

Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe & Montgomery Counties 1883

Jefferson County. - The number of insane in the asylum department of the poor-house of this county, at the time of my visit, June 14, 1883, was 44, of whom 8 were men and 36 women. At the same time the county had 24 chronic insane at the Willard Asylum. Owing to the recent death of the late keeper, a new force had been employed, consisting of a man and his wife at \$450 per year, a female attendant at \$3 per week, and a female cook at \$2 per week. My visit was in the early morning. The beds were made, and the rooms clean and in good order. There were no insane in any form of restraint, neither any excited or noisy cases. Of the men, only one labors to any extent. One is an epileptic, but not regarded as dangerous. Twelve of the women work more or less, and five are classed as good laborers. Two were inclined to disorder their clothing, throwing their dresses over their heads, etc. There seemed to be no occasion for any removals from this county, as several excited and disturbed cases have been sent to the Willard Asylum during the past year.

Visited July 24, 1883, in company with the State Commissioner in Lunacy. Since my last visit, June 14, 1883, two women - **Jane McMichael** and **Mary J. Sorrow** - have been transferred to the Willard Asylum, and one woman has been admitted, thus leaving 43 under care, viz.: 8 men and 35 women. We saw and examined every patient and there were none in any form of restraint nor confined. The building throughout was in good condition, and the patients generally clean and orderly. There seemed to be no necessity at present for any removals. The force of attendants was the same as when last reported.

Visited October 18, 1883, accompanied by Dr. A.S. Low, attending physician. Since last reported, July 24, 1883, one man, formerly at the State Lunatic Asylum, has been admitted direct from his home, and one a woman has died. The number under care was 43, of whom 9 were men, and 34 women. There were no noisy or excited insane, nor any cases in restraint. It is the settled policy of the superintendent to remove all disturbed and troublesome patients to the Willard Asylum. I went through all the halls and rooms, the kitchen and dining apartments, and the entire institution was a model of cleanliness and good order.

Lewis County. - I visited the poor-house of this county, February 23, 1883, accompanied by Judge Turner, chairman of the visiting committee, and Dr. Crosby, attending physician. It then sheltered 58 inmates, of whom nine were insane men, and six insane women. These occupied a detached building, and it had no spare accommodations. The women are under the charge of a female attendant, but she remains with them only during the day, sleeping at night in the poor-house department. The men receive no attention except such as may be given by the superintendent, who acts also as keeper. As he is necessarily absent much of the time, engaged in other duties, they are partially without any supervision. Among the men, I found three cases, which I advised to be removed, viz.: **Gardner Little**, 32 years old, returned from the State Lunatic Asylum about four years ago, suffering with chronic mania, at times violent and dangerous; **William Binkey**, 23 years of age, discharged from the State Lunatic Asylum about one year ago, with chronic mania and inclined to escape; and **Thomas Shay**, a broken down, filthy, demented patient, 65 years old, an inmate only a few months, having never been at any State lunatic asylum. Judge Turner and Dr. Crosby concurred in this recommendation, and the superintendent promised immediate action in the matter. The county had twenty insane in the Willard Asylum.

The building occupied by the insane of this county is a two-story brick structure, with a basement for furnace, coal, wood, etc. It furnishes accommodations for 15 patients. The rooms on each story are in the centre, with halls surrounding them, and the partitions are of wood. The insane are locked separately in their rooms at night and in the event of a fire great loss of life would probably follow. The attention of the superintendent was called to the matter at the time of my visit, and since then I have addressed him a communication upon the subject and advised him to confer with Judge Turner and Dr. Crosby, and if means could not be devised speedily to liberate the insane, in case of fire, to place a night watchman in charge of the building.

Under date of March 21, 1883, Mr. Samuel F. Douglass, superintendent of the poor, addressed me as follows: 'In accordance with your suggestion, and after consultation with Judge Turner and Dr. Crosby, I have put a night watchman in the asylum, who will faithfully perform his duty. We shall feel safe now. The three chronic insane persons named in your

previous communication, I have taken to Ovid. If there are any further suggestions you wish to make, they will be thankfully received and carefully considered at any time.'

