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ARTICLE I.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY, BUILDINGS, AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, EX-
TRACTED PRINCIPALLY FROM THE REPORTS OF THOMAS S.
KIRKBRIDE, M. D., PHYSICIAN TO THE INSTITUTION.

HISTORY.—In the year 1751, a number of the benevolent citizens of Philadelphia were incorporated by an act of the Provincial Assembly as “The Contributors to the Pennsylvania Hospital.” Their charter was general in its character, and provided for “the relief of the sick and the reception and cure of lunatics.”

The distressed condition of the insane of the province, the entire want of accommodations for their reception, and the absence of all judicious treatment were pre-eminently set forth in all the public appeals, and in all the official documents relative to this new undertaking.

From the first opening of the institution, on the 11th of February, 1752, an insane department has always constituted a prominent part of this noble charity, and has claimed a large share of the attention and benevolent labors of its distinguished medical officers and managers.

For a long period of years, it was far in advance of all other receptacles of the insane in the United States; and having the advantage of physicians like Bond, Shippen, Rush, Wistar, Physick and others, of equal celebrity, its wards for this description of patients were constantly filled,

and its advantages eagerly sought by patients from the most distant sections of the Union.

From private contributions and legacies this institution has always mainly relied, for its support and for the means of extending its usefulness. Principally from these sources, and from a judicious care of its funds, by its early boards of managers, have arisen the noble buildings, which occupy the square between Spruce and Pine and 8th and 9th sts., in the city of Philadelphia, now used only for medical, surgical and obstetric patients; and those more recently erected, two miles from Philadelphia, devoted entirely to the Insane, and which will be described in detail in the following pages.

The insane were received and treated in the Hospital in the city of Philadelphia till the spring of 1841, and up to that period four thousand three hundred and sixty-six had received the benefits of its care. Of this number, one thousand four hundred and ninety-three were restored to their families perfectly cured; nine hundred and thirteen were discharged improved; nine hundred and ninety-five were removed by their friends without material improvement; two hundred and fifty-six eloped, principally before the square in the city was permanently enclosed; six hundred and ten died; and one hundred and ten were transferred to the new "Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane."

Although all practicable means had been employed for the comfort and restoration of the insane patients, it became evident long since, that great disadvantages were necessarily attendant upon a city location—in connection with a sick hospital, and without a distinct medical organization. These circumstances had for several years induced the Board of Managers to look forward to a removal of this class of patients from the old building, as soon as sufficient funds could be procured for the construction and endowment of a new Hospital.

For this purpose, the resources of the Hospital were husbanded with great care, and the wise foresight of its early managers, in securing the then vacant lots immediately

around the old Institution, ultimately enabled their successors to effect this long cherished object in the most liberal manner.

Several of the lots just adverted to, were purchased at different periods for the sum of eight thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven dollars and twenty-seven cents, and were directed to be sold by the contributors, at special meetings in the years 1832 and 1835. The proceeds of these sales were specially appropriated to the purchase of grounds and the erection of a Hospital for the Insane, and the amount of purchase money and interest received therefrom amounted to about three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars—with which sum the various improvements, now known as ‘THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,’ have been completed.

The corner stone of the new building was laid on the 22d of June, 1836. It is located on a fine farm of 111 acres, about two miles west of the city of Philadelphia, between the Westchester and Haverford roads, on the latter of which is the gate of entrance. The building was nearly completed by the fall of 1840, when Dr. Thos. S. Kirkbride, who continues to direct its operations, received the appointment of Physician to the Institution. Under his superintendence, its organization and arrangements were completed, and the building opened for the reception of patients on the 1st day of the year 1841.

BUILDINGS.—The centre buildings and main wings of the new Hospital present an eastern front of four hundred and thirty-six feet, and consist of a basement and two principal stories. The basement throughout is surrounded by an area seven feet wide at the bottom, and six feet below the surrounding ground, to which handsomely sodded sloping banks gradually ascend. The area is paved with brick, and at its outer edge is surrounded by permanent gutters, connecting with large culverts.

The centre building is ninety-six feet deep—sixty-three feet wide, east of its junction with the wings—and sixty-

This One

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seven on its western side. The former, which is the principal front, is built of cut stone and ornamented with a handsome doric portico; the western has also a portico of smaller dimensions, and like the rest of the Hospital is of stone, stuccoed to resemble the eastern front.

