

85

PROCEEDINGS

ON THE OCCASION OF

LAYING THE CORNER STONE

OF THE

New Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane,

AT PHILADELPHIA.

INCLUDING THE

ADDRESS

BY

GEO. B. WOOD, M. D.,

SENIOR MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL STAFF OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL, ETC. ETC.

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PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.  
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PROCEEDINGS, ETC.

AGREEABLY to public invitation, a large number of ladies and gentlemen, interested in the welfare of those afflicted with mental disease, convened on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, near the site of the new building, on the afternoon of the 1st of 10th month (October), 1856.

The assemblage was called to order by MORDECAI L. DAWSON, President of the Board of Managers, who made the following remarks:—

FELLOW CITIZENS: We have assembled upon an interesting and important occasion—to lay the *corner stone* of a *building* having for its object the alleviation of human suffering; and, if we can judge of the *future* by our knowledge of the *past*, we may certainly indulge the hope that it will prove to many an inestimable blessing. Twenty years since, the corner stone of the building east of us was laid. The wants of the community have already required an extension of the means of treating the insane, and the liberality of our citizens has enabled us to commence the work,

of which the corner stone will now be laid by RICHARD VAUX, the Mayor of Philadelphia.

In the granite block before you, a carefully sealed glass jar has been securely placed, and in it has been deposited the following coins of the United States, of the coinage of 1856, viz:—

One half-eagle, one quarter-eagle, and one dollar, in gold.

One dollar, a half-dollar, a quarter-dollar, a dime, a half-dime, and a three cent piece, in silver.

One cent and a half-cent, in copper. Also,

Copies of the newspapers of this day.

Some account of the Pennsylvania Hospital, containing a copy of its charter, and other documents connected with its early history, published in 1814.

Reports of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane for the years 1853, '54, and '55. By THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, M. D.

The last Annual Report of the Managers, and statement of the accounts of the Pennsylvania Hospital, as laid before the contributors, 5th mo., 1856.

An Appeal to the Citizens of Pennsylvania for means to provide Additional Accommodations for the Insane. Philadelphia, 1854.

The last circular issued by the Board of Managers, and a list of the subscribers to the new building fund.

An impression of the Corporate Seal—the Good Samaritan, with the motto, “Take care of him, and I will repay thee.”

A copy of the address of Dr. GEO. B. WOOD, delivered on the occasion of laying the *Corner Stone*.

A paper containing a list of the present Board

of Managers and Officers of the Institution, as follows:—

M A N A G E R S.

MORDECAI L. DAWSON, <i>President</i> ,	JOHN M. WHITALL,
WM. BIDDLE, <i>Secretary</i> ,	ALEX. J. DERBYSHIRE,
FREDERICK BROWN,	SAMUEL MASON,
JAMES R. GREEVES,	S. MORRIS WALN,
JOHN FARNUM,	SAMUEL WELSH,
MORDECAI D. LEWIS,	JOSEPH S. LEWIS.

Treasurer.

JOHN T. LEWIS.

Physician.

THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, M. D.

Assistant Physician.

EDWARD A. SMITH, M. D.

Steward.

JOHN WISTAR.

Matron.

MARGARET N. WISTAR.

The Building Committee consists of

JAMES R. GREEVES, <i>Chairman</i> ,	WM. BIDDLE,
SAMUEL WELSH,	M. L. DAWSON,
JOHN M. WHITALL,	T. S. KIRKBRIDE, M. D.,
A. J. DERBYSHIRE,	<i>Secretary.</i>

SAMUEL SLOAN, *Architect.*

FRANKLIN PIERCE, being President of the United States; JAMES POLLOCK, Governor of Pennsylvania; and RICHARD VAUX, Mayor of Philadelphia.

REMARKS OF MAYOR VAUX.

Mayor VAUX, having properly adjusted the corner stone, which is placed at the southeast corner of the centre building, said:—

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: With ceremonies both venerable and appropriate, the corner stone of the New Buildings of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane has been laid.

The unerring test of the existence of true philanthropy in a community is found in the works which unostentatious liberality enables charity to raise and foster. Philadelphia, when asked for the jewels of her character, can point to her institutions for the benefit of mankind. No class of such benefits is without its representation. The noblest of man's endowments—reason—finds every facility afforded for its cultivation. And also, here, as in the streets of Decapolis, can be found those whose cause of gratitude is that they have been restored to a right mind.

