

**NEW YORK STATE CUSTODIAL ASYLUM FOR FEEBLE-MINDED WOMEN.
NEWARK, N. Y.**

This institution was opened in September, 1878, as a branch of the Syracuse State Institution for Feeble-minded Children. Its object was to provide a place for the women who were too old for the Syracuse institution, but were unsuitable for discharge. In 1885, by an act of the Legislature, it was made a separate institution.

The site of the asylum comprises 104 acres of land, partly within the village of Newark. There are nine dormitory buildings, each with a capacity of from 45 to 130; in addition there is a hospital, with a bed capacity of 30. The institution is operated on the cottage plan, each dormitory being a unit, with its own kitchen, laundry, etc.

There is a scholastic department in charge of a teacher, in which the first four grades of ordinary school work are taught. All the domestic work of the institution, including sewing, is done by the girls under direction of employees. There are two instructors in sewing and one instructor in basketry, fancy sewing, etc. The only special industries are those in connection with the basketry and fancy sewing department. A physical instructor is employed, both for the development and amusement of the inmates. There is one kindergarten class.

The amusements consist of games, dances, etc. The games include baseball, basketball, field sports, athletic contests, pageants, etc.

Only women of the child-bearing period are received. When women reach the menopause they are removed from the institution by the authorities who brought about their commitment.

Commitments to the institution are made by the superintendents of the poor and also by judges of courts of record, on blanks prescribed by the institution. The purpose of the institution being to segregate women of the child-bearing period, every effort is made to make it as much of a home as possible. It is conducted as an open institution, there being no locked doors and no fences.

The Inmates of Willard 1870 to 1900

The staff consists of a superintendent, steward, storekeeper, matron and resident physician; in addition there are about 110 employees. The capacity of the institution is 853 inmates, and there is generally a long waiting list.

BOARD OF MANAGERS, 1915.

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RESIDENT OFFICERS.

Ethan A. Nevin, M. D Superintendent.
Edwin T. Dunn, Steward, storekeeper.
Anna Warnecke, M. D., Resident physician.
Gertrude M. Palmer, Matron.

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 250 – 251.
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