Spacious arched halls cross this building at right angles in each of the stories; those passing north and south are twelve feet wide and continuous with the corridors of the wings; the others are fourteen feet wide and contain the stairways, which in the principal stories are six feet wide, and like *all* the stairways leading from the upper story, are, with the exception of the stepping board and hand-rail, constructed entirely of iron and firmly secured to the wall.

In the basement is the kitchen, thirty-six by twenty-two feet, in which are fixtures of approved construction for steaming, baking, &c.,—store-rooms, a family dining room, a similar one for the domestics, and a room for furnaces and the storage of fuel. The kitchen and passage ways are laid with flag-stone embedded in mortar, and under the centre building is a commodious cellar.

In the principal story is the managers' room, (which is also the steward's office,) a family parlour, each twenty-four by nineteen feet, and two large rooms thirty-six by twenty feet, used as reception rooms for visitors, and for collecting the patients on the Sabbath, or on other occasions.

Communicating with the corridors of the wings and with the hall of the centre, are rooms, in which patients can have a private interview with their friends, without exposure, either to other patients or to visitors to the house.

In the second story are the Physician's office,—in which are kept the medicine and the library,—chambers for the officers resident in the Hospital, and two parlors, similar in size to the large rooms on the first floor, handsomely furnished and intended for the better class of convalescent patients.

The centre building is surmounted by a dome of good proportions, in which are placed the iron tanks, from which water is conveyed to every part of the building. The sum-

mit of the dome is eighty-five feet above the level of the basement, and from it, the panoramic view is one of great beauty; embracing a large extent of country—several flourishing villages—distant views of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, with their shipping—the Girard College, and the city of Philadelphia, with many of its more prominent objects.

The main Hospital is covered throughout with zinc or copper, and all its cornices, window sills, &c., are of cut stone, similar to that used for the front of the centre building. The basement *story* of the centre, and *all* the stories of the wings are thirteen feet six inches high; the two principal stories in the centre are eighteen feet nine inches.

Passing north and south from the centre building are the *main wings*; the north is occupied by the male, and the south by the female patients, and they do not differ materially in their structure or arrangements. On the west side of the basement is a passage-way ten feet wide, and laid in cement; opposite to this in each wing, is a dining room forty-two by twenty-four feet—another twenty-four feet square, lodging rooms for the domestics of the establishment, and rooms for the bath-boilers, for warm-air furnaces, and for the storage of fuel. There is also in the basement a bake house, ironing room, &c.

The principal story consists of a corridor twelve feet wide, with the patients' chambers on each side of it; these rooms are thirty in number, eight by ten feet, and are eleven feet high to the springing line, and twelve and a half feet to the crown of the arch. In each chamber is a glazed window, five feet by three and a half, and over each door is an unglazed iron sash, sixteen by thirty-two inches; by means of which a free circulation of light and air is at all times permitted. At the end of the corridor adjoining the centre building is a private stairway, and at the other, is a parlor twenty-nine by twenty-five feet, having by its side one of the main stairways leading to the upper story. The doors at this end of the hall lead to one of the private yards.

There are also, store rooms for the patients' clothing, and a room containing the funnel by which soiled clothes, bedding, &c., are conveyed from both stories to the basement.

Running to the west and at right angles to those just described, are the *return wings*, having a corridor *ten* feet wide, on one side of which are eight chambers, similar to those already mentioned; opposite to these are three rooms each seventeen by thirteen and a half feet, intended for patients who wish superior accommodations, or who have private attendants,—a wash room, water closet, and a bath room, in which is every convenience for the douche, hot, cold, and shower baths. The patients occupying these different divisions, are separated by large folding doors, which can be thrown open at pleasure.

The upper story is similar in its arrangements and fixtures to that just described, except that the main wing is divided, and that the patients occupying one section of it, are intended to have access to the large parlor in the centre building, and pass to the basement by the private stairway.

The basement and passages of the centre building and every part of the wings, except the parlors and some of the lodging rooms below, are arched throughout.

Cast iron window sash, having glass six by fifteen inches, is used in all the patients' chambers, and by its peculiar arrangement, this hospital presents neither bars nor the extra sash which is almost universally met with. The upper and lower sash work in an iron frame, in which they are so exactly balanced, that no difficulty is experienced in moving them. They rise and fall simultaneously to the extent of six inches, when a *stop* prevents their further progress.—Space is thus given for ventilation without the risk of an escape.

Large glass, and wooden sash are used in all the parlors; in those in the wing, a slight wire screen, similar to that frequently seen in private dwellings, is placed on the outside of the lower sash; in those in the centre, ornamental cast iron screens are employed—both being intended to prevent acci-

dents from sudden impulse, and neither offering anything unsightly either on the inside or outside of the building.