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR WOOD.

The President then introduced Professor GEORGE B. WOOD, who made the following address:—

AT each stage in the progress of important series of events, it is well to look backward, and trace from the starting point the course already traversed. The contemplation of past successes yields new hopes and energy; of past errors or failures, most valuable lessons for the future. You will, therefore, not deem it inappropriate to the present occasion, if I ask you to take with me a retrospective view of the institution in the interests of which we are here assembled, in order to witness the opening of what may be considered as a new era in its history.

The idea of a refuge for the insane lay at the very foundation of the Pennsylvania Hospital. In the first clause of the charter establishing that institution, granted February 1, 1751, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the objects are stated to be “the reception and relief of lunatics and other distempered and sick poor within the Province;” so that insanity would appear to have had priority to other forms of disease, in the thoughts and purposes of the founders of that great charity. Accordingly, arrangements for the accommodation of the insane were made at the opening

of the hospital, the second patient admitted was of that class, and this distinct object of the institution has been invariably kept in view from that time to the present.

The Pennsylvania Hospital was the first chartered institution for the insane established in America; and it long continued to maintain that precedence in character and reputation which belonged to it in point of time. Such was the estimation in which it was held, that patients were sent to it from all parts of the Provinces, and subsequently of the Union; and, for a long series of years, the profits derived from wealthy inmates of this class contributed to increase the capital of the institution, and consequently its means of annual outlay in the support and treatment of the poor.

But, in the mean time, more enlightened opinions in relation to the management of the insane had begun to prevail; a wide interest was excited in the subject; and numerous establishments were springing into existence, based upon the new views.

Formerly, it was customary either to neglect altogether the treatment of insanity, under the impression that it was pure disorder of the mind, and therefore immedicable, or to employ energetic remedies for the cure of inflammation of the brain, in which the disease was supposed essentially to consist. Both of these courses were erroneous, and based upon erroneous opinions. Insanity is probably never purely spiritual; and though, in certain forms and stages, it may be associated with cerebral inflammation, it is generally altogether independent of this, or any other observable physical lesion. It is essentially a simple perversion of the sensorial functions, through which mind ex-

presses itself. The brain acts wrongly, and the result is deranged intellect or feeling. What is the precise nature of the deranged action, thus evincing itself in mental alienation, no man can tell; because no man understands how the brain acts at all as the instrument of the mind. This much we know—for experience has taught us the lesson—that the disordered action is not of a nature to yield to mere physical agents. As it becomes sensible only through irregularity in mental phenomena, it is only through the medium of the mind that it can be reached and rectified. The great principle, therefore, in the management of insanity, when all signs of physical disease have been removed, or none have existed, is so to operate on the mind as to produce and maintain, as far as possible, normal trains of thought and states of feeling, by which healthful actions may be excited and kept up in the brain. The organ is thus, as it were, drawn off from its preceding irregular course of action, to which, under a continuance of the same influences, it has less and less disposition to return, until at length its morbid tendencies are entirely superseded, and a cure is effected.

But how is this object to be attained? How are the insane to be treated, so that their minds may be led into regular, healthful action? The consideration of this question brings us back to that new class of institutions, of which mention has been made as coming into existence after the establishment of the Pennsylvania Hospital. What is required is simply that the patient should be surrounded with circumstances under which the desired mental condition, whether active or passive, shall arise spontaneously, as a natural result.

Agreeable and healthful bodily and mental occupation, suitable social intercourse, a guarded exercise and indulgence of the æsthetic faculties and tastes, and the refined gratifications of sense; these, and such as these, are the required agencies; while everything must be sedulously avoided, which can have any tendency to bring the mind back into its morbid state. To apply these agencies effectually, establishments are necessary in which there shall be ample space within and without, arrangements for varied labour and amusement, opportunities for the requisite social and medical classification, sufficient personal attendance to carry each purpose into full effect, and the constant superintendence of one mind, capable of maintaining a consistent system in the working of the whole machinery.

Such was not the condition of things in the Pennsylvania Hospital as originally constituted; nor, at the period of its foundation, was there probably, in the whole world, an establishment in which the principle just elucidated could be fairly carried out. But, one after another, such institutions rose up, both in Europe and the United States, and very soon proved, by their success, the immense superiority of the new system of managing the insane. The department of our own hospital appropriated to the insane fell, consequently, from its former pre-eminence on this side of the Atlantic; and there was danger that, instead of contributing, as before, to the support of the other departments, it would become a burthen upon the resources of the institution, and thus materially narrow the circle of its usefulness.

