

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1849.



Augusta:

WM. T. JOHNSON;.....PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1850.

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 33.]

[SENATE.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Joint Standing Committee on the Insane Hospital, to which was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the Insane Hospital, the report of its trustees and the accompanying documents, have had the same under consideration and would submit the following

R E P O R T .

Your committee are fully sensible of the high trust to them committed. Maine is justly proud of those noble efforts and that liberal policy, which have given us an institution which is at once an ornament to the beautiful valley of the Kennebec and an asylum where those peculiarly afflicted with minds insane may receive all the alleviating attentions that warm hearts and sound science may dictate. Here insanity is robbed of half its horrors—kindness and comfort take the place of cruelty and distrust—the genial influence of a humane philosophy soothes the raging mind, and, aided by a judicious application of the healing art, often sends forth to the bosom of anxious and rejoicing friends the maniac clothed in his right mind.

Such being the noble design, and such the glorious anticipations,

it well behooves those to whom this high trust is committed to see to it, that all who are placed in this institution, receive all the attention and aid which philanthropy and science can give. Your committee have therefore carefully investigated and thoroughly scrutinized all the arrangements calculated to affect the condition of its inmates ; and we are happy to declare the result of our investigations highly satisfactory.

That the affairs of such an institution should be managed with such general satisfaction, was scarcely to be expected. Where there is so much mental aberration to direct, so much of frenzy to check, so much of rage to subdue, and so much of physical pain to alleviate, it would be strange if some were not to feel neglected or badly treated ; and stranger still, would it be, if such feelings were not communicated to the patient's friends and relatives.

After a careful and patient investigation of all the affairs of our Hospital, we are fully satisfied that it is in competent, energetic and faithful hands ; that its inmates have every possible care and are made as comfortable and happy as their various conditions will allow. Nothing can more satisfactorily sustain this conclusion than the large number who have been cured and improved during the past year.

It is unnecessary for us to speak of the report of the trustees and the accompanying documents, as they are in the hands of each member and speak for themselves. We cannot, however, refrain from expressing our gratification at the eminent success, which has crowned the persevering and efficient labors of the trustees in the completion of the south wing, and of the superintendent in the successful operation of the improved steam apparatus for warming its extensive apartments.

Your committee also feel bound to call your attention to the recommendation of the trustees (page 8th of report,) of an appropriation of \$1,000 "for warming the original south wing," for "draining necessary to secure the foundations of the new wing," for the "erection of airing courts," and for "the setting of ornamental trees."

In conclusion, we cannot refrain from alluding to those grateful emotions which arise in view of the blessings conferred by this asylum, where much of the gloom which shrouds this mysterious malady is dispelled—where the high and the low, the rich and the poor, on whom this sad affliction has fallen, may receive all the sympathy and kindly care of a warm-hearted philanthropy, all the attention, and all the treatment the best knowledge of our mental and physical natures may dictate.

We herewith submit a resolution making the appropriation recommended by the trustees.

G. M. BURLEIGH, *Chairman*.

August 1, 1848.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES making an appropriation for the Insane Hospital.

Resolved, That there be appropriated and paid for
2 the benefit of the insane hospital the sum of one
3 thousand dollars, to be expended under the superin-
4 tendence and direction of the trustees of said hospital,
5 as follows :

6 The sum of six hundred and fifty dollars for pro-
7 curing and erecting apparatus for warming the old
8 south wing of said hospital; and the sum of three
9 hundred and fifty dollars for draining the grounds,
10 erecting airing courts and setting ornamental trees.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, August 1, 1849.

ORDERED, That 350 copies of the foregoing Report and accompanying Resolve, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

DANIEL T. PIKE, *Secretary.*