

FOURTH REPORT
OF THE
VISITING COMMITTEE

TO VISIT THE
HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

1881.

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REPORT.

HON. JOHN H. GEAR, *Governor of Iowa*:

ANOTHER biennial period is past, and again it becomes the duty of your committee to make a report of their proceedings.

The *personnel* of the committee remains the same as at our last report; one member has been absent from the State for the past five months, and the duties devolving upon the committee have been performed by the other members as well as possible under the circumstances. The monthly visits of inspection have been regularly made at each hospital, and the examination into the condition of the different wards and departments has been thorough;—they have been found cleanly, bedding of good quality and sufficient, the quantity of food abundant, and the quality excellent. Patients are freely conversed with at each visit, and their complaints attended to and alleviated as far as possible when there appears to be any cause for complaint.

RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE FUTURE POLICY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INSANE.

The hospitals for the insane are too constantly over-crowded to become in the highest degree successful in the cure of their cases, and we believe that the Hospital at Independence should, as soon as practicable, be completed according to its original design; the Superintendent could then make his classification more complete.

The Superintendent at Mount Pleasant Hospital will ask for an extension of that building (so as to increase his room and improve the classification) by changing three small wards in each wing into full-sized ones, thereby increasing the capacity of the Hospital about 120 patients. We believe this addition very desirable.

There are now 1,068 patients in the hospitals. A large per cent of these are incurable, and this class is constantly increasing in hospital. There are out of hospital, scattered around in the different counties, about 500 chronic insane and incurables. Most of the counties have no suitable places provided for them, and they are kept in jails and poor-houses, and some farmed out to the lowest bidder. There is, also,

a class of State patients accumulating in the hospitals, mostly tramps, who have not a residence in any county; these bid fair to increase to such an extent as to take up a large per cent of the hospital room to which the residents of the State are entitled. This condition of our hospitals brings us to a consideration of the means by which we may from time to time unload our curative institutions of the surplus of chronic and incurable cases. Two plans have been considered by your committee, for this purpose, as follows:

First, by erecting additional buildings upon the hospital farms, substantial two-story brick structures, not costing more than \$5 per patient for the number accommodated.

This plan might include a home for convalescents, which would be very desirable. All these to be under the same supervision as the present hospitals, supplied from the central or hospital building, and possibly heated from the same stern-heating apparatus.

The other plan is to obtain a suitable location, centrally situated in the State, and the buildings to be of the same class as described in the first; they should be planned so that they could be added to as necessity required.

We would recommend the first plan, except for two or three important considerations. Eventually there will be needed one, and, perhaps, two hospitals in the western part of the State, of the same character as those we already have. Another objection to the first plan is, that we do not think the location of either of the present hospitals desirable: they are too far from railroads, making transportation of supplies expensive; the farms are not first-class; the water supply is not permanent at either place; and these are all grave objections in such establishments.

Taking into consideration all the points, we regard the second plan as the best one for the future, and we consider as imperative the necessity for the immediate commencement of the institution.

We consider the management of both hospitals during the biennial period to have been good. The mortality has been at least as light as in other institutions of the same character; and, considering the constantly crowded condition of the wards, we think the hospitals, on the whole, have been very successfully conducted. Very few cases of complaint have occurred, and no general charge has been made against either hospital, except at Mt. Pleasant, and this was investigated by the committee, with the result as stated in this report.

It is to be regretted that Dr. A. Reynolds, Superintendent at Inde-

pendence Hospital, should have found it necessary to resign his position on account of ill-health, and we regard the loss of his services to the institution as a serious one.

The water supply at the Hospital at Independence has been scanty during most of the biennial period, and we regard the supply from the present sources as only temporary. We think the best policy is to put in pumping works and bring an abundant supply from the river, as the best and most available point.

INVESTIGATIONS DURING THE BIENNIAL PERIOD.

Mt. Pleasant, December 2, 1880.

Visiting Committee, S. B. Olney, chairman, T. W. Fawcett, secretary, met at the Iowa Hospital for Insane at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, this second day of December, 1880, to examine into the case of Mrs. Frances E. Thompson, a patient in said Hospital from Des Moines, Polk county, charges having been made by certain persons claiming to be her relatives, residing in and about Panora, Guthrie county, Iowa: said charges being made to Governor Gear, in a communication sent him by S. B. Nichols, of Panora, Iowa, and which were to the effect that the said Mrs. Thompson is not now insane, and should no longer be detained in the Hospital; and the said relatives petition the Governor that the said Mrs. Thompson be discharged from Hospital and sent to them for support. The question for the committee to decide is as to sanity, and whether she is improperly detained in Hospital.

