

**GOWANDA STATE HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL.
COLLINS, N. Y.**

The incentive that prompted the homeopathic medical profession in the western part of the State of New York to seek increased accommodations and homeopathic care for the insane grew out of the fact that, while large numbers of this class were annually committed to state hospitals, no adequate provision was made for such special care and treatment. The knowledge of this fact prompted the Committee on Medical Legislation of the State Homeopathic Society to seek through legislation such relief as seemed feasible. Their efforts brought about the enactment of Chapter 707, Laws of 1894, signed by the Governor on May 15 of that year.

By the provision of this statute the tract known as "Collins Farm" in the town of Collins, Erie County, was set apart for establishing thereon a second state homeopathic hospital for the insane. The farm consisted of a tract of 500 acres, situated in the town of Collins, between Collins Station and Gowanda, about 30 miles from Buffalo, the Buffalo and Southwestern Railroad crossing the property; the short distance from a large city being considered a point of special advantage. Fifty thousand dollars was paid for this farm. In April, 1896, the State Commission in Lunacy apportioned to the hospital \$100,000 for the commencement of work on the institution. With this allotment and an unexpended appropriation of \$25,000 more in 1895 a 20-inch sewer from the site of the buildings to Cattaraugus Creek was installed.

On plans prepared by Architect A. C. Esenwein, of Buffalo, contracts for the building of an administration group, including a one-story annex and connecting corridor and one hospital wing, were awarded to Grattan & Jennings, of Buffalo.

During 1897 the buildings above listed were completed and equipped. In May, 1897, Dr. George Allen was appointed the first superintendent, but his health soon failed and he died in November of the same year. On the 9th of March, 1898, the Board of Managers appointed Dr. Daniel H. Arthur, formerly assistant physician at the Middletown State Homeopathic Hospital, as superintendent. Dr. Arthur appointed Dr. George Francis Adams, of Westborough, Mass., as first assistant physician, Dr. Clarence Klaer as interne, Earl R. Quackenbush, of Rochester, as steward, and Olive A. Carpenter, of Middletown, as matron.

The hospital became operative on the 9th of August, 1898, on which date 47 patients were received. Additional patients to the number of 54 were received before the close of the fiscal year, September 30, 1898. In their report for that year the managers say:

“The board feels gratified in its accomplishment. It has labored long and zealously to secure to the homeopathic school of medicine and to the adherents of homeopathy a hospital in which they or their friends, if afflicted with this calamitous disease of insanity, could be treated according to their teachings and belief.”

Additional buildings constructed during 1898 were a power house, water tower, water supply pipes and one hospital wing known as the “West Wing.” A contract was also awarded for the construction of a laundry, kitchen, dining room, storeroom and connecting corridors for the sum of \$115,250. By an act of the Legislature in 1899 the title of the hospital was changed to “Gowanda State Homeopathic Hospital.” By this time the hospital stood as a complete plant, equipped with laundry, power house, electrical plant, dining rooms, kitchen, etc.

In 1901 the State Commission in Lunacy, at Governor Odell’s suggestion, increased a proposed apportionment for the construction of two wings, one for each sex, from \$150,000 to \$200,000. Through this change the capacity of the institution was to be increased from 200 to 710. These wings were completed in 1902, but were not occupied until 1903.

In 1904 a further apportionment was made by the State Commission in Lunacy of \$100,000 for the construction of a superintendent's residence, a staff house, a home for 150 nurses, and an amusement hall with seating capacity for 750 patients. With the completion of the superintendent’s residence and staff house the second and third floors of the administration building, formerly occupied by the superintendent and staff, were used for the accommodation of quiet and orderly patients and the general capacity of the institution was thus increased to the extent of 100 beds. The Commission in Lunacy also approved tentatively the construction of a new hospital for acute patients.

With the additional pavilions available the hospital was able to classify properly its patients and care for them in a thorough and scientific manner.

In 1906 a cement conduit from power house to buildings was finished and the steam and hot water trunk lines remodeled. A new dairy was completed and the employees' dormitory over the congregate dining room was converted into an employees' dining room. A coach barn was also finished.

In 1908 the hospital received a transfer of 100 chronic patients from the Kings Park State Hospital. In this year great improvements were made in roads and walks and an addition was made to the farm house to accommodate 10 patients. During the following year a store room was constructed as well as a tuberculosis pavilion for 50 patients; also a reservoir, a new dynamo and engine, and water softening apparatus. In 1910 150 additional acres of land were rented. At this time (1913) the value of the real estate has been appraised at \$983,150 and the personal property at \$165,500. The census of the institution is 1129 and the official capacity as certified by the State Hospital Commission is 978. Patients are now received from the district of the hospital irrespective of their desire for homeopathic treatment. A considerable enlargement of the institution will soon be necessary to care for the pressure for accommodations from the City of Buffalo.

In 1902 Boards of Managers were abolished in the state, being superseded by so-called Boards of Visitors. The following were appointed as a Board of Visitors for 1902-1905: Fred. J. Blackmon, E. C. Fisher, Frank W. Crandall, Dr. Eugene H. Porter and Dr. E. H. Wolcott.

This system was found unsatisfactory and Boards of Managers were restored in 1905, the members of the former board, with one or two exceptions, being restored to power. As the new law required the appointment of at least two women, Mrs. Harry B. Shepard, of Buffalo, and Mrs. Laura K. Larmouth were added to the board, Messrs. Letchworth and Morey retiring. The new board consisted of: Dr. E. H. Wolcott, Mrs. Mary B. Shepard, Mrs. Laura K. Larmouth, Fred J. Blackmon and A. J. Frantz, M. D., all of whom are still serving. Eugene H. Porter, M. D., was succeeded by Wm. F. Wierling, and William N. Wallace was succeeded by F. E. Bard.

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