

HISTORY
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR
FOR THE
COUNTY OF KINGS.

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SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR.—No county in the State has made more generous provision for its poor, and its indigent lunatics, than the County of Kings. The history of her public charities is one of which she may well be proud. Her various public institutions, unsurpassed by those of any other county in the State, bespeak her beneficence more eloquently than words.

Previous to the year 1824, each town, in all the counties of the State, supported its own poor, under statutes enacted by the Legislature; but which, however humane and liberal, were still, in a measure, imperfect. The county itself contributed to a certain class of paupers; there were no county poor-houses, and the office of County Superintendent of the Poor was unknown. By an Act of the Legislature, passed November 27th, 1824, the Supervisors of the County of Kings, and several other counties in the State, were empowered to purchase one or more tracts of land, not exceeding two hundred acres, upon which to build for the accommodation, employment and use of the said county, one or more suitable buildings, to be denominated the *Poor-House* of the county, at an expense not exceeding \$7,000, which sum was to be assessed and collected in the same manner as other county charges.

It was, also, made the duty of the Supervisors of the county, at their annual meeting, to choose, by plurality of votes, not less than three, or over five persons, to be denominated *Superintendents of the Poorhouse* of the County of Kings. Their duty was the management, direction and superintendence of said poorhouse, and of everything relating to the same; the making of such prudential rules and by-laws for the well ordering of the same, and the employment, relief, management and government of the persons therein placed, and the officers and servants therein employed; and the correction of the refractory and disorderly by solitary confinement therein, and feeding them on bread and water only, as they might deem expedient for the good government of the same. It also empowered the said Superintendents

to contract with a suitable person for the support of those placed in the poorhouse. After the completion of the said house, the overseers of any town or city in the said county might make application to a Justice of the Peace, who might, if circumstances permitted, make an order sending any indigent person needing relief to such poorhouse, and forcibly (if necessary) remove such person to such poorhouse, to be provided for as his or her necessities should require. It also provided that the Overseers of any town might arrest any child over fifteen years of age found begging in the streets and send them to this poorhouse, there to be kept, employed and instructed in some useful employment, as he or she should be able to perform, until able to provide for himself or herself. There are other humane and thoughtful provisions in the said act for the employment of persons able to labor. The expense of maintaining and supporting such poor persons, and of the said poorhouse, was to be provided for in like manner as all the other county expenses were, by a tax on the personal and real estate of the freehold inhabitants of the same county, in proportion to the number and expense of paupers which *the several towns respectively shall have in the Poor-House.*

We have been thus particular to give the substance of the said act, because it is the foundation—the beginning—of the office of Superintendents of the Poor—the most important of county officers, out of which came, nearly fifty years later, the present *Board of Commissioners of Charities and Corrections.*

County Poorhouse Established.—At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held March 14th, 1829, a committee was appointed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a *County Poor-House*, with power to ascertain whether the almshouse of the town of Brooklyn, could be made use of until a county poorhouse could be completed.

At a meeting, held March 28th, 1829, this committee reported favorably, and were given time to make further examinations.

At the annual meeting of said board, held August 4, 1829, the Supervisors passed a resolution favorable to erecting a county Poor-House, under the provisions of the Act of November 27, 1824.

At a subsequent meeting, held January 2, 1830, Hon. Jeremiah Johnson, Supervisor from Brooklyn, Chairman of the committee to which we have referred, submitted a very able and exhaustive report on the subject of pauperism in the County of Kings, and in favor of keeping paupers profitably employed.

His report also strongly favored the abolishment of all distinctions by the Boards of Supervisors in the several counties respectively, of the *County-poor*, and *Town-poor*, under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature, passed April 4th, 1828. Said act provided for making the expenses of maintaining all the poor in the towns a charge upon the county, filing a written certificate of the determination of the said Board to abolish such distinction, &c., duly authenticated by the clerk thereof, in the office of the Clerk of the County.

The first Board of Superintendents of the Poor in the County of Kings, of which there is any record, was created at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors held February 20th, 1830, and consisted of the following persons: Samuel Smith, of Brooklyn, David Johnson of Flatbush, and Michael Schoonmaker of the same place. These gentlemen appeared before the Board of Supervisors, gave their bonds and took the oath required by law.

A resolution was passed by the Board of Supervisors instructing the Superintendents, to purchase a tract of land in the county, not exceeding two hundred acres, and to erect thereon a suitable building or buildings, for the reception of the poor of the County of Kings. The Board, also, recommended that a certain tract of land belonging to the Martense heirs, in the town of Flatbush, containing about sixty-four acres of land, be purchased for the purposes aforesaid, and that the Poor-House or Poor-Houses, be immediately erected thereon; that it be so constructed as to receive, for confinement, vagrants and persons convicted of misdemeanors; and that, if it should be thought practicable, the Penitentiary system should be connected with the Poor-House establishment.

At its meeting of April 7th, 1830, the Board considered the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Brooklyn, held on the 2d of same month, authorizing the Overseers of the Poor of that town to let the Almshouse of the town of Brooklyn, with the land surrounding it, to the Superintendents of the Poor of the county, for the term of one year, or until a County Poorhouse could be built, at a sum of \$360 per annum. This offer was, by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors, accepted; the sum of \$700 was placed at the disposal of the Superintendents of the Poor, for the purpose of defraying the expenses to which they would be subjected. The Treasurer of the county was also directed

to pay them the sum of \$3,000 for the land purchased of the Martense heirs.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Superintendents reported that they found all things correct, and recommended that \$8,000 be raised to meet the Poor-House expenses of the coming year. At a meeting of the Board held January 11, 1831, the Superintendents of the Poor were directed to procure plans and estimates for the erection of a County Poor-House and a Penitentiary; whereupon the Superintendents did submit such plans to the Board. These were considered and adopted on the 22d day of March, following, by the Board of Supervisors, who placed at the disposal of the Superintendents \$9,000, to enable them to erect a County Poor-House and Penitentiary on the county farm, purchased as we have stated. On the 23d of March the Superintendents of the Poor submitted to the Board of Supervisors their annual account, the first annual account ever submitted by the Superintendents of the Poor of the County of Kings.

This account of all monies received and expended by the Superintendents, or under their direction, and of all their proceedings for the first year of their operations, ending the 7th day of April, 1831, shows, among other things, that on the 7th day of April, 1830, there were 114 persons in the Poor-House—22 men, 44 women, 22 boys, and 26 girls. Of these there were 5 colored men, 9 women, and six children. That, during the said year, there had been 168 persons received into the Poor House; there were 25 persons relieved, outside of the Poor-House. The total number relieved or supported from April 7, 1830, to April 7, 1831, was 310, at an expense of the county of \$5,500. The number of paupers under the charge of the Superintendent on April 7, 1831, was 122, of whom 63 were males, and 59 females. During the year, ending April 7th, 1831, there were 31 deaths at the Poor-House; and 156 persons discharged and one absconded. Ninety-seven of the inmates of the Poor-House were foreigners, 62 of whom were Irish. The report also showed that a school had been established in the Poor-House and was regularly attended by an average number of children—14 whites and 8 colored—and that they were making much progress in their studies.

Such paupers, as were able, had been profitably employed. The Superintendents reported very favorably of the Keeper, Mr. Thomas Baisely, and his wife, who discharged the duties of Matron to the Poor-House. The report further shows that Mrs. Baisely, with the assistance of some of the paupers, had cut and made up 517 garments, which had been distributed to the paupers by the Superintendents of the Poor.

From the lands attached to the Poor-House, 750 bushels of potatoes, 107 bushels of turnips, 13 bushels of onions, 750 cabbages; four tons of hay, and 13 hogs, weighing 2,138 pounds, had been raised during the past

year. Articles, manufactured by the paupers, had been sold, to the amount of \$244.36, and a considerable supply still on hand. This report was received with great satisfaction by the Board of Supervisors and the people of the county, and a resolution adopted highly complimentary to the Superintendents of the Poor, for the very able and successful manner in which they discharged their duties. The Board allowed them the sum of \$600, collectively, for their services the past year, to be apportioned among themselves. Their report was published under the direction of the Board, in all the newspapers of the county.

October 11, 1831, the Board voted that the sum of \$5,000 be placed at the disposal of the Superintendents of the Poor, to meet the contingent expenses of the Alms House for the current year.

February 9th, 1832, the Board of Supervisors, by invitation of the Superintendents of the Poor, inspected the Poor-House and Penitentiary then being erected; and reported that they found everything most satisfactory and promising.

On the 8th day of April, 1832, the Board of Supervisors directed that the inmates of the County Prison, able to perform hard labor, be employed upon the public highways in the county.

The Superintendents of the Poor submitted their second annual report for the year, ending April 7th, 1832, to the Board of Supervisors at a meeting held at the new Alms or Poor-House and Penitentiary on the county farm, on the 28th day of May, 1832. This report stated that they had had charge of the poor for two years, ending on the 7th of April, 1832, and that they had received during the year ending April 7th, 1832, 305 persons; and 10 persons who had boarded out of the house, and 3 who had been inmates of the Lunatic Asylum, connected with the said Poor establishment, making in all 318 persons who had been supported thereat during the then past year, at an expense, including clothes, medicines, doctor, keeper, matron, nurse, etc., of \$4,344.07.

The Superintendents had received for articles manufactured during the year the sum of \$324.67; from the County Treasury, \$16,437.76. That there was on hand \$590; received in a bastardy case, \$150; overdraft on Long Island Bank, \$29.05. Total, \$17,431.40. The number of paupers in Poor-House on the 7th day of April, 1832, was 96. The sum expended over and above the labor and earnings of the paupers divided by 133, being the average number kept during the year, gives 32.66½ cents per year, or 62½ cents per week, as the actual expense of keeping each pauper.

The school in the institution, taught by "a very moral and competent pauper," and attended by an average number of 22 children during the year, was reported to be in a highly prosperous condition.

The report further showed that the new Poor-House, etc., at Flatbush, was, on the 9th of April, 1832, so far completed that the paupers were removed to the same from the Brooklyn Alms-House, on that day; and that the farmers in the neighborhood kindly assisted in their removal. The report further shows that Dr. Zabriskie had been engaged as physician to the establishment at a salary of \$70 per year.

This second annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor, like its predecessor, was received with general satisfaction by the people of the county.

The third annual report, submitted May 22d, 1833, showed that the number of paupers relieved and supported during the year, preceding April 7th, 1833, in the new Poor-House, was 401, supported at an expense of \$3,057.59. The number of persons in the Poor-House, on the 7th of April, 1833, was 136. Of the persons supported or relieved during the past year, there were 150 foreigners, 106 of whom were born in Ireland; 2 lunatics; 1 idiot, and 2 mutes. There were 5 births in the Poor-House, and 34 deaths; bound out 11; discharged 199; and absconded 21.

The report shows an interesting and startling fact, which we give in the language of the Superintendents: "The official situation we have for some time held in relation to the poor, has enabled us to make some practical observations on the principal causes of pauperism; and we do not hesitate to state the appalling fact that three-fourths under our charge, are directly or indirectly caused by *intemperance*. Many might suppose that the farm and house might be conducted without any hired help, but it is a fact that out of the whole number of 401, we could not trust a man of them with a team, to leave the farm; or a woman with the keys of the medicine closet."

To this report was added the Physician's report, the first ever submitted, showing four deaths by cholera, two of the subjects having been brought to the Poor-House in a collapsed state. The whole number of deaths, from various causes, was thirty-four.

On August 6th, 1833, at the annual meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a new board of the Superintendents of the Poor was elected by the Judges of the county. This Board consisted of Elias H. Hubbard, of the town of Flatlands, Coe S. Downing, of the town of Brooklyn, and David Johnson, of the town of Flatbush.

At a meeting held November 14th, 1833, the Board of Supervisors ordered that the sum of \$5,000 be placed at the disposal of the Superintendents of the Poor, to defray the expenses of the Alms-House establishment, for the current year.

In the Board of Supervisors, on the 26th of April, 1834, David Johnson, Coe S. Downing, and Elias H. Hubbard, County Superintendents of the Poor, submitted their annual report, by which it appears that the whole number of paupers supported, or relieved in the Poor-House, preceding April 7, 1834, was 434. The whole expense in the support of said Poor-House was \$4,420.35.

The number of persons in the Poor-House on the 7th day of April, 1834, was 180; of this number there were 85 females and 95 males. During the year there were 5 births and 27 deaths in the Poor-House; 7 bound out; 21 absconded; 199 discharged. The receipts from the productions of the farm during the said year, amounted to \$1,547.23. There were 84 persons in the Penitentiary connected with the Poor establishment.

At the meeting of the Board, on the 26th of April, 1834, David Johnson, one of the Superintendents, tendered his resignation, which was laid upon the table for further consideration. Dr. John B. Zabriskie was re-appointed physician to the Alms-House, and his salary increased from \$70 to \$100.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held August 5th, 1834, Coe S. Downing and Losee Van Nostrand, of the city of Brooklyn, and Elias H. Hubbard, of Flatlands, were appointed Superintendents of the Poor for the then ensuing year. The thanks of the Board were extended to David Johnson, Esq., one of the retiring Superintendents, for his valuable services to the county, in the faithful discharge of his official duties as well as for his exertions and perseverance in maturing and perfecting the Alms-House establishment of the county, and placing it on a successful basis.

The Superintendents of the Poor, having presented a communication, signed by themselves and the physicians of the County Poor-House, relative to the establishment of a *Hospital for Lunatics*, and for *Paupers laboring under infectious diseases*, and also to matters touching the Penitentiary, the Supervisors, November 15th, reported favorably as to carrying the same into effect.

In June, 1835, the Superintendents of the Poor recommended that measures be taken to cultivate, at the Poor-House farm, the best species of fruit trees; and, also, for planting the mulberry tree for feeding silk worms, with a view of testing the feasibility of making an effort towards the cultivation of silk.

On the 4th day of August, 1835, at the annual meeting of the Board of Supervisors, David Johnson, Samuel Smith, and Losee Van Nostrand were appointed Superintendents of the Poor.

On August 8th, 1835, at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Superintendents of the Poor submitted their annual report for the year ending April 7th, 1835. It gave the number of paupers relieved or supported during that year, in the Poor-House, as 625, at an expense of \$5,303.47; from which, deduct the support of 116 persons, sent to the Penitentiary in said Poor-House, an average of 35 days each, equal to 12 persons for one year, at \$23.16, making \$277.92 to be deducted from the sum of \$5,303.47, leaving the whole cost of the paupers at \$5,025.25.

There were 585 persons furnished temporary support, by the Overseers of the Poor, in the different towns, on the order of the Justices of the Peace, at an expense of \$5,246.31.

The school at the Poor-House was reported to be in a flourishing condition. The whole production of the Poor-House farm this year, was \$1,927.69.

On November 7th, 1835, the Supervisors appropriated \$5,000 for the support of the poor for the current year; also took measures to lessen the expense of granting temporary relief to sick, lame and disabled indi-

gent persons outside of the Poor-House, and appointed a committee to take charge of the matter. The Superintendents were also authorized to procure a place, or places, in the City of Brooklyn, or other parts of the county, for keeping paupers infected with pestilential or infectious diseases; and to furnish them with maintenance and medical attendance.

January 20th, 1836. The Supervisors considered the question of having, at the next annual meeting of the Board, *five* Superintendents of the Poor appointed, two of whom should be taken from Brooklyn, one from Bushwick, one from the town of Flatbush, or Flatlands, and one from the town of Gravesend or New Utrecht; whose terms of office should expire simultaneously with those of the then Superintendents; and that all subsequent appointments of Superintendents of the Poor be made in conformity with this regulation. Also, that the Legislature be memorialized as to having the Superintendents of the Poor of the county, or any one, two or more of them, invested with exclusive power to do every act then done by the Justices of the Peace of the town and Overseers of the Poor, in all the towns in the County, in pursuance of the first Title, 20th Chapter, and 1st part of the Revised Statutes; and of the 4th Title of the 8th Chapter of the said Statute. The proposition was adopted.

August 2d, 1836. At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Samuel Smith and Losee Van Nostrand, of Brooklyn, and Michael Schoonmaker, of Flatbush, were appointed Superintendents of the Poor for the coming year.

The Annual Report of the Superintendents of the Poor presented at this meeting, showed that the Superintendents had drawn from the County Treasury, from the 4th day of August, 1835, to the 2d day of August, 1836 (including the sum of \$307.33, a balance on hand from the previous year), the sum of \$7,558.74; and that they had expended during the same period \$7,338.37, leaving a balance on hand of \$220.37. During the same time 581 persons in the Poor-House had been supported, and 593 paupers relieved by the Overseers of the Poor in different towns; making, in all, 1,174 persons, at a total expenditure of \$10,596.35.

Dr. Zabriskie, the Physician of the Poor-House, reported 688 cases treated during the year, of which 48 had died. Eight of the said deaths were caused by delirium tremens.

There were, also, 113 convicts in the Penitentiary connected with the Poor establishment.

December 14th, 1836, the Supervisors appropriated \$5,000 for the support of the poor for the current year.

At an adjourned meeting of the Supervisors, May 24th, 1837, the Superintendents of the Poor were requested to furnish a suitable plan for building a *Work-House*, on the County farm, for the employment of the poor, whose bodily strength would permit them to labor; a suitable plan for building or providing an apartment in said Work-House for *Lunatics*; and an estimate of the probable expense thereof, as soon as possible. In conformity with these instructions, the Superintendents, at their Annual Meeting, Au-

gust 1st, 1837, presented plans and estimates for a *Lunatic Hospital*, which were unanimously adopted.

The Superintendents were invested with power to contract for and supervise the erection of the said buildings, the Supervisors providing the necessary funds for the same. The Board of Supervisors, with the Judges of the County, proceeded to the election of Superintendents of the Poor for the ensuing year, which election resulted in the choice of Michael Schoonmaker, Flatbush; Losee Van Nostrand, of Brooklyn, and Jarvis R. Woolsey, of Flatlands.