In pursuance of this inquiry the committee have examined into the history of her case, and find that the beginning of her mental derangement was on or about the first of February, 1877, and was puerperal mania, attended with great aversion to her husband, Mr. John B. Thompson. She was kept at his residence in Des Moines until about the first of April of said year, and then went to her sister, Mrs. Lotspiech, of Ottumwa, Iowa, and remained with her until about September 1, 1877; not improving, she was sent to her sister at Hampton, Indiana, where she remained until about the first of August, 1878, when she was taken to Bellevue Place, Batavia, Illinois, in care of R. J. Patterson, M. D., superintendent of said hospital, by her brother, A. F. Armstrong, now of Irvington, Indiana; and about the twenty-second of the following October, as shown by the records, was removed to Mt. Pleasant Hospital, where she now remains as a patient.

And from the acquaintance the committee has had with the said Mrs. Thompson for the last two years, and a lengthy conversation we have had with her this day, and also from the opinion of Dr. Ranney, Superintendent of the said hospital; and further, from all the information we can gather from the correspondence of her brother and sister; also from her own letters, covering the whole period, as stated above, we come to the conclusion that she is insane, and a proper subject for custody, care and treatment in said Hospital; and further, that from her frequently expressed threats against her husband's life, and reiterated determination, if she gets out, to have possession of her child, right or wrong, it would not be safe or right to release her from custody in the Hospital. And further, that we do not find that her husband does desire to have her detained in Hospital any longer than necessary for her full recovery; and we think the wishes of her husband and her nearest relatives should be consulted in the case, instead of distant relatives who really know little or nothing about it. We further find that Mrs. Thompson has many insane delusions, one of which is that an individual whom she designates as "Dr. Scott" is her husband, and that she expects him soon to come and remove her from the Hospital (this individual is not Scott at all); and she has many other delusions, at different times, not necessary to mention.

Taking into account all points in Mrs. Thompson's case, gathered from all the data at our command, we are decidedly of the opinion that Mrs. Frances E. Thompson should be detained in Hospital for further treatment.

MT. PLEASANT, IOWA, July 25, 1881.

S. B. Olney, chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Iowa Hospital for the Insane, having visited Mt. Pleasant for the purpose of investigating certain charges against the Hospital for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, published in the Mt. Pleasant *Herald*, and to investigate any other charges, or alleged abuses, that may appear, a subpoena was duly issued to R. C. Brown, editor of said *Herald*, for his appearance forthwith. Subpoena returned duly served. Said Brown appeared and asked until 1:30 p. m. to consult counsel.

1:30 p. m.

A communication was received from R. C. Brown, refusing to appear and testify. Said communication was filed as part of the pro-

ceedings. A telegram was at once sent to Mrs. L. S. Kincaid, a member of the Visiting Committee, requesting her to at once attend the sitting of the committee at this place.

Adjourned till 9 a. m. to-morrow.

JULY 26, 1881—9 A. M.

Mrs. Kincaid not yet having arrived, an adjournment was had until 9 a. m. to-morrow.

JULY 27, 1881—9 A. M.

Visiting Committee met, pursuant to adjournment, at the courtroom in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and directed that subpoena issue to R. C. Brown to appear forthwith. Present: Dr. S. B. Olney, and Mrs. L. S. Kincaid. Mrs. Kincaid was duly elected secretary *pro tem.* of the committee. Subpoena was duly issued and placed in the hands of J. R. Davidson, sheriff of Henry county, Iowa, for service upon R. C. Brown. Subpoena returned by said sheriff, showing personal service on said Brown, by reading and delivering a copy, at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. After waiting an hour and a half, and said Brown not appearing, as said subpoena commanded, it was by said committee ordered that attachment issue against said Brown; whereupon an attachment was issued and placed in the hands of the said J. R. Davidson, sheriff of Henry county, for service. At 11:15 a. m., sheriff returned the writ of attachment, duly served, and produced the body of R. C. Brown before the committee. Whereupon said Brown stated to the committee that his delay in obeying the subpoena was wholly owing to the fact that he was engaged with his counsel in preparing a response to the subpoena; that a delay of a few minutes would be required to complete said response, and asked the committee to grant him that time, which they did. At 12 m., L. A. Palmer appeared as counsel for Brown and asked adjournment till half past one, to give time to answer subpoena, which was not yet complete. Subpoena was duly issued, at the suggestion of Dr. Ranney, for J. H. Madison and Clark King.