Visited November 20, 1883, in company with Dr. Crosby, attending physician. The insane numbered nine men and six women; total, 15. Of these, one woman was in the poor-house department, and the others were in the asylum building. There were no cases in restraint or seclusion, nor any to excite special attention. Upon the approach of winter, and the renewal of furnace fires, the night watchman, who had been taken off during the summer, was replaced. The building was clean, the patients comfortably clothed and orderly, and there seemed no occasion to recommend any removals.

The question of the enlargement of the asylum building, with the view of retaining a larger number of chronic insane than heretofore, has been agitated in the county during the year, and excited considerable interest. The board of supervisors was in session at Lowville at the time of my visit, and upon the invitation of the chairman, I attended its meeting. The subject was fully discussed in its various bearings, and taken under advisement by the board. At a subsequent meeting of the board, it was decided to remove the wooden partitions of the old asylum building, and convert it into a hospital in connection with the poor-house. It was also decided to erect a small building, with open wards, at the right of the poor-house, for the custody and care of a limited number of quiet and harmless chronic insane. A committee was appointed to carry on this work, and it will probably be entered upon early in the coming spring.

Livingston County. - I visited the poor-house of this county May 2, 1883, accompanied by Dr. W.E. Lauderdale, the attending physician. The asylum department then contained 58 insane; 26 men and 32 women. Two of these were acute cases, awaiting removal to the Buffalo State Asylum. The inspection was made in the evening, the patients having all retired. We went through all the halls, and heard no noise nor disturbance, except in the case of one man, suffering under temporary excitement. The superintendent stated that there were no continuously violent or noisy patients, but that two of the men and three of the women were at times excited and disturbed. There are two male and two female attendants. In the poor-house proper were two feeble-minded women, both of whom had

given birth to children, and I advised the superintendent to apply for their admission to the asylum at Newark. After leaving the institution Dr. Lauderdale expressed the opinion that three of the insane women, viz.: **Bridget Rollins, Martha McLean** and **Harriet Clark**, on account of their frequently excited and disturbed condition, should be removed to the Willard Asylum; and, in accordance with his views, I soon after addressed the superintendent, recommending their removal.

Visited September 11, 1883, with the State Commissioner in Lunacy. The number of insane was: Men, 24; women, 32; total, 56. Of these, two, both women, were in the poor-house proper; the others were in the asylum buildings. The employees are: Two female attendants, each at \$4 per week, and one male attendant at \$350 per year. The latter has an unpaid assistant. We went through all the wards, halls and rooms, and the kitchen, dining and laundry apartments, and the entire institution was clean and in good order. The women referred to in my last report, viz.: **Bridget Rollins, Martha McLean, and Harriet Clark**, had not as yet been removed to the Willard Asylum. **Bridget Rollins** was quiet and orderly; **Martha McLean** was confined in a strong room and was very violent and raving; and **Harriet Clark** was in the yard, with her hands confined in a heavy leather muff. There was one man, a private patient, extremely noisy and turbulent, and we advised his removal to some other institution. The other patients were generally quiet, clean and orderly, and most of them enjoying large liberty. We examined the supplies, and found them abundant and of good quality. The water supply continues deficient, and no improvement has been effected in the drainage.

Madison County. - The number of inmates of the insane department of the poor-house of this county at the time of my visit, March 22, 1883, was 25, of whom 11 were men and 14 women. The county has also eight insane at the Binghamton and four at the Willard Asylum. The insane women in the care of the county occupy a plain, comfortable wooden building, and they were all quiet and orderly cases. A paid attendant is in charge. The men's apartments are quite inferior, and they are under the care of a pauper attendant. I found two men, whom I advised the superintendent to remove to the Binghamton State Asylum, viz.: **Clayton Sweet**, aged 23 years, a demented, filthy case, restrained by a muff, an inmate about three years, having never been at any State asylum; and **William Quinn**, aged 38 years, a

noisy, violent and filthy patient, an inmate about nine years, transferred from the State Lunatic Asylum. I also found two feeble-minded young women in the institution, and recommended their removal to the Newark Custodial Asylum, viz.: **Harriet Snyder**, aged 19 years, and **Amanda Collins**, aged 31 years. Dr. T.S. Armstrong informs me that the two insane referred to were admitted to the Binghamton Asylum, April 5, 1883.

