PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS OF AMERICAN IN-
STITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE.

The Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, convened at the Irving House, in the City of New-York, on the 18th of May, 1852, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The following gentlemen were present :

- DR. LUTHER V. BELL, of the McLean Asylum, Somerville, Massachusetts, President of the Association.
DR. ISAAC RAY, of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, Providence, Rhode Island, Vice-President.
DR. H. A. BUTTOLFH, of the New-Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, Trenton, Secretary.
DR. ANDREW MCFARLAND, of the New-Hampshire Asylum, for the Insane, Concord.
DR. JOHN S. BUTLER, of the Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, Connecticut.
DR. EDWARD JARVIS, of Dorchester, (private) Institution, Massachusetts.
DR. N. CUTTER, of Pepperill, (private) Institution, Massachusetts.
DR. CLEMENT A. WALKER, of the South Boston Lunatic Hospital, Massachusetts.
DR. C. H. NICHOLS, of the Bloomingdale Asylum, Bloomingdale, New-York.
DR. N. D. BENEDICT, of the New-York State Lunatic Asylum, Utica.
DR. M. H. RANNEY, of the New-York City Lunatic Asylum, Blackwell's Island.
DR. T. S. KIRKBRIDE, of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Philadelphia.
DR. J. H. WORTHINGTON, of the Friend's Asylum for the Insane, Frankford, Pennsylvania.
DR. JOHN CURWEN, of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburgh.

Dr. FRANCIS T. STRIBLING, of the Western Lunatic Asylum, Staunton, Virginia.

Dr. S. HANBURY SMITH, of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Columbus.

Dr. THOMAS F. GREEN, of the Georgia State Lunatic Asylum, Milledgeville.

Dr. FRANCIS BULLOCK, of the King's County Lunatic Asylum, Flatbush, Long Island.

Dr. A. LOPEZ, of the Alabama Hospital for the Insane.

Drs. H. W. BUEL, and B. OGDEN, of Sandford Hall, Flushing, L. I.

The President, Dr. LUTHER V. BELL, called the Association to order and requested that the minutes of the last meeting be read by the secretary.

On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, who shall report each morning what papers will be read, and what other business is likely to come before the Association each day: Drs. Kirkbride, Nichols and Buttolph were appointed.

On motion of Dr. Ray, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to determine the time and select the place for the next meeting of the Association: Drs. Ray, Stribling and Curwen were appointed.

Dr. Bell, chairman of committee on the comparative utility of different methods of ventilation, requested farther time for preparing the report, which was allowed.

Dr. S. Hanbury Smith, chairman of committee on Manual for attendants, prepared by Dr. Curwen, reported that they recommend said Manual for general adoption in American Institutions for the Insane, which was agreed to.

Dr. Kirkbride exhibited and explained drawings showing the arrangement of water-closets, with downward ventilation, upon which remarks were made by members of the Association.

Adjourned to meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment.

Dr. J. M. Higgins, of Illinois State Hospital for Insane, Jacksonville, appeared and took his seat as a member of the Association.

Dr. Nichols, presented to the Association an invitation from the Bloomingdale Asylum committee, to visit that institution to-morrow at 12 o'clock, which was accepted.

Dr. Ray, read a paper on the following subject, assigned to him by the President, viz. : On the best methods of saving our Hospitals for the Insane from the odium and scandal to which such institutions are liable, and maintaining their place in the popular estimation; including the consideration of the question, how far is the community to be allowed access to such hospitals;—Paper laid upon the table for future consideration.

Dr. S. Hanbury Smith, of the Ohio Asylum, was requested to give the Association an account of recent Legislative proceedings relative to said Asylum, which he did.

On motion adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment. The minutes of proceedings yesterday were read and adopted.

Dr. George Chandler, of the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Massachusetts, appeared and took his seat as a member of the Association.

E. A. Wetmore, Esq., Treasurer of the New-York State Lunatic Asylum, appeared as a visitor.

Dr. Buel presented to the Association an invitation to visit Sandford Hall (Private Asylum) to-morrow at 2 o'clock, P. M. which was accepted.

On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That the standing committee on construction of Hospitals for the Insane, be requested previous to the next meeting of Association to prepare a series of resolutions or propositions, affirming the well ascertained opinions of this body in reference to the direction, organization and discipline of Hospitals for the Insane.

On motion, the paper read by Dr. Ray, yesterday, was taken up and discussed, but without closing the subject, the Association adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment. The minutes of its proceedings yesterday were read and adopted.

Drs. Haines, of the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley, Fremont, of Quebec Lunatic Asylum, Canada, and Patterson of the Indiana Hospital for Insane at Indianapolis, appeared and took seats as Members of the Association.

Stacy B. Collins, Esq., of the Board of Governors of the New-York Hospital, and A. Munson, Esq., President of Board of Managers of New-York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica, took seats with the Association.

An invitation to the Association from the Governors of the New-York Hospital, was received to visit that Institution, and examine the mode of warming and ventilating the building, which was accepted for 11 o'clock, A. M. this day.

A letter from James Brown, Esq., President of the Collins Line of Ocean Steamers, inviting the Association to visit the Steamship Atlantic was received, read and laid upon the table for future consideration.

The discussion upon the paper read by Dr. Ray, was resumed and concluded, and the paper laid upon the table.

Invitations were received by the Association, from the Authorities of the New-York Alms House, through Dr. Ranney, to visit the Lunatic Asylum, and other institutions on Blackwell's Island, and from the Superintendents of Poor of King's County, through Dr. Bullock, to visit the Lunatic Asylum and other Institutions under their charge, which were referred to the business committee for consideration.