Adjournment to 1:30 p. m. of this day.

1:30 p. m.

Committee resumed sitting. At this hour communication was received from said Brown, making statements, the contents of which were read to the committee, said Brown being present in person, and by his counsel, L. G. and L. A. Palmer. Said counsel declined to appear on behalf of their client, except by the above communication,

and protested against the jurisdiction of said committee over the client, and against the legality of this committee and its process. Dr. Ranney's counsel requested the committee to require Brown to be sworn to testify as a witness; whereupon the committee called on said Brown to take oath as a witness, which he refused to do. Dr. Ranney's counsel then asked that a mittimus issue for said Brown's custody by the sheriff as a recusant witness. Ordered by the committee that a mittimus issue to the sheriff to take said Brown into the said sheriff's custody, and to produce him before the committee upon to-morrow morning, July 28, at 9 A. M., to which hour the committee would now adjourn. Mittimus duly issued to the sheriff in accordance with said order.

Adjourned till July 28, 1881, at 9 A. M.

JULY 28, 1881—9 A. M.

Committee met pursuant to adjournment. J. H. Madison was sworn as a witness and placed on the stand. While he was testifying, the proceedings were interrupted by the entrance into the room of Clark King, who insisted, in spite of the protests of Dr. Ranney's counsel, and the order of the committee, in talking with said Madison while he was on the stand as a witness. On motion of Dr. Ranney's counsel it was ordered that said King be sworn as a witness, and be put under the rule as witness. Said King declined to be sworn. Whereupon, on motion of Dr. Ranney's counsel, it was ordered that a mittimus do issue to the sheriff of said county, directing him to take said King into custody, as a recusant witness, and permit no one to have intercourse with him except his own counsel, until the further order of the committee; and that said King be brought before the committee as soon as he showed his willingness to testify.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Said King was brought before the committee, and, having avowed his readiness to be sworn as a witness, put under rule as such and released from custody of sheriff. The examination on behalf of committee, and cross-examination on behalf of Dr. Ranney, of witness J. H. Madison, having concluded, Clark King was next examined as a witness on behalf of committee, and cross-examined by Dr. Ranney's counsel. George Harkness was also examined, when the committee adjourned to 9 A. M., July 29.

JULY 29, 1881—9 A. M.

Committee resumed sitting. L. A. Palmer, Esq., a practicing attorney of the Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, bar, here appeared at the request of the committee, and assisted the latter in the investigation until the proceedings were closed. At the request of Dr. Ranney's counsel, the fact was ordered to be entered on the record of the proceedings, that R. C. Brown, editor of the Mt. Pleasant *Herald*, was present, sitting by the side of Mr. Palmer, advising and conferring with, and assisting said counsel for the committee in the examination and in his conducting the case. The following witnesses were examined to-day on the part of the committee, and cross-examined on the part of Dr. Ranney: D. J. Nicholson, R. H. Tyler, Frank H. Braderick, C. H. Lyons, Jacob McCoy, Joseph Suito, Hugh Ballentine, O. J. Lawrence, Henry Plumer and J. A. Thomas.

At this point it was suggested that Mrs. Kincaid felt obliged to be absent for a few days, and by consent of L. A. Palmer, counsel for the committee, and of Dr. Ranney and his counsel, and of R. C. Brown, all of whom were present in person, it was agreed that the examination of further witnesses might proceed before the chairman, sitting alone, the testimony to be written out in full for the consideration of the committee in joint session.

Adjourned to July 30, at 9 A. M.

JULY 30, 1881—9 A. M.

Committee resumed sitting. The following named witnesses were examined: Mary Coddington, Meno Trope, Swan J. Nelson, Lewis Clouse, Oliver Dotson and Hoke Rouse (last named called by request of R. C. Brown).

Adjourned to August 1, 1881, at 9 A. M.

AUGUST, 1, 1881—9 A. M.

Committee resumed sitting. The following named witnesses were sworn and examined at the instance of R. C. Brown; viz., Dr. W. S. Marsh, B. C. Walters, Peter Cranz, W. J. Nash, John Courtney, Mrs. Hannah Nash, J. J. Fenton, George Harkness (recalled), John Durk, John Hart, John Maroney and Joseph Thompson.

Adjourned to August 2, at 9 A. M.

AUGUST 2, 1881—9 A. M.

