

**Rensselaer, Richmond, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie,
Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben & Suffolk Counties 1883**

Rensselaer County. - The poor-house of this county, situated near Troy, was visited December 10, 1883. According to the statement of the keeper, the number of inmates was 250, nearly two-thirds of whom were males. The hospital departments contained 20 male and 23 female patients. The number classed as insane was 21, of whom 5 were men, and 16 women. The former are distributed through the building with other inmates, and the latter occupy a separate ward. All were quiet, harmless, chronic cases, free from restraint, and there seemed no necessity for any removals.

Richmond County. - The State Commissioner in Lunacy accompanied me in my visit to this poor-house, March 19, 1883. The whole number of inmates then was 105, of whom 14 were classed as insane. Of these, several were aged persons with senile dementia. There were no disturbed or violent cases, nor any in mechanical restraint. The county has 27 insane at the Willard and three at the Binghamton Asylum. We found one feeble-minded young woman in the institution, **Louisa Price**, and united in recommending to the superintendents her removal to the Newark Custodial Asylum.

Rockland County. - I visited the poor-house of this county March 14, 1883, accompanied by the State Commissioner in Lunacy. Its entire inmates then numbered 65, of whom 4 were insane men, and 2 insane women. One of the men, also an epileptic, was regarded as dangerous, and with the concurrence of the Commissioner, I advised the superintendent to remove him to the Binghamton State Asylum. The county has now 3 insane at that institution and 11 at the Willard Asylum. We found 2 feeble-minded young women in the institution - **Margaret Duffy**, aged 26, and **Margaret Terry**, aged 22 - and recommended their removal to the Newark Asylum.

St. Lawrence County. - I visited the poor-house of this county July 24, 1883, accompanied by Commissioner Foster and the State Commissioner in Lunacy. Its inmates then numbered 167, of whom 6 were insane men, and 26 insane women. These occupy rooms at the extremes of the building, which is a commodious, well-arranged brick structure, erected in

1868. The county has 32 chronic insane at the Willard Asylum, and its poor-house accommodations are designed for quiet and harmless cases only. The attendants are, a man at \$13 per month, and a woman at \$2.50 per week.

We did not regard it necessary to advise the removal of any of the insane men. I decided, however, to transfer, **Thomas McCormack**, State pauper, to the Willard Asylum. He had been, generally, orderly and well-behaved, and a good laborer; but of late had been twice temporarily excited, and exhibited symptoms of violence. There were a number of disturbed, filthy and violent women, and their accommodations were greatly crowded, some of them occupying basement cells or rooms. Among the women was **Angeline Socia**, 30 years old, a recent case, whom we advised to be removed to the State Lunatic Asylum. We also recommended the removal of the following cases to the Willard Asylum, viz.: **Johanna Sullivan**, aged 40 years, admitted August 17, 1880, from the State Lunatic Asylum; at times very noisy, violent and destructive, and the source of great annoyance. **Eliza McGillis**, admitted July 19, 1881, being then 42 years old, had never been at any State asylum; is filthy and noisy, and at times extremely troublesome. **Martha Washburn**, 36 years old, transferred from the State Lunatic Asylum, June 28, 1877; is feeble and filthy, requiring constant watchfulness and care. **Alice Burke**, admitted from the State Lunatic Asylum, January 15, 1877, aged 40 years; is a noisy, destructive, filthy patient, and the cause of much trouble and anxiety.

We united in recommending to the superintendent the discontinuance of the basement cells, or rooms for the insane or other inmates. These are damp and unwholesome, and entirely unfit for occupancy. By promptly removing, from time to time, the excited and disturbed insane, the building otherwise will afford ample accommodations for its purposes.

Visited October 17, 1883. The changes in the insane since my visit July 24, 1883, have been, one man died, and three women discharged. The number in charge was, men, 6; women, 22; total, 28. Of the cases whose removal was recommended at my last visit, the following have been disposed of, viz.: **Angeline Socia** was taken away by her husband, and removed to Franklin county; **Johanna Sullivan** was removed by her brother, and is being cared for at his home; and **Eliza McGillis** was sent to relatives in Canada, where she is now under care.

Martha Washburn and **Alice Burke** remain in the institution, the former too feeble to be removed, and the latter still noisy and destructive. The use of the basement rooms has been discontinued, and a general improvement of the condition of the insane was observable. There were no cases in restraint, nor seclusion, and I did not advise any removals other than **Alice Burke**, referred to in my last report. **Thomas McCormack**, State pauper, had become quiet and was engaged in and about the house, and I requested the opinion of Dr. P.H. Shea, the attending physician, as to the propriety of his continuing in the institution. On the 18th of October, 1883, he wrote me: 'I do not hesitate to pronounce **Thomas McCormack** safe and quiet, and not a dangerous character to be kept in this poor-house. I decided, therefore, to allow him to remain, for the time being, in the institution.'

