteor, will like the meteor expire ; and King Herod could almost as surely have accomplished his work of extermination by establishing "infant schools" throughout his kingdom, as by the method which he adopted. As every inordinate indulgence, every violation of physical and moral law, and every known cause of deterioration in the race should be abstained from and avoided, so every

virtue, and the various habits and circumstances of life which are known to impart vigor and promote health, should be practiced and encouraged as alike promotive of mental soundness and good morals.

The following excellent suggestions in regard to the education and classification of idiots, from Dr. H. B. Wilbur, who has the largest experience of any man in our country in the treatment of idiots, and whose opinions in his specialty are of the greatest importance, entirely meet our own views upon the subject treated. They are taken from the Ninth Annual Report of the New York Asylum for Idiots.

“The New York Asylum for Idiots was established to meet a public want. There were within the borders of the State, judging from the statistics of other countries and States, under similar circumstances, and of analogous population, more than 3,000 idiots, embracing every shade of mental endowment below the common standard of intelligence, and subjected to every variety of social influence.

“They were thrown, by the very nature of their infirmity, beyond the pale of that common school education which the State provides for every child of average intellect within its borders.

“Any rational and practical project for the amelioration of their condition, or the furnishing any permanent relief to those who were burdened with their care, would look beyond the mere ministering to their physical wants, or the simple substitution of the State’s care and maintenance for that of parents, friends or local authorities.

“It would afford them opportunities for development. It would give them all the education that they were susceptible of. It would attempt to qualify them, by a proper instruction in practical matters, to be returned to their friends capable of sustaining and providing for themselves with the least possible care and anxiety of others. And it would do this in accordance with the policy, long established in reference to those other children of misfortune, the deaf-mute and the blind.

“It would seem to lie outside the province of the State’s charity, in this direction, to provide a public institution for such of the number as could be as well cared for under family or other influences at home.

“Nor is it the policy of the State, at present, to adopt any of these unfortunates. It only assumes their guardianship and maintenance during the period of education. It will be understood then, that the institution is an educational one, and not custodial in its character. All admitted, therefore, to its privileges, should be of a teachable age, and of a teachable condition. As to the first point, our general rule (the admission of pupils from 7 to 14 years of age,) seems to be practically a just one. At all events, as it can be suspended, for proper reasons, in any individual case, by the action of the board of trustees, it can do no harm. Whenever, in the further experience of the Institution, it shall be deemed advisable to extend the limits of age in the reception of pupils, it can be done.

“As to what constitutes a teachable condition, in the case of idiots, is a point not so easily determined. On the one hand, it has been universally supposed, till a few years since, that education was of no service in any case of idiocy. On the

other hand, there have been but a very few cases that have been submitted to a judicious course of training, for any length of time, either in this institution, or any other of similar character, elsewhere, in which those, most interested in the welfare of the parties, have not seen a very decided improvement as the results. The only exceptions to this rule have been those cases, in which the idiocy was apparently dependent upon an active organic disease of the brain.

“In certain classes of cases, however, there will not be much difficulty in dividing to exclude the parties for whose admission to the Asylum application is made. Cases of idiocy, accompanied with confirmed epilepsy, are to be reckoned among these. The presence of the two combined, (whichever manifestation precedes the other,) usually indicates the existence of a common cause in organic disease of the brain or spinal cord. In such instances, the epilepsy is generally incurable. Each recurring symptom impairs the more the intellectual faculties, till complete dementia and death are the result. Even when, in the intervals between the convulsions, a marked improvement in all respects has rewarded the persistent efforts of training and instruction, a single recurrence of the disease will destroy the labor of months. Under such circumstances, an institution offers no very essential advantages over a home, and its accommodations should be reserved for those who can be radically benefitted.

“It has not been the policy of this Institution to receive cases of very marked deformity, nor where the subjects are hopelessly crippled, from permanent contraction of the muscles and tendons, or from irregular and spasmodic muscular contractions, preventing the application of our elementary physical training, nor yet the numerous cases of idiocy connected with a depraved and diseased physical condition, proper subjects for a hospital of incurables, and not for an educational establishment.

“There are often very troublesome cases at home, which induces the friends to make application for their admission here. In some instances where there has been a loss of one or both parents, they are urged upon the officers of the Asylum with great persistence, even when it is supposed that they are coming here to die. In fact, a large percentage of the deaths that have occurred in the establishment, since its foundation, have been in cases that have come hither with fatal disease already at work upon them.

