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Session of 1868-9.

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REPORT of the Physicians of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane, for the Years 1867-8.

To His Excellency GEO. L. WOODS, Governor of the State of Oregon.

In compliance with law, we herewith transmit our third biennial report of the condition of the "Oregon Hospital" for the Insane.

Whole number of State and private patients remaining in the Hospital Sept. 1, 1868:

Table with 2 columns: Gender, Count. Males: 50, Females: 21, Total: 71.

Number of patients admitted from Sept. 1, 1866, to Sept. 1, 1868:

Table with 2 columns: Gender, Count. Males: 42, Females: 19, Total: 61.

Whole number of State and private patients treated in the Hospital from Sept. 1, 1866, to Sept. 1, 1868:

Table with 2 columns: Gender, Count. Males: 162, Females: 39, Total: 201.

The number of State and private patients discharged, from Sept. 1, 1866, to Sept. 1, 1868, was fifty.

Of those discharged, were cured, males, 18; females, 8; total, 26. Improved, males, 2; females, 2; total, 4. Not insane, females, 1; total, 1. Died, males, 13; females, 3; total, 16. Escaped, males, 3; total, 3.

Number remaining in Hospital, Sept. 1, 1868: Males, 66; females, 25; total, 91.

Of the patients discharged cured, 9 were inmates of the Hospital less than three months; six, between three and six months; seven, between six months and one year; and four, for more than one year.

Of those discharged improved, two were under treatment less than three months, and two for more than one year.

Thirteen males and three females have died since our last report.

Of those deaths, five resulted from pulmonary consumption; one from organic disease of the brain; four from epilepsy and general debility; one from acute mania; two from the exhaustion of chronic mania; one from epileptic convulsions; and two from physical injuries to the brain.

Of the ninety-one patients now remaining in the Hospital, fifty-seven are natives of the United States; twelve of Ireland; ten of Germany; two of Norway; one of France; one of Austria; one of Scotland; one of England; three of Canada; one of China; and two are half-breeds.

FORM OF INSANITY. Of those remaining, the form of disease is, mania, sixty; monomania, five; melancholia, four; dementia, sixteen; and idioty, six.

Of the whole number now on hand, thirty-two are considered curable; forty-two incurable; eleven doubtful; and six are idiotic.

Three private patients were reported in the Hospital, Sept. 1, 1866, and two have been discharged cured.

The ratio of recoveries to the admissions is forty three per cent. The deaths amount to eleven per cent. of the number treated.

The highest number of patients at any one time was ninety-four; the lowest number, eighty; and the average number under treatment during the whole period, State and private, was eighty-seven.

The number of males in the Hospital since our last report, was one hundred and two; and the number of females, thirty-nine.

The highest number of males, at any one time, was sixty-eight; and the highest number of females, twenty-five.

The lowest number of males, at any one time, was fifty-nine; and the lowest number of females, twenty-one.

For the past four years, the percentage of recoveries has been forty three, and will compare favorably with our results of the best institutions of the country. This gratifying state of facts stimulates us to continued efforts in behalf of those placed under our care, so that they may soon be restored to reason, and to their friends.

The large number of those considered incurable and doubtful, shows conclusively the great importance of the early treatment of the insane. But, even amongst this class, there are doubtless some who, by proper and continued treatment, will yet recover and become useful citizens.

In this connection, we cannot withhold a few quotations from some of the most learned physiological writers in our country. Dr. Thos. S. Kirkbride, of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, says:

"It becomes the officers of Hospitals for the Insane steadily to impress on the friends of patients, and themselves, to remember how difficult it is to say that any one is absolutely incurable. Every case, no matter what its character or duration, should be placed under the circumstances believed to be most favorable to secure a restoration, and should be steadily kept there. If the patients do not then recover, they will probably improve, and, at any rate, will not become worse from lack of proper care and treatment."

It is behind the age, at this day, to speak of institutions for incurables. If there were no other objections to them—and there are many grave ones—the fact that Omnipotence alone can tell with certainty who are in this condition, should be sufficient.

Among the pleasant results of treatment in this institution within the last three years, has been the recovery of an unusual number whose diseases, from their long continuance and discouraging character, seemed to offer but the faintest hope of a favorable change.

Every such case is an important lesson, and teaches more forcibly than any essay that can be written, the value of hope and a perseverance that will not yield on account of discouragements in hospitals for the insane, and that the arrangements of no institution can well be too good for even the most unpromising class of patients.