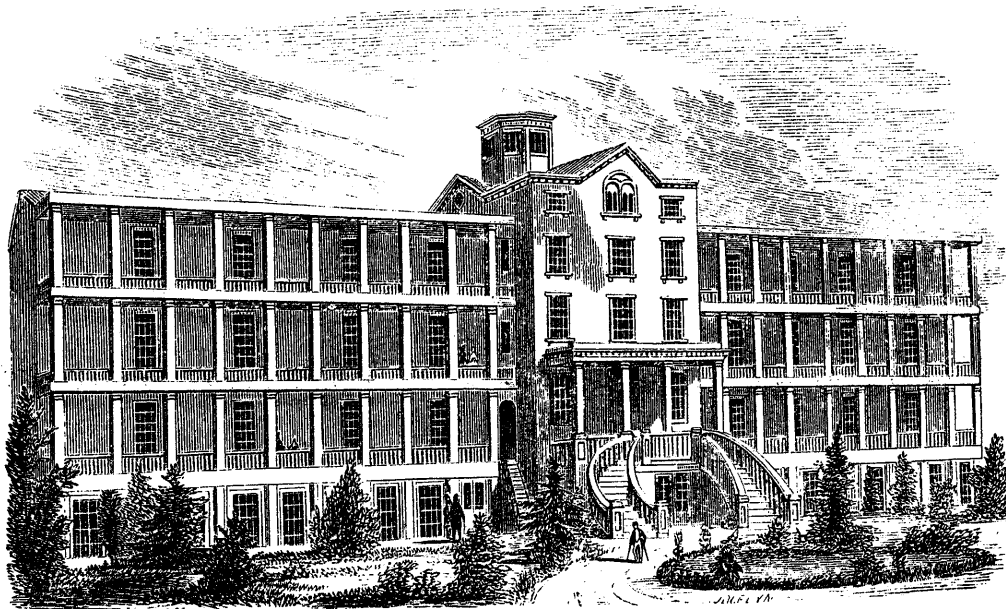
The Annual Report of the Superintendents gave the number of paupers relieved in the Poor-House during the year ending August 7th, 1837, as 677; eight boarded out, and five in Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum; total number of paupers, 690.

Expenses of paupers in the Poor-House, \$6,394.61, which, together with the other expenses of the Poor establishment, was increased to the sum of \$8,782.02. A balance of cash on hand of \$503.49.

erection on the County Farm, was reported as near completion.

At the annual meeting of the Supervisors, held August 7, 1838, attended by the Judge of the county, the annual election for Superintendent of the Poor took place. This election was contested with singular obstinacy, there being several candidates for the office, each one of whom possessed considerable strength. Thirteen ballots resulted in no election, and the Board adjourned until the next day at 3 o'clock P. M., at which time, there being no quorum of the joint Board of Supervisors present, no choice of a Superintendent was made; and Michael Schoonmaker, Losee Van Nostrand and Jarvis R. Woolsey were continued in office for the ensuing year.

At an adjourned meeting, September 1st, 1838, the annual report of the Superintendents presented the number of pau-



HOSPITAL.

In the School, established in the Poor-House at the organization of the establishment, during the year 1836, 63 children were taught. Dr. Zabriskie, the Physician, reported 719 cases treated, during the year previous, 65 of which died; two of these were caused by delirium tremens; and 25 from consumption, characterized as "an unusual number," and many of whom died 24 hours after admission. An epidemic of typhus (brought by emigrants) also had been raging in the house from April 1st to date of Doctor's report.

During the year ending August 15, 1837, there had been received into the Treasury, for Excise money \$3,355.72, which was directed to be paid over to the Superintendents of the Poor for the benefit of the Poor-House establishment; also, from dog tax, the sum of \$28.75.

On the 24th October, 1837, the Supervisors appropriated the sum of \$6,000 for the support of the Poor for the current year.

In November, 1837, the *Hospital*, then in course of

pers supported in the Poor-House during the year preceding the 7th day of August, 1838, as, viz.: In the House, 598; boarded out, 9; in the Bloomingdale Asylum, 6; making, in all, 613. The expenses of the Poor-House establishment, including everything, was \$13,608.89, of which \$3,382.90 had been disbursed in building the new Lunatic Hospital or Asylum. On the 1st of August, 1838, there were in the Poor-House 154 persons, 67 of whom were females, 66 males, and 21 colored paupers. There were lunatic paupers, 20.

Mr. Baiseley continued as keeper, and Mrs. Baiseley as matron of the Poor-House. They were appointed by the first Board of Superintendents of the Poor. Under Mrs. Baiseley's supervision, 50 bed quilts and over 1,500 garments for the use of the paupers, had been made during the year.

By an act of the Legislature, passed April 18, 1838, the powers and duties of Superintendents of the Poor of the County were greatly enlarged, which were to be

reduced to certain Rules and Regulations to be submitted to a subsequent meeting of the Board.

The report of Dr. J. B. Zabriskie showed there had been 879 cases of disease under treatment, and 51 deaths, of which 17 resulted from consumption.

On the 8th December, 1838, the Board of Supervisors appropriated the sum of \$6,000 for the support of the Poor for the current year.

The 20th of March, 1839, the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Superintendents, directed to be made by the act of 1838, were submitted. They were included in eight distinct articles.

The third article provided that the Superintendent shall keep a register of the names of all the applicants for temporary relief, with their place of residence, occupation and employment; the number of persons composing each family, their ages, places of nativity, and amount of relief granted to each applicant.

Article fourth provided that no temporary relief should be granted to any person not known to one or more of the Superintendents.

By article fifth, repositories were to be established for the relief of indigent persons, to be kept open from the 1st day of May, in each year, at such hours and at such places as the Superintendents shall designate.

The following provision of the Superintendents, made under their enlarged powers, is worthy of insertion here: "That the said Board will provide coffins and other facilities for the interment of all such destitute poor of the county whose friends are unable to bear the expense; and also for the interment of all such strangers as Providence may, from time to time, cast upon our hands, and which both Humanity and Christianity dictate should receive the rights of sepulture."

Among other provisions made by the act referred to, the Superintendents of the Poor were given a Clerk, to be appointed by them; and, on the 20th of March, 1839, Michael Schoonmaker was appointed for that position.

We have seen (page 466) that, at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held January 20, 1836, measures were taken to procure an act of the Legislature by which two additional Superintendents of the Poor were to be elected.

The Legislature, on the 18th of April, 1838, passed the required act; and, on August 6th, 1839, the Supervisors, in annual meeting, elected *five* Superintendents. This Board, thus elected, consisted of Losee Van Nostrand and John Dimon, of Brooklyn; Chauncey L. Cook, of Bushwick; John Emmens, of New Utrecht; and Michael Schoonmaker, of Flatbush.

At this meeting the Board for the preceding year submitted their Annual Report, with the report of Dr. Zabriskie, Physician for the Poor-House and Lunatic Hospital, by which it appears that the whole number of paupers relieved or supported during the year ending August 7th, 1839, was 1,666. Of the whole number thus relieved or supported, 520

were county paupers in the Poor-House. The number of all such persons as were temporarily relieved, was 1,146. The aggregate expense of relieving and supporting all such persons was \$12,521.09. By an estimate made by the Superintendents, it cost 81½ cents a week for the actual expense of keeping each pauper, crediting the actual value of the labor of each pauper performed on the farm and otherwise during the year.

It will be remembered that the first cost of the land and Poor-House establishment in 1830, was \$3,000; the estimated value of the whole establishment in August, 1839—about ten years later—was \$24,500.

Of the whole number remaining in the Poor-House on the 7th of August, 1839, there were 157 persons, 85 foreigners, 9 lunatics and 2 idiots. The whole number of persons received into the Poor-House during the year was 360. There were 10 births, 48 deaths, 3 foundlings. There were 154 discharged, 106 ran away, 42 bound out, or out on trial.

Dr. J. B. Zabriskie, Physician to the Poor-House and Lunatic Hospital, reported 572 cases of disease, 48 of which proved fatal.

There were received into the Lunatic Hospital during the year ending August 8th, 1840, fourteen lunatics, nine of whom were cured, one died.

On the 4th of August, 1840, Adrien Emmens, Alexander Newman and John Dimon, of the *City of Brooklyn*, and Alfred Hodges, of *Williamsburg*, Rem. Hegeman, of *Flatbush*, and Samuel S. Stryker, of *Gravesend*, were elected Superintendents of the Poor, for the ensuing year.

The Annual Report of the Superintendents, submitted to the Board of Supervisors on the 11th of August, 1840, shows the whole number of paupers relieved or supported during the year ending August 1st, 1840, to be 2,726. The whole number thus relieved, who were inmates of the Poor-House, was 737. The aggregate expense of relieving and supporting all such persons was \$10,357.36. The Poor-House expenses in all were \$9,213.23. The average number of persons provided for in the house during the year was 245, and the sum applicable to the support of these was \$8,567.74, which divided by the average number of paupers, gives the sum of \$36.45 a year, or 70 cents a week, as the actual cost of supporting each pauper. The estimated amount earned by the paupers was \$800. The number of persons in the Poor-House on the 1st of August, 1840, was 237.

The Physician of the Poor-House and Lunatic Asylum reported 811 cases of disease in the County Poor-House during the year 1840, of which 49 proved fatal, two fatal cases of delirium tremens, and ten of consumption. Sixteen persons were admitted to the Lunatic Hospital, one of whom died, nine were cured, leaving six still in the Hospital.

The Superintendents having recommended that a new building be erected "for the accommodation of paupers laboring under sickness and disease, or otherwise," the Board of Supervisors, on the 16th day of October, 1840, "*Resolved* to apply to the Legislature at the next session for the passage of an Act to Authorize the Board of Supervisors to raise, by tax, the then next year, a sum not exceeding \$3,000, for the purpose of erecting the buildings heretofore referred to, on the County farm, and also such other and additional build-

ings as might from time to time be required for the accommodation of the poor."

October 24th, 1840, the Superintendents informed the Board that the increase of paupers had become so great that the present buildings in the County were inadequate, particularly those for the sick, the rooms of the Hospital being small, and over-crowded; and that a Hospital having been recently established in the City of Brooklyn with more rooms than the requirements of the city demanded, it being principally for injured persons, arrangements had been made with the managers of the City Hospital to receive from the County Poor-House a portion of the sick paupers during the ensuing fall and winter.

December 5th, 1840, the Board of Supervisors set apart the further sum of \$5,000 for the use of the poor, in the discharge of their duties.

On the 16th of June, 1841, in accordance with an Act of the Legislature of this State, entitled "An Act Authorizing the Supervisors of the County of Kings to make further provision for the County Poor," passed May 26th, 1841 (on the petition of the Superintendents), an order was made directing the erection on the County Farm, during the year, of two buildings for the better accommodation of the poor of the County; the expenses not to exceed \$3,000; one of the said buildings to be for the accommodation of the poor generally. The other for the accommodation of such paupers sent to the Poor-House as were afflicted with contagious diseases.

The Board of Supervisors, August 3d, 1841, appointed a committee of three to occasionally examine the Poor-House establishment of the County, as to its internal and external regulations; and, from time to time, to give such instructions to the officers and agents of the establishment, as to them seemed best calculated to perfect the pauper system, and to report thereon to the Supervisors. David Coope, Andrew Emmens, and Nicholas Wyckoff, were the committee.

At this, it being the Annual Meeting of the Board, Alexander Newman, Jacob Dey, of *Brooklyn*; Alfred Hodges, of *Williamsburg*; Rem Hegeman, *Flatlands*; Samuel S. Stryker, *Gravesend*, were elected Superintendents for the ensuing year.

The Report of the Superintendents, and the Physician, on the 25th of August, 1841, were taken up, examined and favorably reported upon.

The report showed that the whole number of paupers relieved or supported, during the year ending August 1st, 1841, was 3,098. Of the number thus relieved, the number of County paupers was 923. The aggregate expense of relieving them was \$16,359.80. The total expenses of the Poor-House (separate from the foregoing amount), were \$13,050.56. The average number actually provided for in the house during the year was 284; and the sum applicable to their support was \$11,215, giving the sum of \$39.48 per year, or 75 cents per week, as the actual cost of supporting each pauper.

From the report of Dr. F. F. King, who had been appointed in place of Dr. Zabriskie, Physician to the Poor-House and Lunatic Hospital, it appears that, during the year ending August 1st, 1841, 1,430 cases of disease had been under medical treatment; 86 of which proved fatal. There were at that time 46 under treatment. During the year 1,298 had been discharged; there were 31 births in the institution during the year.

There were 17 lunatics received in the Lunatic department, 10 of whom were discharged. The School in the establishment continued to be very prosperous and satisfactory.

Measures were taken to have divine service regularly performed every Sabbath hereafter in the establishment, the pastors of the different denominations in the County having offered to officiate gratuitously.

November 18th, 1841, a report submitted by the committee in charge of the erection of the two buildings on the Poor-House Farm (referred to June 16th, 1841), showed that they had completed the said buildings in accordance with the directions of the Board, at an expense (including a vault for the preservation of meats) of \$2,664.27. The sum of \$6,000 was set apart for the support of the poor for the current year; and the salary of the Superintendents was fixed at the sum of \$125 each.

February 23d, 1842, the Supervisors directed the Superintendents to render to the Board of Supervisors, at their Annual Meeting, in addition to their usual report, an account of the monies paid by them for debts contracted by them prior to the 1st Tuesday in August, 1831, by their predecessors in office; an account of monies paid by them for debts during their own term of office, and for all monies paid out by them. Also, to state what sum in their opinion would be necessary for the support of paupers in the County Poor-House during the ensuing year.

On the 2d day of August, 1842, the Board of Supervisors of the County elected as Superintendents of the Poor of the County for the ensuing year, S. Muel Doxsey, Joshua Rogers, of *Brooklyn*; Chauncey H. Cook, *Williamsburg*; Isaac L. Schenck, *Flatbush*, and John A. Emmens, *New Utrecht*.

The Annual Report of the Superintendents of the Poor and that, also, of the Physician, for the year ending August 7th, 1842, were presented to the Board, by which it appeared that the whole number of paupers relieved or supported, during the year, was 2,964; all such persons temporarily relieved, was 2,305; and an aggregate expense of \$13,786.44; the average number of paupers provided for in the house during the year was 290, and the sum applicable to their support, was \$9,221.24, giving the sum of \$34.21 per year, or 66 cents per week, as the actual cost of supporting each pauper. There were 33 births in the house during the year; 88 deaths, 318 discharged, and 39 absconded.

The Physician reported 596 cases treated during the year, 88 of which were fatal; 16 lunatics in the hospital August 1, 1841, of whom 4 died. Since that date, there had been 43 lunatics, of whom 3 died, 8 were relieved, and 18 cured; 14 now remain.

\$2,000 was set apart for the use of the Superintendents of the Poor for the current year.

April 18, 1839. An act entitled, "An Act to extend the benefit of instruction to the blind," and for other purposes, was passed by the Legislature of the State. At that time, one Margaret Denny, an orphan, was a beneficiary of the Orphan Asylum of Brooklyn. L. Van Nostrand, one of the Superintendents of the Poor of the county, selected the said Margaret Denny as a State pupil in the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, giving his certificate to the Superintendent of Common Schools for that purpose. Under the provisions of said Act, the Superintendents of the Poor, by resolution, directed the sum of \$20, to be paid annually, to suitably clothe the said Margaret, for a period of five years, from the 1st day of October, 1843, the term of her pupilage in the said institution. This is *the first step taken in the County of Kings towards the support and education of the blind.*

In 1840, a Hospital had been established in the city of Brooklyn, and on the 13th of January, 1844, Joseph Sprague, Esq., Mayor of the city, sent a communication to the Board of Supervisors and the Superintendents, in which he stated that the expense of supporting patients therein, amounted to several thousand dollars, which was, in fact, chargeable to the county; and requested that provision be made by the said Boards for the re-imbusement to the City of the monies so paid, and that hereafter the whole expenses of the said Hospital be paid by the county. A committee, appointed from each Board, subsequently reported favorably, in regard to making the Hospital a county charge. The further sum of \$3,000 was set apart for the use of the Superintendents of the Poor in their official capacity.

March 7, 1844. The subject of erecting a *new Lunatic Asylum* on the County Farm was brought before the Board, and plans submitted, by a committee appointed at a previous meeting. They recommended a building of wood, filled in with brick, and covered with shingles 110 feet in length, 33 feet in width, three stories high, with a basement underneath; calculated to meet, not only the present, but the future wants of the county, and accommodating about 60 patients. The cost was estimated at between \$8,000 and \$9,000. The report, together with a plan of the proposed building, drawn by Asa Stebbins, was placed in the County Clerk's office for public inspection.

The committee to which had been referred the propriety of erecting a *County Work-House*, reported favorably.

On the 20th of March, 1844, the further sum of \$2,000 was set apart for the use of Superintendents.

May 15, 1844, the Board of Supervisors received a communication from Hon. Jacob Rapelje, one of the Members of the Assembly from Kings county, informing them of the passage of an Act, by the Legislature,

providing for the erection of a new Lunatic Asylum; whereupon a resolution was adopted that the said Asylum be commenced with all convenient dispatch; that it be located on the land attached to the County Poor-House, situated on the west side of the highway leading from Brooklyn to said Poor-House, and placed about 75 feet from said highway, fronting said Poor-House. It was further ordered that the building be constructed under the plan of Mr. Stebbins, heretofore described; and that Tunis G. Bergen, Daniel A. Robbins, Wm. M. Udall, and John A. Voorhees, be the building committee to superintend the erection of the Asylum. On the 5th of June, 1844, the Supervisors decided to reduce the length of the building to 86 feet, the width being 36 feet. The building committee, after advertising for sealed proposals, let the building of the Asylum to Stephen Haynes, Esq.