Besides, it was no light weight on the consciences of those upon whom the responsibility rested, to receive

and treat patients afflicted with this terrible malady, without the ability to afford them all those means of relief which experience had proved to be so efficacious. It became, therefore, incumbent on them either to abandon the treatment of insanity altogether, or to place the institution on a basis, in this respect, corresponding to the improved methods recently adopted. But the obligations of the charter forbade the former course; and it only remained for them to pursue the latter, at least so far as might be compatible with the resources at their command. Happily, there was a reserved fund in the vacant grounds around the hospital, which, originally purchased at a trifling cost, had, in the progress of time and improvement, advanced so much in value as of themselves to afford the means for the attainment of this desirable end. It was not only an act of duty in the managers, under the considerations mentioned, but it was also a wise forethought, on the mere point of expediency, to dispose of these grounds, and apply the proceeds to the purchase of the noble estate on which we stand, and the erection of that noble edifice within view, of which we all have so much reason to be proud.

The first positive step in this direction was a resolution of the contributors, at their annual meeting in May, 1831, declaring that it was expedient to have a separate hospital for the insané. At subsequent meetings, in May, 1832 and 1835, authority was given to sell the vacant lots before referred to; and these were accordingly disposed of as opportunity offered. Early in 1836, the present site was purchased; and on the 22d of June, of the same year, the corner stone of the new edifice was laid. This was com-

pleted, and opened for the reception of patients on the first of January, 1841.

Allow me to mention here a fact, which is the strongest possible proof of the expediency of this change. In the insane department of the old hospital, from the year 1752, when it was first opened, to March 1, 1841, when it was fully transferred to the new site, 4366 patients were received, of whom 1493 were cured, or a little more than one-third of the whole number. In the new building, from its opening in 1841 to the end of 1855, 2752 patients were admitted, and 1334, or somewhat less than one-half, were discharged cured. From these statistics it appears, that not only has the extent of operation been vastly increased, so that, in the last fifteen years, considerably more than half as many patients have been treated as in ninety years under the old arrangement; but there has also been an increase in the ratio of cures from 34 to 48 per cent. It is pretended by no one that this greater remedial efficiency is ascribable to any want of skill or attention in the former treatment. The happy result is due solely to the superiority of the new arrangements, which enable the improved method of treating insanity to be carried into effect. No other fact is wanting to satisfy the most sceptical, that the managers were fulfilling a sacred duty, in separating the insane department from the ordinary medical and surgical departments of the hospital, and in giving to the former a rural position, with all the requisite accessaries for the attainment of the ends proposed.

It must be remembered, moreover, that the improvement has been made without diminution of the

productive fund, the income of which is employed for the general support of the institution. It has been merely an exchange of real estate, yielding nothing, in the vicinity of the old hospital in town, for the grounds and improvements here around us, which, independently of the buildings, will, ere long, probably far exceed in money value what was sold, and, besides, have been yielding, and will continue indefinitely to yield an incalculable income of good to the community, in the cure and comfort of the insane.

Another important consideration, in reference to the operations of the institution, is that, out of the proceeds derived from the wealthy boarders, which are much less than the same accommodations would cost in a private establishment, not only are the immediate expenses of this class of patients defrayed, but an excess remains sufficient for the support of a considerable number of poor patients who can pay nothing, and a still larger number of others in straitened circumstances, who are received for a charge less than the actual cost. Thus, in the fifteen years which have elapsed since the commencement of the present arrangements, nearly 700 of the former class, and 1000 of the latter have been admitted; and, to speak in round numbers, out of 110,000 dollars expended on the free patients, about 70,000 have been the earnings of the institution, and 40,000 have been drawn from the general income of the hospital, or at the rate of nearly 3000 dollars a year. This amount is not more than the poor insane may be considered as having a right to call for; and there is reason to hope that it may be considerably diminished, if not reduced to nothing, in the future working of the esta-

ishment. According to the Report for 1855, the deficiency to be supplied out of the general income of the hospital was less than 2000 dollars.