Most of the corridors have a handsome carpet, six feet wide, in their whole extent—improving their appearance, and contributing materially to the quiet of the house, by diminishing the sound made by their being used as a promenade during the day—and enabling those who are passing at night, to do so, without disturbing the patients who have retired. The parlors are generally carpeted and neatly furnished; every chamber where the state of the patient will permit it, has a bedstead, straw and hair matrass, table, chair, looking glass, and strip of carpet; and when desired by the friends of patients, still more furniture may be introduced.

Of the bedsteads now in the house, about fifty are of cast iron, neatly made and painted, and so constructed that they can be firmly secured to the floor, and that vermin cannot possibly be harbored in them; the remainder are of wood, and differ in no respect from what are commonly found in boarding houses.

Thirty-one feet, north and south of the main hospital, and nearly on a line with the eastern front of its centre, are placed the *detached buildings*, or *lodges*—one for each sex—which were authorised to be built by the contributors in 1841. They are also of stone, one story high, and built on three sides of a hollow square; the fourth being finished with piers and an open iron railing, giving free access to the air, and a handsome view of the deer park or surrounding scenery. These buildings are ninety-five feet on the west, and seventy-three on the other two sides—have their cellars arched, and a slate roof. Each building contains rooms for the accommodation of eighteen or twenty patients and their attendants,—a complete apparatus for bathing, water closet, &c.

These rooms are arranged specially for the accommodation of noisy and violent patients; they are placed on the outer side of the building, looking into a passage way eight

feet wide, and finely lighted by numerous windows opening on the court yard, which is surrounded by a brick pavement, ten feet wide, enclosing a grass plot in its centre.

At the back of each room, near the ceiling, which is eleven feet high, is a glazed window three feet two inches, by eight inches, controlled by a cord which passes over pulleys into the hall. On the inner side of each room, in addition to the door, is a cast iron sash, twenty by thirty-seven inches, which may be glazed, or in front of which may be slid a close, wire, or glazed shutter, according to circumstances.

In each of these buildings, three distinct classes of patients can be accommodated; and from their position and structure, the most noisy will offer no annoyance to the inmates of the main hospital, while their accommodations will be scarcely less comfortable.

These lodges have proved an admirable part of the hospital, they are so near the main building as in no way to diminish the facility of supervision, and yet being entirely disconnected with it, they answer the objects of their erection much better, than any apartments in the main structure could possibly do. Every years experience has gone to confirm, the great value of this species of detached building, with attendants always in them, for certain classes of patients, and to prove that the objections occasionally made, do not exist in practice.

All these buildings have been constructed of the best materials, and in the most substantial and durable manner, and as will have been observed from the description are almost perfectly fire proof.

The *Workshop*, is a handsome frame building twenty by forty feet, two stories high, and situated near the gateway. The lower story is intended for carpenter work, turning, basket making, &c.—the upper room is plastered, and may be used for mattrass making, and other pursuits requiring space or for some of the amusements of the patients.

The buildings which were on the farm at the time of its purchase, (in addition to the residence of the Physician

within the enclosure) consist of a comfortable house for the farmer, an adjoining one for the gardener, a spring-house, an ice-house, coach house, barn, &c., outside of the wall, and near the public entrance.

HEATING APPARATUS.—The hospital buildings are warmed by thirty-four air furnaces, burning anthracite coal, and supplied with air to be heated, through openings on the outside of the building. Of these furnaces, twenty-six are placed in the basement story of the main hospital, and four in the cellar of each detached building. By these means, during the severest weather, a regular and pleasant temperature has been given to all the parlors, halls, and chambers, occupied by the patients and their attendants, in every part of the establishment.

By large openings, with valves which regulate the supply, the heated air is freely admitted into all the parlors and corridors; and between the latter and the chambers, there is a free communication by means of the unglazed transom sash over each door, and if desired, during the day, by the doors themselves.

In addition to this, there is provision for giving a further supply of heat to each chamber; on the first floor, from the stone covering the warm air flue, which is about twenty inches wide, and passes along the inner side of each room; and in the second story, by the admission of the heated air through a valve, opening into the room, and out of reach of the patients.

In the Lodges, the warm air is admitted into the passages in a similar manner, and into every room by valves, out of reach of the patients, and controlled from the hall.

