

No. 134.

IN ASSEMBLY,

March 26, 1868.

REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM, IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY ASSEMBLYMAN LITTLE, OF STEUBEN.

To the Honorable the Assembly of the State of New York:

In answer to a resolution of your honorable body, a copy of which is hereto attached, the Board of Trustees of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, beg leave to

REPORT:

That the said asylum, in an unfinished state, was re-opened for the reception of patients on the first day of May last, having been closed since the first day of October, previous, for reasons which are fully stated in the Annual Report of this Board for the year 1867, which report is on file in the office of the Secretary of State, as required by the act of incorporation.

That the asylum opened on the first of May with six patients, but the number has been and is constantly increasing. From the first of May to the first of January, eighty patients were received, and up to the date of this report, one hundred and fourteen have been received.

Of the eighty patients received to the first of January, seventy-two were paying patients, and eight were received as free patients. Of the thirty-four received since the first of January, thirty-one are paying patients, the others free.

Attached to this report is a printed copy of the rules established by the board of trustees, regulating the reception of patients, to

which we respectfully beg leave to refer. Commencing with six patients at the opening of the institution on the first of May, the number of inmates remaining continuously has increased gradually to fifty-seven, which is the number at present in the asylum, and numerous applications for admission are pending. The places of those who leave are more than supplied by new patients, and there seems to be no reason to doubt, that under the present management, the number will keep on increasing, until the institution is filled to its utmost capacity.

It is impossible to ascertain precisely the average cost of maintaining each patient, as a considerable portion of the large force of workmen constantly employed in the work of construction, has been boarded at the asylum, and no separate account of supplies or expenses has been or could well be kept. From the best estimate the Superintendent and physician has been able to make, the average cost per week of maintaining each patient, cannot exceed ten dollars.

This includes the salary of the Superintendent and physician, and all the expenses attending the interior working of the institution.

The amount of money in the treasury on the first of January, 1867, was sixteen thousand three hundred and twenty-eight dollars and seventy-two cents (\$16,328.72); and on the first day of January, 1868, seventy-six thousand and twenty-two dollars and thirty-two cents (\$76,022.32.)

The board of trustees beg leave to present herewith a copy of their annual report, filed in the office of the Secretary of State, which gives a detailed statement of the affairs and condition and wants of the institution, and which they respectfully request may be ordered to be printed herewith.

By reference to this report, it will be seen that the ten per cent of the excise moneys and the above balance in the treasury, will be required to rebuild the north wing of the edifice destroyed by fire in 1864, and thus enable the institution to accomplish, to the full extent of its capacity, the reformation which it has already demonstrated is within its province.

The board beg leave further to state, that no female patients are received, for the manifest reason that it would not conduce to the success of the institution, to place both sexes in the same building, but the great and urgent necessity for a similar asylum, for the cure of female inebriates, is made painfully apparent by

the frequent and pressing applications for their admission into this institution.

Respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board of Trustees,

AUSBURN BIRDSALL,

Vice-President.

BINGHAMTON, *March 24, 1868.*

NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

BINGHAMTON, BROOME COUNTY, N. Y.

Application.

I request that _____, of _____, in the county of _____, in the State of _____, may be admitted as a patient to the New York State Inebriate Asylum, for such length of time as the Superintendent and physician, upon a full examination of his case, may deem necessary.

In all applications for admission to the asylum, the following questions are required to be answered either by the applicant, or some friend, as fully and explicitly as possible :

1. Applicant's name in full?
2. Age?
3. Married or single?
4. Birthplace?
5. Residence?
6. Occupation?
7. What diseases or symptoms of disease have appeared in the history of the applicant?
8. State if his parents have been subject to insanity or any disease, also if either have been intemperate?
9. Has applicant ever had delirium tremens? If so, how many attacks?
10. Has applicant ever had convulsions? If so, how many attacks?

11. Has his drinking been constant and regular, or periodical?

12. What is the present condition of the applicant's health?

State as explicitly as possible.

13. What means has applicant or his friends to pay for his board and care?

Upon entering the institution, the patient, or some friend in his behalf, will be required to execute a bond or obligation, to be signed by himself, and one reponsible surety, residing within the State, in the following form :

Obligation.

In consideration of _____ being admitted as a patient to the New York State Inebriate Asylum, the undersigned promise the corporation of said asylum, to pay to the Superintendent thereof, at said asylum, quarterly in advance, on the first day of each successive three months, the sum of _____ dollars per week for each week and fractional part of a week of such succeeding three months, for which said patient has been or may be admitted, for the medical treatment and board of said patient. Also to pay for extraordinary medical and other extra attendance, should such attendance be necessary; to provide or pay for such requisite clothing and other articles as the Superintendent may deem necessary for the health and comfort of said patient; to remove said patient when discharged; to reimburse such necessary expenses as may have been incurred in case of his death, and to pay all damages which may be committed by said patient upon the property of said asylum.

Witness our hands this — day of _____, 186 .

All persons, in becoming inmates of the institution, bind themselves to observe and obey the by-laws and rules governing the internal affairs of the asylum. Any deliberate violation of them will be considered good cause for removal from the institution.

No patient will be received for a less period than three months, nor, in the first instance, for a longer term than one year. In order that the benefit to the patient may be permanent, the Superintendent and physician will, upon a full examination of each case, determine the length of time for which the patient will be received.

Free Patients.

Any inebriate having a permanent home within the State, whose circumstances render it necessary, may be admitted to a free bed,

at the discretion of the committee on management and discipline. If a free bed is applied for, the applicant or his friends must give satisfactory proof of the inability of the applicant or of his family, to remunerate the institution for his support during his stay therein. And, in addition to such proof, the applicant must furnish the certificate of the county judge of the county where he resides, and if a resident of the city of New York, the mayor of said city, that he is a proper person to be received into said institution as a free patient.

Paying Patients.

All other persons will be charged according to the rooms, attendance and accommodations furnished them, taking into consideration their ability to pay; and in all cases payment in advance, for three months, will be required.

Committed Patients.

The committee of an habitual drunkard, duly appointed under the provisions of the Laws of this State, can place such habitual drunkard in the asylum, and authorize his detention under such restraint as may be necessary to prevent his escape.

Chapter 266 of the Laws of this State, passed March 31, 1865, entitled "An act for the better Regulation and Discipline of the New York State Inebriate Asylum," provides as follows :

"§ 4. Any justice of the Supreme Court, or the county judge of the county in which any inebriate may reside, shall have power to commit such inebriate to the New York State Inebriate Asylum, upon the production and filing of an affidavit or affidavits, by two respectable practicing physicians, and two respectable citizens, freeholders of such county, to the effect that such inebriate is lost to self control, unable from such inebriation to attend to business, or is thereby dangerous to remain at large. But such commitment shall be only until the examination now provided by law shall have been held, and in no case for a longer period than one year."

The courts have decided, that in order to make such commitment legal, the party proceeded against must have notice of the application for such warrant of commitment.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
ALBERT DAY, M. D., *Sup't.*

BINGHAMTON, *May* 1, 1867.