It is not my wish to pronounce a eulogy on the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. It is before you in all its beauty, excellence, and usefulness; and you can judge of it for yourselves. I would merely observe that, by its establishment, if we have not regained the pre-eminence lost before it was undertaken, we have at least placed ourselves upon a footing with our contemporaries; and I can honestly declare that, among the many institutions for the insane which I have visited, whether in the United States, in Great Britain, or on the Continent of Europe, though there are not a few exceeding ours in magnitude, and the number of their inmates, I have seen none which, taking all points into consideration, the beauty of its site, the neatness of its internal and external arrangements, and the appropriateness of its various appliances to the end in view, has approached so nearly my notions of perfection as the one before us.

But I have yet to speak of the particular purpose for which we are now assembled.

Much less than one-half of the land purchased for the site of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane has been occupied for the special purposes of the institution. The wall surrounding it encloses only about forty acres; while more than seventy have remained unemployed except for farming. But the rapid extension of the city has vastly increased the value of this, as of all other land in its immediate neighbourhood. It has become, then, a question, whether some immediate advantage might not be gained from

this augmented value. Is it to be entirely neglected, and a large capital of charity thus allowed to lie unproductive? This would seem to be wasting a sacred fund entrusted to the keeping of the managers. Ought not these surplus grounds to be sold, and the income of their proceeds applied to the relief of the poor sick and insane? There are two objections to this course.

In the first place, the property, if suffered to lie, will probably, at some future time, acquire a value far exceeding any amount that could now be obtained for it, even with the interest superadded; and the Managers might well doubt whether they would be justified in foregoing this prospective benefit.

Secondly, the existence in a compact body of more than one hundred acres of ground, in the midst of the city, may serve hereafter the purposes of a great park, such as will probably not be otherwise secured. Nothing conduces more to the healthfulness of large towns, than the influence of open spaces, clothed with a luxuriant vegetation. They are said to be the lungs of cities. They are something more. They not only, like the lungs, supply fresh air, and aid in throwing off that which is foul, in other words, perform the office of ventilation; but, through the agency of vegetable growth, serve positively to purify the atmosphere, by absorbing and converting into organized matter the noxious gases contained in it. The large extent of surface covered by the city of Philadelphia, compared with the number of its inhabitants, and the grassy plots, adorned with shrubbery and trees, which occupy, in countless numbers, the unbuilt interspaces, are probably one of

the main causes of her extraordinary healthfulness. To retain this immense advantage, it will be necessary to obviate the inevitable concentrating effect of increased population and business, by seizing every opportunity incidentally offered of preserving large open spaces; and an admirable opportunity of this kind is here presented. To prevent disease is even better than to cure it; and by so occupying these extensive grounds as to preclude a crowded population upon them, the hospital will be acting in conformity with the spirit, if not with the literal purposes of its institution. It is even not an extravagant supposition, that more lives may be saved by the general salubrity thus secured, than by applying the proceeds of the sale of the land to the treatment of the sick.

If, then, the land is not to be sold, what profitable disposition can be made of it, so as not to suffer the capital invested in it, which is its present pecuniary value, to lie idle and useless? Happily the success of the first great experiment has suggested an application, conformable in all respects to the proper objects of the institution. The present hospital for the insane is full to overflowing. During the past year not less than fifty patients have been denied admission, from the impossibility of doing them justice in the crowded state of the apartments. Why not then extend the establishment? Why not appropriate the unemployed ground to the same purpose as that already occupied, and repeat upon the seventy remaining acres the experiment which has proved so successful on the forty now occupied?

Other considerations come to enforce this suggestion. From statistical reports it appears that, while

in the State of Pennsylvania there are between 2500 and 3000 persons affected with one or another form of mental alienation, there is at present, within the same limits, a capacity in the various institutions for not more than 930. Again, experience has established the fact, beyond possibility of contradiction, that the treatment of the insane in hospitals, while it relieves families of a vast burthen of suffering and responsibility, is also most effective. Of patients admitted at a sufficiently early period of the disease, there are grounds for believing that about 80 per cent. may be restored to reason; and, if the ratio of cure, as exhibited in the hospital reports, be much less than this, it is because a resort to such institutions is often postponed beyond the period at which a cure can be reasonably expected under any circumstances. Every day of detention at home, after an insane patient has become a proper subject for hospital treatment, is so much taken from the chances of an ultimate cure. Thousands, and probably tens of thousands, have been condemned to hopeless insanity by the impossibility of obtaining access to a suitable hospital, or the unwillingness of friends, through an unhappy prejudice, to take advantage of the opportunity when offered. This prejudice has been rapidly disappearing, under the cheering influences of the present modes of treatment; and the means of relief have consequently become inadequate to the demand. It would seem, therefore, to be a manifest duty to make further provision for patients so utterly incapacitated for the care of themselves. It may be said that this duty belongs to the public generally. This may be true. But, if neglected by the public,

it no less remains incumbent upon all individually who are competent to its performance; and corporate bodies, created in part for this very object, are under a special obligation to let no favourable opportunity pass of promoting it.