“There is another class of cases usually admitted on a proper application, but who are dismissed after a fair trial and examination, if the result confirms the opinion of the officers as to their probable condition. I refer to cases of dementia, in distinction from idiocy, when a gradual obliteration of the mental faculties has supervened after an organic disease of the brain, and the disease is still active and progressive.

“Excluding then, all cases coming within the classes thus enumerated, the institution, according to the language of our by-laws, affords to that portion of the youth of the State, not provided for in other educational establishments, and who are of a proper school-attending age, all the education practicable in each particular case.”

* * * * "It is designed, in other words, to receive all children of at teachable age, hitherto shut out from educational privileges, by reason of a defect or infirmity of their mental powers. This includes a much wider range of natural endowment than would at first be supposed, and within this range there exists a great variety of manifestations.

"When one observes carefully the phenomena of idiocy, he is surprised to find that differences in the individual characteristics are more noticeable than the resemblances than would be anticipated from a more casual observation. This is so marked, that it is always difficult properly to classify them for the purpose of accurate description. Still these differences and peculiarities, as relating to the principles and methods to be adopted in their instruction, and to the diversity of the educational results to be aimed at, may be sufficiently indicated for our present purpose.

"Some are only a little below a degree of intelligence that would enable them to be educated in the common schools of our State. They are so nearly possessed of all human faculties to a normal degree, that it is difficult to say in what the deficiency consists. And yet this slight inferiority separates them practically by a long interval, from those with whom they would naturally associate, in the school-room, in the play-ground, and even in the family.

"Others are low down in the scale of idiocy. They approximate what has been described as the type of idiocy, or the extreme of mental incapacity, as an individual who neither wills nor thinks, nor acts. In such an one, there seems to be no power of spontaneous thought or action. In such an one sensation is only followed by an imperfect reflex action. In such an one inertia so prevails that consciousness responds feebly only to the loudest summons through the avenues of special sensation.

"Between these two extremes there exists every variety of manifestations. The mental and moral phenomena are as diverse as the physical and physiological conditions upon which they depend."

Accumulated experience, both in this and European countries, confirm, without a doubt, the opinion that idiots can be elevated to positions of domestic comfort, safety, and comparative usefulness; that a majority of them can be so far improved as to render them industrious, docile and kind; that they can be kept from associating with pauper lunatics of county infirmaries, and the still worse associations with criminals in jails. Who, then, can longer deny to them what has been accorded to all other classes of children among us, viz: *protection*, and the means for whatever practical, useful, and necessary education they are susceptible of, within a reasonable expenditure of money? And this is all that has ever been claimed for them.

Says Mr. Charles Dickens, "Until within a few years it was generally assumed even by those who were not given to hasty assumptions, that because an idiot was either wholly or in part deficient in certain senses, or instincts necessary in combination with others to the due performance of the ordinary functions of life, and

because those senses or instincts could not be supplied, therefore, nothing could be done for him, and he must always remain an object of pitiable isolation. But a closer study of the subject has now demonstrated that the cultivation of such senses and instincts as the idiot is seen to possess will, besides frequently developing others that are latent within him, but obscured, so brighten those glimmering lights, as immensely to improve his condition, both with reference to himself, and to society. Consequently, there is no greater justification for abandoning him in his degree than for abandoning any other human creature."

Nothing in human form, nothing made in God's image, however imperfect and degraded, should be despised or neglected, and idiots, more than all else, need human sympathies and protection. They are a part of us, in our households, and we may not even indulge the wish to ignore their presence, or banish them from our minds. It is from no fault of theirs that they lag behind and stumble in the path which all of us tread but insecurely and in weakness. We plead for those who cannot plead for themselves, and in the language of Him in whose sight man's wisdom is but foolishness, we say to those in whose hands are the interests and destinies of this Institution, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only, * * * verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

IN CONCLUSION,

Having determined to devote my whole time to the practice of my profession in other departments, I now tender to your Board my resignation of the office of Superintendent of this Institution. In common with you all I have felt a deep and abiding interest in its permanent usefulness and success, and have endeavored from its first organization to the present time to labor earnestly for its best interests. I shall ever remember with gratitude, and now thank you for various acts of personal kindness, for much good counsel and timely encouragement.

Respectfully,

R. J. PATTERSON.

STATE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, }
Columbus, Nov. 1, 1860. }

APPENDIX.

Ohio Asylum for Idiots—Payments of General Expenses.

