

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL

AT NORTHAMPTON.

OCTOBER, 1863.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHAMPTON LUNATIC HOSPITAL.

To His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Honorable Council :

The Trustees of the Northampton Lunatic Hospital present their Eighth Annual Report.

During the year past, ending on the 30th day of September last, they have made all the visitations of the hospital required by law; and in addition thereto, one of their number has usually during each week, or oftener, at such times as he pleased, visited the institution, making such observation, examinations, and inquiries, as seemed to him proper to the obtaining of a full understanding of the condition and wants of the inmates; and the Trustees can speak in terms of approbation of the uniform cleanliness of the rooms and furniture, as well as of the personal neatness of the patients, and the air of quiet and order which have pervaded the establishment.

A particular statement of the condition of the hospital, the number of inmates from month to month, and the average number during the year; a list of the salaried officers and their salaries; and other statistical information, arranged in tabular

form under appropriate heads, required by the sixth section of the seventy-third chapter of the General Statutes of the Commonwealth, is contained in the report of the Superintendent to the Trustees, and tables annexed marked A, B, C, and D, and herewith submitted.

The state of the finances of the institution is embraced in the Treasurer's report hereto appended, which has been duly audited by the Trustees.

The affairs of the hospital have been conducted with the greatest possible economy; and the result, which shows a deficiency of less than a thousand dollars between the receipts and expenditures, including the carrying on of the farm for the year just closing, is as gratifying to the Trustees as it is creditable to the energy and good judgment and careful oversight of the Superintendent and the faithfulness of the other officers associated with him.

A recent Act of the legislature provides that from and after the first day of October instant, the price of board for State paupers shall be reduced from \$2.62 to \$2.25 per week.

The amount of reduction based on the number of that class of inmates the past year, would have exceeded \$4,000.

With the reduction hereafter to be made in the charges will come largely increased cost of many of the necessary supplies of the hospital,—(the item alone of coal at present prices amounting to \$3,000 or \$4,000 more than in any previous year,)—and we anticipate the certainty of being obliged to ask the legislature before or at the close of the next year for a large sum to supply this deficiency.

We shall continue to practice the strictest economy consistent with the health, judicious care, and humane treatment of the inmates, and consider it our duty as faithful agents of the Commonwealth to make known frankly our efforts to save expense, and to ask the State to pay what seems absolutely necessary in order to secure the beneficent objects for which the hospital was established.

We refer to the report of the Superintendent for information as to the practical daily operations within and without the buildings, and for many valuable suggestions of changes and improvements which his experience has enabled him to make.

We cannot conclude this brief Report without expressing our gratitude to the legislature for the readiness and promptness with which they have heretofore responded to all the petitions of the Trustees for pecuniary appropriations when necessary, nor without endeavoring to impress upon them the strong probability that with the reduced charges for board and the increased cost of the means of living, they will be called upon hereafter to pay from the State treasury the deficiency of our receipts to meet expenses; nor without apprising the government and the public that the Trustees have annually an increasing confidence in the capacity, intelligence, integrity, fidelity and skill of the Superintendent, and his singular adaptation to the acceptable discharge of the arduous and responsible duties of his position, and in the special qualification of all those who are connected with him, and who assist in the management of the different departments of the institution.

Respectfully submitted.

ELIPHALET TRASK,
S. M. SMITH,
A. R. FIELD,
WALTER LAFLIN,
EDWARD DICKINSON,
Trustees.

NORTHAMPTON, October 1, 1863.

TABLE A.