To condense this course of argument;—here are vacant grounds which can be applied to no other purpose so appropriately; the excellence of the plan already carried into effect has been fully tested; the demands for relief from the suffering insane exceed the capacity of existing arrangements; and the duty attaches undeniably to the corporators of the hospital to extend its beneficent influence as far as possible. The inference is unavoidable that efforts should be made to establish a counterpart of the institution which has proved so efficient for good; and, that it should occupy preferably the present locality, follows not only from what has been already said of its peculiar applicability to the purpose, but also from the consideration, that the arrangements of the existing establishment may, in some degree, be extended over that proposed, with little additional cost.

Accordingly, both the managers and contributors of the hospital have felt that this duty was incumbent upon them; and, at the regular meeting of the latter in the spring of the past year, it was unanimously resolved at least to make an attempt to carry such a project into effect.

But how were the necessary funds to be raised? Those at the command of the Board were already fully occupied, and could not justly be diverted to another purpose. The State and the City were loaded with debt; and no aid could be reasonably expected

from either of these sources. Nothing remained but an appeal to individuals. This was resolved on; and you all know with what promptitude and zeal it was made, and with what alacrity it has been answered. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars were needed for the completion of the proposed hospital; and it was determined by the managers to do nothing until one hundred and fifty thousand should be subscribed, which it was believed would be sufficient to secure the ultimate accomplishment of the object. Subscriptions to the amount of one hundred and seventy thousand have been already obtained. Upon this basis the work has been commenced; and we are now met to witness the laying of the corner stone.

Before we part, let me urge upon all who hear me, or whom these remarks may reach, some considerations in reference to the completion of the proposed amount of subscription. Eighty thousand dollars are yet required. Is it possible that, in a community so large, so wealthy, and so liberal as that of Philadelphia, and the adjacent counties, which are not less interested than the city itself, so great a want, at so small a cost, should not be supplied? What has been already contributed will, it is supposed, be sufficient to raise the walls of the edifice, and put it under roof. Will Philadelphians be content to let it stand at that point? What one of us, with a dollar to spare, could pass by the unfinished building, wanting but a comparatively small sum of money to render it a secure haven for the saddest form of human wretchedness, and not involuntarily thrust his hand in his pocket for that last dollar as a contribution! What one of us, passing with a stranger, and asked what

meant that great unfinished and desolate structure, would not hang his head with shame as he answered, "That is an hospital for the insane, which awaits but a scanty liberality on the part of our citizens for its completion?" There can be no doubt that it will be ultimately completed. But time is precious in such an enterprise; and I would excite prompt action, in order that there may be no suspension of the work, and that the time may never arrive, when sheer shame will be the prompting impulse to our benevolence.

I would appeal to your public spirit as Philadelphians. Is there one among us insensible to the honour which has accrued to our city from the hospital already in operation, known creditably everywhere, resorted to by the afflicted from every section of our country, and eminent for its excellence among all that is most excellent of the same kind upon the earth? Is it not incumbent upon us to do what we can to maintain this reputation, nay, even to extend it, so that, in the great race of improvement which is now, the world over, trying to the utmost the capacities of civilized communities, we may keep neck and neck with the foremost? Besides, it is not honour alone that we gain. Even in a mere business point of view, we shall probably be no losers by the required expenditure. The visitors and sojourners attracted to our city, and the disbursement, in various ways, on account of patients from a distance, would go far to counterbalance any pecuniary loss, and might even yield to the community in general a profit on the outlay.

I would appeal also for aid to your sentiments of philanthropy and Christian benevolence. Simply remember that you are contributing to the relief of one

of the greatest evils, if not the very greatest, apart from crime, which can afflict humanity, and which can be so effectually relieved in no other way; remember, too, that the profit derived from the wealthy, through your liberality, will, in conformity with former experience, overflow in abundance to the needy and the destitute, and you will not, I trust, withhold your hand from the necessary offering.