Date.	To whom Paid.	On what Account.	Amount.
1859.			
Nov. 18	P. H. Lofland	Carpenter work and lumber	\$59 64
Dec. 5	Wm. Cox	Meat and provisions	64 42
-- 9	R. Snyder	2,006 lbs. hay	14 00
-- 9	H. B. Hunter	Sundries	7 55
-- 9	M. McCallister	Flour and bran	23 85
-- 10	Cox & Ijams	Meat and provisions	22 69
-- 13	Columbus Gas Company.	Gas consumed in November	12 50
-- 14	Kelton, Bancroft & Co	Batting and calico	29 70
-- 16	R. Main	2 bbls. flour	12 00
-- 16	H. Emrick	Soap	12 12
-- 16	O. P. McClusky	23 bush. potatoes	24 90
-- 16	A. P. Stone & Co	Sheeting	21 87
-- 21	Matilda Wolfel	Wages, 2 months	16 00
-- 21	Clara N. Smith	" "	10 00
-- 22	W. T. Coggs shall	Furniture	6 00
-- 22	Eliza Schneider	Wages as cook	8 00
-- 22	Matilda Wolfel	" "	6 00
-- 22	Maggie Schlumbarger	" "	8 00
-- 24	H. M. Bassett	Wages	15 00
-- 27	W. A. Gill	1 grind stone and frame	6 00
-- 28	J. & L. Zettler	Groceries	89 41
1860.			
Jan. 4	N. B. Marple	Oil, drugs, &c	17 43
-- 4	Wm. Cox	Meat and provisions	27 77
-- 5	John Clark	Childrens' shoes and repairs	25 80
-- 5	C. M. Neville	Rent of building 1 qr	125 00
-- 18	Gorton & Aston	Stoves, &c	66 51
-- 28	H. M. Bassett	Wages	5 00
-- 30	M. McAlister	Flour, bran, &c	39 20
Feb. 3	Randal & Aston	Wall paper, &c., and stationery	22 30
-- 4	R. Main	2 bbls. Flour	12 00
-- 9	J. H. Riley & Co.	Wall paper, stationery, &c	37 49
-- 13	A. W. Pinney	3 months wages	30 00
-- 15	Brotherlin & Halm	Furniture	16 75
-- 24	M. McAllister	Flour, bran, &c	56 00
March 6	Wm. Cox	Meat and provisions	27 00
-- 15	Geo. R. Galloway & Co.	Groceries	10 19
-- 15	F. A. Sells	"	11 96
-- 16	Geo. Eigensee	Wages, 10½ months	75 50
-- 23	M. McAllister	Bran, &c	11 40
-- 24	H. M. Bassett	Wages as attendant	15 00

GENERAL EXPENSES—Continued.

Date.	To whom Paid.	On what Account.	Amount.
1860.			
April 16	Mrs. C. M. Neville	Rent of building 1 qr. [house, &c.	\$125 00
-- 17	P. J. Lofland	Carpent's work and rep'rs wood	71 89
-- 20	Clara N. Smith	3 months wages	22 00
-- 20	Nancy Peyton	" "	20 00
-- 20	M. Schlumbarger	" "	26 00
-- 20	Catharine Riddle	" "	24 00
-- 24	Jno. R. Cooke	Drugs, medicines, oils, &c.	15 98
May 8	Stone, O'Harra & Co	Dry goods	30 07
-- 9	Elizabeth Rekar	Wages	53 00
-- 9	Elizabeth Schneider	"	46 00
-- 10	Wm McDonald & Co	Groceries and provisions	54 71
-- 12	T. W. Carpenter & Co	Clothing for pupils	37 50
June 16	Eliza Peyton	Wages	22 00
-- 16	Matilda Wolfel	"	48 00
-- 16	Elizabeth Schneider	"	35 00
-- 16	Clara N. Smith	"	44 72
-- 23	A. W. Pinney	"	15 00
July 2	Jacob & Louis Zettler	Groceries	28 83
-- 9	Mrs. C. M. Neville	Rent and Insurance	150 00
-- 20	J. & A. B. Brooks	Groceries	54 42
-- 30	Allen W. Pinney	4 months wages	51 00
Aug. 1	P. J. Lofland	Repairs and Improvements	64 14
-- 2	Gorton & Aston	Repairs of furnaces, &c.	51 07
-- 4	W. Ross	Soap	13 31
-- 8	Marcus Childs	Clothing	6 00
-- 13	Henry Hall	13 cords wood	38 70
-- 18	H. Emrick	Soap	22 22
-- 21	M. McAllister	Flour, meal and bran	41 80
-- 23	Wm. McDonald	Groceries and provisions	197 54
-- 24	Catharine Riddle	Wages	40 00
-- 24	H. M. Bassett	"	55 00
-- 24	M. Schlumbarger	"	60 00
-- 24	Jane Hills	"	85 00
-- 24	Nancy Peyton	"	60 75
-- 24	M. Wolfel	"	44 00
-- 25	J. M. & W. Westwater	Crockery and glassware	44 93
-- 27	J. & L. Zettler	Groceries and provisions	90 29
-- 29	Geo. Eigensee	Wages	20 00
-- 29	Clara N. Smith	"	25 00
-- 29	Jno. Speiss	"	8 00
-- 29	Elizabeth Rekar	"	28 00
-- 29	Henry Hael	12 cords wood	25 80
-- 29	Fred. Schmeidt	Wages	27 00
-- 29	A. W. Pinney	"	15 00
-- 29	Elizabeth Karra	"	16 00
-- 29	Schoedinger & Brown	Furniture	15 42
-- 29	G. W. Wakefield	Cow pasture	20 00
Sept. 3	Geo. McDonald	Groceries and provisions	422 89
-- 3	P. Bain	Dry goods	59 54