An act of the Legislature, passed April 22d, 1844, provided that the Superintendents of the Poor, in and for the County of Kings, should hold their office for three years, and until others shall be appointed in their place; and that, immediately after their first appointment, under the said act, the Supervisors shall, by lot or otherwise, divide the Superintendents of the Poor, so first appointed, into three classes, numbered one, two and three; those of the first class, holding office for one year; those of the second class, for two years, and those of the third class, for three years, to the end that the third part of the said Superintendents may be, as nearly as possible, annually appointed.

Under the provisions of this act, John B. Hendrickson, of *Flatlands*, was on the 6th of August, 1844, appointed Superintendent of the Poor of the 1st class; Losee Van Nostrand, of *Brooklyn*, and John A. Emmens, of *New Utrecht*, Superintendents of the 2d class, and Samuel Doxsey, of *Brooklyn*, and C. Le Cook, of *Williamsburg*, Superintendents of the 3d class.

At this meeting, under an act to provide for the erection of a new Lunatic Asylum for the County of Kings, on the County Farm, passed April 26th, 1844, the Supervisors directed that the sum of \$6,000 be borrowed on the credit of the county, and be placed in the hands of the Superintendents, to be used for the erection of a new asylum.

On August 13th, 1844, the Superintendents reported rapid progress in the erection of the said building.

The annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor, presented on the same day, gives the disbursements for Poor-House expenses in all, during the year ending August 7th, 1844, as \$13,585.71; debts unpaid, \$1,200.66, making house expenses in all, \$14,786.37. There were credits which reduced this sum to \$12,822.57.

There was received, during the same time, by the Superintendents of the Poor, \$20,062.71, as follows:

County Treasurer, \$17,898.39; board of lunatics, \$651.25; in support of foreign paupers, \$494.21; bastardy cases, \$450.75; produce sold, \$425.84; old iron and bones, \$71.35; from former Superintendents, \$70.92; making, \$20,062.71.

Of this sum, \$5,448.30 was paid for the relief of indigent persons. Addition to old hospital, which with the amount for the support of Poor-House, \$14,114.32, makes the amount \$20,062.71.

The average number of paupers, actually supported in the Alms-House, was 288, at a cost of \$10,624.65, which gives \$36.89 per year, or 10 cents per day, as the cost for the support of each pauper. The amount saved by their labor was \$1,200.

The Physician of the Poor-House reported 484 cases of diseases, of which 45 were fatal; and 19 births during that year; 24 patients being admitted into the Lunatic Asylum, of whom 12 were cured.

The school in the Poor-House was reported to be in a flourishing condition.

November 21st, 1844, \$2,000 more was placed at the disposal of the Superintendents, to be expended on the new Lunatic Asylum, then in process of erection; also a further sum of \$2,000, for the Poor-House establishment.

August 5th, 1845, at the annual meeting of the Supervisors, John B. Hendrickson was appointed a Superintendent of the Poor, for the 1st class, for the term of three years, from the 1st Tuesday of August, 1843, and until another should be appointed in his place; James Fiel, Wm. H. Campbell, and Eusebius Hopkins were appointed a visiting committee of the Poor-House.

This committee subsequently recommended the making of a school-room and chapel in the old Lunatic Asylum; and also the planting of a large number of ornamental shade trees and shrubbery around the Poor-House, Lunatic Asylum, and other buildings on the County Farm. The pay of Superintendents of the Poor was increased to the sum of \$450 each.

The Annual Report of the Superintendents, presented August 5, 1845, shows that the whole number of paupers relieved or supported during the year ending July 31, 1845, was 4,698; the number temporarily relieved, 3,884. The actual expenses of the Poor-House and temporary relief was \$18,139.55. The amount expended on the new Asylum was \$1,888.67. The actual number supported in the Poor-house was 299, the whole cost of which was \$9,547, which gives \$35.27 per year, or 68 cents per week for the support of each pauper. The value of the labor of the paupers was \$1,200; the produce of the farm had gradually increased, so that at this time, almost every kind of produce grown in this climate, was produced thereon, going very far towards the support of the paupers.

The Physician reported 1,189 cases during the said year, 61 of which were fatal; 4 of these were caused from delirium tremens, 25 were consumption.

It is a singular fact that, since the first existence of the Board of Superintendents of the Poor, the average yearly deaths in the Hospital from consumption was, down to this time, 25.

The new Lunatic Asylum, having been completed since the last Annual Report, the physician in charge says of it, in his report:

"The good effects of the facilities afforded by the new buildings, are very manifest in the conduct and in the feelings of the patients. The want of room in the old buildings, and the restraint upon the patients occasioned thereby, led them to suppose they were prisoners instead of patients, especially those who were inclined to be furious and destructive."

He also speaks of the healthful effects of the extensive bathing-rooms, and apparatus for bathing.

The Report of the physician is lengthy and exceedingly instructive.

On November 7, 1845, measures were taken by the Board of Superintendents to purchase a plot of land in Greenwood Cemetery, or elsewhere, for the burial of the poor of the county, and strangers dying therein, at an expense not exceeding \$3,500. A proposition was made to purchase, or lease for a term of years, about 43 acres of land adjoining the County Poor-House farm, on the estate of Isaac Cortelyou, deceased.

November 11, 1845. The Superintendents were authorized to draw from the County Treasury the sum of \$3,000 towards defraying the current expenses of the poor for the ensuing year.

On March 25, 1846, the Supervisors directed that the sum of \$10,500 be set apart for the Poor-House establishment, to be disbursed by the Superintendents in the discharge of their duties.

May 12, 1846. The attention of the Supervisors and the Superintendents of the Poor was called to an Act, which had then recently become a law, providing for the purchase of land and the erection thereon of suitable buildings, for a Work-House and Penitentiary; and it was proposed to inquire whether lands for that purpose could be obtained in the rocky hills in the 9th Ward of Brooklyn. A resolution was adopted to erect such Penitentiary and to purchase land therefor, not to exceed 40 acres. A building committee was appointed and directed to proceed forthwith.

On August 4, 1846, an election of two Superintendents, to fill two vacancies (2d class), occasioned by the expiration of Losee Van Nostrand's and John A. Emmens' terms, took place. John S. Folk, of Brooklyn, and Stephen W. Stilwell were elected for the term of three years, from the 1st Tuesday of 1846.

A committee reported that the following pieces of land could be purchased for the site for a Penitentiary, viz.: 9 acres from Samuel Smith, at \$200 per acre; 9 acres from Cornelius Van Cleaf, at \$200 per acre; 5 acres from Ralph Malbone, at \$180 per acre; and 14 acres from Jonathan Trotter, at \$180 per acre. A resolution was adopted, that the lands be purchased at prices not exceeding those named above, provided the title thereto is perfect.

From the Annual Report of the Superintendents and Physicians to the Poor-House, August 22d, 1846, it appeared that the Superintendents, during the year ending July 31, 1846, from all sources, exclusive of their salaries, received

for the benefit of the Poor-House establishment of the county, the sum of \$23,146.52; and expended, for the support of the inmates of the Alms-House and Lunatic Asylum, the sum of \$16,462.60½. They have expended for temporary relief of indigent persons out of the Poor-House, the sum of \$6,534.55, making their total expenditures, \$22,997.15½.

The sum of \$25,000, for the support of the poor for the coming year, for discharging present indebtedness, and for alterations and improvements necessary on the county premises, was directed to be raised; also, that \$50 be raised for purchasing books for the Alms-House.

The whole number of poor persons relieved or supported preceding July 31, 1846, was 6,556. The estimated amount saved in the expense of the support of paupers by their labor, was \$3,000.

The Physician of the Alms-House reported, during the year aforesaid, 1,302 cases, of which 62 proved fatal. In the Lunatic Asylum there were 39 cases. On the 1st of August, 1846, there had been 82 admitted to the Asylum during the year. The whole number of lunatics admitted into this Asylum from May, 1838, when it was first established, down to August 1, 1846, was 237, of whom there had been discharged 158; died, 28. The greatest deficiency in the Asylum was the want of sufficient sources of amusement, and reading matter for the moderately insane patients.

We have already referred to the action of the Board of Supervisors and Superintendents had at the Annual Meeting in August, 1846, in regard to purchasing certain pieces of land for a new Penitentiary. October 10th, 1846, it having been ascertained that the titles of the said lands were perfect, a contract was made with the owners, duly ratified by the Board, and a survey and map of the same made, by which it appeared that they purchased said lands as follows:

From S. Smith, $8\frac{524}{10000}$ acres at \$200 per acre, amounting to \$1,704.92; from C. Van Clef, $8\frac{2}{100}$ acres, at \$200 per acre, amounting to \$1,774; from Ralph Malbone, $4\frac{222}{10000}$ acres, at \$180 per acre, amounting to \$881.97; from heirs of Jonathan Trotter, $13\frac{266}{10000}$, at \$180 per acre, amounting to \$2,513.88; total, \$6,874.77.

The land in these parcels thereupon became the site of the Penitentiary.

On the 23d of January, 1847, steps were taken by the Board towards procuring the passage of a law making the support of foreign paupers a State (instead of a County) charge. The matter was referred to Seth Low, Tunis G. Bergen and G. Howland.

February 27th, 1847, the Superintendents reporting that they were out of funds, the Supervisors ordered \$3,000 to be placed to their credit.

On March 13th, 1847, the Board of Superintendents, in view of the great increase of pauperism in the County of Kings, presented the matter to the Supervisors, who immediately passed the following unanimous resolution:

"Resolved, That the overwhelming increase of pauperism in the County is an evil of alarming magnitude, and that the laws require additional provisions to secure this and other counties adjacent to New York from an undue burden resulting from such increase.

Resolved, that our representatives in the Legislature are respectfully and earnestly requested to give their immediate attention to this subject as one of paramount importance."

On May 5th, the Superintendents, owing to the high price of provisions, and the great increase of paupers, asked for an appropriation of \$3,000. It was ordered, thereupon, that a loan upon the credit of the County, of \$12,000, be made for the said appropriation, and for other expenses of the Poor-House establishment.

August 3d, 1847. At the Annual Meeting of the Supervisors, an election for two Superintendents of the Poor of the 3d class, occasioned by the expiration of the official term of Samuel Doxsey and Chauncey L. Cook, resulted in the election of Alfred B. Hodges of *Williamsburg*, and William Rushmore of *Brooklyn*.

The Annual Report of the Superintendents of the Poor, and of the Physician of the Poor-House and Lunatic Asylum, were also presented, for the year ending July 31st, 1847, by which it appears that the whole number of persons relieved or supported during the said year was 7,185; of those temporarily relieved, 5,955. The aggregate amount of money expended during the year was \$27,577.14, of which \$8,361.69 was expended for temporary relief. The expense of the general support of the Poor-House was \$19,215.45, which makes the sum of \$27,577.14. The number of paupers in the Poor-House on the 1st day of August, 1846, was 343; admitted during the year 861; born in the Poor-House, 26. The proceeds of the farm for the past year were largely remunerative; much in excess of last year.

The Physician reported 2,183 cases of disease treated, of whom 111 had died; five of them being cases of delirium tremens, and 21 cases of consumption.

In the Lunatic Asylum there were 49 patients on the 1st day of August, 1846; there were 40 more admitted during the year, ten of whom died, 11 discharged as cured, one absconded, and on the 1st day of August, 1847, there were 61 remaining.

The salary of the Superintendents of the Poor for the year 1847, was \$1,800. September 2d, 1847, the sum of \$2,000 was set apart for the Superintendents of the Poor.

The Superintendents reported a plan and specifications for the new *Penitentiary and Work-House*, on Oct. 5th, with an itemized estimate of the expenses thereof, and that they had entered into a contract with responsible persons for the construction of the same. On Dec. 10th, 1847, the Superintendents asked for and received an appropriation of \$3,000, to be expended towards the defraying of the expenses of the county.

On the 22d of December, the Superintendents and Supervisors took into consideration the necessity of erecting a suitable building, on a line with the Asylum, for a *Children's Nursery*, it appearing that the same was essentially necessary for the health of the children; and that the present building used for the purpose

could be advantageously occupied as a hospital for women.

January 7th, 1848, the Board of Supervisors directed the County Treasurer to place \$5,000 to the credit of the Superintendents, to be expended by them in the Poor Establishment of the county. January 29th, 1848, the question of electing Superintendents of the Poor and County Treasurer *by the people* came before the Board, on a proposal to have Kings County excepted from any legislative bill providing for a law for the popular election of the aforesaid officers. A resolution, favoring such exception, was defeated by a very decisive vote.

February 10th, 1848, the death of Dr. J. B. ZABRISKIE, for many years a physician to the County Alms-House, who died February 8th, of malignant fever, taken in the discharge of his official duties, was announced to the Board, which, out of respect to his memory, adjourned.

February 11th, the salary of the Keeper of the Penitentiary was fixed at \$800 per annum.

March 8th, 1848, \$5,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor.

The erection of a building for a *Children's Nursery* was again considered, and the Superintendents were directed to proceed forthwith with its construction, at an expense not to exceed \$2,000.

July 5th, 1848, the Treasurer of the county was authorized to borrow, on the credit of the county, \$5,000 to pay the contractors of the Hospital Buildings recently burned * on the County Farm, at Flatbush, as their bills severally became due.

August 5th, 1848, the Superintendents of the Poor made and submitted their annual report; monies received \$6,956, from the Emigrant Commissioners, for the board of emigrant passengers, under an Act of Congress, and the Legislature of this State, providing for board of emigrants.

The Report further shows the receipt of \$1,319.14 from the board of Lunatics during the year ending July 31st, 1848; from putative fathers of illegitimate children, \$1,341.25; from the County Treasurer, \$31,350; the net profits of the labor of the paupers, \$1,000, the whole estimated value of their labor being \$2,000. The sum actually expended, over and above the labor and earnings of the paupers, \$58.31 per year, or \$1.12½ per week as the actual expense of keeping each pauper.

The whole number of paupers relieved and supported during the year was 1,746; the whole number temporarily relieved 6,985; aggregate amount of money expended during the year was \$39,788.77. Of the above aggregate, for temporary relief in the *City of Brooklyn* was \$5,838.25; *Williamsburg*, \$4,574.61; *Flatbush*, \$76.62; *Gravesend* and *New Utrecht*, \$140.49. There was paid out for physicians and medicines \$1,137.73; for the support of idiots and foundlings \$228.80; for repairs and improvements, \$5,607.55

The *Physicians* reported 2,542 cases of diseases treated during the year; 324 of which proved fatal; 42 having died

* It is to be regretted that the records of the Supervisors, and of the Superintendents of the Poor give no account of the circumstances of the burning of the Hospital buildings.

from consumption; 10 from delirium tremens; suicide 2. In the *Lunatic Asylum*, there were 120 patients during the year, 7 of whom died; 22 were cured and 81 cases in the hospital at date of the Report.

At the meeting of the Board, March 5th, 1848, F. M. Ingraham, M.D., and Phillip O. Hyatt, M.D., were appointed Physicians to the County Poor-House and Lunatic Asylum, in place of Dr. J. B. Zabriskie, deceased; it having been decided to have two physicians for the said establishment, owing to the large increase of paupers and of diseases. The County Penitentiary and Work-House was so far completed on March 23d, 1848, that an order was made by the Supervisors to deliver an order to the Sheriff, directing him to deliver to David Afflick, the Keeper of the same, thirteen prisoners confined in the jail, to be employed at hard labor in the said Penitentiary and Work-House, until the expiration of their several terms. The longest term for which any of these prisoners were sentenced, was six months.

Arrangements for further accommodations were made for the reception of more prisoners in the said Penitentiary. An order was also made, directing the County Treasurer to borrow, on the credit of the county, \$5,000 to pay the contractors on the Hospital building, as they severally become entitled to payment.

The records of the Superintendents are very imperfect in stating the names of the *Keepers* of the County Penitentiary and Work-House, but we find that David Afflick had for some time been Keeper; and that at the meeting of August 22d, 1848, Richard W. Call and Platt Heartt were appointed Assistant Keepers of the Penitentiary and Work-House.

Sept. 19th, 1848, the Superintendents and Board of Supervisors made an order that the prisoners confined in the Penitentiary should be employed in repairing the public highways, leading from Brooklyn to the County Poor-House, under the direction of the Overseers of Highways, and in the custody of the Keepers of the Penitentiary. \$3,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents.

January 18th, 1849, the Superintendents exhibited vouchers for expenditures from August 1st, 1848, to January 1st, 1849, amounting to the sum of \$16,705.81; of which \$15,007.66 was for Alms-House expenses, and \$1,352.46 was for the Penitentiary account.

March 30th, 1849, the *Hospital* at the Penitentiary was erected and ready for occupation.

August 7th, 1849, the Superintendents reported that they were in immediate want of funds, to the amount of \$6,000. On August 27th, James C. Rhodes was appointed Chairman of the Board of Superintendents of the Poor. Mr. Rhodes was the *first Chairman* appointed by this Board, of which there is record. On that day, the Sheriff of the County delivered 13 more prisoners, sentenced to hard labor, from the County Jail to Davis Afflick, Keeper of the Penitentiary.

September 4th, 1849, we find the Record of the Board of Assistant Keepers of the County Penitentiary was established.

The question of the salaries of the Board of Superintendents had now become one about which there were many severe contests in the Board of Supervisors. Some of the members favored liberal salaries, while others were in favor of reducing the salaries to the lowest possible amount.

The question of the great disproportion of Poor expenditures of Williamsburg over that of Brooklyn was brought before the Board of Supervisors, and a resolution was adopted stating that the reasons given to justify the great expenditure in Williamsburg (with a population of about one-third of that of Brooklyn), are insufficient, and such excessive expenditure was censured.

It appeared that the expenditure for the persons temporarily relieved in Brooklyn during the year ending July 31st, 1849, was \$3,447; Williamsburg, \$2,480.