*Showing the number of Patients remaining at the end of each Month,
from September 30, 1862, to September 30, 1863.*

| MONTHS. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| October 31, 1862, | 146 | 186 | 332 |
| November 30, 1862, | 144 | 185 | 329 |
| December 31, 1862, | 152 | 189 | 341 |
| January 31, 1863, | 157 | 191 | 348 |
| February 28, 1863, | 159 | 209 | 368 |
| March 31, 1863, | 153 | 206 | 359 |
| April 30, 1863, | 154 | 208 | 362 |
| May 31, 1863, | 153 | 211 | 364 |
| June 30, 1863, | 159 | 211 | 370 |
| July 31, 1863, | 161 | 215 | 370 |
| August 31, 1863, | 165 | 217 | 382 |
| September 30, 1863, | 167 | 216 | 383 |
| Average, 359. | | | |

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Northampton Lunatic Hospital :

The Treasurer respectfully submits the following Statement of the Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending September 30, 1863 :

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Received for board of private boarders, . . . | \$13,977 02 |
| for board of town paupers, . . . | 4,019 00 |
| for board of State paupers, . . . | 33,270 37 |
| of town paupers for clothing, . . . | 237 40 |
| of private boarders for clothing, . . . | 819 13 |
| of private boarders for contingencies, . . . | 552 05 |
| of private boarders for advancements, . . . | 772 12 |
| on sundry accounts, . . . | 180 14 |
| for animals and produce of farm sold, . . . | 1,172 14 |
| for persons employed on farm, for provisions, &c., . . . | 136 79 |
| for appropriation, . . . | 1,455 18 |
| Borrowed of banks and others, . . . | 41,000 00 |
| Balance in Treasurer's hands, Sept. 30, 1862, . . . | 668 17 |
| | \$98,259 51 |

PAYMENTS.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| For provisions and supplies, . . . | \$19,056 36 |
| fuel, . . . | 4,480 25 |
| gas and oil, . . . | 2,083 65 |
| wages and salaries, . . . | 10,708 67 |
| furniture, . . . | 1,821 61 |
| dry goods and clothing, . . . | 3,278 29 |
| contingencies, . . . | 2,842 69 |

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| | |
|--|-------------|
| For repairs, | \$2,462 66 |
| farm, | 3,622 97 |
| farm stock, | 992 25 |
| farm wages, | 1,294 90 |
| improvements, | 91 66 |
| advancements, | 583 79 |
| appropriation, | 1,455 18 |
| miscellaneous, | 183 70 |
| banks and others (borrowed,) | 43,000 00 |
| Balance in hands of Treasurer, | 300 88 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$98,259 51 |

WM. HENRY PRINCE, *Treasurer.*

September 30, 1863.

The Committee appointed to examine the financial affairs of the institution report that they have carefully compared the books and accounts of the Treasurer, and find them satisfactory.

E. TRASK.
S. M. SMITH.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Northampton Lunatic Hospital :

GENTLEMEN,—In compliance with the requisitions of the by-laws of the institution, and in obedience to the statutes of the Commonwealth, the Superintendent presents his annual report.

In reviewing the history of the institution for the year now closed, we find abundant cause of gratitude to a beneficent Providence for mercies vouchsafed to us ; for our enlarged field of usefulness ; for additions to our means of administering to the comfort and well being of the patients ; for the absence of all epidemics and diseases of a dangerous nature ; for comparative immunity from accident ; for the tranquillity and security we have enjoyed in a season of turmoil and danger to many ; and for many other blessings which have constantly surrounded us.

Although the hospital was originally intended and fitted for the comfortable accommodation of but two hundred and fifty patients, this number was exceeded very soon after the close of the first year of its operation. Its doors have been constantly open to all who have sought relief within its walls, without regard to the form or duration of the disease, other than that prescribed by statute ; and it has freely offered its accommodation for the relief of the over-crowded condition of the other two State hospitals. In former years quite a number of quiet, incurable patients, who were supported by the Commonwealth, and whose condition offered no prospect of benefit from longer treatment in a hospital, were removed by the Board of Alien Commissioners to be cared for elsewhere. During the last year, however, the number suitable for such removal has been

much smaller than heretofore, and, as we have continued to afford relief to the extent of our ability to the other institutions, the whole number in the house is much larger than ever before. The number of females has always exceeded that of the males from the opening of the hospital, and the limit of comfortable accommodation for them has been reached.

It has been your policy to extend the benefits of the institution to all suitable cases, and it is a pleasant reflection that none have ever been turned from its doors, whose condition was such as to bring them within the field of its legitimate operation. It has never yet been necessary to make any selection among the cases offered, and it is to be hoped the day is far distant when the admission of any proper case must from any cause be refused.