GENERAL EXPENSES—Continued.

Date.	To whom paid.	On what Account.	Amount.
1860.			
Sept. 3	Stone & O'Harra.....	Muslin, calico, &c.... [ing goods.	\$39 10
-- 29	J. S. Abbott & Son.....	Hardware, paints, oil and furnish-	148 46
Oct. 1	J. H. Smith.....	Boys' hats and caps.....	7 88
-- 3	Mrs. C. M. Neville.....	Rent of building 1 qr.....	125 00
-- 3	A. W. Pinney.....	Wages.....	15 00
-- 3	Jane Hills.....	".....	25 00
-- 4	Brotherlin, Halm & Co..	Furniture.....	11 75
-- 9	M. McAllister.....	Bran and feed.....	21 00
-- 12	Wm. Cox.....	Meat bill for 7 months.....	202 86
		Total.....	\$4,270 52

Total revenues from appropriations for general expenses for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1860..... \$5,703 09
 Total disbursements..... 4,270 52

Balance remaining in Treasury to credit of general expenses, Nov. 1, 1860..... \$1,432 57

Ohio Asylum for Idiots—Payments of Salaries of Officers and Teachers.

Date.	To whom paid.	On what Account.	Amounts.	Totals.
'59—Dec. 21	R. J. Patterson.....	Salary as Superintendent..	\$100 00	
'60—Jan. 12	do	"	100 00	
Mar. 15	do	"	200 00	
Apr. 24	do	"	200 00	
July 10	do	"	200 00	
Aug. 30	do	"	200 00	\$1,000 00
'59—Dec. 9	Harriet F. Purple..	Salary as Matron.....	30 00	
Dec. 16	do	"	30 00	
'60—Jan. 28	do	"	30 00	
Mar. 12	do	"	30 00	
Apr. 21	do	"	30 00	
June 8	do	"	30 00	
July 6	do	"	30 00	
July 20	do	"	20 00	
Aug. 24	do	"	25 00	
Sept. 14	do	"	25 00	280 00
'59—Dec. 9	Emily C. Whitman..	Salary as Teacher.....	30 00	
'60—Jan. 3	do	"	30 00	
Apr. 21	do	"	40 00	
July 6	do	"	102 50	202 50
'59—Dec. 10	Julia B. Burbank..	"	30 00	

PAYMENTS OF SALARIES—Continued.

Date.	To whom paid.	On what Account.	Amounts	Totals.
'60—Jan. 28	Julia B. Burbank	Salary as Teacher	\$20 00	
Mar. 9	do	" "	30 00	
Apr. 21	do	" "	30 00	
July 6	do	" "	160 00	\$270 00
				<hr/> \$1,752 50

Total of revenues for salaries, for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1860. \$2,277 50
 Disbursements..... 1,752 50

Balance remaining in the treasury to the credit of salaries Nov.
 1, 1860..... \$525 00

R. J. P.

C I R C U L A R.

OHIO STATE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS,
COLUMBUS, OHIO, JANUARY 1, 1861.

TRUSTEES,

HON. HERMAN CANFIELD MEDINA, O.
HON. ASHER COOK PERRYSBURG, O.
N. S. TOWNSHEND, M. D AVON, O.