Committee resumed sitting. The following named persons were examined as witnesses, by request of R. C. Brown: viz., Eliza Alston,

John Broberg, Milton Sutton, George Lindsey, Walter Heeler, Timothy Whiting, Andrew Kelson; and at request of Hospital authorities, the following; viz., Philip Summers, P. T. Twining, Butler Buchanan, S. M. Pyle, F. Houseman, J. W. Henderson (Steward of the Hospital).

Adjourned to August 3, 1881, at 9 A. M.

AUGUST 3, 1881—9 A. M.

Committee resumed sitting. The following named witnesses were examined at request of R. C. Brown; viz., Joseph Campbell, Mrs. Mary Bresenham, J. D. Willeford, L. W. Taylor, Hugh O'Hare; and at the instance of the Hospital authorities, J. W. Henderson (recalled at his own request), and R. C. Brown. Milton Sutton was recalled at his own request. L. A. Palmer, Esq., made a professional statement at his own request as to the scope of examination made and the immateriality of witnesses not examined. Mr. Palmer having stated he had no further evidence to offer on the part of the committee, nor of parties having made the charge under investigation, Dr. Mark Ranney, Superintendent of the Hospital, was placed on the witness stand and his testimony not yet concluded when the committee adjourned to 9 A. M., to-morrow.

AUGUST 4, 1881—9 A. M.

Committee resumed sitting. L. W. Taylor, at his own request, was recalled. Dr. Ranney then took the stand and completed his testimony. At its close Dr. Olney announced the following: I find the main charges, as to food and cruelty, not proven. As to the cases of patients Condon and Courtney, I shall reserve the decision on those points for the full committee. I will, with as much speed as practicable, make up my decision in detail and forward the same to the Governor. Adjourned.

In the order as above the investigation of the charges against the Hospital management was conducted and made very thorough and exhaustive. The charges as they appeared in the Mt. Pleasant *Herald* were taken up and examined *seriatim*. Mr. R. C. Brown, the editor of the paper, disclaimed having any knowledge of his own in the matter, but had published such information as came to him from others. When called upon to come before the committee and testify, or to give the names of witnesses whom he claimed would testify as to the charges as specified in the issues of June 16 and 23, 1881, he utterly refused to do so until after the most important witnesses, by whom

the "charges" were expected to be proven, were found and subpoenaed without his assistance. Mr. Brown then came forward and assisted in the investigation.

The main charges were furnished by several employes discharged from the Hospital by the Superintendent, for the reason that they were not doing good service in their positions, and, having a grievance, such witnesses showed a great desire in their testimony to make a case against the management of the Hospital. The following are the charges made, as numbered, in the issues of the *Herald* of June 16 and 23, 1881, and the conclusion arrived at:

JUNE 16.

No. 1. The charge is "a patient was stabbed by an attendant and died in about one week's time."

This case was explained and it was conclusively shown that the injury was accidental, very slight; that the patient died in about a month, and that the injury had nothing to do with his death.

No. 2. "A patient was reported noisy; a dose of medicine was offered him; he threw it at the doctor, who ordered another dose from the dispensary, which the clerk gave, saying 'the man who gets that won't kick much.' This patient died within a few hours." This was testified to by Jno. Madison. The clerk referred to was Lewis H. Munn, formerly drug clerk at the Hospital, now a physician and surgeon in the service of the government in Colorado, as acting assistant surgeon; he denies making any such remark as imputed to him. It was, also, conclusively proven that this patient did not die from the effects of the medicine as described, and that there was nothing unusual in his death.

JUNE 16.

Nos. 3, 4 and 5. In substance these charges were that patients were denied suitable food, or such food as they could eat when ill. The evidence shows that these charges are grossly untrue and unjust, and that sick patients are always furnished with a good quality of light diet, adapted to their constitution.

No. 6. "A new patient was brought in one forenoon, was severely kicked by an old patient, fell to the floor and died in the afternoon of the same day; was reported as dying from a natural cause."

This refers to the case that occurred in 1874, during Dr. Kinney's absence from Hospital and when Dr. Basset was Superintendent.

The chairman of this committee knew of the case at the time it

occurred; it was inquired into by a coroner's jury, and a post-mortem was held by Drs. Marsh and McClure. The decision was that said patient did not die of injuries received in the scuffle with the "old patient."

JUNE 23.

No. 1. "Spoiled meat was frequently served."

This is most positively denied by the testimony of the butcher, Jacob McCoy, and also by the supervisors of both wings. The evidence shows that, with two or three exceptions, the meat had been excellent; that beef, pork, and mutton of the very best quality in the market is bought; and that the meat that was had on one or two occasions was pork, a "little sour," and that when it got to the dining-rooms and was discovered to be bad it was immediately sent 'back to the kitchen and good meat sent in its place, so that no one was obliged to eat of it.