A policy so liberal, carried to an unlimited extent, and pursued for many successive years, must result in a great accumulation of incurable cases, and it becomes necessary, in order to preserve the curative character of our institution, either to refuse in part or entirely this class of patients, or to remove, from time to time, as many as possible of those who need merely custodial care, or simple nursing. The former course would be illiberal, and, for several reasons, injudicious. It is not for a public charitable institution thus to close its doors against those who have a right to all the benefits they may derive from it, and who are taxed for its creation and support. A measure of relief which operates to a limited extent is provided by the statute authorizing the Trustees to remove, under certain circumstances, to their homes, or to the places of their legal settlement, such patients as are not susceptible of farther improvement. Action under this statute, however, is attended with very partial relief, for the great majority of incurable paupers insane, in this hospital, are those who have no place of legal settlement within the State, and the burden of whose support falls on the Commonwealth. The towns have no proper accommodations for the insane, for there are very few, even of the incurable class, who do not at all times need the constant care of competent and responsible persons, and, at intervals, the peculiar care and attendance to be found only in an institution specially adapted to the purpose. Any relief to these institutions at all commensurate

with the demand, must deal with the larger class of pauper insane which now crowds them, and which looks to the Commonwealth alone for care and support. The fact is well known that already in each of the State almshouses a considerable number of this class of patients is supported in more or less comfort, but with more or less inconvenience and annoyance to those with whom they are brought into contact, and with more or less derangement of the order and discipline peculiar to our institutions not designed for their treatment. It is a question deserving consideration whether, by some alteration of, or addition to one or more of these institutions, the partial relief now afforded to the hospitals could not be extended and made available for a considerably larger number. In all our State hospitals there is a large number of hopelessly diseased persons dependent on the Commonwealth for support, whose unfortunate condition necessitates their seclusion. Some, if at large, would at times be dangerous; all would be troublesome, and the safety of the public requires their confinement. Others are incompetent to care for themselves, and their utter helplessness exposes them to ill treatment and suffering while running at large, and renders it necessary that they should be cared for. In a hospital they are, by unceasing care, made quiet, comfortable, healthy and comparatively happy, but let this care be withdrawn and they lapse into a pitiable condition, losing all but the mere form of humanity, and become a burden to themselves and an opprobrium to those who should care for them.

In different places, and at different times, the experiment has been tried of supporting this class of patients in institutions set apart for them, organized and administered in a manner supposed to be adapted to secure an economical, and at the same time a sufficiently humane system of treatment. The results, however, have not been such as to recommend the system, but have rather cast well deserved opprobrium on those connected with their management. The problem of a separate, very economical support and management of the incurable pauper insane, that shall at the same time meet the demands of an enlightened philanthropy, remains to be solved.

In five years the number of patients in this hospital has increased from two hundred and twenty to three hundred and

eighty-three. Within the last year, owing partly to the small number discharged, the number has increased from three hundred thirty-two to three hundred and eighty-three. In all hospitals where no effort is made to exclude them, the proportion of incurable cases is large and increasing. In this one the ordinary proportion is much increased by the importation of numbers from the other two hospitals, made necessary by their crowded condition. There is no reason for supposing that the number of insane in this State will not increase in proportion to the increase of population, and there is no reason to expect the number of incurable cases to be less, although the proportion may be somewhat diminished. We are to expect, then, a constant yearly increase of this class to be cared for, and the subject of their final disposition will become more and more urgent and interesting.

At the close of the last year there were remaining in the hospital three hundred and thirty-two patients, of whom one hundred and forty-seven were males, and one hundred and eighty-five were females.

During the year there were admitted one hundred and thirty-seven, of whom sixty-nine were males and sixty-eight were females. Thirty of each sex were discharged during the year, and twenty-six died, of whom nineteen were males and seven were females. There now remain under treatment three hundred and eighty-three, of whom one hundred and sixty-seven are males and two hundred and sixteen are females.