SUPERINTENDENT,

THIS INSTITUTION was established in the year 1857, by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, and located near the City of Columbus.

Its object is, to furnish *special* means of improvement to that portion of our youth who are so deficient in mind, or have such marked peculiarities and eccentricities of intellect as to deprive them of the benefits of other educational institutions and ordinary methods of instruction.

The education proposed, will include not only the simple elements of instruction 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 cleanliness, propriety, self-management, self-reliance, and the development and enlargement of a capacity for useful occupation. As promotive of these objects, pupils will receive such physical education, and such medical, moral and hygienic treatment as their peculiar and varied conditions demand.

Idiocy and mental imbecility depend upon some abnormal or imperfectly developed condition of the physical system—a condition in which the nervous organization is especially defective, preventing the harmonious and natural development of the mental and moral powers.

Idiots and imbeciles are feeble in body as well as mind. They are wanting in muscular and nervous power, the gait and voluntary movements are generally awkward and slow, and the special senses undeveloped or inactive. Physical training and physical development will, therefore, be essential to permanent mental improvement, and hence the importance of gymnastic and calisthenic exercises in treatment. The reciprocal influence of the body over the mind, and the mind over the body, must be carefully studied and applied. The dormant energies of the body must be aroused to action by every possible means. The wayward muscles are to be taught to move in obedience to the dim spark of will that may exist, which will must be strengthened and developed. The very feeble power of attention must be cultivated and increased by the most attractive means. The affections must be nursed—the special senses trained and educated—vicious habits are to be corrected, and the idea of obedience and moral obligation must be planted and nourished.

Some feeble minded youth give evidence of slight chronic irritation of the brain, obscure delusions, and other marks of partial insanity, or *mental derangement*, rather than of idiocy. Such cases cannot be properly treated by the family physician at home, and should, therefore, be removed to some institution where they can receive that treatment and training best adapted to their restoration.

Some who are merely backward, and remain undeveloped from being misunderstood, neglected, or abused, can by special means, be brought out, and reclaimed. Others can be arrested in their downward course, and made orderly, obedient, affectionate, docile and industrious; and nearly all can be materially improved in their general condition and habits. But, in order to secure the realization of these blessings to this afflicted class, they must have that special care, treatment and instruction which cannot be obtained in the family at home, or in private medical practice, or by any of the ordinary methods of instruction, but only in some well directed institution arranged, furnished and organized for the accomplishment of these special objects.

Where there is partial insanity, or marks of existing nervous irritation, or other disease, medical and other appropriate treatment will be applied. Each individual case will be a study, and must be treated as its peculiarities demand.

ADMISSION OF PUPILS, &c.

Children between the ages of six and fifteen, who are idiotic, or so peculiar or deficient in intellect as to be incapable of being educated at any ordinary school, may be admitted by the Superintendent, with the advice and counsel 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, are expected to make answers in writing to such questions as the Superintendent may prescribe.

Commodious buildings, in a healthy and accessible location, and a special system of instruction, training and management, render this Institution a desirable residence for all children deficient in mind, or with marked eccentricities and peculiarities of intellect.

The law provides that parents, guardians, &c., "shall, if of sufficient ability, engage to pay such reasonable sum for the education and support of pupils, and furnish them with such proper clothing while in this 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 Institution."

"As provided by the law, 'the directors of county and city infirmaries, or the township trustees in any county where there is no county infirmary, may remove to said asylum any idiotic and imbecile youth who may be properly admitted therein, and in such cases, said directors or township trustees shall support said youth at said asylum from any funds under their control applicable to the support of such infirmaries or township poor.'

"The State beneficiaries will be selected in equal numbers, as far as may be, from each judicial district: Provided, that no youth shall be admitted as a State beneficiary as aforesaid, unless the probate judge of the county where said youth shall reside, shall certify that he or she is in indigent circumstances, and has resided in the State at least one year previous to such application."

All pupils will be expected to come provided with a supply of neat and substantial clothing, adequate for the first six months. A bond will be required, in all cases, to insure the clothing and removal of the pupil, when required by the Superintendent, free of expense to the Institution.

There will be a vacation during the month of August, unless otherwise directed by the Board, at which period all pupils must be removed by the parents or guardians, unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent.

The law provides that "it shall be the duty of the Trustees of this Asylum to receive propositions for donations of land or money for the benefit of said Institution.

Applications for the admission of pupils, and all other general correspondence, should be directed to "Superintendent of State Asylum for Idiots," Columbus, Ohio.

J. R. P.