

ROCHESTER STATE HOSPITAL.

Rochester, N. Y.

The County of Monroe established its county asylum in the suburbs of Rochester in 1863 and placed it in charge of a physician.

Under a provision of the State Care Act of 1890 this county was authorized, at its discretion, to transfer to the state its fairly well built and equipped asylum buildings and to take advantage of the State Care Act in having its insane thereafter maintained at state expense. Prompt action was taken by the local authorities and the Legislature of 1891 made an appropriation of \$50,000 for the purchase of the land and buildings. The Rochester State Hospital was established and in the following year an appropriation of 8139,680 for its extension was granted, the capacity of the institution being thus increased from 300 to 500 beds. Dr. Eugene H. Howard, who had previously served for many years at the head of the county institution, became first superintendent of the hospital, and to his energy and ability can be ascribed its very satisfactory development. A group of buildings accommodating 750 patients was built in 1902-03, with additional accommodations for the acute class, and served to relieve the overcrowding which was inevitable from the constant increase of the insane of the rapidly growing City of Rochester. Some relief of the overcrowding in the metropolitan district was also afforded by transfer to these new buildings.

At this hospital considerable success has attended the efforts of Dr. C. T. LaMoure under Superintendent Howard's direction at re-education of cases of dementia praecox; 57 patients of this class now attend the school established at the institution. Instruction is given in rug weaving, embroidery, raffia and reed weaving, crocheting, plain sewing, and washing and ironing - for the patients themselves - and gymnasium work. In certain apparently hopeless cases of profound dementia an extraordinary alleviation of symptoms has taken place, to the immense satisfaction of the patients and their friends.

The institution is now located on the city line, occupies 266 acres of land, and with a capacity of 1268 beds is caring for 1505 patients. In 1904 the institution acquired a fine farm of 65 acres of land on the shores of Lake Ontario, 16 miles distant from the institution, to which are sent weekly during

the summer different parties of patients, with pronounced benefit, both physically and mentally, the patients finding great enjoyment in the cultivation of the farm, garden and orchards.

The buildings of the main plant are entirely on the cottage plan, having a psychological hospital where all patients are originally received, examined and confined for further treatment and care.

In 1912 the acreage of the institution was increased through the acquisition of an adjoining tract of 50 acres of land for which \$16,000 was paid. The value of the real estate and buildings of this hospital was placed in 1912 at \$913,700, while the personal property was valued at \$55,985.

Reprinted from *The Institutional Care of the Insane in the United States and Canada*, By Henry Mills Hurd, William Francis Drewry, Richard Dewey, Charles Winfield Pilgrim, George Adler Blumer, American Medico-Psychological Association. Committee on a History of the Institutional Care of the Insane, Thomas Joseph Workmann Burgess, Volume 3, The John Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Maryland, 1916, Pages 199 – 200.
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