Although the practice is often exactly the reverse, still it is not the less true that the most unfortunate and unpromising class of patients require some of the highest attributes of Christian character, and the most discriminating intelligence, for their proper management.

In the association of medical superintendents of the various insane asylums in the United States, held in 1867, in discussing this proposition, Dr. C. H. Nichols, superintendent of the Government Insane Asylum at Washington, said:

"Asylums exclusively for the chronic dependent insane will, in my judgment, if established under the most favorable circumstances, be attended with untold moral suffering on the part of their unhappy inmates. The skillful and humane care of the chronic in connection with the acute insane, is more economical than the separate skilful and humane care of the chronic insane can possibly be made."

I am aware that it is asserted that the chronic insane can be properly supported by themselves at less cost than they can be in first-class (sometimes called curative) institutions, but I have not at any time, from any source, read or heard what appears to me to be the shadow of an argument to support the assertion. I am in favor of large institutions, in which the usual proportions of chronic and curable insane in a particular community are treated, because reason and experience both teach that the demands of the most enlightened philanthropy can be fully met at less cost per individual in large than in small collections of the insane."

In a convention of the superintendents of the poor of the State of New York, called to discuss the condition and relief of the insane poor, it was resolved, that insane persons considered curable, and those supposed incurable, should not be provided for in separate establishments."

HEALTH. But few cases of acute diseases have occurred since our last report, and those have readily yielded to treatment. The causes which have contributed largely to this continued state of good health, are, healthy location, perfect drainage of the premises, an abundant supply of pure spring water, the cleanliness and thorough ventilation of the buildings, nutritious and well-cooked food, and exercise in the open air at all times when the weather would permit; to these, in conjunction with such medical treatment as each special case demanded, are to be attributed the favorable results which we have to report, and the general good health that has prevailed, and still prevails, amongst the inmates of our institution.

We take pride in saying—and we believe we are not overstating the facts—that our patients appear to be as well cared for in every respect as those of the same class in any institution in the Union.

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE. Two cases of homicide have unfortunately occurred since our last report, and were committed by a patient who has been an inmate of the Hospital for

nearly five years, and during this whole time had never manifested the least disposition to injure any one. The circumstances surrounding the first case appeared to warrant the belief that it was more of accident than of design, but in order to guard against all danger, as we thought, he was confined to the house. A few weeks subsequent to the first act, the Warden, one morning, upon opening the patient's door, found him standing there with a heavy sash which he had wratched from his bedstead, and with which he aimed a blow at the Warden, who retreated, followed by the patient. At this time, one of the other inmates, who had just come from his bed, and seeing the trouble, endeavored to interfere, whereupon he turned and dealt him such a heavy blow as to fracture the skull, which resulted in death within a few hours.

While such cases are deeply to be regretted, and should at all times be guarded against by all reasonable means at our command, yet the experience of all who have the charge of insane patients, teaches that, after every effort and device has been exhausted, such cases will, from time to time, unfortunately occur.

These two cases, which transpired within a few weeks of each other, are the only deaths by violence that we have had to record since the establishment of this institution, a period of more than six years.

No case of suicide has ever occurred in this Hospital, notwithstanding many and persistent efforts have been made by patients determined to end their days in this manner. Those who are not familiar with asylums, can know but little of the continued care and vigilance required to guard these unfortunate beings from the taking of their own lives, or that of those immediately around them.

It is a noticeable fact that, of the sixteen deaths which we have reported as having occurred during the past two years; but one resulted from acute disease; all the others, with the exception of two from violence, were deemed from the very nature of their diseases. We regard this a high compliment to the healthfulness of the locality and the various surroundings which give tone and vigor to the system, thus warding off physical disease and affording to the brain and nervous system the very best opportunity of recovering their normal tone and condition.

IMPROVEMENTS. Since our last report, we have made several valuable improvements thereby adding greatly to the comfort of the patients and to the convenience of the institution. A beautiful fir grove has been surrounded by a high fence, adding largely to the pleasure ground. In this quiet, shady retreat, where the temperature of the most sultry day is pleasant, the patients resort at all times, when the weather will permit, and spend their time in the various exercises and amusements provided for them, watched over by faithful and competent wardens.

A wash and dry house has also been erected, and has facilitated greatly the operations in this special department.

ESCAPES. The escapes for the past two years have been less, by one-half, than for the preceding period of two years.

The number of patients admitted, has been less, by one third, than they were for the two previous years, and the increase has been less than one third.

