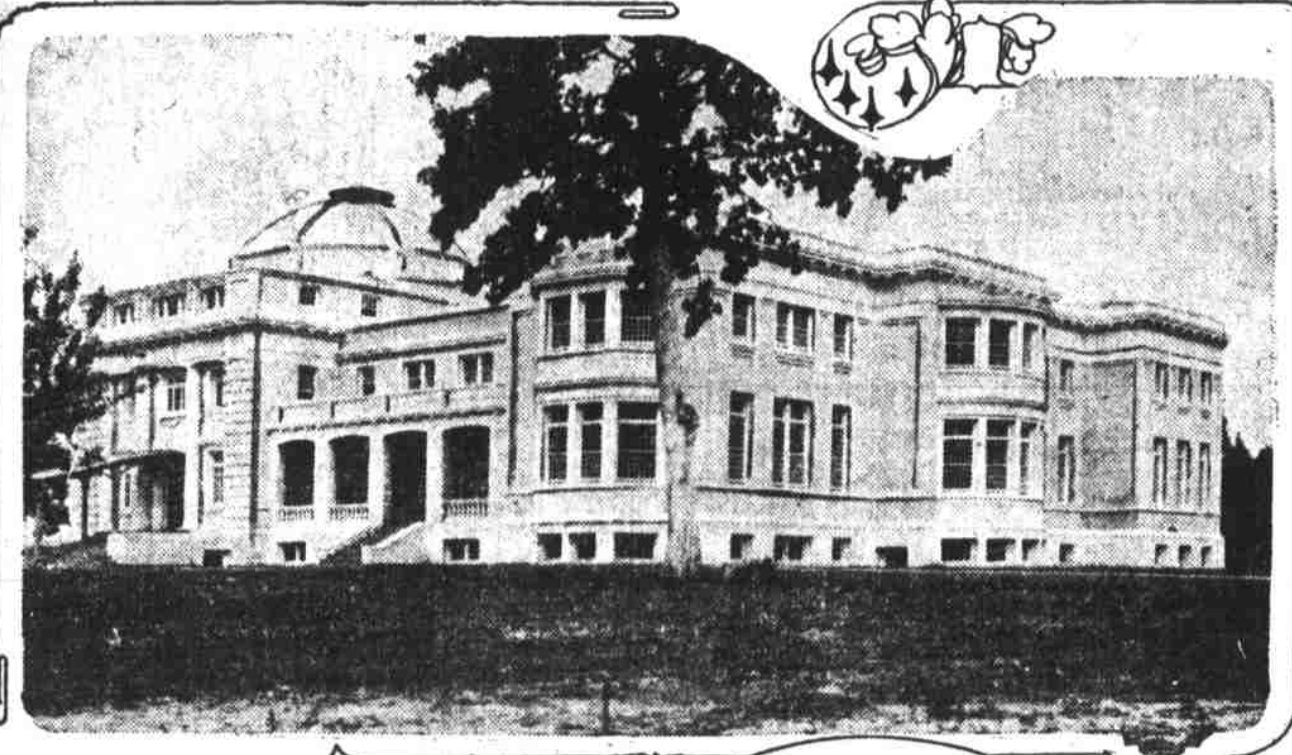


HOW PUBLIC MONEY IS EXPENDED IN MANAGEMENT OF STATE INSANE ASYLUM



Business End of Salem Institution Is Conducted on Systematic Basis.

By Fred Lockley.

Salem, Or., Sept. 27.—From October 1, 1910, to October 1, 1912, there were 2092 patients under treatment at the Oregon State Insane Asylum. The daily average for the two years was 1677 patients. Directly or indirectly, every citizen of Oregon is interested in the Oregon insane asylum. Directly through having relatives or friends there as patients, indirectly as taxpayers whose money is used in the maintenance of the institution. I recently spent several interesting hours in looking over the asylum. A. E. Strang, the engineer who took me through the building. Mr. Strang has been with the institution almost continuously since 1884. He started with Superintendent Carpenter under whom he worked three years, then under Dr. Joseph, Dr. Lane, Dr. Rowland, Dr. Payne, Dr. Calberth and Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner.

"What do you want to see?" said Mr. Strang. "I want to start at the basement and go entirely through the institution." "Very well," he said. "We will start in the peeling room and work our way through. To prepare food for from 1200 to 1500 patients and several hundred employees is a task of some magnitude. We cook two kettles of corn," said Mr. Strang. "Each kettle holds 80 gallons of corn on the cob. Here is a machine that peels all of our carrots and potatoes."

Mr. Strang made the connections and started the machine. He put a half a peck of potatoes in and within a minute they were peeled much less wastefully than a person could peel them by hand. One of the patients who worked in the peeling room came up and explained the process.

He said: "You see, a jet of water plays on the potatoes constantly and washes away all the peeling. They revolve rapidly and the bottom and sides of the revolving tank are coated with carborundum. The bottom of the revolving tank is arranged in a series of mills and as it revolves it makes the potatoes jump against the sides. Their rapid motion against the sides and bottom of the tank scrapes off every particle of skin except the eyes which have to be taken out by hand."