VENTILATION —Near the top of each chamber in the main building, is an opening six inches in diameter, from which a flue passes to the attic, and communicates with the external air, by means of numerous openings in the roof. The arrangement of the chamber windows gives for each when open, a free space, twelve by thirty-four inches, and the current of air is carried across the building, through the door-

ways and the open sash above them. The corridors have either large doors or windows at their terminations, and by opening these, the whole of the wing is thoroughly ventilated in a very short period.

In the detached buildings, each room has one or more openings in the ceiling, six inches square, which communicate with the attic, and thence with the external atmosphere; they are opened and closed by means of a cord which passes over pulleys into the passage.

At each end of each division, (four in all) of this passage way, is an opening similar in design and arrangement. All the ventilators and hot air valves are so constructed, that their position is known at a glance, without entering the patients' rooms.

Fourteen windows, three feet six inches, by four feet nine inches, opening on the courtyard, with the ventilation windows outside, and the door, and iron sash within, give a free ventilation across the building. In addition to the ordinary tight door, there is an open iron one neatly made and painted, at each outer termination of the passage way, by means of which a free current of air is allowed to pass whenever desirable—and the patients restricted to the halls during the summer, are thus given a fine view of the surrounding scenery.

SUPPLY OF WATER.—Near the southeast angle of the hospital property, and more than seven hundred feet from the centre building, is a one story stone structure, sixty-one by twenty-five feet, in which is the pump, driven by horse power, by means of which water is forced into the iron reservoirs in the dome of the centre building. Two horses are able to raise nearly fifteen hundred gallons per hour, through eight hundred and forty-five feet of pipe, to an elevation of one hundred and six feet.

This water is derived from a number of springs which arise on the premises, and empty into a pond one hundred and ninety-five by forty-five feet, and of an average depth of about four feet. From this pond, the water is conveyed

by an iron pipe into the large cistern with which the pump communicates. In addition to this source of supply, a small stream passing through the grounds, can at any time be turned into the cistern should circumstances render it necessary. The reservoirs in the dome contain about six thousand gallons, and two small tanks in the return wings, contain about five hundred gallons each, and from them the water is conveyed to every section of the buildings for bathing and other purposes. The average daily consumption is near three thousand gallons.

In the building just described, are all the fixtures for washing and drying clothes, by means of which an abundance of unpleasant effluvium is kept out of the Hospital. Soiled articles are thrown down the *funnels* in the different wards, and are regularly taken from the receiving rooms in the basement to the wash-house, from which they are returned when ready for the ironing-room. The location of this building, and of the ample drying grounds attached to it, is such, that they can scarce be seen from the Hospital.

DRAINAGE.—The Hospital stands upon a high part of the farm, and has a descent from it in every direction. Commencing at the western side of the centre building, is the main culvert, which empties outside of the wall into a small stream of water, forty-five feet below the elevation on which the building stands, and more than three hundred and fifty feet from it. Into this *main*, empty the *branch* culverts, which lead from the western terminations of the return wings, each being about one hundred and seventy-six feet long.

The culverts which drain the yards, the roofs, and all the washings, of the *detached buildings*, commence under the bath-rooms, join the *branch* culverts near the commencement, and are each about two hundred and seventy feet long.

All the openings into these various culverts are secured by the most approved apparatus for preventing the escape of effluvium, and the culverts themselves are sufficiently large to allow a man to pass through their whole extent.

PLEASURE GROUND AND FARM.—Of the one hundred and eleven acres in the farm, about forty-one around the Hospital are specially appropriated as a vegetable garden and the pleasure ground of the patients, and are surrounded by a substantial stone-wall. This wall is five thousand four hundred and eighty three feet long, and is ten and a half feet high.

Owing to the favorable character of the ground, the wall has been so placed that it can be seen but in a very small part of its extent, from any one position; and the enclosure is so large, that its presence exerts no unpleasant influence upon those within. Although it is probably sufficient to prevent the escape of a large proportion of the patients, that is a matter of small moment, in comparison with the quiet and privacy which it at all times affords, and the facility with which the patients are enabled to engage in labor, to take exercise, or to enjoy the active scenes which are passing around them, without fear of annoyance from the gaze of idle curiosity or the remarks of unfeeling strangers. Our location gives us the many advantages afforded by a thickly settled district, and proximity to a large city, and the wall obviates most of its disadvantages. Immense utility has been found to result from having such *large pleasure grounds, enclosed, and by a wall so admirably located, and not the slightest objection of any kind.*

Immediately in front of the Hospital, is a lawn forming a segment of a circle, in which is a circular rail-road and extensive flower borders. To the east of this, and passing into the woods, is the *deer-park*, surrounded by a high pallisade, and forming an effectual and not unsightly division of the ground appropriated to the different sexes; from various points of which, and from the whole eastern front of the building, it is seen to much advantage.