Finally, let me direct your attention to the personal interest which every one of us has in the success of the enterprise. We are all liable, in our own persons, or in the persons of those nearest and dearest to us, to be attacked with this dire malady, especially afflictive when confined to our own homes, where the authority, skill, and various appliances are wanting which are most conducive to a cure. Assuredly we must all desire, under such circumstances, the opportunities best calculated for our comfort and speedy relief; and these can be commanded, even by the most wealthy, only in great public establishments. We must also, in general, unquestionably prefer institutions in our own neighbourhood, with the character and management of which we are familiar, and where a friendly eye may always be over us, to those distant and unknown. Our own hospital already in operation meets, it may be said, these requisitions. But it is full to overflowing; and we can never be assured of prompt admission, when it may be most needed. We have, therefore, a private and peculiar interest in the provision of other facilities, and consequently in the speedy completion of the undertaking now begun. If every one would subscribe simply in proportion to this special interest of his own, the desired end would be attained. Fifteen cents for

each inhabitant of Philadelphia would amount to the requisite sum. But it is not to the poor that I would have recourse. I appeal only to the prosperous and the wealthy. Four hundred individuals have contributed the whole amount already subscribed; assuredly there is a sufficient number left of the charitable, the liberal, and, I may add, the just, to make up the deficiency; and may we not reasonably hope that they who have already given of their superfluity, will have experienced so sweet a reward in their consciousness of a good deed, as to be disposed to make a new investment at so high a usury?

Imagine some ten or fifteen years to have elapsed, and the plan, now in its inception, to have been carried into full and complete execution. Imagine that we are here again assembled, perhaps to celebrate some anniversary of this very occasion, to look upon and enjoy the work of our own hands. What would be the vision presented? I can behold it now. Around us is a wide and picturesque expanse of more than one hundred acres, beautiful with groves, grassy lawns and meadow, and all the tasteful ornament of park and garden; secluded from the sights and sounds of the thronged city investing it, except that here and there, through breaks in the leafy screen, glimpses may be caught of house-top, spire, or distant column of smoke, serving but to render the sweets of the seclusion still sweeter by the contrast. In the midst of this rural beauty, two noble edifices arise, each with its subordinate structures, and surrounded by its own lawns and gardens; the one but partially visible from the other through intervening groves; and separated from each other, and from the outer world, by a protecting wall,

so distant, however, and so situated in depressed sinuities of the grounds, that it is scarcely seen by the inmates, and never so as to suggest to them the idea of restriction or confinement. Within these stately edifices are ample apartments; hall, drawing-room, chamber, and office, all suitably furnished, with neatness, cleanliness, and order reigning throughout; the buildings themselves massive and substantial, proof against fire, well heated, ventilated, drained, and watered; and yet with nothing visible of the hidden agencies—the furnace, the engine, the ventilating fan, the sewers, pipes, tanks, &c., by which these conditions, so promotive of comfort and health, are brought about. Here and there in the grounds may be seen, in the one section women, in the other men, all respectably clad, walking, riding, driving, or perhaps engaged in horticultural labour, or other useful or amusing occupation. Within the buildings are numerous inmates, scattered or in groups, sometimes solitary in their chambers, sometimes socially gathered in the common apartments, reading, conversing, musing, or working, occasionally cheered with music, now circling in the dance, and now listening to lecture or recitation; the whole to the eye a well-ordered family, with no apparent restraint, no hurry or confusion, yet all with a watchful care around them, ever ready to guard against irregularities, and to check every evil indication in the bud. Few, not in the secret, would imagine that here was a community of the insane; that all these internal and external fitnesses, beauties, elegancies, and varied appliances were but remedial means to correct or alleviate the miseries of mental alienation; and that there was here in slow but constant operation a course of

treatment for this dread malady, successful beyond the conception of former times, and in most happy contrast with the strict confinement, the excessive medication, and the various other miseries which were then mistakenly deemed the surest avenues to health. Look on this picture, my friends, and ask yourselves whether its realization would not be much more than an equivalent for any pecuniary sacrifice you may be disposed to offer, and whether it would not yield to you more deep and heartfelt pleasure, than all the fleeting gratification of any purely selfish wish which the money might command, if withheld from this noble purpose.

REMARKS OF MORTON M'MICHAEL, ESQ.