From the peeling room we went to the milk room. Each day the wagon brings in from the asylum farm, 26 five-gallon cans of milk for use at the main building. "Here," said Mr. Strang, "is the preserving room. The patients, in charge of one of the employees, put up thousands of gallons of tomato catsup, jelly, jam and canned fruit. Just now they are putting up several hundred gallons a day."

"We have one of the most complete and effective underground tunneling systems that I know of. I am going to take you through the underground tunnels to show you what a time-saving and labor saving device it is. Each of the wings has three wards. The infirmary building has five wards and there are two receiving wards. The tunnel with its railway track and small cars supplies all of our 22 wards. All supplies are sent from the kitchen in these large tanks to the dumb waiters under the wards. All supplies of every kind are expeditiously delivered by means of this tunnel system. All of the dirty clothes are sent down chutes and taken on cars to the laundry and the clean clothes are sent back the same way."

"We walked through at least a mile of tunnel which passed under every part of the various buildings. You will see," said Mr. Strang, "that we utilize every part of the tunnel. On the floor of the tunnel the track is laid for the cars. The roof of the tunnel serves as a sidewalk whenever needed. On each side of the tunnel are the hot water pipes carrying hot water for domestic use. The electric light and telephone wires are also carried on the side of the tunnel as well as the pipes which bring the hot air from the central heating plant. The advantage of this system is that instead of having all pipes buried and having to dig them up for a long distance to find a leak, they are under constant inspection and can be gotten at instantly in case there is any trouble."

"We have recently installed a complete telephone system throughout the entire institution. We take the current from the electric light system, transform it in a storage battery and the storage battery furnishes power for the lights on our telephone system switchboard. Our wires are in cables and the cables run through conduits. Since we have installed the central heating system there are no fires nor furnaces in the whole institution except in the kitchen."

Fire Danger Lessened.
"At the end of each wing there is a fire extinguisher and 75 feet of fire hose and there are fire service standpipes at the end of each wing. In addition to this we have a complete automatic sprinkling system. When Dr. Steiner came here we had three furnaces heating the plant, install of which has proven a wonderful improvement both from the standpoint of economy and lessened danger of fire."

We stopped at the tool room. Mr. Strang smiles as he said: "Here is one place where we have no trouble about tools being lost or forgotten. A patient has charge of this department. He takes a receipt from every worker who



Top—Receiving ward, Oregon state asylum. Bottom—Section of asylum buildings at Salem.

takes out a tool and if that tool doesn't come back he raises such a disturbance that the tool is returned. The patients simply do not dare to come back without the tools they took out."

Re-entering the underground tunnel system we emerged a little later in the laundry. Mr. Strang introduced me to Mr. Kelly who has charge of the laundry. Several dozen patients were to be seen working at the various processes in the laundry among them quite a few Chinese. "We utilize Chinamen in the laundry as most of them are more or less accustomed to this kind of work and are good workers. We have six washing machines and four centrifugal extractors. Our mangles for the flat work such as towels, tablecloths, sheets, etc., are of the very latest pattern. In fact all of our machinery, including our drying racks and ironing equipment is of the best and latest pattern. As you will notice the laundry is light, well ventilated and cheerful. We handle from 125,000 to 150,000 pieces each week. Patients have almost entire charge of the work under my supervision. Every piece is marked as you see, with the number of the ward and the name of the patient so that it is an easy task for the distributor to put the clean clothes in the proper bin. All of our hot water for our laundry is heated from the exhaust steam from the engine which would otherwise be wasted. Our metal dryers will dry any piece put on them in 20 minutes. They are neat and compact and a big improvement on the old style of drying."

"Taking me to a smaller room, Mr. Kelly said: "Here are two vats of soap which I have made. There are five tons in each vat. I make about 20 tons of soap a year." From the soap room we went to the women's work room which is separated from the main part of the laundry. Here all hand ironing on collars, cuffs, shirts, waists, cuffs, etc., is done. "One of the greatest improvements we have made in the laundry department is the installation of a sterilization room where the clothing of all patients who have contagious diseases or who are inmates of the infirmary are treated. Last year a considerable number of patients as well as myself, had to go to the pest house from catching contagious diseases from handling clothing of patients who had diphtheria, scarlet fever or other contagious diseases. We have stumped out the spread of contagious diseases by installing this sterilization room."

From the laundry we went to the central heating plant. "Here is one of the greatest improvements made by Dr. Steiner that has paid for itself many times over in satisfaction and in the saving of money. Under the old system we used to burn about 1000 cords of wood a year at an expense of \$140 a cord. It cost about \$20 a year just to put in the wood. These oil burning engines have eliminated the need of storage room for the wood. They have eliminated all of the waste of handling fuel. They do not burn out the furnaces as the coal or wood used to. We burn about 25 barrels of oil a day in summer and in midwinter, it takes about 50 barrels. There are 42 gallons in a barrel and each barrel costs \$1.02 1/2 so that the oil costs a little less than two and a half cents a gallon. We have two wells, one 75 feet deep and an auxiliary well 82 feet deep. From the first well we pump 120,000 gallons of water, each 24 hours, for drinking and domestic purposes. We use about 500,000 gallons of water from another source for irrigation purposes. Here in the central heating plant we have an air compressor for the elevator in the new receiving ward more than a thousand feet distant."