Saratoga County. - I visited the poor-house of this county, July 18, 1883, accompanied by the State Commissioner in Lunacy. The whole number of inmates then was 116, of whom 12 men and 17 women were classed as insane. These occupy an extension of the right wing of the building, the men upon the first, and the women the second story. The attendant in charge of the former is a pauper. The female attendant receives \$1 per week. Four of the men labor upon the farm, and seven of the women do more or less domestic work. Among the men were three cases, that I recommended in writing, to be removed to the Binghamton State Asylum, the State Commissioner in Lunacy concurring, viz.: **Owen McMahan**, insane epileptic, 40 years old, and an inmate eight years; is violent, destructive and filthy, and had on no clothes except a shirt; is confined in his room at all times. **Charles Monroe**, age 45 years, an inmate two years, having been transferred from the State Lunatic Asylum; form of insanity, chronic mania; has to be constantly confined because of inclination to escape; is slovenly in his habits and person, and had on no clothes except a shirt and pants; does not go to the table, but is fed in his room. **Walter Hamilton**, age 27 years; form of insanity, chronic mania; has been an inmate seven years and was never at any State asylum; will escape at every opportunity, and if allowed to go out into the yards, will scale the high fence; of late, has been confined most of the time in the building, and his meals served in his room. The women were generally quiet, orderly cases, and none of these were in any form of restraint. The county has 24 chronic insane at the Willard, and five at the Binghamton State Asylum. There were no feeble-minded girls or young women in the institution. Two of this class were recently removed to the Newark Custodial Asylum. Superintendent Armstrong

informs me that the three insane men above referred to were brought to the Binghamton State Asylum, agreeable to our recommendation, August 2, 1883.

Schenectady County. - The poor-house of this county was visited December 8, 1883. It then contained 54 inmates, about two-thirds of whom were males. They were generally aged and most of them feeble and infirm. There were no insane. The buildings, outhouses, closets and grounds were clean and tidy, and the drainage in good order. The county has twenty-five insane at the Willard Asylum.

Schoharie County. - The poor-house of this county was visited June 23, 1883, at which time it contained 34 inmates, 19 males and 15 females. Of these, only two, both aged men, were classed as insane, and they were said to cause no trouble. There were two men as inmates, each about 55 years old, who appeared to be in good health, the others being mainly aged, infirm and helpless. Among the number were three feeble-minded young women, as follows: **Ann Cronie**, 20 years old, an inmate about twelve years; is fully developed and healthy, and employed in the kitchen and wash-room; **Emeline Thompson**, about 28 years of age, an inmate ten years, during which time she had given birth to three illegitimate children; is in good health, and employed in domestic work; **Ellen Cane**, aged 26 years, and an inmate five years; is of good physical development and in complete health, but nearly blind. The institution affords no adequate protection to these cases, and I early communicated with the superintendent, urging him to take measures to procure their admission to the Custodial Asylum at Newark. The county has 32 chronic insane at the Willard Asylum.

Schuyler County. - This county has no poor-house, its insane being provided for in State institutions. There are two small town poor-houses in the county, but these make no provision for the insane.

Seneca County. - In a visit to the poor-house of this county May 4, 1883, I inquired and examined as to the insane. There were then two cases only, both men, quiet and harmless, and said to be good laborers. These are domiciled in common with the other inmates. The

county has 44 insane at the Willard Asylum, and it is the settled policy of the authorities to retain none of this class requiring special attention.

Steuben County. - I visited the poor-house of this county, November 3, 1883. It then sheltered 75 inmates, of whom 19 were males, and 56 females. They were all aged, infirm or sick persons, and several of them were helpless and confined in bed. One man and three women were classed as insane. These were quiet, harmless cases of long standing, and allowed full liberty. There was one feeble-minded young girl, 16 years of age, an inmate about ten months, with an illegitimate child, six months old. Application has been made for her admission to the Newark Custodial Asylum, and she was soon to be removed to that institution. My visit was at an early hour, and I saw the inmates at breakfast. This consisted of fried salt pork, boiled potatoes, bread and butter and tea, and was in abundance. The buildings are in good condition and comfortable, and throughout were clean and well ordered. The sexes can be separated at night, but during the day the association is promiscuous. There seemed no need for the removal of any of the insane.

Suffolk County. - Visited March 13, 1883. The number of insane in its care then was 45, of whom 23 were men and 22 women. An examination of these showed a comparatively large ratio of excited, violent, filthy, noisy and dangerous patients. Upon full consideration, and with the concurrence of Dr. Baker, attending physician, I communicated immediately with the superintendents, and recommended the removal of the following cases - four men and six women - to the Binghamton State Asylum, viz.: **John Beebe**, filthy and indecent; **George Woodruff**, regarded as dangerous and also filthy; **Patrick Bruin**, filthy and sloven, and inclined to escape, his ankles being shackled by iron fetters; **James Reynolds**, violent, treacherous and dangerous, assaulting attendants and others; **Jerusha Ann Tuthill**, violent and extremely noisy; **Ellen McGarity**, destructive, and confined most of the time in her room; **Catherine Sharon**, violent and dangerous, frequently assaulting other inmates; **Ann Eliza King**, turbulent, filthy and highly indecent; **Margaret Burk**, extremely noisy, and confined in bed in her room; and **Sarah Dowd**, violent, and looked upon as dangerous. The number of attendants employed is six - three males and three females. The county has four insane at the Willard, and six at the Binghamton Asylum. Under the date of March 16, 1883, the superintendents of the poor say in regard to the removal of the insane referred to: "The

