

BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
ALABAMA
INSANE HOSPITAL,

AT TUSCALOOSA,

FOR THE YEARS ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER, 1891 and 1892.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.,
SMITH ALLRED & CO., STATE PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
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TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF THE HOSPITAL.

TRUSTEES:

HON. H. M. SOMERVILLE.....	Tuscaloosa,	Ala.
HON. J. W. INZER.....	Ashville,	"
J. B. GASTON, M. D.....	Montgomery,	"
ELISHA YOUNG, M. D.....	Greensboro,	"
HON. A. C. HARGROVE.....	Tuscaloosa,	"
HON. ROBERT T. SIMPSON.....	Florence,	"

RESIDENT OFFICERS:

JAMES T. SEARCY, M. D., Superintendent.
E. D. BONDURANT, M. D., Assistant Superintendent.
R. A. WRIGHT, M. D., First Assistant Physician.
W. B. HALL, M. D., Second Assistant Physician.
W. C. PERKINS, Steward.
JOHN LITTLE, M. D., Treasurer.

REPORT.

OF THE

Board of Trustees of the Alabama Insane Hospital.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Oct. 9th, 1892.

To His Excellency,

THOS. G. JONES,

Governor of Alabama.

SIR:—The Trustees of the Alabama Insane Hospital held their regular annual meeting in the Hospital building on 7th and 8th of October, and beg leave to submit the following report of the affairs of that Institution. In accordance with the bi-ennial sessions of the General Assembly the report is made to embrace a space of two years.

As is customary, the Trustees made a careful inspection of the buildings, wards, patients, grounds, gardens, and farm; and studied the management of the different departments. We are pleased to report another year of progress and improvement. Indeed, we can truthfully say the Institution has never been in a more progressive condition, and is still characterized by its excellently economical and at the same time highly humane and advanced management.

We append hereto the report of the Superintendent, giving the details of the various departments. Last October we made you an annual report for the preceding year, based upon the report of Dr. Bryce. Since his death in August last, Dr. E. D. Bondurant, the Senior Assistant Physician, has been in charge, and therefore has prepared the accompanying report covering the past two years. Appended are the reports of the Treasurer and Steward, which show accurately the receipts and disbursements. There are

some new features in the report of the Superintendent, principally relating to scientific matters. The pathological report is new, and gives much valuable information on points that relate to the diseases of insanity; and there are some new tables and classifications introduced.

A committee was appointed, who examined the books, accounts and vouchers of the Steward and Treasurer as well as their limited time would allow. They again make the statement that it is impossible in so short a time to properly go through all the items. As far as they investigated, however, they found these departments correctly and honestly administered. We are glad to have your assurance that at an early day the State Examiner of public accounts will make a full and accurate overhauling of these matters.

A number of very important improvements were noted in the Hospital buildings and on the grounds. A residence for Superintendent on the lawn in front of the main building is in process of erection; and the appropriation by the last General Assembly for the purchase and equipment of a farm, has been judiciously expended by the Resident Board for a place within two miles of the Hospital on the river above, which has proved a most profitable and valuable acquisition, and promises most excellent results in the future.

The reports of the Superintendent and other officers are so full and complete, we respectfully call your attention to their careful study. As is evidenced in the reports, and as we witnessed on inspecting the wards, the Hospital is in a very crowded condition. The distress over the State is growing more and more urgent every year, and loudly demands that additional provision shall be made to accommodate the insane.

We again invite the attention of the General Assembly, through you, to a subject upon which Dr. Bryce several times attempted to secure needed legislation. The appended report of the Acting Superintendent shows the number of urgent applications for admission of the insane into the Hospital, and the impossibility of providing for even all the

recent and acute cases, with the present means of accommodation. If the State does not feel itself able to accommodate all its insane in its Hospital, the curable and acute cases should be first provided for; and there are in the Hospital many harmless, chronic insane, who might be safely taken care of by their friends at home, or in the county alms houses, if some legal method should be provided for having them removed from the Hospital.

This Board, together with the people of the whole State, deeply mourns the almost irreparable loss of Dr. Peter Bryce, by death on the 14th day of August last, who had so successfully and ably presided over the Hospital for nearly four successive terms of eight years each. He was the first, and, up to his death, was the only superintendent of the Hospital. If he had lived from August 14th to October 1st, 1892, he would have been the superintendent for thirty-two successive years. The fourth term for which he was elected would have expired on the 1st of October. We send to you with this report what we deem a fitting memorial of the life, character and services of Dr. Bryce, which was adopted by the Board and has been spread upon its minutes. We request you to have this memorial printed, with our report, for the use of the General Assembly, and for the benefit of the State. It expresses our sense of this great public loss.

But we deem the State most fortunate in being able to secure the services of so able a successor to Dr. Bryce. We elected on the 8th of October, 1892, as Superintendent of the Hospital for the term of eight years, Dr. James T. Searcy, of Tuscaloosa, who has for many years been a member of our Board, and its able President. We know Dr. Searcy, and know that we have made no mistake in conferring on him (without his asking) this high and sacred trust. He has long been familiar with the management of the Institution, and has ever taken the most laborious and zealous interest in its progress and prosperity. He is a man of the highest

personal character; a distinguished physician; well versed in the diseases peculiar to the insane, and endowed with excellent judgment and full of energy.

Respectfully submitted,

H. M. SOMERVILLE,
 J. W. INZER,
 J. B. GASTON,
 ELISHA YOUNG,
 A. C. HARGROVE,
 ROBERT T. SIMPSON;

} Trustees.