From the central heating plant we went to the commissary department where long rows of barrels of syrup, huge piles of sacks of salt and sugar,

long shelves of groceries, gave me more the impression of a big wholesale grocery house than anything else.

Extensive Commissary Department.
As an indication of the extent of the transactions carried on in the commissary department, during the period from October 1, 1910, to September 30, 1912, the asylum used \$68,114 worth of meat, \$16,906 worth of butter, \$52,186 worth of fuel, \$21,677 worth of flour, \$3782 worth of sugar, over \$5000 worth of tobacco, \$5643 worth of coffee. During this two year period the articles consumed for the asylum amounted to \$233,471.55."

We went nearly a quarter of a mile through a tunnel and came up into the new receiving and convalescent ward. "This building," said Mr. Strang, "is absolutely fireproof. The floors are of hollow tile and concrete. The columns are of concrete and no wood of any kind was used in the erection of the building."

The receiving and convalescent ward is a beautiful building both from the exterior and the interior. There is a note of harmony and good taste throughout the entire building. "The viewpoint has changed within the past century wonderfully in the treatment of those who are mentally afflicted," said Mr. Strang. "The very name, 'insane,' implies that they are thought of as demoted people were afflicted by the chances of the moon. They used to think them afflicted by God and they thought it not right to try to alleviate their sufferings. They chained them up like wild beasts. Today every help that science can give is used in endeavoring to cure those who are mentally disturbed. For example here is a room where all kinds of baths are given to patients. Electric light baths, shower baths, baths in which patients recline on a canvas slat and stay for hours to reduce their temperatures."

Opening another door Mr. Strang said: "This is the X-ray room where the surgeons no longer have to guess but can definitely ascertain what they want to know." We went through the etherizing room, the operating room, which is one of the most perfect in the state and which is so built that no shadows are cast. It is all in marble and white enamel.

We went through beautiful rest rooms and recreation rooms, through long polished hallways, to a room all of whose windows were of red glass. The light in the room was a brilliant red. "When a patient comes here in a sullen or pensive state they are put in this room to stimulate them," said Mr. Strang. "When they need to be quieted or their nerves are in an excited state, they are put in this room. Of whose windows were of blue glass. "We use throughout the building the Foresta sash. You will notice the windows are five by seven inches. It gives the effect of the small leaded glass panes used in the small cathedrals, only in this case, in place of being of lead they are sheet steel bars but the effect of confinement is reduced by the artistic treatment. A large number of patients are discharged as cured from this ward which under the former methods would not have recovered. This ward, being entirely disconnected from the main building is not associated in the minds of the patients with the asylum. It is considered a hospital and many patients come here who are never sent to the asylum proper at all."

Fathers and Mothers.
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Tuxan Art Rugs, 9x12, \$12.00
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All other brands equally low.
Don't forget we have the extra large ones in stock.

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An unusually low price for a 6 foot table, 45 inch round top, made of select quarter sawed oak finish fumed or golden oak. Others are asking \$25.00 for just such a table. Gadsby's price



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Ladies' Dressing Tables on Sale



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\$25.00 Dressing Tables, \$12.50
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Oak Chiffoniers



\$25 Chiffonier reduced to \$20.50
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\$18 Chiffonier reduced to \$14.75
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Get One For Baby



Go-Baskets \$9.00

Nothing delights baby more than to be taken everywhere mother goes. With the Oriole Go-Basket you can go shopping, calling, visiting, riding on cars, trains, elevators—taking baby with you and never lifting him out once. Simply pull a cord and the Go-Basket settles gently to the ground. Where it will stand alone or can be picked up and carried on the arm with ease.

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OAK HEATING STOVE, FOR COAL OR WOOD, full nickel plated trim, steel body, cast iron top, base and linings.
11-inch, price, \$6.75
13-inch, \$7.75
15-inch, \$9.50

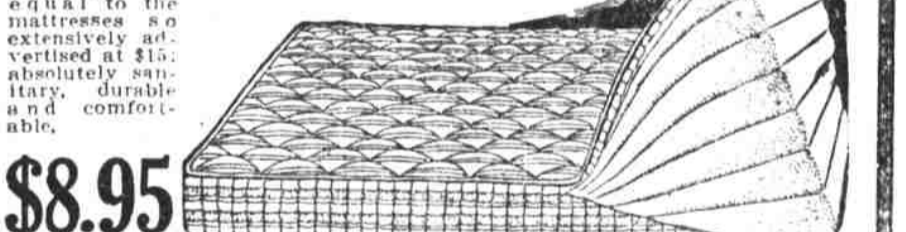
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