board of superintendents holds its monthly meeting in two weeks, and we will at that time take steps to carry out your wishes immediately.' On the 10th of April, 1883, John S. Havens, superintendent of the poor, wrote me as follows: 'At a meeting of the superintendents of the poor at Yaphank a few days since, your letter recommending the removal of certain insane persons in our alms-house to the Binghamton Insane Asylum, was presented to the Board, and it was determined to remove them on Monday, the 11th inst.'

Visited May 12, 1883, with Commissioner Milhau and Dr. Baker, attending physician. Of the cases recommended to be transferred to the Binghamton Asylum March 13, 1883, the following have been removed, viz.: **George Woodruff, Patrick Bruin, Ellen McGarity, Catharine Sharon, Ann Eliza King** and **Margaret Burk**. **Ann Tuthill** was taken away by her relatives and is now in their care; **John Beebe** was retained at the urgent solicitation of his mother, and **James Reynolds** escaped and is now in the county jail, for setting fire to the woods. At the suggestion of Dr. Baker, **Mary E. Tuthill**, colored, was sent in the place of **Sarah Dowd**, as the more troublesome case, so that the number of removals was seven - two men and five women. In the course of our visit, we went through all the rooms for the insane, and saw all the patients. We were pleased with the condition of the apartments for the women, which were clean and orderly, and the patients free from restraint. There was one woman, _____ **Smith**, a chronic imbecile, about thirty years old, found in one of the rooms, wholly destitute of clothing. The matron stated that she had recently become quite destructive, and had been entirely nude nearly three days. This woman an inmate about three years, had previously, for a long time, been confined in a room at home, and allowed to sit crouched upon the floor, until her lower extremities became badly and permanently crippled. I addressed the superintendents, advising them, if they failed to devise means permanently to clothe her, to remove her to the Binghamton State Asylum. The condition of the insane men was to us entirely unsatisfactory, they being generally sloven and untidy. **John Beebe** was very filthy in his person, his clothes and hands being smeared with the contents of the closets. The nominal male attendants are the farmer and the engineer. As they are most of the time necessarily engaged in their respective duties, the insane men are practically without supervision. They go out and in at pleasure, have free access to the basement, and there is no restraint whatever upon their conduct and actions. With the concurrence of Commissioner Milhau, I addressed the superintendents, advising them to

close the basement against the insane, and to set apart a day room for them in some other portion of the building. I also advised them to employ a male attendant to be constantly with the men during the day, to enforce cleanliness and order, and to carry out the instructions and directions of the attending physician.

Visited September 3, 1883, at which time there were 44 insane - 17 men and 27 women. The wards for the women were clean and in good order, and some slight improvement had been effected in the condition of the men since my last visit. Eight of these were at work upon the farm; two were in their rooms on the upper hall, and the others were at liberty in the yard. The case before referred to - **John Beebe** - was in the same filthy condition as when last reported. No additional male attendants have as yet been employed, but the time of the present attendants is said to be more strictly devoted to the insane than heretofore. It seemed that it might soon become necessary to remove two cases to the Binghamton State Asylum, viz.: **Elbert C. Ketchum**, a deaf-mute, formerly a good laborer, but of late violent and excited, and most of the time confined in his room; and **Catherine A. McNierny**, a disturbed, noisy and turbulent woman, requiring constant supervision. I conferred with Dr. Baker, who accompanied me, in regard to these cases, and he assured me that he would watch their condition, and if their removal became advisable he would lay the matter before the superintendents. The woman referred to as nude, at my last visit, was clothed in strong canvas cloth, and confined in her room. There were no cases in any form of restraint.

Visited December 5, 1883, accompanied by Dr. Baker, attending physician, the keeper being absent. Since my last visit, September 3, 1883, the superintendent had removed **Elbert Ketchum** and **Catharine A. McNierny**, the two disturbed cases then referred to, who had become violent, and also **Christopher Lake**, to the Binghamton State Asylum, and two patients had been received, transferred from the State Homoeopathic Asylum. One of the latter, **Edward Clancey**, was considerably disturbed, and is said, at times, to be very violent and noisy, so that his removal will probably soon become necessary. The number of inmates under care was 43, as against 44 at my last visit. Of these, 17 were men and 26 were women. The men, except a few quiet laborers, have been removed from the basement, and occupy one of the corridors as a day room. I went through the entire building, and saw all

of the patients. There were no cases in any form of restraint or seclusion. The wards and rooms were in good order, and the women's department, especially, was very clean and tidy.