On September 24th, 1849, the annual report to the Superintendents of the Poor, of the Physicians to the Poor Establishment, was taken up, by which it appeared that the whole number of persons relieved and supported during the year ending July 31st, 1849, were 8,671; the number of persons who were temporarily relieved was 5,984. The aggregate amount of money expended during this year was \$50,240.01; of this \$3,471.34 was on account of the Penitentiary, and \$6,534.61 on account of Hospital. Since January 1, 1849, for the general support of the Poor-House, \$32,386.13.

The estimated amount saved in consequence of the labor of paupers was \$2,000. The sum actually expended over and above the labor and earnings of the paupers, divided by the average number kept during the year, was \$58.88 per year, or \$1.13 per week for keeping each pauper.

The cost of the new Hospital and the land it stands on, with the brick building, 100 feet by 40, occupied exclusively as an hospital, was \$21,923.

The value of the whole establishment at that time was \$68,925.

The whole number of paupers in the establishment on the 1st of August, 1848, was 500. Admitted during the year, 2,035. There were 49 births. There were remaining in the Poor-House on July 31, 1849, 494. Of this number 269 were foreigners. There were 268 deaths in the establishment during the year.

The Physicians' report to the Poor-House, for the year ending July 31st, 1849, states that 2,712 cases of disease were treated, 268 of which proved fatal; 9 of these were caused by *delirium tremens*; consumption 45. The cholera having broken out on the 1st of July, there were 38 deaths caused therefrom.

In the Lunatic Asylum there were, on the 31st of July, 1849, 81 patients; 53 were admitted after that date, making 134 the whole number admitted, of whom 17 had died, 28 discharged, and at the date of report there were 77 remaining.

Mr. Rhodes presented a communication relative to the amount of room in the Lunatic Asylum. This report did great credit to the Board of Superintendents, which then consisted of William Rushmore and James C. Rhodes, of Brooklyn; Henry E. Ripley, Williams-

burg; Stephen N. Stillwell, Gravesend and New Utrecht, and John L. Ryder, Flatbush and Flatlands.

On October 2d, 1849, the sum of \$2,500 was appropriated by the Supervisors to be placed to the credit of the Superintendents for the erection of an additional building on the County Poor-House Farm, for the accommodation of children of the Poor-House; and an order was made for the immediate erection of said building.

October 31st, 1849, \$1,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents. A plan was submitted and accepted for the new *Nursery Building*, separate from the Poor-House; and also a place for a new Penitentiary Building.

By an Act of the Legislature, passed April, 1849, the Treasurer of the County was authorized to borrow on the credit of the County the sum of \$10,000 for the erection of nursery buildings on the Alms-House Farm, and for a wing to the County Jail.

On the 20th of November, 1849, the site for the new nursery building was located at the east of new Hospital, and within the same enclosure.

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors, on the 9th of January, 1850, Samuel E. Van Derveer, who had been elected a Superintendent of the Poor, took the oath of office.

By a resolution of the Superintendents, January 19th, 1850, all the able-bodied male convicts in the Penitentiary were directed to be employed, when the weather permitted, in digging out, breaking and preparing stone on the penitentiary grounds for the foundation of the Nursery building to be erected on the Alms-House ground.

February 13th, a Surveyor was employed to stake out the grounds for a *New Penitentiary*.

On June 7th, 1850, the plans for the enlargement of the *Lunatic Asylum* were presented, in obedience to an order made in March of that year.

On June 18th, 1880, the *Poor-House* on the County Farm was destroyed by fire. This fire was a very serious and alarming one; and, at one time, the loss of many lives seemed inevitable, and the destruction of the other buildings imminent; but, through the bravery and alacrity of the firemen of Flatbush, this great disaster was averted, and was confined to the loss of the Alms-House alone. The gallant conduct of the firemen was duly and publicly acknowledged by the Boards of Supervisors and Superintendents of the County.

On June 24, measures were taken to rebuild the Alms-House, and at the next meeting plans were given for the new Alms-House. The Building Committee for the new Alms-House was composed of Messrs. Sloan, Voorhees, Waterman and Berry, who closed a contract for the erection of a new building on July 23, 1850.

On August 16th, 1850, David Afflick, keeper of the Penitentiary, having been superseded by James

Edwards, was subsequently found to have been guilty of malfeasance in his official duties, and was prosecuted criminally therefor.

The County Treasurer was directed on the 28th of August to take the sum of \$10,005 and credit the same to the Superintendents of the Poor, towards defraying the expenses of erecting a new Alms-House. Plans were also submitted for the new Penitentiary on this day.

The Annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor show, that, after the burning of the principal building of the Alms-House, it became necessary to furnish immediate accommodations for the paupers, and that they caused temporary buildings to be erected for the purpose. As there was a large quantity of bedding, furniture and other property consumed, which they were obliged to immediately replace, they had incurred an expense of \$2,000. The Superintendents also recommended an addition to the Hospital, and that it should be built at once. The report further shows that the number of persons relieved and supported during the year ending July 31st, 1850, was 7,963. The number of persons who were temporarily relieved was 5,140. The aggregate amount of money expended during the year was \$57,687.33. Among the items making up this expense was: for physicians and medicine, \$2,353.43; keeper and nurses, \$3,446.63.

There was received into the Poor Fund \$11,776.68 from the Commissioners of Emigrants; for board of lunatics, \$2,150.03; from putative fathers of illegitimate children, \$444; for produce sold, \$545.23; from the County Treasury, \$34,000; from the pockets of deceased paupers, \$13.19. Balance on hand August 1, 1849, \$1,023.24.

The report also shows that a building designed as a nursery for the children is in process of erection. The number of paupers in the Poor-House on the 1st day of August, 1849, was 494; admitted during the year, 2,271; born in the Poor-House, 58; discharged during the year, 1933; ran away, 21; died, 237. There were in the Poor-House on the 1st of August, 1850, 582. The produce raised on the farm during the year exceeded that of any previous year. The school for the children was reported to be in a most flourishing condition. The estimate of the amount of money necessary for the support of the poor, including every item for the year ending July 31st, 1851, was \$66,658.80. There was due from the Commissioners of Emigration for the months of June and July, \$1,500.

For some cause the report of the Physicians to the Hospital and Lunatic Asylum does not accompany the report of the Superintendents. Such a report is, however, alluded to in these words: "The report of the Resident Physicians of the Hospital and Asylum calls for the most serious consideration."

On Oct. 30, 1850, the Treasurer of the county was directed to place to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor, the sum of \$2,000. On the same day, the new *Nursery* building for children was reported to be so far completed that a portion of it was ready to be occupied.

Nov. 28th, the Treasurer was directed to place \$3,000 to the credit of the Superintendents.

On the 26th of December, the Treasurer of the county was directed to place \$5,000 to the credit of the Superintendents. At this time Dr. T. A. Wade proposed to

treat all the prisoners in the County Penitentiary and furnish the necessary medicine for \$12 per month, which proposition was accepted. Jeremiah E. Lott, who had been elected one of the Superintendents for the ensuing year, took the oath of office.

The selection for a site for the new Lunatic Asylum having caused much discussion, the question was finally settled on the 27th of December, 1850, by locating the Asylum on the county farm. Plans for the asylum, made after the Asylum at Trenton, N. J., were favorably received, and contracts made for the erection of the same, to commence early in the spring.

May 2d, 1842, James Edwards was removed from the office of Keeper at the Kings County Penitentiary, and Samuel S. Myers appointed in his place.

May 29th, the construction of the new Alms-House was reported rapidly progressing.

August 5th, 1851, the annual report of the Superintendents and also the report of the Physicians of the Poor Establishment, were submitted, and laid over for a future meeting; but it does not appear from the minutes that they were ever taken up again.

On September 3, 1851, \$2,500 was appropriated for the erection of a dwelling-house for the Assistant Physician, on the lot south of the Asylum; and a petition from many citizens for the erection of a *house of worship* for the poor, on the Alms-House Farm, was received and favorably considered. A resolution was also passed ordering the building, on the County Farm, of a cottage-house for engine and wash-house, with steam engine and washing apparatus.

The question of the enlargement of the present Lunatic Asylum, or the building of a new one, began to engross the attention of the Boards of Superintendents and Supervisors early in the autumn of 1851, and gradually became an all-absorbing question. About the first of October the project of erecting a Lunatic Asylum upon Long Island was inaugurated, and efforts were made to interest the Supervisors of Queens, Suffolk and Richmond Counties. It was also proposed, and steps were taken in the direction of adding 100 feet in length to the Asylum building, and for a time this project promised to be carried forward.

October 1st, 1851, an addition of 100 feet in length was ordered to be made to the Asylum building; but this action of the Board was subsequently rescinded.

November 15th a loan of \$50,000 for erecting a new Penitentiary and new Lunatic Asylum, under an Act of the Legislature passed July 1st, 1851, was made; but the resolution was soon after rescinded, and the plan of enlarging the present Lunatic Asylum was again revived.

February 26th, 1852, Henry E. Ripley became a member of the Board of Superintendents for the ensuing year.

Several efforts were made by the Supervisors to purchase a site for the new Lunatic Asylum. Various

other sites were even selected; plans and specifications presented with directions to proceed with the building; but all proved abortive. The matter continued to occupy the Board for the remainder of the current year; and, to add to the embarrassment, the proposition to build a large addition to the County Hospital was made in May, 1852, and vigorously urged. Early in June, the same year, the salary of T. A. Wade, Physician to the Penitentiary, was fixed at the sum of \$250 per annum.

About the first of July arrangements were made and nearly completed for the purchase of the farm of Mrs. Margaret Crooke, in Flatlands, for the use of the County and for the site of the new Lunatic Asylum. But the citizens of that town remonstrated so strongly against having the Lunatic Asylum in their midst that this project was abandoned.

August 24th, 1852, the annual reports of the Superintendents of the Poor Establishment gave, as expended for the Alms-House, Hospital and other establishments, \$112,208. The number of lunatic (paid) boarders in the Asylum on the first of August, 1852, was 23. The weekly cost of boarding a person at the Lunatic Asylum was \$3.03. The whole amount of lunatics at the Asylum August 1st, 1852, 158. The actual cost for supporting the poor for the year ending July 31st, 1852, was \$104,525.59. The Superintendents' report for this year is *very* imperfect, and the Physician's report is entirely wanting.

August 31st, 1852, the Treasurer of the County was directed to place the sum of \$30,000 to the credit of the Superintendents, to be disbursed in the Poor Establishment.

On the 26th of September, 1852, the long mooted and troublesome matter of selecting a site for the new Lunatic Asylum was finally settled, by locating it upon the County Farm; and the Asylum Committee was directed to proceed at once with its erection. So great was the joy of the majority of the Supervisors over this settlement of the long-vexed question, that it was ordered *that the resolutions by which the same was settled "be elegantly engraved, placed in gilt frames, and hung up in conspicuous places in the several public poor institutions in the county, for the benefit of posterity."*

December 17, 1852, Joel Skidmore was elected as Superintendent for the ensuing year.

March 1st, 1853, the County Treasurer was directed to place the sum of \$4,000 to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor, to be expended for the maintenance of prisoners in the County Penitentiary.

July 8th, 1853, the County Treasurer was directed, under the provisions of an Act passed April 15th, 1853, to borrow on the credit of the county the sum of \$50,000, payable in three instalments, with interest, the same to be applied to the completion of the Lunatic Asylum; and, also, to borrow on the credit of the county the sum of \$10,000, to be applied in completion of the County Hospital at Flatbush

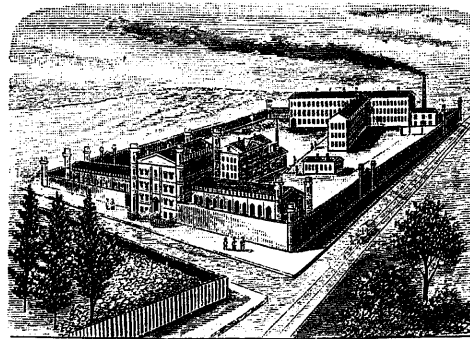
August 1st, 1853, the death of DR. BULLOCK, physician to the Lunatic Asylum, and who had fallen a victim to the typhus fever, taken in the discharge of his duties, was announced, and resolutions passed expressive of the high esteem in which he was held.

The annual reports of the Superintendents and Physicians of the Poor Establishment were presented at this meeting. They are not now extant.

From the accounts, however, which appears in the records of the Supervisors, under date of September 9th, 1853, we find that the sum estimated as necessary for the support of the poor for the year ending July 31st, 1854, was \$162,490.82.

November 14th, the Treasurer was directed to borrow, on the credit of the county, the sum of \$10,000, to be expended in the completion of the County Penitentiary.

On the 8th of December, 1853, Samuel Hubbard and H. E. Ripley took the usual oath of office as Superintendents of the Poor. On the same day the Supervisors of the County and the Superintendents of the Poor gave notice and certified that the *penitentiary* in the County of Kings was ready for the confinement of prisoners therein, and that it was the duty of all magistrates and courts therein to sentence all persons who, on conviction, were liable to imprisonment for not less than thirty days, to confinement in said Penitentiary instead of the County Jail.



A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE KINGS COUNTY PENITENTIARY, 1884.

The sums of \$7,000 was fixed as the penalty of the bonds of the respective Superintendents of the Poor.

The sums of \$2,500, for the erection of a wash-house for the County Poor Establishment; \$3,500 for heating apparatus in the Alms-House and Nursery buildings were appropriated January 19, 1854; the sum of \$20,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents for the support of the poor. On the 26th of January the County Treasurer was directed to place the sum of \$89,590.80 to the credit of the Superintendents of

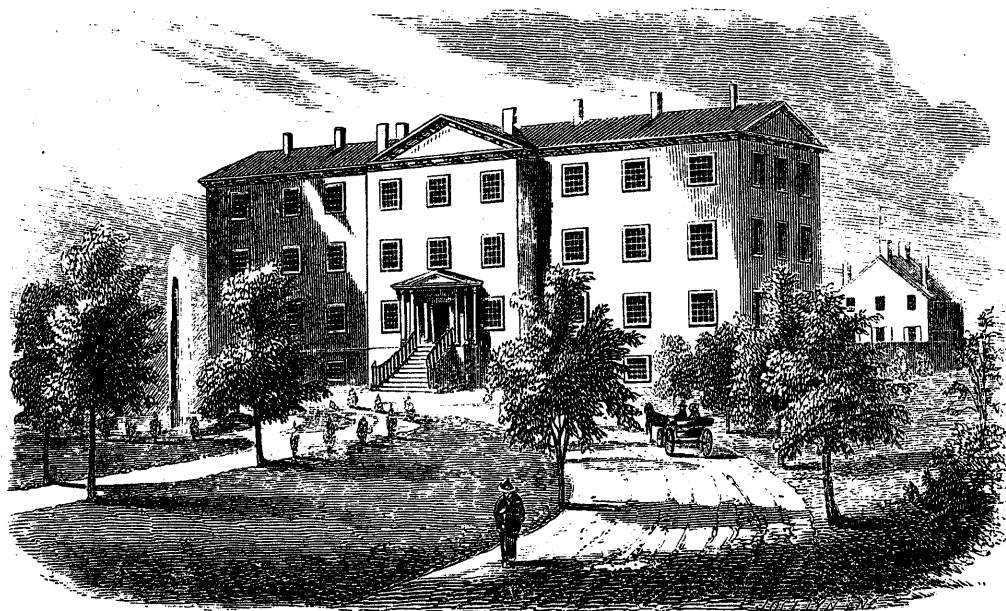
Poor, to be disbursed by them in the discharge of their official duties.

It having been made known to the Board of Superintendents that a bill was pending before the Legislature directing that the bodies of persons who may die in poor houses and certain other institutions shall be delivered to medical schools for the purpose of dissection, a resolution was offered before the Superintendents, and also before the Board of Supervisors, denouncing the said bill as a monstrous outrage upon the sensibilities and social relations of the poor, the unfortunate and the afflicted; and as morally injurious, destroying all distinction between poverty and crime, and calculated to arouse the indignation of

On the 11th of May an itemized account of the expenses incurred in the construction of the Lunatic Asylum was presented, which aggregated the amount of \$100,000; against which there was, on the 11th of May, a credit of \$100,000.

Great dissatisfaction was felt throughout the county at the unfinished condition in which a costly edifice like the Lunatic Asylum was permitted to remain, subjecting the suffering inmates of the other buildings to the horrors of their situation, and the speedy completion of the building was urgently requested.

Escapes of prisoners from the Penitentiary had become very frequent of late, and on July 13th, in conformity with a resolution of the Board, James



ALMS-HOUSE.

the friends of the large class subjected to its barbarous provisions.

After much discussion this resolution was adopted by both boards; and the Members of Assembly from Kings County were instructed to use their utmost exertions to defeat both bills.

March 2d, 1854, the Superintendents informed the Supervisors of the want of sufficient accommodations for the greatly increasing number of *small-pox* patients, and recommending the erection of a building for that purpose, calling their immediate attention to it. It was estimated that the heating apparatus and plumbing work on the new Lunatic Asylum cost \$40,000.

March 23d, 1854, the Committees on County Penitentiary and on Alms-House were directed to use all possible efforts to bring the same to a speedy completion.

Edwards, keeper of the Penitentiary and Work-House, reported the number of persons who had escaped from the Penitentiary from June 10th, 1853, to July 27th, 1854, as fourteen in all, four only of whom were retaken.

July 27th, 1845, the attention of the Board was again called to the necessity of additional accommodations for small-pox patients on the County Farm; whereupon a plan was presented for the erection of a *small-pox hospital*, 65x36 feet, two stories in height, which would accommodate about thirty patients; the estimated cost of such building to be about \$10,000, and the Alms-House Committee was instructed to proceed immediately with its erection, at the expense of \$10,000.