Dr. Stribling read a dissertation on the employment of male attendants in the female wards of Lunatic Hospitals, which was discussed.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock, this evening.

THIRD DAY.—EVENING SESSION.

The Association met at 9 o'clock. The paper read by Dr. Stribling, at the morning session, was laid on the table without farther discussion.

Dr. Worthington read a paper entitled "Notes of cases of a peculiar form of disease first described by Dr. Bell, in a paper read before Association of Superintendents, at its meeting in Utica, in the year 1849," which was discussed, but without concluding its consideration, the Association adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, at half past 8 o'clock.

FOURTH DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment. The minutes of the proceedings of yesterday were read and adopted.

Dr. Curwen moved the appointment of a committee of three on finance: Drs. Curwen, Buttolph and Patterson were appointed.

Dr. Ray, as chairman of committee for determining the time and selecting the place for the next meeting, reported that the committee rec-

commended the Association to meet at Baltimore, Maryland, on the second Tuesday of May, 1853, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Report of committee adopted.

The invitations received yesterday to visit the Steamer Atlantic, and the Lunatic Asylum, and other institutions on Blackwell's Island, were accepted; the former for 11 A. M., and the latter for 1 P. M. this day.

The paper read by Dr. Worthington was further discussed and laid upon the table.

Dr. Kirkbride read a paper on the comparative advantages of steam and hot water in heating Hospitals for the Insane, large and small, with any attempt to fix the ratio of radiating surface to the space to be warmed in the climate of the northern sections of the United States. Paper discussed and laid upon the table.

On motion adjourned to 8 o'clock this evening.

FOURTH DAY.—EVENING SESSION.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment.

Dr. Curwen, from committee on finance, reported that no expenses had been incurred at this meeting of the Association.

Dr. Kirkbride reported that there was five dollars and forty-eight cents remaining in his hands, as Treasurer of the Association.

Dr. Jarvis made a partial report on the connection between insanity and crime, which was received, laid upon the table, but afterwards referred back to him for full report at the next meeting of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That within two months of the adjournment of the Association, the President be requested to assign to each member a subject on which he shall make a written report at the next meeting.

On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That the Association discuss the subject of the proper disposition of insane criminals in State Prisons, which was done. On motion of the same, it was

Resolved, That Dr. Bell be appointed to prepare and present to the next meeting of the Association a report on the proper disposition to be made of persons charged with crime, but found to be insane before trial; of persons acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity, and of insane criminals, in State Prisons; both in reference to the best interests of the insane generally, and the community at large.

Dr. Curwen offered the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That in the untiring perseverance with which Miss D. L. Dix has continued her labors in behalf of the Insane, this Association recognizes the same ardent philanthropy and zealous benevolence which has hitherto characterized all her exertions.

Resolved, That we would earnestly recommend to the public attention and consideration, her plans and efforts in this regard, and that we will do all in our power to aid in the advancement of the benevolent purposes to which she has, for so long a period, in so self-sacrificing a manner, devoted her time and her best energies.

Dr. Butler presented to the Members of the Association, a volume containing a "Discourse, in commemoration of the life, character and services of the Rev. Thomas H. Gallaudet, L. L. D."

Gen'l A. Macdonald, presented Lithographic prints of the late James Macdonald, M. D.,—also copies of a eulogistic discourse on his character and services in the treatment of the insane.

On motion, adjourned to meet at half-past 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FIFTH DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

Association met agreeably to adjournment. The minutes of the proceedings of yesterday were read and adopted.

On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the Association have visited and examined with great satisfaction the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane, under the care of Dr. Nichols; Sandford Hall, under the medical superintendence of Drs. Ogden and Buel, and the Blackwell's Island Asylum for the Insane, under the care of Dr. Ranney, and offer to all these gentlemen their cordial thanks for their courtesy and attention, and for the generous hospitality extended to them on these different occasions.

Resolved, That to Allan Macdonald, Esq., brother, and to Mrs. Eliza H. Macdonald, widow of our late esteemed and lamented friend and associate, James Macdonald, M. D., the Association is indebted for the elegant hospitality, and the unwearied efforts which made the visit of the Members to Flushing of the most delightful character.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association are due, and are hereby tendered to the committee of the Bloomingdale Asylum, the Governors of the New-York Hospital, and Blackwell's Island public institutions, and to the Directors of the King's County Hospital, for the invitations to visit the different establishments under their control.

Resolved, That our thanks are especially due to James Brown, Esq., President of the New-York and Liverpool Steamship Company, for his invitation to visit the U. S. Mail Steamer Atlantic, Capt. West, and for his great courtesy and attention in affording the members every facility for examining that noble specimen of American enterprise, alike honorable to its projector and the country.

Resolved, That our thanks are tendered to D. D. Howard, Esq., proprietor of the Irving House, for his liberal provision for the meetings of the Association, and for which, from its benevolent character, he declined receiving compensation.

Resolved, That the Association cannot refrain from expressing the high gratification they have experienced in finding, after a careful examination of the Blackwell's Island Lunatic Asylum, the very marked improvement in nearly every department of that large establishment, since their previous visit, four years since.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to notify the different parties alluded to, of the adoption of the foregoing resolutions.

On motion of Dr. Ray,

Resolved, That the Association adjourn, to meet in the city of Baltimore, Md., on the second Tuesday of May, 1853, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

H. A BUTTOLPH,

Secretary.