Twenty-six State paupers were received from other hospitals, and seven from the State almshouses. These cases are chronic, and probably incurable, and the whole thirty-three will probably continue to be a burden to the State, and to the public institutions, during the remainder of their lives.

Twenty-six patients have died during the year, nineteen males and seven females. The largest number of deaths from any cause is from phthisis and from that slow wasting away which removes so many chronic cases. There were eight deaths from each of these causes. The general health of the inmates has been remarkably good, and there has been no tendency to epidemic of any kind.

The usual statistical tables are here given, showing some of the prominent facts of the cases received during the year, as

far as it was possible to procure them. It would be well if a full statement of the more interesting particulars usually sought for in the reports of hospitals for the insane were required by law before the admission of the patient. The statement now required by statute might be so extended as to embrace information of value and interest. A strict compliance with the present statute would, if it could be secured, add something of value to the tables as now compiled, and increase their future value.

TABLE No. 1,

Showing the Number and Sex of all Patients admitted, discharged, died, and remaining.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Number of patients remaining Sept. 30, 1862, . | 147 | 185 | 332 |
| admitted since, | 69 | 68 | 137 |
| under treatment during the year, . | 216 | 253 | 469 |
| discharged during the year, . . | 30 | 30 | 60 |
| died during the year, | 19 | 7 | 26 |
| remaining Sept. 30, 1863, . . . | 167 | 216 | 383 |

TABLE No. 2,

Showing the last Residence of all Patients admitted during the year.

| COUNTIES. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Hampshire County, | 12 | 10 | 22 |
| Hampden County, | 14 | 13 | 27 |
| Franklin County, | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| Berkshire County, | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Middlesex County, | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Essex County, | 2 | — | 2 |
| Bristol County, | 5 | 21 | 26 |
| Worcester County, | 1 | — | 1 |
| Suffolk County, | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other States, | 15 | 15 | 30 |
| Totals, | 69 | 68 | 137 |

TABLE NO. 3,
Showing the Ages of all admitted during the year.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Between 10 and 20, | - | 3 | 3 |
| 20 and 30, | 19 | 14 | 33 |
| 30 and 40, | 19 | 19 | 38 |
| 40 and 50, | 14 | 17 | 31 |
| 50 and 60, | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| 60 and 70, | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Over 70, | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Totals, | 69 | 68 | 137 |

TABLE NO. 4,
Showing the Nativity of all Patients admitted during the year.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| America, | 54 | 38 | 92 |
| Ireland, | 13 | 29 | 42 |
| England, | 2 | - | 2 |
| Scotland, | - | 1 | 1 |
| Totals, | 69 | 68 | 137 |

TABLE No. 5,
Showing the Supposed Causes of Insanity.

| SUPPOSED CAUSES. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Paralysis, | 2 | - | 2 |
| Overwork, | 2 | - | 2 |
| Masturbation, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Injury to head, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Intemperance, | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Epilepsy, | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Family affliction, | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Loss of property, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Greediness, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Opium, | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Apoplexy, | 2 | - | 2 |
| Religious excitement, | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ill health, | 6 | 16 | 22 |
| Business difficulty, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Spiritualism, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Old age, | 2 | - | 2 |
| Exposure, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Hereditary, | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Puerperal, | - | 1 | 1 |
| Death of Friend; | - | 1 | 1 |
| Fever, | - | 1 | 1 |
| Tobacco, | - | 1 | 1 |
| Unknown, | 27 | 37 | 64 |
| Totals, | 69 | 68 | 137 |

TABLE No. 6,
Showing the Ages at which Insanity appeared.

| AGES. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Between 10 and 20, | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| 20 and 30, | 23 | 23 | 46 |
| 30 and 40, | 13 | 15 | 28 |
| 40 and 50, | 10 | 15 | 25 |
| 50 and 60, | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 60 and 70, | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Over 70, | 5 | - | 5 |
| Unknown, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Totals, | 69 | 68 | 137 |

TABLE No. 7,
Showing the Duration of the Disease before admission.