August 29th the annual report of the Superintendents for the year ending July 31st, 1854, was pre-

sented, and on September 5th was taken up and considered. It was *ordered*, that the report be printed, but, like several of its predecessors, it cannot be found. The Supervisors, however, in passing upon it, pay Mr. Stillwell, the clerk of the Superintendents, a handsome compliment for the manner in which it was gotten up.

The Supervisors, also, in their review of the report, state that the Poor institutions at Flatbush do credit to the Board of Superintendents, and Mr. S. S. Myers, the keeper; Dr. Turner of the Hospital, and Dr. Blanchard of the Lunatic Asylum, are especially commended.

October 3d, 1854, \$20,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents, to meet the current expenses of the Alms-House. The new Penitentiary funds were reported to be exhausted, and the County Treasurer was unable to dispose of the County bonds in sufficient amounts to meet the demands thereon; whereupon it was ordered that all work on the erection of the new Penitentiary be immediately suspended.

Suitable rooms were ordered to be finished in the basement for the resident physician.

November 1st \$20,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor, to meet the Alms-house expenses.

Under an Act passed by the Legislature March 19th, 1852, and another Act passed March 2d, 1854, the Board directed the Treasurer to borrow money on Penitentiary loans to the amount of \$100,000, if required.

As late as November 29th, 1854, the new Lunatic Asylum, although partially occupied, was still unfinished, requiring, at least, the sum of \$30,000 to complete it. Work was still suspended on the Penitentiary—a matter which was greatly deplored—and, at the above date, the County Treasurer was directed to borrow, on the credit of the county, sufficient funds for the estimated expenses of completing the Penitentiary.

December 26th it was ordered that a suitable engineer and a competent architect be employed to superintend the construction of a tower eighty feet high on the Lunatic Asylum, for supporting a reservoir to supply the county buildings with water, thereby saving the expense of putting in and running a new engine, etc. The sum of \$20,000 was also placed to the credit of the Superintendents, to be expended in support of the Alms-House department. On the 30th of December the proposed tower on the Lunatic Asylum was decided to be insufficient for a supply of water, and all operations in regard to water were suspended until a permanent supply of water should be secured for the city of Brooklyn. Such had been the delay and vacillation touching the public buildings on the Poor-House farm, that the Committee on Lunatic Asylum, in their report of December 29th, 1854, said:

“Your committee cannot refrain from remarking upon the inadequacy of the system under which the work is now prosecuted. One Board of Supervisors will adopt plans; another Board, composed of different members, may undo the work of the first. The first may contract to build under their plans; a third Board, composed of yet different members, may see the edifice nearly completed under the contracts and plans of their predecessors; while a fourth and entirely new Board may complete the work and make a final settlement with the contractors, to the great detriment of all interests. Moreover, when a new building is finished, it is turned over to an entirely new Board, to be at once made the subject of alterations and repairs. The result of such a system has been, and is exhibited at the County Farm, in a series of buildings of extravagant cost, but partially supplied with water, and, in some instances, with air; inadequately protected from fire, and in many other respects inconvenient. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the buildings should be subject to less frequent changes in the management and in the plans, specifications and contracts under which they are erected, or are to be erected.”

This report serves to explain the somewhat confused history of those public buildings which we have been obliged to give.

January 9th, 1855, the Superintendents and Supervisors each appointed special committees to report some plan for ridding the streets of the great number of vagrant boys which infest them.

January 16th the Board of Supervisors, acting under the report to which we have referred, touching the erection of county buildings, took prompt and business-like action in regard to the matter.

January 30th \$20,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor, to be disbursed for the benefit of the poor establishment of the county.

On the same day the Supervisors recommended the appointment of a committee to confer with the Superintendents on the subject of teaching the children of the Poor-House on the Sabbath; and recommending that the old nurses be discharged and that none but native-born Americans be appointed in their place; and that those so appointed have an advance of wages. This occasioned an exciting contest. It was proposed to amend the resolution by striking out the word *Americans* and inserting the words *competent teachers*. An amendment to this amendment was proposed, to add before the word “*Americans*” the word “*Protestant*,” which motion was carried by a vote of 11 ayes to 10 nays.

On the 30th of January it was decided to apply to the Legislature for the enactment of a law authorizing the Supervisors to create a loan sufficient in amount to complete the Lunatic Asylum on the County Farm. The further sum of \$20,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents on the 20th of February, 1855, to be used by them for the Poor Establishment of the county.

March 20th, \$11,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents for poor relief and poor account;

and \$5,000 on account of the Penitentiary. William Rushmore and James C. Rhodes took the oath of office as Superintendents of the Poor.

April 2d, a recently passed act of the Legislature, authorizing the Supervisors to create a loan for the completion of the Lunatic Asylum on the County Farm, was presented and action taken under it. A report was presented on the 18th of April, showing that the amount levied by tax and collected was \$187,041.80. Of this amount \$130,000.00 had been disbursed, leaving \$57,041.80 unappropriated.

There had been levied and collected for the support of the Penitentiary \$17,000. Notwithstanding this, on the same day the sum of \$20,000 was ordered to be placed to the credit of the Superintendents, to be used by them in their official character.

Upon representation of the insufficient accommodations at the Nursery, a sewer 1,100 feet in length was proposed to be constructed leading from the same; and an additional building 52x36 feet, two stories high, to be erected for a hospital for the Nursery, one of the old Lunatic Asylum buildings to be used as a hospital for the children in the Nursery until the completion of said new wing; all of which was favorably considered by some of the members, while others insisted that no new constructions be commenced or provided for until those in process of erection were completed; but a majority were in favor of erecting a new Nursery Hospital.

Previous to May 3d, 1855, it was the custom at the county Poor-House, on two days, at least, of the week, to set what was called a "*public table*," furnished with lunch, liquors and cigars for officials visiting the establishment on those days, all at the expense of the county.

On that day, at a meeting of the Supervisors, Supervisor Caldwell created much excitement by presenting, by permission, a copy of the *Brooklyn Morning Journal*, of that date, containing an article headed, "FASHIONABLE PAUPERS AT THE COUNTY POOR-HOUSE!" which was read by the clerk, and on motion, was referred to the Superintendents of the Poor, recommending to them hereafter to dispense with dinners and other refreshments; except to distinguished strangers and to invited guests. It was suggested that the number of *distinguished strangers* and *invited guests* were rapidly increasing under the generous treatment they received at the Poor-House; which to them was anything but a *Poor-House*. The introduction of this question led to one of the most animated discussions that took place before the board during that year. Motions to lay the whole subject on the table, motions of amendment, and dilatory motions were made.

Supervisor Bergen offered the resolution recommending "the Superintendents hereafter to discontinue the setting out a public table and furnishing liquors and cigars on any day or days."

Supervisor Fenton moved to amend by striking out all after the words, "*public table*," which was decided in the negative by a vote of 11 to 11. The original resolution was then adopted by a vote of 11 to 10. A motion was then made for a reconsideration of the last vote, which motion was carried in the affirmative by a vote of 12 to 10. A motion was then made that the Board adjourn, which was lost. Mr. Bergen now asked permission to amend his resolution; to add at the close thereof the words, "*to the public*." Mr. Lindsey moved that the whole subject be indefinitely postponed, which motion was lost by a tie vote.

Mr. Caldwell then moved the previous question—the question then being presented in this form: "Shall the main question now be put?" which was decided in the affirmative. And the question being taken on the resolution as amended, it was decided in the affirmative by a vote of 15 to 7. So that, so far as the Supervisors were concerned, the *public table*, with its refreshments, liquors and cigars, at the County Poor-House was discountenanced; and the Board of Superintendents subsequently coincided with the majority of the Supervisors. We give rather a full account of this contest, for reasons which will be very apparent to the reader.

The plan for a hospital to the Nursery continued to increase in popularity until the measure was adopted. The plan for using the old Hospital for the sick children of the Nursery met with decisive opposition from both Boards.

Under an Act of the Legislature passed March 27th, 1855, authorizing the Board to create a loan to complete the Lunatic Asylum on the County Farm, the County Treasurer was directed to borrow on the credit of the County the sum of \$35,000 in installments, payable as follows: \$5,000 in 1857; \$7,000 in 1858; \$8,000 in 1859; \$10,000 in 1860; \$5,000 in 1861—the bond to be signed by the County Treasurer, countersigned by the County Clerk, the seal of the County affixed to the same, numbered and recorded in the Book of County Bonds as required by section 5, chapter 36 of the laws of 1854.

A resolution was passed at this time directing that the erection of the female wing of the new Penitentiary be continued with all possible speed.

June 6th a resolution was adopted that all magistrates throughout the County be requested to commit all adult vagrants to the Penitentiary, that they might be put to hard labor.

On June 12th the salary of the Superintendents of the Poor was fixed at \$1,000 each; with \$200 additional to the Superintendent acting as Treasurer of the Board. On June 27th the annual appropriation for the fiscal year for the support of the poor having been exhausted, and the Superintendents being in debt \$25,000, the necessary measures were taken for their relief until the next fiscal year.

On the 25th of July, 1855, the Lunatic Asylum was reported as completed according to contract; whereupon the following very important resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors do now transfer into the hands of the Superintendents of the Poor the building known as the County *Lunatic Asylum*.

August 7th, 1855, the annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor and that of the Physicians to the Alms-House and Lunatic Asylum were submitted, by which it appears that the *Nursery* building was, at the date of the report, so far completed as to be occupied by 340 children—too large a number to subsist in a healthy state in one edifice. That, though when completed it would afford additional space, it was certain that that would be immediately filled to an extent which would be uncomfortable to its inmates.

Also, that the new Lunatic Asylum would be completed about the 1st of September; that the school in the Alms-House was admirably managed by Mrs. Saltzman and Miss Brown; and that in religious instruction all the inmates of the poor establishment have had the assiduous attention of the Rev. Mr. Carter, aided by other clergymen. The productions of the farm were very large, and were profitably disposed of.

The whole number of paupers supported and relieved during the year ending July 31st, 1855, was 26,581. The number of such persons temporarily relieved was: In *Brooklyn* (Western District) 10,670; (Eastern District) 7,904; in *Flatbush*, *Flatlands* and *New Lots*, 275; *Gravesend* and *New Utrecht*, 48; total, 18,897; the cost of which was \$225,217.86. Received for the benefit of the Poor establishment, from all sources, during the year, \$227,390.36. The estimated value of the profit on the labor of the paupers was \$1,500. Of the amount expended for the support of the poor, \$67,750.51 was expended for the support of the patients in the hospital and small-pox house, averaging \$143.85 per annum, or \$2.75 per week for the actual cost of each patient.

And the amount applicable to the support of the poor, divided by the average number of paupers kept in the Alms-House, Lunatic Asylum and Nursery buildings, gives \$73.72 per annum, or \$1.40 per week as the actual cost of each pauper.

The estimated value of the whole Poor Establishment on the 31st of July, 1854, was \$408,000; the number of persons in the Alms-House, Hospital, Nursery and Asylum on that day was 1,156; admitted during the year ending July 31, 1855, 6,376; there were born in the Poor-House, 152; discharged during the year, 5,654; absconded, 41; died, 420; bound out, 5; out on trial, 31; leaving in the Poor-House on the 31st of July, 1855, 1,533, 921 of whom were foreigners, and 185 lunatics.

The estimated expenses for the Poor Establishment for the year to end July 31st, 1856, was \$302,196.20. The estimated amount necessary for the support of the Penitentiary for the ensuing year was \$16,000. The number of prisoners in the Penitentiary on July 11th, 1855, was 125.

On September 5th, 1855, \$25,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents, to be expended in the support of the Alms-House. On that same day there were in the Penitentiary 155 prisoners.

On the 3d of October, 1855, the Committee of Supervisors made a report which created great sensation in the County, inasmuch as it strongly condemned some of the management of the Superintendents of the Poor, touching the Poor Establishment of the County.

The Superintendents in their reply alleged that, as they derived their office from the Legislature of the State, and their election direct from the people, they did not regard themselves as amenable to the Board of Supervisors; and that the Legislature, in requiring them to submit to that Board their annual reports and accounts, only intended to give the Board of Supervisors an advisory power. But the Supervisors insisted that the following language of the statute: "It shall be the duty of the Supervisors to examine the accounts of the Superintendents of the Poor and audit the same," made it the duty of the Supervisors to exert a supervisory power over the Superintendents. Accordingly, the report to which we have alluded, which was very lengthy, was submitted to the Board of Supervisors, and adopted by that body and duly reported. The report charged the Superintendents, among other things, with extravagance in purchasing supplies for the Poor-House. That the purchases included a profusion of articles which properly belonged to the class of luxuries; alleging that the people never intended that the poor supported at their expense should share in luxuries of which they (the tax-payers) were not able to partake.

In evidence of the prodigality of the Superintendents in furnishing supplies, the Committee allege that more was actually paid for supplies purchased at wholesale than the same articles would cost at retail. That 1,600 gallons of wine and brandy were purchased during the year, at a cost of \$5,000, giving about four gallons each to the average yearly inmates of the Poor-House. 18,000 pounds of tea was furnished for the County buildings during that time—*about nine tons*—at an average cost of from 43 cents to 45 cents per pound, wholesale; 56,083 pounds of butter, or 28 tons, at an average wholesale cost of 24½ cents per pound, consumed in the year; 119,245 pounds, or 60 tons, of sugar, at an average wholesale cost of 7½ cents per pound, etc., etc. The article chiefly furnished was an ordinary brown Havana sugar, for which the New York prices ranged from 5 to 5½ cents per pound.

The committee concluded their report thus:

"This great abuse of office by the Superintendents in their office demands from the Board of Supervisors of Kings County merited censure; and we submit it to the Board to judge whether this great looseness in conducting the County business is not very near the perpetration of fraud upon the county. Your committee do not charge fraud upon any one, but leave the Board and the public to judge of the statement of facts as they appear from our examination."

The report was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, who, in ten separate resolutions, admonished the Super-

intendents of the Poor touching their manner of purchasing supplies for the poor; recommending, also, "the appointment of a competent person as a store-keeper to receive and distribute supplies" for the county poor. They also invited a public competition in furnishing county supplies; refused to audit all bills for tea which did not furnish the particular cargo and chop; required the Superintendents to explain to the Board the discrepancy in the purchase and actual use at the Hospital of tea, sugar, butter and rice; refused to allow the charge of \$34.45 for daily papers for the use of the officers of the establishment; or to approve the account as rendered by the Superintendents until they satisfactorily settle all errors in tares and weights. They also directed the Superintendents to furnish to the poor under their charge plain, substantial and wholesome food, and no goods of such an average high grade as the expenses for the past year indicated.

They required them to report to this Board *monthly* (under oath) as to their purchases, expenditures and proceedings; and appointed a committee to present to the Board, as early as possible, a plan for an entire and permanent reformation in the expenditures for the poor of Kings county. Supervisors Caldwell, Bergen and Rowe constituted this committee.

One thousand copies of this report were ordered to be published, together with the annual report of the said Superintendents.

This was the result of the action of the Board of Supervisors in regard to the Board of Superintendents of the Poor. No vote of censure was passed by the former Board, nor was there any belief that the Superintendents were guilty of any fraud. It was conceded that they only carried out a practice which had obtained in the County Poor Establishment for many years. The Superintendents afterwards, on October 10th, submitted a very able answer in explanation of their course, which was presented at a joint meeting of the two Boards, at which time all errors were substantially rectified.

On November 21st, 1855, \$25,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor for the benefit of the Poor Establishment of the county.

December 12th, 1855, \$25,000 for the Alms-House account and \$6,000 for the Penitentiary account were placed to the credit of the Superintendents.

The committee heretofore appointed on the subject of reformatory measures in the expenditures of the poor, reported the draft of an act to be submitted to the Legislature for enactment at the coming session, which effected radical changes in the management of the Poor Establishment of the county. We shall refer to this act hereafter.

On the 10th of January, 1856, \$25,000 was appropriated to the Superintendents for Alms-House purposes. This appropriation, however, was not made

without strong opposition, inasmuch as the Superintendents had failed to make the report called for by the resolution of the Supervisors.

By the annual report of the Keeper of the Penitentiary, January 10th, 1856, it appeared that there had been, during the year 1855, 1,054 prisoners committed to the Penitentiary, of which 417 were committed for habitual drunkenness; 101 for being drunk and disorderly.

February 5th, \$15,000 was appropriated to the Superintendents for Alms-House account, and \$7,000 for account of temporary relief. The new Penitentiary was reported to be "in a state of forwardness," indicating completion as early as August next. The money expended on this building down to date amounted to \$24,990, and it was decided to borrow \$50,000 for the purpose of completing the same.

James Voorhees, elected at the general election in November as Superintendent of the Poor, took the oath of office on December 27th, 1855.

By an order of the Superintendents of the Poor, the prisoners in the Penitentiary were directed to be employed, in bad weather, in breaking stones for macadamizing the roads.

On March 14th, 1856, \$20,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor for the benefit of the Alms-House.

On April 9th, 1856, \$20,000 was deposited to the credit of the Superintendents for Alms-House support, and \$5,000 on account of temporary relief.

The 30th of April a report was presented, showing that the amount levied in the taxes for the support of the poor for the fiscal year was \$206,108.10; for deficiency in the previous year, \$25,000; Penitentiary account, \$17,000. Total, \$248,108.10.

On June 11th, \$25,000 was appropriated to the Superintendents of the Poor on Alms-House account, and \$9,113 for Penitentiary account.

At the annual meeting of the Supervisors, August 5th, 1856, the Superintendents of the Poor presented their annual report (by far the ablest, most interesting and satisfactory of any of its predecessors), accompanied by that of Dr. Thomas Turner, Resident Physician of the Alms-House and Lunatic Asylum.