No. 2. "A suit taken from a deceased patient was put on another, and again charged to the State."

This charge is proved to be wholly without foundation by the evidence of the supervisor of the male wards and the book-keeper, who have charge of and issue the clothing.

No. 3. "The body of a husband was refused his wife, and at the same time dissected."

This charge is most positively denied by the Superintendent and supervisor, and both are sure that no such case occurred.

No. 4. "I remember of two cases who died from starvation and want of medical attention."

The evidence shows that this charge is without any just foundation. The witness King, who it seems was the author of this charge, does not swear to it positively, but has it from hearsay, and does not know that the deaths actually resulted from such a cause; other witnesses, knowing more of the affairs of the Hospital than he, swear that no deaths occurred from such causes.

No. 5. "I am sure refuse stuff was taken from the slop-tubs and hashed up for the back wards, where butter was served but once a day, and half of the time was not fit to eat."

This charge arose from the saving of clean pieces of bread left upon the ward tables, and sending them back to the kitchen to be used as the head-cook thought fit; but the cook and car-men swear positively that none but whole pieces and parts of loaves were so used, and only such as were fit for use. Concerning the part of the charge

as to butter, the evidence shows that the Steward procured the best butter possible, and that, during his administration of three years past, the butter market has so improved that much better butter is obtained than formerly; that much of the butter was then packed for winter use, while now he obtains nearly the whole supply in fresh butter from the best manufacturers in the country about the Hospital. The weight of testimony is that the butter furnished during the year has been good, except in the latter part of the winter, and then it was seldom strong enough to be unpalatable, and was freely eaten by patients and attendants.

No. 6. "Tea and coffee were generally bad, as heretofore described; sugar and sirup likewise, except a few days before Trustees' meeting, when a little better was given."

The Steward testifies that he buys "yellow C sugar," and his bills show that he has bought no lower grade than this since he has held the position; that the sirup used is the best sorghum made in the county, for winter use; for summer, the glucose or corn sirups; that sirups are bought by sample, and must be as good as said sample; that he has never bought any as "black as tar"; and that if the changes were made at "Trustee meetings," as testified to by two or three witnesses, they were furnished outside the Hospital. The attendants, generally, know of no such changes, and the supervisors of both wings have never observed them. This part of the charge has no foundation in truth.

The part relating to tea and coffee is denied by a great portion of the attendants, and the patients whom the committee have conversed with regard the said articles as good, as also does the chief cook.

No. 7. "Worms and filth in meal and pies. I know it was so."

It was proven that this occurred once in some cracked wheat, a small quantity left of a package in summer was found wormy and thrown out.

No. 8. "Patients have been very cruelly treated, one crippled for life. Dr. Ranney was aware of it, and did nothing in regard to it."

This charge relates to one Peterson, a violent patient and very powerful man; the injury occurred in an attack upon an attendant named Tyler; in the struggle they fell to the floor, and Peterson was injured in the hip, which, upon examination, proved to be a fracture of the thigh bone; he was so violent and ugly that he would not submit to any proper treatment, and is now a cripple. But there is evidence of

cruelty in the case. The Superintendent was immediately informed of the injury, and all the attention given to the case that it demanded.

No. 9. "Patients have been forced out to do work through mud, and in weather when, as it was claimed, it was unfit for horses."

This charge is untrue: patients are never forced out to work at all.

No. 10. "The poor are discriminated against. The Matron and Superintendent abused one poor woman so shamefully that she cried like her heart would break. Others, wealthy or of high position, have been known to spend a month at the Hospital, boarding off the State."

The evidence in this charge shows it to be a gross and outrageous falsehood, without the least foundation in fact.

No. 11. "Dr. Ranney has for years made patients work out his own and Henderson's road tax."

Dr. Ranney's own statement is a sufficient answer to this charge. He says: "During the period since I returned to the Hospital in 1875, and I believe once or twice before, when our road tax became due, attendants and patients, and Hospital teams have worked it out; we made it a kind of frolic for patients. For my own part of that work I have receipts." Mr. Henderson testifies that he holds the same. "I did it for the double reason that it relieved my employees, and especially the attendants, and was a change. It was relished by the patients."

No. 12. This case has been explained before.

No. 13. "A baby was found in a dust pile about two years ago, and nothing was said about it."