| DURATION OF THE DISEASE. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Less than one year, | 21 | 16 | 37 |
| From 1 to 2 years, | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| 2 to 5 years, | 13 | 16 | 29 |
| 5 to 10 years, | 16 | 16 | 32 |
| 10 to 15 years, | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| 15 and over, | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Totals, | 69 | 68 | 137 |

TABLE No. 8,
Showing the Civil Condition of all Patients admitted.

| CIVIL CONDITION. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Married, | 30 | 20 | 50 |
| Widowed, | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Single, | 36 | 47 | 83 |
| Totals, | 69 | 68 | 137 |

TABLE No. 9,
Showing the Occupation of all Male Patients.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Merchants, 4 | Tailor, 1 |
| Clerks, 2 | Drover, 1 |
| Pattern maker, 1 | Student, 1 |
| Barber, 1 | Cabinet maker, 1 |
| Lawyers, 4 | Machinist, 1 |
| Minister, 1 | Cashier, 1 |
| Shoe cutter, 1 | Shoemaker, 1 |
| Farmers, 13 | No business, 7 |
| Blacksmith, 1 | Laborers, 25 |
| Armorer, 1 | Total, 69 |
| Book-keeper, 1 | |

TABLE No. 10,
Showing the Causes of Death in those deceased.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Phthisis, | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Injury from fall, | - | 1 | 1 |
| Diarrhœa, | - | 1 | 1 |
| Meningitis, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Marasmus, | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| General Paralysis, | 4 | - | 4 |
| Softening of Brain, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Suicide, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Acute Exhaustion, | 1 | - | 1 |
| Totals, | 19 | 7 | 26 |

TABLE No. 11,
Showing the Proportion of Commitments.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Committed by Judge and Courts, | 29 |
| two Justices, | 4 |
| Overseers of Poor, | 13 |
| Governor, | 1 |
| Alien Commissioners, | 28 |
| Friends, | 62 |
| Total, | 137 |

TABLE No. 12,
Showing by whom the Patients will probably be supported.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Supported by State, | 50 |
| by Town, | 25 |
| by Friends, | 62 |
| Total, | 137 |

The importance of a tract of land for farming and gardening purposes connected with any institution where the insane are treated, is now universally acknowledged. Every year's experience in the management of a hospital affords additional proof of the benefits to be derived by the inmates from regular out of door employment. The means thus afforded for exercise and labor are invaluable, and could not be dispensed with without detriment to the health and well being of the patients.

The profit of a hospital farm should not be too anxiously sought for in the columns of the ledger; for the returns made in health regained, in the soothing influence of regular occupation, in the beneficial effects of congenial employment, of diversion from morbid trains of thought and feeling, and other benefits of like nature, which cannot be reduced to figures, more truly represent the real value of the farm and garden to the patients than any schedule of vegetable products. Although the season has not been quite as favorable as usual for garden produce, the crops have not fallen off as much as was expected. In addition to the articles named in the schedule (A) of farm products on hand, other articles, including fruits and milk, amounting at their market value to three thousand four hundred and eighty-six dollars and ninety-six cents, have been consumed in the house.

Many of the patients have labored regularly in all the variety of work done upon the farm and garden, under proper supervision, and their labors have secured a full supply of fresh vegetables for their tables, while at the same time their health and general condition, physical and mental, have been materially benefited by the employment thus afforded them.

While gathering a large annual crop from the land, care is taken by proper rotation and dressing, not only to prevent any diminution of its productiveness, but to improve its condition from year to year. Patches of land which have heretofore produced little beside the natural wild growth, are reclaimed year by year, and added to the productive area, and parts that have been longer under cultivation are still further improved by ditching, draining, removal of stones, &c., as opportunity occurs.

Improvements on the pleasure grounds also go on as time and means are found for prosecuting them. Walks are extended through the groves, flower beds are multiplied, new shrubbery is added, and much pains is taken to procure a neat and cheerful appearance in the grounds immediately adjoining the house. In all the work the ready assistance of the patients is cheerfully given, and during the present season this work has been almost wholly in their hands.