Report: Number of paupers admitted to the Alms-House for year ending July 31st, 1856, was 4,477; discharged, 4,222; died, 342; bound out, 4; put out on trial, 96; the number remaining July 31, 1856, 1,347; of these were males over sixteen years old, 383; under sixteen, 291; females sixteen years old and over, 541; under, 132; 495 were natives, 852 foreigners. The number of persons temporarily relieved, 18,625; of these 10,603 were from the Western District of Brooklyn; 7,599 from the Eastern District; 351 from Flatbush, Flatlands and New Lots; 72 from Gravesend and New Utrecht. *Recapitulation*: Number remaining in the Alms-House July 31, 1855, 1,533; admitted during the year, 4,477; temporarily relieved during the year, 18,625. Whole number relieved and supported during the year ending July 31, 1856, 24,635. Expenditures during the year: Alms-House, \$61,602.75; Nursery for Children, 41,397.67; Lunatic Asylum, \$48,888.-

11; Hospital, \$78,320.02. General common account of the Poor Establishment, \$8,637.43.

Dr. Thomas Turner, Resident Physician of County Hospital, reports total number treated during the year ending July 31st, 1856, to be 3,360, 1,746 males, 1,614 females; 2,207 recoveries; 433 improved; 275 died; 298 discharged; remaining July 31, 1866, 372. The daily average of inmates in Hospital, nearly 453.

Dr. Robert B. Baiseley, Resident Physician of the Lunatic Asylum, reports 330 patients treated during the above year, of whom 93 recovered; 16 improved; 2 escaped, 16 died.

Dr. Baiseley called attention to the crowded state of the Asylum, it having at that date fifty patients more than could be properly accommodated. He strongly recommends the building of another wing for the female patients. He closes his report by regretting that this is the first satisfactory report he has been able to make in two years.

On the 19th of November, \$25,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents on the Alms-House account.

About the 1st of December, 1856, the question of letting out the labor of the convicts in the Penitentiary to contractors began to be a very important one with the Board of Superintendents.

December 3d, 1856, H. E. Ripley and Charles W. Church, recently elected Superintendents, took the oath of office. The bonds of the Superintendents of the Poor were fixed at the sum of \$7,000 each.

December 26th, 1856, \$30,000 was appropriated to the Superintendents for the Alms-House Account. The manner of purchasing supplies for the support of the Poor, and the inmates in the other institutions of the county, had become a matter of great importance to both Supervisors and Superintendents. Both Boards frequently met in conference, and various means were devised to perfect an order of business under this head, but nothing conclusive was effected, as the various statutes regulating the Poor Laws were deemed insufficient. At last, on the 27th of Dec., 1856, the draft of an act regulating the purchase of supplies for the Poor, containing 11 different sections, was reported to the Board, to be reported to the Legislature for enactment; and on April 15, 1857, the said proposed act passed both branches of the Legislature and became a law, see Chapter 511 of laws, 1857. This is a very important enactment, in all its bearings upon the County of Kings.

On Dec. 30, B. N. Booth was elected a Superintendent by the Board of Supervisors (they having power under the statute to fill vacancies by election), in place of Wm. Rushmore, resigned.

On January 6th, 1857, the Keeper of the Penitentiary and Work-House reported that the number of prisoners committed was 1,454, viz.: 990 males, 464 females, an increase of 400 over the number, being committed during the preceding year. 885 of these were committed for drunkenness, 38 being drunk and disorderly.

January 20th, 1857, an interesting report was presented to the Board, showing conclusively that the County of Kings contributed larger amounts yearly for the support of the poor, than any other county in the State, except, perhaps, the County of New York.

Feb. 17th, \$35,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents for the Alms-House Account. On the same day, a committee of conference of the two Boards met, and considered the question of erecting a store house on the county farm, uniting in a report recommending such a building.

March 17th, \$25,000 were appropriated to the Account of the Superintendents for the benefit of the Alms-House.

A draft of a law for contracting the labor of convicts in the penitentiary, was submitted and forwarded to the Legislature for enactment. On the same day, plans and specifications were submitted for a store house on the county farm, at a cost of \$3,000, and the committee ordered to proceed immediately with its erection.

June 2d, 1857, a proposition received from the Aldermen of Brooklyn for leave to use the old Penitentiary, when vacated, for Truant and Vagrant children, was favorably considered, but not definitely acted upon.

Under the Act of the Legislature passed April 15th, 1857, entitled "An act relating to the purchase of supplies for the support of the Poor, and other inmates of the Public institutions of the County of Kings," the Board of Supervisors, on June 16th, 1857, proceeded to establish the "Contract System," for furnishing supplies for the said institutions. These resolutions are in the form of enactments, divided into 19 sections, the 1st section of which provided that, from and after the 1st Tuesday in August, 1857, all supplies for the institutions aforesaid should annually be purchased by contract; that ten days notice at least, shall be given before the 1st Tuesday in August of each and every year by the Superintendents in the daily papers published in the county, specifying the probable amount of each article, which will be required, the place of delivery on the county farm, what articles shall be delivered separately or included together; the probable time at which payments were to be made; the securities to be given, etc.; that sealed proposals were to be received at the county Treasurer's office.

Section 3d provides that no proposal shall be considered valid unless made in such forms, and in accordance with such regulations as the Board of Superintendents may adopt.

Section 6 provides that nothing shall be construed as forbidding the superintendents from purchasing from some one or more of their body, or by an agent to be designated by them, in open market, such articles as may be needed for the support of the poor and the inmates of the other institutions on the County Farm,

whenever necessary, during such period as contractors may neglect to comply with the provisions of their contracts. The enactments then proceed to regulate the prices of articles, and their relations to the markets, and the quality of the articles, designating what shall be regarded as necessary and appropriate.

Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 provide for the office of Store Keeper and his assistants, and his and their duties, the manner of their future appointment, and the amount of security each shall give, &c.

August 25, 1857. The annual report of the County Penitentiary shows that there had been expended for that institution during the year, commencing August 1st, 1856, and ending July 31st, 1857, \$40,772.39; that the number of prisoners in the Penitentiary, August 1st, 1856, was 92 males, 72 females; total, 164; the whole number received during the year ending July 31st, 1857, 675 males, 394 females; total, 1,233; number discharged, 770; deaths, 3; on hand at date of report, 191. Average number during the year ending August 1st, 1853, 53½; for the year ending August 1st, 1854, 89; for 1855, 152; for eight months, April 1st, 1856, 166; four months, August 1st, 1856, 159.

The whole cost for food during the year ending August 1st, 1857, was \$6,857.90. Add the estimated number of 8 persons, officers of the institution, permitted to use articles of food furnished for the prisoners free, to the 184½, the average number of prisoners, and it gives 192½ persons provided with food for one year at the cost of \$6,857.90, or of .09, $\frac{77}{1000}$ cents per day.

The report further shows there had been expended for land in 1846-1847, \$9,584.76. The cost of the old Penitentiary buildings to January 1st, 1851, was \$3,704.37. For building expenses of new Penitentiary, January 1st, 1857, were \$190,414.55. Deduct cost of land and old buildings, \$13,355.28, leaving disbursed for new buildings \$177,059.27.

October 6, 1857. The annual report of the Superintendents was taken up and considered, which shows that the total receipts for the benefit of the Alms-House, Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, during the year ending July 31st, 1857, was \$243,899.40. The total expense, or total aggregate net costs of supporting the poor, was \$233,212.57. This amount, by certain credits, was reduced to \$201,461.86. The number of persons supported at the public institutions was largely diminished during the said year by the decreased number of foreign immigrants; and by the great vigilance exercised over the applicants for admission. The average number supported or relieved during the year ending July 31st, 1857, was 1,340; the cost of supporting these persons was, as we have seen, \$201,461.86, which, divided by the average number of inmates, gives the cost per person per year, \$150.34½; per week, \$2.89; being an increase over the previous year for each inmate, per year, \$13.04½; per week, 25 cents.

The report also shows a decrease of 402 in the number of persons supported this year.

November 17th, 1857. Proposals for the erection of a dormitory building on the Alms-House Farm were favorably received and referred to a committee for action. On the 8th of December plans and specifications, and estimate of expenses, for the erection of a three-story and cellar brick building, 124x34 feet, for a dormitory for the male paupers, was reported favorably; with recommendations to proceed immediately with the work.

December 22d, 1857. A draft of an Act providing for the election of the Superintendents of the Poor by Districts was presented and approved, and ordered sent to the coming session of the Legislature for the enactment of a law to that effect. December 29th, the official bonds of B. N. Booth and J. J. White, elected as Superintendents of the Poor, were presented. The penalty in the bonds of the said gentlemen was fixed at \$10,000 each, and they took their oath of office.

On April 1st the salaries of B. N. Booth and J. J. White were fixed at \$1,200 per year.

May 19th the sum of \$85,000 was appropriated to the use of the Superintendents of the Poor. June 2d. A recommendation favorable to the purchase of additional grounds, and the erection of a *Small-Pox Hospital* thereon.

August 3d, 1858, annual report shows the aggregate costs of the poor (including out-door relief) for the year ending August 1st, 1857, was \$233,212.37; for the year ending August 1st, 1858, \$192,079.77—the difference, \$41,132.60. The expense of supporting the poor at the Alms-House for the year ending August 1st, 1857, as per report of that year, was \$201,461.86; ditto for the year ending August 1st, 1858, \$158,604.66—difference, \$42,857.20. The average number of inmates for the year ending August 1st, 1857, was 1,340; August 1st, 1858, 1,495.

The above amount (\$158,604.66) for supporting the poor for the year ending July 31st, 1858, divided by 1,495, the yearly average, shows the yearly cost of each person was \$106.09; the weekly cost of each person was \$2.04—being a decrease from the previous year for each inmate per year of \$44.25; per week, 85 cents.

This report shows that the Poor Establishment was, on the year ending as above, in a most prosperous and satisfactory condition, with a few exceptions, such as the necessity of a Small-Pox Hospital, and a Dormitory for the male paupers; and for these there was a good prospect of an early relief. It states that the gradual increase of patients in the Lunatic Asylum points to an over-crowded state of that department. The report was signed by Superintendents James Voorhees, Henry E. Ripley, B. N. Booth, Charles W. Church, John J. White.

Edwin R. Chapin, M.D., elected Resident Physician to the County Hospital, reports as in that institution on the 1st day of August, 1857, 373 patients—169 males and 204 females. Admitted during the year, 2,299 1,226 males and 1,073 females; recovered, 1,498; improved, 440; unimproved, 149; died, 257; total discharged and died, 2,344; remaining July 31st, 1858, 3271—59 males, 168 females.

The report showed an increase of small-pox in the institution; that from August 1st, 1850, to August 1st, 1857, there had been 265 cases of small-pox, 35 of which were fatal. Of the diseases in the Hospital for the said year, there were 30 cases of delirium tremens, 2 of them fatal. Number of patients in the Hospital July 31st, 1858, 268—108 men, 160 women; 187 foreigners, 81 natives; and 57 employees.

The first annual report of the Matron of the Nursery, Mary Luscomb, was also presented, and is full of interest. It showed that in her department there were on the 1st of August, 1858, 111 boys and 103 girls; that there had been dur-

ing the year ending July 31st, 1858, 575 girls and boys. The condition of this institution was satisfactory beyond the most ardent hope of its friends.

The Keeper of the Penitentiary reported the expenses of the establishment for supplies of all kinds and repairs, exclusive of expenditures for new Penitentiary and salaries, at \$24,896.98. The number of persons in the institution on August 1st, 1857, 791; the number received during the year ending July 31st, 1858, 1,517, of which 1,008 were males, 509 females. There were 1,336 discharged during the year, 1 death and 6 escapes.

October 6th, 1858, the main building and wings of the Penitentiary were reported completed at a total expense of (including lands) \$200,531.53; deducting cost of land and old building, \$13,355.28, absolute cost of new building, \$187,175.25. The indebtedness of the supply account was \$1,275.02; on the building account, \$499.51—total floating debt, August 1st, 1858, \$1,775.53.

In December, John C. Vanderveer was elected one of the Superintendents of the Poor.

January 12th, 1859, Hiram Helmies was elected Keeper of the Penitentiary. On the same day, an act in relation to the commitment of lunatics and vagrants, and to provide for the appointment of a person to take affidavits in certain cases, was presented and ordered sent to the Legislature for enactment. The matter of selecting lands to be purchased for Alms-House purposes, from the Cortelyou estate, was sent to a committee, with directions to proceed with the purchase.

April 12th, a proposition was made and favorably reported upon for erecting a temporary building on the Alms-House Farm, to be used as a *Pest Hospital*, at an expense not to exceed \$2,000.

On the 13th of April, 1859, James C. Rhodes, late a Superintendent of the Poor, was charged with collecting monies in his official capacity, which he had not paid into the county treasury. The report recommended that an action be brought against him to recover the money in his hands, and that he be removed from office, which report was accepted.

August 2d, 1859, Dr. J. L. Zabriskie was appointed Physician to the Penitentiary for the ensuing year.

October 5th, 1859, annual report for the year ending July 31st, 1859, gives the total amount drawn by the Superintendents on the County Treasury for the year ending July 31st, 1858, was \$192,079.77; for the year ending July 31st, 1859, \$113,942.07; showing a decrease of \$78,137.70. The average number of inmates for the year ending July 31st, 1858, was 1,495; for the year ending July 31st, 1859, 1,085. Decrease, 410. The cost of each inmate supported during each year was: for the year 1858, \$106.09 per year, \$2.04 per week; for the year ending July 31st, 1859, \$90.43 per year, or \$1.74 per week, showing a reduction of supporting each inmate of \$15.66 per year, or 30 cents per week.

The amount expended for temporary relief during the year ending July 31st, 1858, was \$33,260.91; for the year ending July 31, 1859, was \$15,821.04. The whole number temporarily relieved during the year ending July 31st, 1858, was 32,940; for the year ending July 31st, 1859, was 19,972.

Dr. Thomas Turner, Physician of the County Hospital, for the year shows a total under treatment during that year, of 1,789; of these 229 died; total discharged and died, 1,552; remaining July 31st, 1859, 237. Of the 229 deaths, 71 (or nearly one-third) were caused by pulmonary consumption, a disease which has always largely prevailed in the hospital with unusually fatal results. There were 22 cases of delirium tremens, 4 of which were fatal.

Edward R. Chapin, M. D., Physician to the Lunatic Asylum, for the year, shows at that date 290 patients and 56 employes. Of the patients, 122 males and 168 females; whole number under treatment during the year, 455; discharged recovered, 86; improved, 49; unimproved, 10; died, 20; 213 of these patients were foreigners. The report shows that although it was found necessary to occupy the old Asylum, not only that, but the new one was already too full for comfort; because of the crowded state of both Asylums, it had been necessary to discharge a large number of the paying patients to make room for the steadily increasing number of beneficiaries. The Doctor therefore earnestly urges a larger extension of the Asylum according to plans which he recommends.

The report of the Matron of the Children's Nursery states that there were in her department on July 31st, 1859, 89 boys and 77 girls—total, 166. There were also 17 employes. This report is one of the most satisfactory of any of the reports presented this year.

December 20th, William Bennet and Henry E. Ripley, who had been elected Superintendents of the Poor, took their seats as such.

February 23d, 1860, plans and specifications for the extension of the Lunatic Asylum were presented.

August 6th, 1861, \$15,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor.*

August 6th, 1861, annual report, for the year ending July 31st, 1861, shows the total number born and admitted in the Alms-House 2,896: in the Hospital, 2,232; in the Asylum, 190; in the Nursery, 558, making a total 5,876. Total number boarded out, 83; the total number temporarily relieved, 21,023; the total number relieved and supported wholly or in part during the year ending July 31st, 1861, 23,082. The amount of temporary relief granted for the support of the poor for the year ending July 31st, 1861, was \$16,051.69.

Edward R. Chapin, Physician to the Lunatic Asylum for the year ending July 31st, 1861, reports the number of persons in the Asylum July 31st, 1860, at 190; under treatment, 498; discharged, 70; improved, 41; unimproved, 12; died, 45; whole number discharged, 168; patients remaining in the Asylum July 31st, 1861, 330; number of employes, 64; total number of foreigners, 237.

During the last year the Asylum was fully completed by the addition of the two wings contemplated. As it is now complete, a brief account of this building seems proper and necessary. "It stands on a richly culti-

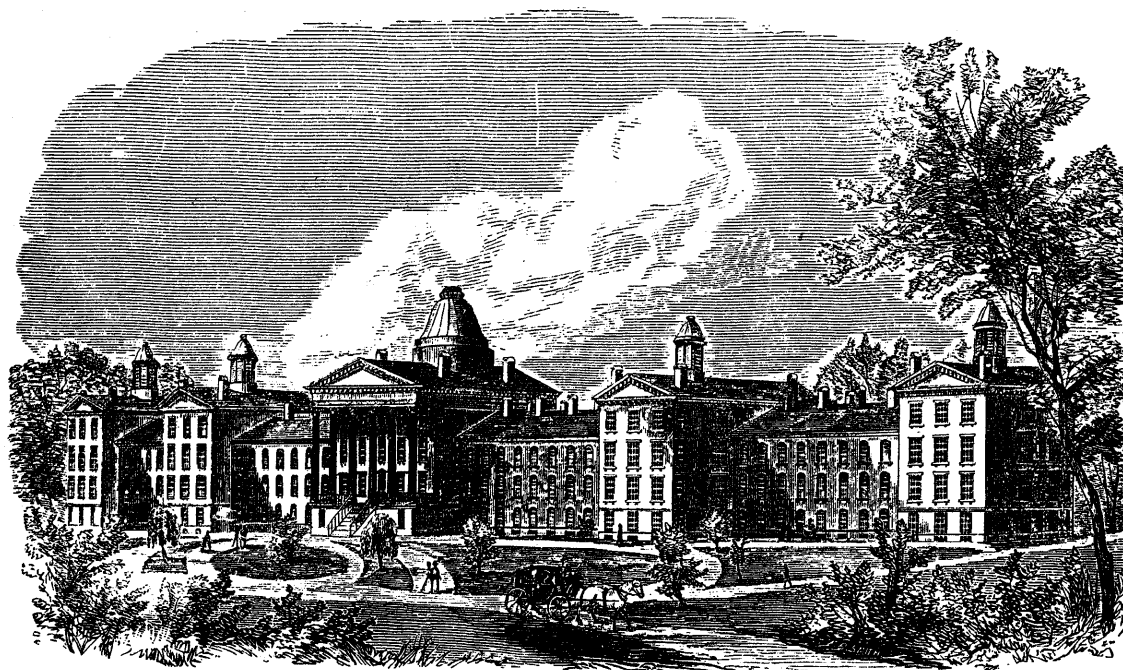
*From the time of the organization of the Superintendents of the Poor in 1827, and the organization of the County Poor Establishment, down to August 5th, 1860, the whole department was in a comparatively unsettled condition; the erection of numerous edifices, the changes incident thereto, and to the institution of new departments, improvements on the old, etc., rendered the history of the whole establishment interesting, although voluminous. It shows the gradual growth by which the present admirable Poor Establishment was reached. After the year 1861 the details will be brief, incidents less frequent, and the history will be confined to abstracts from the annual reports of the various departments.

vated plain four miles southeast from the City Hall in Brooklyn, and one mile east of the village of Flatbush. The edifice comprises the center building and four wings, and presents a front of 450 feet. The wings are each composed of an extension and transverse portion and transept. The transept is 86 feet deep, and forms considerable projections in front and rear of the extensions, which are 38 feet wide. The center building and the four transepts are five stories; and the connecting extensions are four stories high, including the basements. The buildings are constructed of brick, with brown stone water-tables, window-caps and sills, and are roofed with tin. A large dome surmounts the center building, and upon each of the four transepts there is a handsome cupola. A heavy cor-

munificent, enlightened and charitable people have added to it since that time will be referred to hereafter.