The pleasure ground is beautifully undulating, interspersed with clumps and groves of fine forest trees, and from every division of it, as well as from every room in the main Hospital, is a handsome view; either of the surrounding country and villages, the rivers in the distance, or the public roads in its immediate vicinity.

The groves are fitted up with seats, and ornamental summer houses, and are the favorite resort of the patients, during the warm weather. That on the west, from the position of the wall, does not appear to be inclosed, and offers full view of two public roads, of the farm and meadow, a mill race, a fine stream of running water, and two large manufactories. The grove on the east is not less pleasant, and the views from it are equally animated. This last surrounds the pond, in which is found a variety of fish.

On the north and south side of the building are private yards, one hundred and seventeen feet wide, and extending two hundred feet from the return wings which form one of their sides. These yards are enclosed by a tight board fence seven and a half feet high, and are surrounded with a brick pavement, which affords a fine promenade at all seasons.

The fences around these yards, like the wall itself, have been constructed, not so much to confine the patients, as for the sake of privacy, and to protect them from the gaze of visitors.

The remaining seventy acres, outside the wall, are cultivated by the farmer, and, with the grass obtained within it, furnish pasture and hay for the large dairy, which supplies both Hospitals with cream and milk during the whole year. From this source are also obtained some grain, and all the potatoes and other vegetables that are required in large quantities. Ample opportunities for agricultural labor are thus afforded for all patients, for whom it may be deemed beneficial.

ORGANIZATION.—The government of the Pennsylvania Hospital is vested in a Board of twelve Managers, who give their services gratuitously, and who are elected annually by the Contributors.

To this Board is entrusted the general management of the Institution and its funds—the regulation of its domestic economy—the admission and discharge of patients, and the

election of Physicians and other officers. In addition to their duties in the city, the attending Managers pay one official visit, weekly, to the Hospital for the Insane, to inspect the accounts, to examine the house and grounds, and to see that the patients receive the proper care and attention.

The Officers of the Hospital for the Insane, are

1. *A Physician*, who resides upon the premises, to whom is confided the general superintendence of the establishment—the sole direction of the medical, moral and dietetic treatment of the patients, and the selection or approval of all persons employed in their care.

2. *An Assistant Physician*, living in the Hospital, who prepares and dispenses all medicine prescribed for the patients—devotes himself to their care—sees that all directions respecting them are faithfully carried out, and that the attendants, and others employed in the wards, fail not in the performance of their duties.

3. *A Steward*, who takes care that the buildings and grounds are kept in good order—makes all the purchases for the house—receives all monies due the Institution for board, &c.—makes engagements with those employed—pays them for their services, and settles all accounts against the Hospital.

4. *A Matron*, who has the general charge of the domestic economy of the house—the cooking and distribution of the food, and of the female domestics, and attends specially to the comfort of the female patients.

In the wings, the following persons are employed :

1. *Supervisors*, one for each sex, whose duty it is to pass their time among the patients in the different wards and pleasure grounds—to endeavor to interest, employ and amuse them in every way in their power, and to see that all the rules for the attendants in their intercourse with the patients, are rigorously observed. Before retiring at night, the Supervisors furnish the Physician with a written report of whatever has come under their observation during the day.

2. *Attendants*, who have the immediate care of the patients—sleep in the same divisions of the house—attend them in the dining rooms—accompany them in their walks, rides, or amusements—assist them when engaged in manual labor, and take the entire charge of the halls, chambers, and clothing of the patients, as may be directed by the Physician.

The buildings of this Hospital admit of six distinct wards in each wing, making as many complete classes of patients for each sex. To each ward is assigned two attendants—so that at all times there is one attendant in the presence of the patients, and one who may be walking or riding with them under his care, or performing other duties that may necessarily take him out of his appropriate division. The only exception to this rule is in the two wards of each lodge, where three attendants are found sufficient to keep up the supervision and perform all other duties—two being generally out of doors with a majority of the patients, and the other having the care of those who remain in the wards.

The number of attendants employed, is generally one for every 7 or 8 patients, exclusive of special attendants, the number of whom varies at different times from 2 or 3 to more than double those numbers.