Besides the work done upon the farm and in the garden many of the patients constantly find exercise, amusement and recreation in the varied labors of the housekeeping department. In the kitchen, the cooks furnish pleasant and diverting occupation to many who would otherwise remain idle, and who might become mischievous and troublesome. The laundry is also made to supply a healthful and pleasant diversion to a large number. The baker also has his assistants, and the engineer finds employment for others. The seamstress collects daily around her a large circle of quiet, industrious and happy co-laborers, whose united efforts add much to the comfort of their fellow-boarders. Many others are capable of rendering efficient assistance in the halls and dining-rooms, and these render themselves useful, while they are made happier by breaking the monotony of their daily life, and healthier by the exercise gained. No opportunity is neglected of giving some employment to all who can derive benefit from it, and are capable of applying themselves.

Notwithstanding all that has been done in this direction, there still exists a great want of suitable occupation for the men during that part of the year when farming operations are to a great extent suspended.

The carrying on of any mechanical business by the help of the insane, requires a considerable expenditure for material used and wasted, and tools destroyed and lost, but especially for such competent supervision as is necessary to obtain results at all satisfactory; to guard against injuries; to prevent abuses; to apportion labor to strength and capacity; to stimulate the dormant, and quiet the irritable; in short, to manage with exact judgment, and lead to profitable results the labors of those who cannot manage themselves, and to whom labor is in

itself distasteful, and when unrequited, repugnant. Very few of our State paupers have acquired skill in any mechanical trade. Nearly all of them have been mere day laborers in fields of occupation requiring little skill. The experiment of imparting to them in their present condition of perverted mental action such a degree of skill in any mechanical trade as would secure remunerative results, would probably prove futile. Yet there are various occupations, not requiring a high degree of skill, which would come within the capacity of many insane minds. The manufacturing of some articles here requiring little skill and no great outlay for material or supervision, might be undertaken without the chance of great pecuniary loss; while our distance from any great market would probably prevent its being remunerated in any other way than through the benefits to be derived by the patients from the occupation of their time and their thoughts.

During the last winter an experiment was made in the manufacture of baskets; and in the aspect of affording a suitable, light, and rather interesting occupation to a number of the patients, and in all its results, it was considered quite a successful beginning. Pecuniarily it was a total failure. There was no money made, but there was not much lost. There was no outlay for tools or material. The materials were supplied, the simple apparatus necessary was loaned, the manufactured articles removed without cost, and the labor paid for. The amount received very nearly paid the wages of the men hired to superintend the work. No accident and nothing of an unpleasant nature occurred to detract from the satisfaction the results gave excepting the necessary discharge of an overseer for what was considered an abuse of a patient, and the elopement of one patient from the room temporarily occupied as a workshop, and the threatening of one patient by another with a knife. The daily products of the labor of each patient varied, according to natural aptitude and mental condition, from one-twentieth to one-tenth of that of an ordinary hand, working under the usual stimulus to labor. Our accommodations limited the number who could be employed at any one time to advantage, and the variable mental state of the men rendered frequent changes of hands necessary even in this small number. The same cause

produced also a corresponding variation in the amount of labor performed on different days by the same patient; and in the quality of the work done on different days by the same individual, the same variation was evident, depending on some change in his mental condition not otherwise appreciable.

Although but little over one thousand baskets were made, the experiment with its small results was considered quite interesting, as it seemed to epitomize the whole scheme of mechanical labor for the insane, and to stand as a sort of type of like experiments. In some respects it was exceptional.

The branch of industry selected was one not requiring great mechanical skill. A few days sufficed for "learning the trade." The progress through the usually tedious stage of apprenticeship to the full dignity of "journeymen," was rapid for most, although some lingered long by the way. The circumstances under which the experiment was tried undoubtedly conduced to the favorable pecuniary result; for there was no expenditure for materials nor tools, and the loss of material by waste and "apprentice work" was borne by others. A farther prosecution of the experiment would undoubtedly have produced better average results, inasmuch as the more expensive period of pupilage had passed, and production would have increased without any corresponding increase of expenditure.