The report of Rachel A. Newton, the new Matron of the Children's Nursery, for the year ending July 31st, 1861, shows that the total number remaining at date (July, 1860) was 216—115 males, 101 females; received up to date of present report, 558—254 boys, 304 girls. Total remaining at date of last report, and since received, 774—369 boys, 405 girls; left the nursery, 483; died, 65—31 boys, 34 girls; remaining July 31st, 1861, 296.

Annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor, ending July 31st, 1862, shows that the number of persons remaining in the institutions at date of last report (July 31st, 1861) was; in Alms-House, 505; Hospital, 296; Asylum, 336; Nursery, 219—1,356. Total number born and admitted during the year in the same institutions, 429; total number of foundlings, etc.,



LUNATIC ASYLUM.

nice of galvanized iron, ornamented with square dentals of the same material, painted in imitation of brown stone, surmounts the entire structure, contributing much to the architectural effect. The entrance to the center building is protected and ornamented with an iron portico. The chapel is 46x24 feet and 25 feet high, with fixed seats or slips for 140 patients, and also an elevated gallery containing an organ and seats for strangers."

The external appearance of this building is grand and imposing. Space will not permit us to enter into any description of its interior; suffice it to say that in all respects it compares with the exterior, and in its arrangement, regulation and detail, reflects the highest credit upon the County of Kings. We are speaking of it, as it was in 1861. The improvements which a

boarded out, 73; total number temporarily relieved, District No. 1, 10,203; soldiers' families, 3,862; District No. 2, 6,442; soldiers' families, 3,924; District No. 3, 439; District No. 4, 111. Total, 24,981. Whole number relieved or supported wholly or in part during the year ending July 31st, 1862, 30,439. The whole net costs to the Superintendents of the Poor for supporting the poor of the County for the year ending July 31st, 1862, was \$131,078.24.

Dr. Thomas Turner, Physician of the Kings County Hospital, for the year ending July 31st, 1861, reports remaining in the Hospital August 1st, 1861, 341 patients. There had been admitted during the year 1,809—920 males, 881 females. Total number under treatment, 2,150—males, 1,092; females, 1,058; discharged recovered, 1,208; improved, 322; unimproved, 64; died, 251—152 males, 99 females; remaining July 31st, 1862, 305—140 males, 165 females.

Dr. Edward R. Chapin, Physician to the Lunatic Asylum for the same year, reports whole number patients in that institution July 31, 1861, as 330; admitted during the year, 204

—91 males, 113 females; whole number under treatment during the year, 534; 228 males, 306 females; recovered, 87; improved, 42; unimproved, 7; died, 32—14 males, 18 females; whole number discharged, 168; remaining July 31st, 1862, 366—males, 143; females, 223; whole number of employes, 63; of the whole number 265 were foreigners.

The contract system, or plan of letting out the labor of prisoners in the Penitentiary had, at this date, been in successful operation for several years, and was productive of a very remunerative income. For the month of October, the monies received on account of convict labor, was \$1,307.15; the total amount of expenses incurred during the year was \$25,939.74.

The Annual Report of Rachel A. Newton, Matron for the County Nursery, for the year ending July 31, 1862, shows that, on the 1st day of August, 1861, there were remaining 223; and there have been since admitted 489; total remaining and admitted, 712; of whom there have left, 405; of whom there have died, 50; total, 455; remaining July 31, 1862, 257..

On February 5, 1863, the salary of James Fitzgerald, recently elected a Superintendent of the Poor, was fixed by law at \$1,500 per year, and the salaries of the Superintendents of the 3d and 5th Districts were fixed at \$740.

On the 19th of February, leave was granted the Superintendents to remove the building known as the *old* Lunatic Asylum, to the rear of the new Asylum, at an expense not to exceed \$6,500; said amount to include all expenses for repairs.

On August 4, 1863, Dr. John L. Zabriskie was appointed Physician to the Penitentiary.

August 5, 1863. Annual Report of the Superintendents for the year ending July 31, 1863, shows that the whole number of persons remaining in the institutions on the 1st day of August, 1862, was: In Alms-House, 351; in Hospital, 255; in Asylum, 375; in Nursery, 249. Total, 1,230. Total number admitted into these institutions during the year was 3,679; total number of foundlings boarded out, 69; total number temporarily relieved, 16,901; making the whole number wholly, or in part, supported during the year ending July 31, 1863, 22,879. Total amount disbursed during the year ending July 31st, 1863, was \$158,244.01. Signed, Ditmas Jewell, J. C. Day, William E. Muchmore, James Fitzgerald, William Bennet, Superintendents of the Poor.

Dr. Thomas Turner, Physician to the County Hospital for the year, reports that there were in the Hospital, August 1, 1863, 305 patients; admitted during the year, 2,023; 985 males, 1,038 females; recovered, 1,094; improved, 297; unimproved, 87; died 258; 147 males, 101 females; total discharged and died, 1,736; remaining, July 31, 1863, 287.

Edward R. Chapin, M.D., Physician to the Lunatic Asylum, for the year, reports 366 patients in the Asylum on July 31, 1862; males, 144, females, 222; admitted during the year, 206; 79 males, and 127 females; whole number under treatment, 572; recovered, 76; improved, 40; unimproved, 11; died, 49; 23 males, 26 females; whole number discharged, 176; remaining July 31, 1863, 396; 150 males, 246 females; 64 employes.

The Matron to the Kings County Nursery reports for the year: remaining as per last Annual Report, 233 children, 27 adults; admitted during the year, 406 children, 59 adults;

total remaining and admitted, 639 children, 89 adults; of whom there have left, 394 children, 62 adults; of whom there have died, 52 children; total discharges and deaths, 446 children, 62 adults; remaining July 31, 1863, 193 children, 24 adults.

February 8, 1864. The salaries of John Delaney and Morris H. Roberts, recently elected for the 1st and 2d Districts, were fixed at \$1,500.

On June 23, 1864, the salary of James Fitzgerald, Superintendent of the Poor for the 3d District, was fixed at the rate of \$2,000 per annum.

Annual Report of the Superintendents for the year ending July 31, 1864: Remaining in the Alms-House, on July 31, 1863, 404; Hospital, 287; Nursery, 218; Lunatic Asylum, 460; total, 1,369; admitted during the year, including all these institutions, 4,517; discharged and died, 4,290; remaining, July 31, 1864, in Alms-House, 471; Hospital, 325; Nursery, 322; Asylum, 478; total, 1,596. Temporarily relieved, 20,743; foundlings boarded out, 95; institutions, 5,886; relieved, wholly or in part, for the year ending July 31, 1864, 26,724. Total amount of disbursements for the year, \$245,617.54.

Dr. Thomas Turner, resident Physician of County Hospital, for the year ending July 31, 1864, reports as remaining in the Hospital, August 1, 1863, 287 patients; 114 males, 173 females; admitted during the year, 2,314; 1,068 males, 1,246 females; whole number under treatment, 2,601; recovered, 1,542; improved, 380; unimproved, 58; died, 295; 149 males, 146 females; total discharged and died, 2,275; total remaining, July 31, 1864, 326; 135 males, 191 females.

Dr. Edward R. Chapin, Physician of the Lunatic Asylum reports: patients in the Asylum, July 31, 1863, 396; 151 males, 245 females; admitted during the year, 209; 99 males, 110 females; whole number under treatment, 605; 250 males, 350 females; recovered, 106; improved, 35; unimproved, 12; died, 39; whole number discharged, 191; remaining, July 31, 1867, 414; 168 males, 246 females; 66 employes.

Emily Muckridge, newly appointed Matron of the County Nursery for the same year, reports: remaining in the Nursery, July 31, 1863, 217; 196 children, 24 adults; admitted during the year, 587; 576 children, 11 adults; 767 children, 35 adults; total, 804; of whom there were discharged, 408 children, 6 adults; total, 414; died, 63 children; discharged and died, 471 children, 6 adults; total, 477; remaining July 30, 1854, 299 children, 29 adults; total, 327.

February 16, 1865. John E. Cammeyer was elected one of the Superintendents of the Poor, by the Supervisors, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Superintendent Morris H. Roberts.

Early in March, 1868, an effort was made to remove the Rev. Mr. McKillup, who had been for some years Chaplain of the Penitentiary. After a full hearing of the matter, it was decided that "a change is not desirable or necessary."

The Annual Report of the Superintendents for the year ending July 31, 1865, begins with a feeling allusion to the death of Dr. THOMAS TURNER, so long identified with the Poor Establishment of the county, and, to use the language of the Report, "whose faithful devotion to it cost him his life."

He was widely known, greatly beloved, and deeply lamented. Dr. Turner's successor was Dr. R. CRESSON STILES, a gentleman of high character, thorough medical education, highly esteemed by his professional brethren,

and devoted to his profession. The department, says the Report, has been admirably managed by him since the death of Dr. Turner. The Report also speaks in highest terms of Dr. EDWARD R. CHAPIN, "who manifests a rare combination of qualifications in the continued success with which the affairs of the institution have been administered." The Report also announces a change in the government of the Nursery, in the appointment of Mr. John Driscoll, "a gentleman of well-known worth and benevolence," to the control of the institution, under the title of Keeper; "his amiable wife taking the matronly care of the children. A decided improvement in the management of that charity fully justifies the new arrangement."

The report further shows that there were remaining in the institution on the 1st day of August, 1864, 1,586 inmates, viz.: Alms-House, 474; Hospital, 326; Nursery, 304; Asylum, 482; Total, 1,586.

During the year there were admitted and born, Alms-House, 2,054; Hospital, 3,117; Nursery, 687; Asylum, 263; total, 6,121. Discharged and died, Alms-House, 1,930; Hospital, 3,073; Nursery, 654; Asylum, 245. Remaining, July 31, 1865, Alms-House, 598; Hospital, 370; Nursery, 337; Asylum, 500; total, 1,805. Relieved and supported during the year ending July 31, 1865, 30,098; total amount of paid bills, \$396,540.04; total amount of receipts, \$21,565.98.

Balance, being net cost of the department for year ending July 31st, 1865, \$374,974.06.

R. Cresson Stiles, M.D., Physician of the Kings County Hospital, reports as remaining in the institution, July 31, 1864, 326 patients; 3,117 were admitted during the year, making the whole number under treatment, 3,443, which is 842 more than were treated in the year previous. Of these, 2,085 were discharged, recovered; 540 were discharged, improved of chronic disorders; 112 were removed or discharged without improvement; 336 died; there were, at the date of Report, 370. There were 331 cases of small-pox treated at the Hospital; of the whole number, 334 recovered, and 47 died; 100 cases were of infants, or children under twelve years of age; 69 cases of pulmonary consumption, and 1 case of hydrophobia was reported, which proved fatal on the fourth day of the disease.

From Kings County Lunatic Asylum, Edward R. Chapin, M. D., reports: patients in the Asylum, August 1, 1864, 414; admitted during the year, 263; whole number under treatment, 677; discharged, recovered, 56 males, 54 females; total, 110; discharged, improved, 24 males, 22 females; total, 46; discharged, unimproved, 11 males, 3 females; total, 14; died, 32 males, 43 females; total, 75; whole number discharged, 123 males, 122 females; total, 245; remaining July 31, 1865, 186 males, 246 females; total, 432; number of employees, 68; number of foreigners admitted during the year, 161; natives, 102.

The Keeper of the Kings County Nursery reports its condition for the year ending July 31, 1865: There were remaining, July 31, 1864, children, 172 males, 102 females; adults, 4 male, and 26 female; total, 304; admitted during the year, children, 333 males, 289 females; adults, 6 males, 59 females; total, 687; making a total of 991; there were discharged during the year, children, 278 males, 254 females; adults, 6 males, 56 females; total, 594; died, children, 36 males, 23 females; adults, 1 female; total, 60; making a total in all of

654; remaining, July 31, 1865, children, 191 males, 114 females; adults, 4 males, 28 females; total, 337.

The Annual Report of the Keeper of the Kings County Penitentiary* for the year ending July 31, 1865, shows: the number of prisoners confined in the Penitentiary on August 1, 1864, was 179; 73 males, 106 females; number of prisoners committed during the year was 728; 333 males, 395 females; number discharged, 743; 329 males, 414 females; number of deaths, 6; number on hand, July 31, 1865, 203; 100 males, 103 females; the average number during the year, 194½; total cost of food consumed during the year was \$18,460.67; the whole expense of the prison during the year was \$35,937.16; the amount received from the labor of convicts was \$2,420.70; the increase of expenses over the preceding year was \$9,654.88.

On March 9th, 1866, the initiatory steps were taken to purchase for the county the two parcels of land lying, the one on the north and the other on the south side of the county property, in Flatbush.

Proposed law for abolishing the office of Superintendents of the Poor, and the establishment in its place of a commission, to be known as the "Board of Commissioners of Charities."

—For a long time many of the leading citizens of the county of Kings had believed that the abolishment of the office of Superintendents of the Poor, and the establishment of some other mode of conducting the Poor Establishment of the county, would tend largely to the advantage and prosperity of all branches of the establishment; that the Board of Superintendents was not only inefficient, but to a certain degree corrupt in its management; that it had created a system of favoritism, which should not be permitted; that it was more or less governed by rings and cliques. When the Board of Supervisors and Superintendents of the Poor learned of the proceeding of the Legislature touching the abolishment of the office of Superintendents, they drew up a strong remonstrance, in which the proposed legislation was characterized as "improper and uncalled for." This was adopted by over a two-thirds vote of the Board of Supervisors; thus the matter ended for the present.

April 2d, 1866, there was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor the sum of \$250,000; and an order was also made directing that all such monies as had been, or might be, received during the year for violations of the Excise law be also placed to the credit of the Superintendents.

April 12th, the draft of an act to enable the Superintendents of the Poor to borrow money for the use of the poor of the county was forwarded to the Legislature, with a recommendation for its early passage. The County Treasurer was directed to draw from the contingent fund to the credit of the Superintendents the sum of \$25,000.

On August 2d, the Board of Superintendents presented

*We have been unable to make any extracts from this officer's report for several years past, as no such report could be found in the records.

their annual account for the year ending July 31, 1866, by which it appears that, on January 1st, Dr. R. C. Stiles, who had served for one year as resident physician of the Alms-house and its departments with great acceptability, tendered his resignation, in order to enter on the practice of his profession in the city; but he did not fail in constant and regular attendance as one of the staff of consulting physicians. The warmest thanks of the Board were tendered him by the Board for his ability as a physician, and his disinterested attention to the medical services of the Hospital. Dr. TEUNIS SCHENCK was appointed Resident Physician, as the successor of Dr. Stiles. The report further shows that at the date of the last report, August 1st, 1865, there were remaining in the Almshouse, 598; Hospital, 370; Nursery, 337; Asylum, 500; total, 1,805. Admitted and born during the year—Alms-house, 2,617; Hospital, 3,135; Nursery, 699; Asylum, 243. The whole number remaining in the establishment, July 31, 1865, and the whole number admitted into all its departments during the year, was 8,499. The whole number discharged and died during the year, in Alms-house, 2,454; Hospital, 3,161; Nursery, 590; Asylum, 205; total, 6,410. Remaining in all the departments, July, 1866, 2,089. Temporary relief granted during the year to 27,758; Foundlings, etc., boarded out 120; Institutions, 8,499. Total number relieved or supported for the year ending July 31, 1866, 36,777. Total amount of bills paid, \$364,472.62. Total amount of receipts, \$27,645.27. Balance of net costs of the whole department for the year ending July 31, 1866, \$336,287.35.

EDWIN R. CHAPIN, M. D., Resident Physician of the Lunatic Asylum for the year ending July 31, 1866, reports that there were remaining in the Asylum, August 1, 1866, 186 males, 246 females; total, 432. Admitted during the year, 111 males, 132 females; total, 243. Whole number under treatment during the year, 267 males, 378 females; total, 675; recovered, 89; improved, 42; unimproved, 9. Died, 32 males, 33 females; total, 65. Whole number discharged during the year, 205; remaining, July 31, 1866, 198 males, 272 females; total, 470. Whole number of employees, 73. Of the patients admitted during the year, 167 were foreigners. There were married, males, 425; females, 521; total, 946. Single, males, 344; females, 351; total, 795. Unknown males, 23; females, 18; total, 41.

