SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of Clifton Hall,

A PRIVATE HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL DISEASES,

TO THE

BOARD OF SUPERVISION,

FOR THE YEAR 1861.

PHILADELPHIA:
KING & BAIRD, PRINTERS, No. 607 SANSOM STREET.
1862.

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To the Board of Supervision of Clifton Hall, a private Hospital for Mental Diseases:

GENTLEMEN,—

Amid the civil commotions and business embarrassments that have prevailed during the past year, it is not to be expected that the number of patients received at Clifton Hall should be as great as if the same commercial prosperity had prevailed that previously characterized our hitherto united and happy country. Yet, notwithstanding this potent source of diminution, you will be gratified to learn that there is every indication of the usefulness predicted in the Report for 1860 being fully realized.

Six patients, three males and three females, were under the care of the institution on the 1st of January, 1861; and thirteen, ten males and three females, were received during the year. Of the former, two were discharged quite restored—one of these after an illness of three years—one much improved—one unimproved. The age and duration of the two cases remaining in the house leave no room for any hope of amendment.

Of the three female patients received during 1861, one, at the advanced age of seventy years, died a few weeks after admission; the second, whose mental disturbance depended on long standing physical disease, was discharged somewhat improved after a residence of three months; the third is an incurable case, and remains under my care. Three of the ten male patients were cases of acute mania, all of whom perfectly recovered; one was a chronic case, recommended to the care of the institution as a safe and comfortable home; the remaining six—one of whom is still under treatment—were slight cases of mental aberration, induced by irregular habits, and requiring only a temporary seclusion to restore them to health.

Many improvements, useful and ornamental, have been made. Ice and carriage-houses have been erected, roads laid out, fences set up, a deer-park enclosed, and a great variety of shrubs and trees, evergreen and deciduous, planted. A large fish-pond has been constructed, from which I anticipate much pleasure and benefit to the patients in boating, fishing and skating—amusements in which they may indulge without fear of accident, as the depth of water has been kept within safe bounds. In the coming summer I purpose erecting a ten pin alley and a number of handsome summer-houses, the designs for which are in the hands of the builder.

There are no more useful remedies for the recovery of a diseased mind than out-door exercise and employment, and these have been amply provided for in the large garden attached to Clifton Hall, and the healthful and attractive country that surrounds it. The garden has been assiduously cultivated and has yielded a rich return; while there are more than one of our former inmates that entertain a grateful remembrance of the benefits they derived from the walks and drives through the rich and highly cultivated neighborhood. Indeed, it would be hard to find a more suitable location for such an establishment. Within easy access of the city, both by turnpike and railroad,* and far enough from it to escape its bustle and excitement, it possesses the additional advantages of salubrity and rare beauty. Even within the limits of the grounds the invalid may enjoy the pleasing variety of hill and valley, meadow, brook, and woodland; while such is the elevation of the site that while seated beneath the shade of a giant chestnut tree, his eye, though distant seven miles from the city, can rest on its "pointed spires," or follow, for a sweep of twelve miles, the "ships that sail

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* The Baltimore Turnpike passes the gate, and the cars of the Media Railroad, which start from the northeast corner of Eighteenth and Market streets, stop at the Clifton Station, within a short distance of the Hall.

to quick commerce," as they glide along the surface of the Delaware.

As a pleasing evidence of the estimation in which Clifton Hall is held by physicians in Philadelphia, I beg leave to subjoin the following:

"At a meeting of several members of the medical profession of Philadelphia, held by invitation, on Saturday, 13th inst., at Clifton Hall, the private Asylum instituted and superintended by Dr. Given, they were so much pleased with the ample and convenient arrangements, and the attractive and healthful location, that they determined to give a formal expression to their sense of the great value of the undertaking of Dr. Given and of the gratifying success which has, thus far, attended his management in establishing and conducting it.

"Dr. John B. Biddle, having been called to the Chair, and Dr. E. Hartshorne appointed Secretary, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be printed in such a manner as might be deemed best:

"*Whereas,* We, in common with many of our medical associates, are fully convinced of the importance of a private establishment for the treatment of mental disorders, and have long felt the want in our city of just such a one as we here see around us.

"*Resolved,* That we have watched the progress of Dr. Given's enterprise with very great interest, and now take much pleasure in congratulating him and the whole community upon its successful inauguration and promising condition, as evinced by the appearance of the house and ground, and by the favorable results of the last year's operations, exhibited in the Annual Report.

"*Resolved*, That in expressing our unqualified approval of properly conducted private asylums, we are gratified to be able to recommend Clifton Hall, as combining all the requisites for the safe and efficient treatment of patients suffering from mental disorders, and therefore commending itself to the attention and active interest of the medical profession.

"*Resolved*, That we tender our cordial thanks to Dr. Given for the handsome manner in which he has enabled us to become acquainted, by personal observation, with the material advantages of Clifton Hall as a desirable retreat for the insane, as well as for the social opportunity which he has so pleasantly afforded us of uniting in a tribute to the intelligent philanthropy, which is evidently the ruling spirit of his excellent establishment."

I am happy to say that Dr. Charles Evans, long so favorably known as Physician to the Frankford Asylum for the Insane, kindly continues his services as consulting physician.

Respectfully submitted,

R. A. GIVEN, M. D.

CLIFTON HALL, Del. Co., Pa.,
January 1, 1862.

Information respecting terms of admission, mode of access, &c., can be obtained either of the Superindendent, whose address is, Kellysville, Del. Co., Penna., or of the following Druggists, Messrs. S. C. Sheppard, 209 South Ninth street, Edward Parrish, 800 Arch street, Wyeth & Brother, 1412 Walnut street.