The experiment very well represents the prominent features of those carried on upon a much larger scale. There is the difficulty in securing overseers possessing the necessary qualifications of skill in the business, and the much more important moral qualities, the absence of which at once destroys the value of the experiment in its most important aspect as a hygienic measure. Such an overseer must, with the strictest honesty, possess the most imperturbable patience and good nature under provocations and annoyances to which he is sure to be subjected in his endeavors to extort unrequited labor in an unaccustomed direction, from men who have little or no interest in this work, and who wish only to be left alone—who are often made nervous and irritable by any attempt to fix continuous attention upon any thing at all taxing their mental powers, and on

whom many of the chief incentives to useful labor are entirely inoperative.

Two of the principal dangers attending these enterprises are also indicated in this short experience. The use by the insane of tools which may be suddenly converted into deadly weapons, is a danger not to be overlooked nor under-estimated, but constantly and vigilantly guarded against; and with the greatest care and watchfulness, accidents from this source must be expected to occur occasionally in the future as they have in the past. It is a danger that constantly limits the number which can be safely and advantageously employed, and fearfully increases the responsibility of those having the direction of these labors. The elopement of one of the men exposes another difficulty of greater or less weight according to the security of the work-rooms and the vigilance of the overseers. But in the greater freedom from restraint, and the frequent passing from place to place of those employed, the liability to loss by elopement cannot be lost sight of.

The manufacture of mats has been pursued for some years as a means of occupation in stormy weather, for the hands usually employed on the farm, and has well answered its purposes of pleasant diversion and the supply of a constantly recurring want of the house.

The manufacture of palm-leaf hats was attempted, and persevered in for a length of time sufficient to show that it is a branch of industry not well suited to our patients, or rather to the class of patients for whose improvement employment is most needed. It requires considerable skill beyond the easy acquisition of the demented, a fixedness of the attention not easily secured, together with arithmetical combinations quite puzzling to the impaired and restless minds of those attempting them.

The subject of employment for the patients is, however, of such great importance in a hygienic view that it is in no danger of being lost sight of, and the means of securing it will be constantly studied and availed of to as great an extent as possible.

The number of patients now in the institution, whose expenses are paid from the State treasury, is two hundred and

forty-seven. The Commonwealth has paid for their support two dollars and sixty-two cents per week for each. It is evident that this sum has not for the two last years, covered the expense of their support, and it cannot be made to do so without such curtailment of the expenditures as would very considerably reduce the means and appliances necessary to their proper and judicious treatment. If this sum has not sufficed with the strictest economy, at a time when the cost of the various articles of necessary consumption was comparatively moderate, it can hardly be expected, at the present high prices of all the necessaries of life, that the expense can be brought within that limit.

The following table is mostly taken from the Biennial Report of the Trustees of the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, made to the legislature of that State in 1860, taken by that board from the Report of the Superintendent of the Kentucky Eastern Lunatic Asylum. It shows the cost of maintaining each person per week in twenty of the principal insane hospitals in the United States.

| | |
|--|--------|
| In the Pennsylvania Hospital for Insane, including officers' salaries, | \$5 00 |
| Illinois State Hospital, including salaries, | 2 77 |
| Butler Hospital for the Insane, Providence, R. I., including salaries, | 3 69 |
| McLean Asylum for the Insane, including salaries, | 6 80 |
| Government Asylum for the Insane, D. C., including salaries, | 4 59 |
| Kentucky Eastern Lunatic Asylum, including salaries, | 2 94 |
| Asylum for the Relief of Persons deprived of their Reason, Frankfort, Penn., including salaries, | 4 80 |
| Louisiana Insane Asylum, including salaries, | 3 44 |
| North Carolina Insane Asylum, including salaries, | 3 92 |
| South Carolina Insane Asylum, including salaries, | 3 17 |
| New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, exclusive of salaries, | 3 24 |
| New York State Lunatic Asylum, exclusive of salaries, | 3 83 |
| Bloomington Asylum, New York, exclusive of salaries, | 5 21 |
| Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, exclusive of salaries, | 3 89 |
| Massachusetts Lunatic Hospital, exclusive of salaries, | 3 00 |
| Northern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, exclusive of salaries, | 3 20 |
| Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum, exclusive of salaries, | 3 18 |
| Southern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, exclusive of salaries, | 3 16 |
| Maine State Hospital for Insane, exclusive of salaries, | 3 42 |
| Missouri State Lunatic Hospital, exclusive of salaries, | 4 00 |