3. *A Watchman*, who attends to the safety of the building on account of fire—visits every part occupied by the *male* patients, frequently during the night—attends to the administration of medicine when required—starts the kitchen fires and rings the bell in the morning—sees that all rules are faithfully observed, and before retiring to rest, makes a written report to the Physician, of his observations during the night. At 6 A. M. his duties as Watchman cease for the day.

4. *A Watch-woman*, who is governed by the same rules as the watchman, and whose duties are similiar. except that her time is spent entirely in the wards occupied by the *female* patients.

In addition to those just mentioned, whose duties bring them directly in contact with the patients, there are employed in the Hospital and resident there—a gate-keeper—a coachman—a jobber—a baker—a fireman—one cook—one assistant cook—three attendants in dining rooms—two chambermaids, and four washerwomen. The farmer and gardener reside outside of the enclosure.

TREATMENT. The *medical* treatment of patients in this institution, is varied of course, according to the peculiar symptoms, presented by each case, and a detail of which would be out of place in a notice like the present. Baths, for which ample provision is made in the different wards, are used very extensively, and all the means of moral treatment in its varied ramifications, are constantly resorted to, for the benefit of the patients. Out door labor in the garden—on the grounds, or farm—mechanical employments of different kinds—riding in the circular railway—ten pins—carriage riding, or long walks to the many objects of interest in and about the city of Philadelphia;—the use of musical instruments—attendance at parties, lectures and concerts—all the usual variety of games—a library of near 1000 volumes, and a great variety of periodicals, are some of the many means which come under this category.

During fine weather at all seasons of the year, the arrangements of this establishment enable a very large part of all the patients to take active exercise, and to spend a large portion of the entire day in the open air.

Those patients who are well enough, attend divine worship in some of the churches in the vicinity, and nearly all attend the reading of the Bible, on the evening of every Sabbath.

RESTRAINT. Restraining apparatus has very rarely been used in this establishment, and the seclusion of patients to their chambers, is resorted to as little as possible. Several months have frequently elapsed without any form of apparatus being employed, and very often out of from 150 to 170

patients, many days elapse without a single one being confined to their room, even for a single hour.

No restraint is ever employed without the express direction of the physician—no apparatus is ever kept in the wards, and the only form ever used, are the invaluable apparatus for retaining certain classes of patients on their beds at night—the leather mittens and wristbands or some still simpler substitute for the latter. Although cases requiring even these means of restraint are not numerous, still the experience of this institution thus far has been, that they may occasionally be employed with advantage to a patient. Special pains are taken to avoid *long continued seclusion*, the bad effects of which among the insane, are believed often to be still greater than what arise from mechanical means of restraint.

ADMISSION OF PATIENTS.—All classes of insane persons, without regard to the duration of the disease or of its curability, are admitted into this institution, upon securing the payment of a reasonable rate of board, by the obligation of some responsible resident of the city or county of Philadelphia. Cases of *Mania a Potu* are never received into this hospital—but that in the city, exclusively.

In addition to those patients who pay for their board, a limited number from the State of Pennsylvania is received on the free list, and supported by the Institution without charge of any kind. The number thus admitted is regulated by the income of the Corporation, and of this class there is generally from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty under care, in the two Hospitals, of whom about one fourth are insane.

In order to extend as widely as possible the benefits of this charity, it has been deemed advisable to restrict the admission of insane persons on this list, to recent cases and but for a limited period; so that if no indications of recovery are seen after a reasonable trial, they may be discharged to make room for other applicants. If improving when

their term is ended, they are generally continued till their restoration is complete.

No person about the Hospital, except the officers, knows who are free patients, and there is no distinction made in their accommodations, but what the character of their disease, or their previous pursuits have rendered necessary.

THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, as has been before observed, was opened for the admission of patients on the 1st day of January, 1841, and 93 patients, in a short period, were removed from the Hospital in the city to the new location. A few followed after the completion of the 'odges. Of them, nearly all were incurable, and had been residents of the old Institution for various periods from 3 to 40 years. Exclusive of these, the following table shows the number of patients admitted, and the average number and the highest number under care each year since the opening of the Hospital.

	1841	1842	1843	1844
1st. Admissions,	83	111	140	153
2d. Average number,	104	114	132	151
3d. Highest number,	116	127	145	163
4th. Total number,	176	238	258	285

The number of admissions for the present year, up to this date, (August 1st,) has been 102, and the highest number in the house at one time has been 171. The wing devoted to males has been crowded for two months past, owing mainly however to the unusual preponderance of male patients, during the present summer, as the whole building when completely filled is capable of accommodating 180 patients with their attendants.

AUGUST 1st, 1845.