Visited August 28, 1883, accompanied by the State Commissioner in Lunacy. Since my last visit, March 22, 1883, two insane men have been admitted, two men - **Clayton Sweet** and **William Quinn** - sent to the Binghamton State Asylum, and one woman to her friends. The number found under care was 24 - nine men and fifteen women. Four men were at work upon the farm; the others were in doors, but in no manner restrained. We found one woman - **Catherine Christman** - a dangerous insane epileptic, whom we advised the superintendent to remove to the Binghamton State Asylum. The other women were quiet, harmless cases, causing little or no trouble. The attendants are: A man at \$15 per month, and a woman at \$5 per week. The feeble-minded woman, **Amanda Collins**, referred to in my last report, was taken to the Newark Custodial Asylum, but being found soon after her admission to be enceinte, she was returned to the poor-house, when she subsequently gave birth to a child. She is still an inmate, with her offspring. The application for the admission of **Harriet Snyder** to the Newark Asylum was favorably acted upon, but for some reason she was not removed. She is still in the poor-house, and as the State Asylum has no spare room, she will probably continue in the institution.

Monroe County. - This county provides for its insane in buildings separate from its poor-house, and under a special act of the Legislature. The management is vested in a board of trustees, appointed by the supervisors. For several years, it retained all of its insane, but of late it sends a part of its acute class to the State hospitals. It has also a few chronic cases at the Willard Asylum. The buildings are greatly crowded, having 238 patients, and the question of their enlargement, or the removal of the more violent and excited insane to State asylums, so as to relieve the pressure for room, is now being considered.

During the year, I have visited the poor-house of this county frequently, for the purpose of examining the State paupers committed to it, and have inquired and examined into the

condition of its insane inmates. It has a few cases only, varying from five to eight - all of which belong to the quiet and harmless class. They are domiciled with the other inmates, and are generally good laborers. In the event of their becoming excited and disturbed, they are removed to the asylum buildings, situated near the poor-house. The superintendent reported seven insane in the institution, October 1, 1883, of whom four were men and three women.

Montgomery County. - The poor-house of this county was visited February 24, 1883, when it contained 79 inmates. These are provided for under contract, renewed yearly with the board of supervisors. The rates the present year are as follows: For town paupers, \$2 per week; for county paupers, composed entirely of insane, epileptic, idiotic and feeble-minded, \$3.25 per week. The number of town paupers was 38; county paupers, 41. Of the latter, 23 - twelve men and eleven women - were quiet, harmless, chronic insane. None of these were in any form of restraint. The apartments for the men are quite inferior; those for the women are plain and comfortable, and were clean and tidy. The county has also 25 insane at the Willard Asylum.

Among the inmates at the time of my visit was a feeble-minded young woman, 21 years old, who had been alternately in and out of the house for the past three years. I communicated with the superintendent in regard to this case, and advised her removal to the Custodial Asylum at Newark. The supplies of this poor-house were carefully examined, and were found of good quality and abundant.

Visited August 29, 1883, accompanied by the State Commissioner in Lunacy. The number classed as insane, then, was 29, viz.: Thirteen men and sixteen women. The women were generally quiet, and there were none in any form of restraint. There was one man, **John Mailor**, aged 35 years, an inmate two years, transferred from the State Lunatic Asylum, excited, noisy and violent, whom we regarded as highly dangerous. With the concurrence of the State Commissioner, I communicated with the superintendent of the poor, advising his removal to the Willard Asylum. The feeble-minded young woman, referred to in my last report, was soon thereafter transferred to the Newark Custodial Asylum.