The average cost per week in these hospitals is three dollars eighty-six cents for each person. Seven of these are not State hospitals, and the expenditures in these are probably on a more liberal scale, the average cost in them for each patient per week being four dollars and eighty-five cents. In the thirteen State institutions the cost was three dollars thirty-three cents. But in ten of these the salaries are not included in the estimate. This item being added would increase the average.

Of the hospitals here named, those whose rates are the lowest are in localities which give them advantages over others in the purchase of certain articles of large consumption, such as fuel, flour, meats, sugars, &c., and thus enable them to reduce their rates below others less fortunate in this respect. The difference between these rates and what is allowed by our own State is striking. These institutions are in the hands of competent gentlemen, and their interests are watched over by vigilant and careful managers and trustees. The character of these gentlemen is a guaranty that in their expenditures the highest good of those committed to their charge receives the first consideration, while their duty to the public and to the institution would hold them to a careful economy. True economy is to have the best means in the best condition. Any abatement from this high standard must eventuate in unsatisfactory results. The actual necessities of the insane are the same in Massachusetts as in other States. The cost of supplying them may vary. But it is difficult to see how they can be supplied in this State at rates so much lower than those prevailing elsewhere, if the standard of our institutions is to be preserved. No one would wish to see them reduced below the standard of similar institutions in other States.

In your strict scrutiny into all the expenditures of this institution you have seen the rigid economy with which they have been made, and are well aware that the sum paid for the support of the State paupers is less than the cost. With a well grounded fear of impairing the usefulness of the hospitals to the unfortunate sufferers committed to your care, you have refrained from ordering any curtailment of the supplies or of the means afforded for their care and treatment, in the full assurance that any deprivation of the kind could have but a

disastrous ultimate effect. The coming year can hardly fail to bring greater embarrassment. The prices of many articles of necessary consumption have continued steadily to advance and will continue to advance. The prices of some articles are already three or four times as great as before. The advantage of buying in advance of increased prices, of which we have largely availed during the past year, is no longer available. You are aware that the legislature, at its last session, desirous of reducing the great expense of foreign pauperism to the State, made a reduction of thirty-seven cents per week each, in the rate paid for the support of its insane paupers. As we have two hundred and forty-seven of these unfortunates in this institution, such a reduction from the present insufficient rate in a season of such high prices will be severely felt. With a full sense of its great importance I respectfully commend this subject to your consideration.

The same means of recreation and amusement made use of in former years, with such additions as it has been convenient to make, continue to be employed with the usual beneficial effects.

My thanks are due to many kind friends who have added, from time to time, to the means at command, by the donation of books, periodicals, flowers, plants, and various other articles, and by their very welcome assistance at concerts and exhibitions.

The exercises in the chapel in the evening and on the Sabbath are continued with regularity, and are an unfailing source of interest to a large number of the patients.

Doctor C. K. Bartlett continues in the efficient performance of his duties as Assistant-Physician, and Mr. F. L. Eldridge as Clerk, and to them I am under obligations for their zealous efforts to promote the interests of the institution.

To the Supervisors, Attendants, and all whose duties have brought them into immediate contact with the patients, and on whose fidelity so much of comfort and happiness depends, commendation is due for patient and careful performance of duties often unpleasant and wearisome.

I would also acknowledge my great obligation to your Board for the consideration and kindness with which you have

uniformly received my endeavor to secure the great objects for which the institution exists, and for the watchful care with which you have guarded its interests.

Relying on a kind Providence for future blessings, I commend these interests to your continued care and vigilance, in the hope that there may be no diminution of the means of promoting the comfort and improvement of all who seek them here, no falling away from the high standard it is so desirable to preserve.

WM. HENRY PRINCE.