The Hospital authorities do not know where it came from, but are sure it was not born at the Hospital, as there was no one sick at the time.

In the *Fairfield Tribune* a charge of insufficiency of food and of improper kind, is made.

The Committee do not believe, from the evidence before them and their knowledge of the dietary by their own observations extending over the past seven years, that there has ever been an insufficiency of food furnished patients or employees; and there is no truth in, and no just foundation for the charges.

"All the food furnished was unfit to be eaten."

This part of the charge is proven by the evidence to be grossly untrue, and we believe the person making the charge knew it to be so.

The *Tribune* further states: "Patients who were sick and needed lighter diet were not humored in this respect, and the result of this was innumerable deaths."

The deaths have never been "innumerable." The death rate compares favorably with other institutions receiving all classes of patients, and the percentage is no greater than should be reasonably expected.

A charge is made of a rat in the soup and a mouse in a pie.

This occurred once, and was undoubtedly the work of a mischievous person.

The charge of speculation with the funds is without any foundation. A charge is made relating to the abuse of confidence by employees. This is liable to occur among so many attendants and patients. We find in this Hospital, as a general rule, a superior class of young men and women as attendants; their duties are very trying, but it is not often that acts of cruelty or inhumanity are perpetrated on any patient. The rule of the Superintendent is kindness to patients; and it is seldom violated. If an infraction of this rule occurs, the attendant is admonished, and, if the offense is repeated, discharged.

The charge that the Superintendent and other officers use wines, liquors, and cigars, supplied for Hospital use, we find untrue. One of the former clerks, named Macdonald, was claimed to have told the witness Madison that this was the case. In an affidavit sent the committee, Macdonald pronounces this statement false, and says he knew of no such doings of the officers and never told the witness any such thing.

The charge of "human remains" in the dust pile is admitted by the Superintendent, who states that it was simply thoughtlessness in his second assistant. The rule is to have every thing in the way of dissections done decently and in order.

Mr. Fenton testifies to seeing Mr. Munn, formerly drug clerk at the Hospital, and a medical student, and now a physician and acting assistant-surgeon in the United States army, throw human entrails and remains into the furnace; but Dr. Munn, in a recent communication, says that Mr. Fenton was mistaken, that they were only bloody rags, clots, etc.

In regard to the Courtney case, we do not find that there was anything unusual or suspicious about his death, but that it was due to his disease. Some patients in the same ward were reported as saying that Courtney was badly treated and neglected; but, when seen by the committee, they said they had made no such statements, and according to their observations he had been well and kindly treated. At the "investigation," Mr. Courtney, father of the deceased patient, was present, heard Dr. Ranney's testimony, and expressed his satisfaction with the

explanation given, and then believed that his son had been well treated. In this investigation, when attendants were sworn, the question was invariably asked of each if they testified of their own free will, without being biased by the Hospital authorities in any manner, or if any attempt had been made to influence or control their testimony; and the answer in every case was that no attempt had been made to control or direct them, and no inquiry made as to what they would swear to.

Dr. Ranney's testimony was very full and complete, and covered almost, or quite, all points in Hospital management, giving those present a better insight into it than they had ever had before.

It was said that one D. E. Anden, of Mt. Vernon, Henry county, a patient in Hospital some years ago for about nine months, knew of some things bad in Hospital management, or of some abuses. He was not subpoenaed, and the chairman of the committee wrote to him, asking if he knew of any abuses in Hospital, or anything wrong there that the committee ought to be informed of. His reply is that he did not, and does not know of any such abuses. After having spent two weeks in their investigation, and made it as thorough as practicable, your committee have arrived at the conclusion that the charges of corruption and bad management, made against the authorities of the Hospital are not true, and that the weight of testimony shows good and competent management, and an honest and faithful endeavor to do the best that can be done by the unfortunate class under their care. The management of the Hospital do not claim that such an institution, having more than five hundred insane patients, can be carried on wholly without mistakes or accidents. We further state as our opinion, from the evidence taken at this investigation, also from close observation of the management of the Hospital, and an intimate acquaintance with its officers and attendants for the past seven years, acquired by a monthly inspection of said Hospital that the charges of mismanagement, etc., are without any just foundation, and are cruel and outrageous in causing great alarm among friends of patients who are there for care and treatment.

DR. S. B. OLNEY, *President.*

T. W. FAWCETT, *Secretary.*

MRS. L. S. KINCAID.

THIRTEENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF CURATORS

OF THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT IOWA CITY,

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE.

1881.

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