To your Excellency, we tender our sincere thanks for the continued interest manifested in the prosperity of the Asylum and the welfare of its inmates, and also for the personal kindness and encouragement extended to ourselves.

To Dr. J. S. Gilmer, State Visiting Physician, we return our acknowledgments for his professional aid, counsel, and courtesy, and for his strict attendance to the duties of his position in behalf of the State and its wards.

To our Superintendent, Matron, and Wardens, our thanks are due for the faithful performance of the varied and arduous duties of their several positions, and for their kindness and consideration always manifested to those under their charge.

In conclusion, permit us to express the hope that this most unfortunate class of our fellow citizens, for whom we have labored for years to provide a comfortable home, with kind and judicious treatment, shall in the future receive whatever of kindness and charity it may require to still afford to them those blessings.

J. C. HAWTHORNE, A. M. LORVEA, September 1, 1868.

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WORDS THAT BURN.

A True Prophet.

On a certain occasion Daniel Webster, the great apostle of the Constitution and the Union, speaking of the Abolition party, said:

"IF THE INFERNAL FANATICS AND ABOLITIONISTS EVER GET POWER IN THEIR HANDS, THEY WILL OVERTHROW THE CONSTITUTION, SET THE SUPREME COURT AT DEFIANCE, CHANGE AND MAKE LAWS TO SUIT THEMSELVES, LAY VIOLENT HANDS ON THOSE WHO DIFFER WITH THEM IN THEIR OPINIONS OR DARE QUESTION THEIR INFALLIBILITY, AND FINALLY BANKRUPT THE COUNTRY AND DELUGE IT WITH BLOOD."

That party did, by dint of sheerest jugglery, finally get into power, and the result is before the country. Take heed, Patriots!

A FORMER SENATOR DESTITUTE—

A PAINFUL STORY.—Yesterday the police records announced that a man had been picked up on Magazine street, in a sick and destitute condition, and taken to the Charity Hospital. These few lines were all. They gave no warning of a history that was full of the most eventful and remarkable adventures.

For this sick and destitute man was once a Statesman, a representative and Senator in Congress, and a lawyer of distinguished ability. At one time he was the idol of a great party in a neighboring State, and there was no position of place and confidence he could not have held. But, like many others, his inordinate habits soon forfeited him the respect of his friends and the confidence of his party.

Sinking lower and lower in the pit of ruin, he dissolved his family connections. His wife abandoned him, his children forsok him, and, alone in the world, he was picked up in the streets of New Orleans, sick and destitute, without money and without friends. There are many here who will recognize the man.

REMEDY FOR ASTHMA.—A friend who is desirous of relieving the sufferings of the afflicted offers gratuitously the following remedy for any asthmatic readers who may chance to read this article. He says:

"If any one will follow the simple directions which I give I know it will give a permanent cure. Give the person subject to the asthma a dose of plain flour of sulphur and mola's every day. It is a sure cure if its administration be persisted in whether the person having the malady be old or young. It is a very cheap remedy, and perfectly harmless. The quantity of sulphur to begin with should be small—not enough to begin with the molasses or honey to create anything like diarrhoea, but just enough to keep the bowels regular. It must be taken every day as well when the patient feels best as ill."

So MANY "IFS"—The Frangfort (Ky.) Freeman says: The proclamation of Secretary Seward, announcing the ratification of the XIVth amendment to the Constitution, so-called, is altogether unsatisfactory to the Jacobins. It contains so many "ifs." He proclaims the amendment ratified if the States of Ohio and New Jersey had no right to rescind their ratification, and if the pretended government of the Southern States founded on the Congressional reconstruction acts, are constitutional and valid. It is unkind of Seward to be suggesting these ugly questions.

That man is himself deserving of pity, who can become personally acquainted with the temporal and spiritual condition of the masses of the population in a great city, and not be moved. Those who fold their hands, and say it is useless to attempt any rescue as they stand beside this surging tide of evil on which immortal souls are being swept on to ruin, those who refuse to do anything because the plans they think to be best are not adopted, and those who strive, for any reasons, to hinder the labors of others who are endeavoring to aid them, should never be called Christians.—Occident.

WYOMING NOT ORGANIZED.—The Territory of Wyoming cannot be organized at present owing to the fact that the officers appointed were not confirmed prior to the adjournment of Congress. The people of the Territory are still subject to the laws of Dakota, in consequence of this failure.