At the close of Dr. Wood's address, the President introduced MORTON M'MICHAEL, Esq., who said that

The declining sun, the gathering shadows, the cool autumnal air, and the damp ground on which the company had already been too long standing, admonished him not to detain them by any remarks of his; but, if it were otherwise, the opening statement of the President, the eloquent address of the Mayor, and the clear, precise, and forcible manner in which the whole subject of the Hospital for the Insane had been presented by Dr. Wood, as well in its past history as its present condition and future prospects, had really left him nothing to add to what had already been so well expressed. Indeed, said Mr. M'M., if the time and the place were propitious to further speaking, which they were not, the exposition given by Dr. Wood of the character and importance of the institution had been so ample, his commentary on its value as a remedial agency had been so complete and judicious, and his appeal for additional aid in its behalf so earnest and touching, that he would feel inclined to say but little more than Amen to all he had uttered. There was one topic upon which Mr. M'M. was glad to have the opportunity of saying a word, and that was the unexpected presence of one who, more than any other living person, man or woman, was entitled to be called

the friend of the insane poor. He alluded to Miss Dix, who had yesterday arrived from England, and, coming over to Philadelphia on a visit, had reached the city just in time to be present at the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of an institution intended, in part, to promote the object to which she had so nobly dedicated her life. Mr. M'M. was sure that all who heard him would unite with him in offering a cordial welcome to one who had given fresh dignity to the character of her sex, by showing what even a feeble woman, inspired by a holy philanthropy and a single-minded purpose to do good, could accomplish. There was one other observation which Mr. M'M. desired to offer, and it was that, in his judgment, no institution, public or private, at home or abroad, had ever been better managed than the Pennsylvania Hospital. The very respectable and highly intelligent gentlemen who compose its Board of Directors, prompted by the purest and most unselfish motives, have devoted themselves to its interests with a zeal and vigor that merited the success they had achieved; and its medical staff—fitly illustrated by the distinguished physician who had just addressed them—had always been pre-eminent for skill and fidelity. In this latter particular, the Insane Department had been singularly fortunate. Succeeding to a long line of able and accomplished, and, in some instances, illustrious men, whose memories survived in the good deeds they had wrought, Dr. Kirkbride, the present Superintendent of the hospital, had brought to the discharge of his grave and delicate duties a liberally cultivated mind and thorough professional training, and these and other good qualities he had given to the service in which he engaged with a gene-

rosity that knew no stint, and an industry that nothing could tire. Mr. M'M. spoke of that which he knew when he said that to the exertions which that gentleman had made—to the absorbing interest he felt in this paramount pursuit of his existence, and to the resulting labors which that interest had produced—to the enthusiasm in the cause, which had enabled him to pass through many trials and to overcome all difficulties—to the diligence, the faithfulness, the conscientiousness, and the energy he had manifested at all times and under all circumstances, the community was largely indebted for a Hospital for the Insane, which, as they had just heard on the most competent authority, had no superior, and probably no equal; and the same community would be still more largely indebted hereafter for the new structure, with all its attendant blessings and benefits, whose inauguration they had met to-day to witness and commemorate.

In conclusion, Mr. M'M. congratulated the citizens of Philadelphia on the possession of an institution so wisely founded, so liberally endowed, so munificently supported, so ably administered, and so productive of unspeakable advantages as the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Among the pleasant incidents connected with this interesting occasion, in addition to that already referred to—the company of Miss D. L. Dix, who, after a most extensive journey throughout the continent of Europe in the cause of the insane, arrived from her voyage only the night before, and just in time to be

present at the ceremony—was the presence of the Medical Superintendents of five hospitals for the insane, a number of Managers of several institutions of the same character, a large representation of the ladies and gentlemen who are actively connected with the direction of our charitable and benevolent institutions, and about fifty of the patients at that time resident in the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, all of whom manifested a deep interest in the prompt and successful prosecution of this great work for the relief of human suffering.

The first stone of the building was laid on the 7th day of July, 1856, and at the time of laying the corner-stone, the foundation walls of the southern half of the structure, and of the engine-house and laundry, were nearly completed. If sufficient funds are provided, the whole will be under roof in 1857, and ready for the reception of patients at the close of the following year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS will be received by any member of the Board of Managers or of the Collecting Committee, by JOHN T. LEWIS, Treasurer, No. 135 South Front Street, or by Dr. THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, at the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.

LEGACIES, intended to promote the objects of the new hospital, should be given in the corporate name of the institution, viz: to "THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL," and should specify that they are "TO BE DEVOTED TO EXTENDING AND IMPROVING THE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE INSANE."

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