In his report, the Doctor says, "the time for a serious consideration for enlarging the Lunatic Asylum ought not to be any longer delayed; it has again become crowded to about the same degree it was when an extension to the building was proposed seven years ago. Subsequently the Asylum was enlarged by the addition of two wings; it yet lacks a wing at each extremity to reach the dimensions of the State Lunatic Asylum of New Jersey, after which design it was modeled. In the meantime it is absolutely necessary to make some temporary provision for the incoming excess of male patients."

TEUNIS SCHENCK, Resident Physician for the Kings County Hospital, reports as remaining in the Hospital, August 1, 1865, males, 156; females, 214; total, 370. Admitted during the year—Males, 1,651; females, 1,484; total, 3,135. Total number under treatment during the year, 1,807 males, 1,698 females; total, 3,505. Recovered, 2,319; improved, 399; unimproved, 77. Died—Males, 197; females, 169; total, 366. Total discharged and died during the year—1,647 males, 1,514 females; total, 3,161. Remaining July 31, 1866—160 males, 184 females; total, 344.

Dr. Schenck reports that consumption and diseases of the kidneys still claim, as they have in former years, the largest number of victims.

John Driscoll, Esq., Keeper of the Nursery, reports for the year ending July 31, 1866, as remaining on July 31, 1865—Children, 305; adults, 320; total, 337. Admitted during the year—Children, 635; adults, 64; total, 699. Total admissions—Children, 942; adults, 96; total of admitted, 1,036. Discharged during the year—Children, 495; adults, 57; total, 552. Died—Children, 38. Total discharged and died—Children, 533; adults, 57; total, 590. Remaining July 31, 1866—Children, 407; adults, 39; total, 446. The school for the children is reported to be one of the most profitable, pleasing and satisfactory departments of the establishment. Two Sunday schools were conducted in this institution; both of them subjects of congratulation to their conductors, and to all concerned in the Nursery.

Officers of the Alms-House this year: John C. Vanderveer, *Warden*; Sarah A. Vanderveer, *Matron*; Annie L. Hicks, *Cutter*; David W. Hoagland, *Steward*.

February 11th, 1867, the crowded state of the Lunatic Asylum was presented in a report, which attracted general interest. The report concludes by strongly urging the immediate enlargement of the Asylum, and recommends that an act be prepared and forwarded to the Legislature authorizing the county to borrow on its bonds a sum not exceeding \$30,000, payable in 1883, for the purpose of making additions to the Lunatic Asylum. The report shows that "the price of board in the Asylum for patients able to pay was \$5 per week; but \$4 was received from those who were unable to pay more. This entitled the patient to a diet a little superior to the ordinary fare. In no other respect is there any other distinction between the boarders and the county patients." The total receipts for board for the year ending February 18, 1867, was \$10,338.16."

A *Dime Savings Bank* had been established in the Lunatic Asylum about the year 1857, which, together with the Graham legacy, produced quite an income for minor expenses.

A reported, presented to the Board May 7th, 1867 says:

"It is proposed to devote the proceeds of the income for the coming year, from the Graham legacy, to the purchase of reading material for the Asylum and Hospital; but, inasmuch as some of the standard works, especially the *Waverly Novels*, in a lunatic asylum, need renewing, and as they are highly recommended by the officers of that institution, your committee thought it better to devote the next year's income to that purpose, and appropriate the money in the *Dime Savings Bank*, \$40, to the purchase of books for the Hospital; for books are the best companions for a class of insane persons—a class highly intellectual and cultivated—that they can have.

The required act authorizing the County of Kings to borrow money to erect an addition to the Lunatic Asylum of the said county, passed the Legislature April 22d, 1867. It permitted the county to borrow for that

purpose \$35,000, and to issue bonds therefor, with interest payable annually; principal to be paid in 1882. On the 23d of April, an act passed the Legislature authorizing the county to borrow money for the purpose of enlarging, or erecting an additional building for the care and charge of poor children of the county of Kings, the sum to be borrowed not to exceed \$75,000.

July 1st, 1867, the question of the prodigality of the Superintendents in disbursing the funds committed to them for the support of the Poor Establishment, again came before the public. The Superintendents made frequent charges that the Supervisors did not raise sufficient money to support the poor for the year; and, as there was a discrepancy of \$11,979.12 between the accounts of the Superintendents of the Poor and the County Treasurer, and other discrepancies in accounts, the Supervisors appointed a committee on July 7th to ascertain the cause of this alleged failure of funds, and these discrepancies, &c. This committee found, as they claimed, evidences of "chicanery" and "fraud" in the purchase of stores, etc. The report closed with this significant language:

"We have thus endeavored to set forth clearly, and without fear or favor, the cause of the deficiency in the amount raised for the support of the poor. The money has been squandered, and there is no money to support the lunatics, the sick, and the paupers in the Institution; and there is no surplus in any of the accounts that can be transferred over to the Superintendents of the Poor. The only recourse is to authorize the County Treasurer to borrow money, and apply to the next Legislature to authorize us to levy a tax in 1868 to pay it."

The foregoing report was unanimously adopted by the Board of Supervisors on July 7th, 1867.

Thus, rapidly, the way was being opened for the abolition of the office of Superintendents of the Poor in the county of Kings. It is impossible to determine the truth of the allegations brought against the Superintendents; neither is it our province. That their duties were onerous and difficult, in the highest degree, is certain.

The annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor for the year ending July 31st, 1867, shows that there were remaining at date of last report, July 31st, 1866, in almshouse, 745; hospital, 344; nursery, 446; asylum, 542; total, 2,077. Admitted during year—Almshouse, 2,179; hospital, 2,484; nursery, 548; asylum, 231; total, 5,460. Discharged and died—Almshouse, 2,422; hospital, 2,529; nursery, 556; asylum, 185; total, 5,692. Remaining July 31, 1867—Almshouse, 520; hospital, 299; nursery, 438; asylum, 588; total, 1,845. Number temporarily relieved and supported, either wholly or in part, for the year ending July 31, 1867, 32,185. Total amount of paid bills, \$395,659.19; receipts, \$28,286.29. Balance, \$367,372.90.

Teunis Schenck, M. D., physician of the County Hospital, reports that the proceeds of the Graham fund, which, for a number of years back, have been devoted to the use of the Asylum and the Almshouse, were this year expended in the purchase of books for the hospital, and that a very handsome library for the institution was being formed, which

promised to be of great value to the patients. The number of patients remaining in hospital, July 31, 1866—Males, 160; females, 184; total, 344. Admitted during the year—Males, 1,321; females, 1,163; total, 2,484. Total number under treatment—Males, 1,481; females, 1,347; total, 2,828. Discharged recovered—Males, 912; females, 841; total, 1,753. Discharged improved—Males, 236; females, 168; total, 404. Discharged unimproved—Males, 45; females, 29; total, 54. Died—Males, 176; females, 142; total, 318. Total number discharged and died—Males, 1,349; females, 1,180; total, 2,529. Total remaining, July 31, 1867—Males, 132; females, 167; total, 299. Total number under treatment year ending July 31, 1866, 3,505. Total number under treatment year ending July 31, 1857, 2,858. Decrease, 667.

Dr. Edward R. Chapin, Physician of the Lunatic Asylum for the same year (the tenth annual report of that institution), reports: There were patients in the Asylum, August 1, 1866—Males, 197; females, 273; total, 470. Admitted during the year—Males, 115; females, 116; total, 231. Whole number under treatment—Males, 312; females, 389; total, 701. Discharged recovered—Males, 37; females, 47; total, 84. Discharged improved—Males, 26; females, 14; total, 40. Discharged unimproved—Males, 5; females, 4; total, 9. Died—Males, 33; females, 19; total, 52. Whole number discharged—Males, 101; females, 84; total, 185. Remaining July 31, 1867—Males, 211; females, 305; total, 516. Number of employees, 72.

John Driscoll, Keeper of the County Nursery for the same year, reports:

Remaining July 31, 1866—Children, male, 265; female, 142; Adults, male, 6; female, 33; total, 446. Admitted during the year—Children, male, 276; female, 228; Adults, male, 3; females, 41; total, 548. Total remaining and admitted—Children, male, 541; female, 370; Adults, male, 9; female, 74; total, 994. Discharged during the year—Children, male, 254; female, 230; Adults, male, 2; female, 39; total, 525. Died—Children, male, 15; females, 15; Adults, male, 1; female, 0; total, 31. Total discharged and died—Children, male, 269; female, 245; Adults, male, 3; female, 39, total, 556. Remaining July 31, 1867—Children, male, 272; female, 125; Adults, male, 6; female, 35; total, 438. The school, together with the two Sunday schools, continued to be very prosperous.

On January 21st, 1858, a law was drafted by the Supervisors, authorizing the several courts in Kings county to send all prisoners, convicted and sentenced for a term less than five years, to the County Penitentiary. This act was sent to the representative of Kings county, with instructions to secure its legal enactment by the Legislature. At this time, and since the erection of the Penitentiary, the law was such that it could not receive prisoners sentenced for a term longer than six months.

On June 8th, 1868, the following resolution was presented to the Board of Supervisors by Supervisor Stillwell:

Whereas, various charges and insinuations have been made in this Board against the Superintendents of the Poor, therefore,

Resolved, that the special committee of this Board be instructed to inquire as to whether the Superintendents of the Poor, or either of them, have been guilty of any misconduct in office, making them liable to impeachment and removal from office.

Superintendent Howell then offered the following resolution as an amendment to the foregoing :

Resolved, That this Board do hereby impeach the Superintendents of the Poor, each and every of them, and that Frederick Scholes, Supervisor of 19th Ward, is hereby appointed manager of said action, with full power to send for persons and papers."

This amendment was rejected by a vote of 12 to 9; the question recurring on the resolution offered by Supervisor Stillwell was adopted by a vote of 16 to 5.

Thus we see what a bitter and exterminating war was being waged against the Superintendents of the Poor. But the latter sustained the contest with a degree of determination, ability and confidence that, up to this time, rendered them masters of the situation.

June 16th, 1868, a lengthy and very able report regarding the condition of the Almshouse was presented by a committee, who had made a very exhaustive examination of it, and of its inmates, its liabilities and its management. Several alterations were suggested, especially as to the matter of convict labor therein. Finally, the report recommended "that necessary steps should be immediately taken for the erection of *workshops* in sufficient numbers to employ all paupers in the Kings County Almshouse having trades; and, also, for the purchase of a piece of ground in addition to that already owned by the county for the employment of unskilled labor; and for the establishment of a dairy to supply the county buildings with milk—the same to be managed by pauper labor. This report was unanimously adopted by the Board. On August 4th, Dr. John L. Zabriskie, was elected, by acclamation, Physician for the County Penitentiary for the ensuing year. A resolution was also adopted that all medicines used in the Penitentiary ordered by the physician be paid for by the county. The Physician's salary was fixed at \$1,000 a year.

The annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor for the year ending July 31st, 1868, shows that the Lunatic Asylum was being enlarged, to meet the rapidly increasing number of patients demanding admission. The report also contains the following statement:

Remaining at date of last report: Almshouse, 520; Hospital, 299; Nursery, 438; Asylum, 516; total, 1,773. Admitted and born during the year: Almshouse, 2,404; Hospital, 2,314; Nursery, 532; Asylum, 250; total, 5,500. Total: Almshouse, 2,924; Hospital, 2,613; Nursery, 970; Asylum, 766; total, 7,273. Died and discharged during year: Almshouse, 2,253; Hospital, 2,297; Nursery, 494; Asylum, 234; total, 5,278. Remaining July 31st, 1868: Almshouse, 671; Hospital, 316; Nursery, 476; Asylum, 532; total, 1,995.

Total number relieved and supported, either wholly or in part for the year ending July 31, 1868, 44,734; total amount of paid bills, \$488,078.53; total amount of receipts, \$24,277.92.

Dr. Tennis Schenck, Physician to the County Hospital for the year ending July 31st, 1868, reported that the new building erected in the rear of the Hospital building had been completed, and was fully devoted to the purposes for which it was intended. It is a two-story brick building 56 x 24, entirely separated from the main building, and only con-

nected with it by a covered passage. It is supplied with a complete set of culinary apparatus, with a large range of most approved pattern, and finally, it was "a perfect and ample kitchen, with every convenience that could be devised." The report contains the following:

Remaining July 1st, 1867: Males, 132; females, 167; total, 299. Admitted during year: Males, 1,208; females, 1,106; total, 2,314. Total number under treatment: Males, 1,340; females, 1,273; total, 2,613. Discharged recovered: Males, 766; females, 773; total, 1,544. Discharged improved: Males, 275; females, 203; total, 478. Discharged unimproved: Males, 14; females, 23; total, 37. Died: Males, 146; females, 92; total, 238. Total died and discharged: Males, 1,201; females, 1,096; total, 2,297. Remaining July 31, 1868: Males, 139; females, 177; total, 316. Total number under treatment July 31, 1866, 3,505; total number under treatment July 31, 1867, 2,828; total number under treatment July 31, 1868, 2,613.

Dr. Edward R. Chapin, physician of the Lunatic Asylum for the same year, reported the additional wings of the asylum as nearly completed; that they were being constructed, from architectural necessity, much after the general plan of the other wings, though they are more extensive, and are improvements upon the old ones in regard to ventilation, the arrangement of the dormitories and many other minor details. The report also shows that several fine concerts have been given at the asylum with excellent effect; for, says the report, "music has a most happy effect upon the insane. It calms the excited, enlivens the oppressed, and soothes all." Dr. Chapin returns his thanks to the Graham fund for a very elegant set of the Waverly novels, the set obtained from the same source nine years previous having become nearly worn out. The report shows:

Patients in asylum August 1, 1867: Males, 211; females, 305; total, 516. Patients admitted during the year: Males, 113; females, 137; total, 250. Whole number under treatment: Males, 324; females, 442; total, 766. Discharged recovered: Males, 35; females, 56; total, 91. Discharged improved: Males, 28; females, 43; total, 71. Discharged unimproved: Males, 10; females, 6; total, 16. Died: Males, 33; females, 23; total, 56. Whole number discharged: Males, 106; females, 128; total, 234. Remaining July 31, 1868: Males, 218; females, 314; total, 532; employees, 74.

John Driscoll, keeper of the County Nursery, for the same year reports the addition to the building as rapidly progressing; that there has been a large increase in the number of the inmates during the past year. The number of inmates remaining July 31, 1867, were: Children, 272 males and 125 females; adults, 6 males and 35 females; total, 438. Admitted during year: Children, 279 male, 191 female; Adults, 12 male, 50 female; total, 532. Total remaining and admitted: Children, 551 male, 316 female; adults, 18 male, 85 females; total, 970. Discharged during year: Children, 229 male, 155 female; adults, 11 male, 46 female; total, 441. Died: Children, 26 male, 27 female; total, 53. Total during year: Children, 255 male, 182 female; adults, 11 male, 46 female; total, 494. Remaining July 31, 1868: Children, 296 male, 134 female; adults, 7 male, 39 female; total, 476.

By an act of the Legislature, passed February 25th, 1869, the Superintendents of the Poor, with the Almshouse Committee, were directed to classify the paupers of Kings County, putting all who were able to work without injury to themselves in the workhouse, retaining only the aged and infirm, and such persons as are unable to work in the Almshouse of said county; and upon the completion of the workhouse, by contract or

otherwise, provide employment for all paupers able to work.

July 16th, 1869, the Superintendents and Supervisors met at the Lunatic Asylum, to consider its overcrowded state; and, after a careful investigation, unanimously decided that it was absolutely necessary to enlarge the same at once. The following were the number of rooms in the old Asylum:

One reception room, 2 parlors, 2 offices, 6 sleeping rooms, 2 dining rooms, 3 store rooms, 1 kitchen, 1 laundry, 1 chapel. In the wings of the original building there were 192 single dormitories, 20 associated, 16 attendants' rooms, 20 parlors or sitting rooms, 16 dining rooms, 20 bath rooms, 16 clothes rooms; total number of rooms in old building, 300. In new extension, 112 single dormitories, or strong rooms, for violent patients; 80 single dormitories, 16 double dormitories, 16 parlors or sitting rooms, 8 attendants' rooms, 8 bath rooms, 8 clothes rooms, 6 dining rooms, 44 rooms in the basement not quite ready for occupancy. There were in the new wings 292 rooms, within 10 of the whole number in the old building, which old building cost the county about \$250,000, at a time when material and labor cost about one-fourth of the price it cost in 1867 and '68.

The extension of the new *Nursery* at this time was nearly completed; spacious playgrounds were set apart and ornamented for the use of the children, and everything prepared to make them a comfortable home.

On the 8th of May, 1869, an act passed the Legislature of the State authorizing the County Treasurer to borrow, on the credit of the county, the sum of \$75,000, for the purpose of erecting an addition to the Almshouse, and for the erection of a workhouse for the County of Kings.

The annual report of the Superintendents of the Poor for the year ending July 31st, 1869, shows the following: Remaining at date of last report: Almshouse, 671; Hospital, 316; Nursery, 476; Asylum, 532; total, 1,995. Admitted and born during the year: Almshouse, 2,090; Hospital, 2,693; Nursery, 452; total, 5,521. Total admitted to whole Poor-establishment, 7,516. Discharged and died during the year: Almshouse, 2,024; Hospital, 2,674; Nursery, 527; Asylum, 261; total, 5,485. Remaining July 31st 1869: Almshouse, 737; Hospital, 335; Nursery, 401; Asylum, 557; total, 2,030. Total number relieved or supported, either wholly or in part, for the year ending July 31st, 1869, 40,381. Total amount of paid bills, \$477,542.37; total amount of receipts, \$23,392.95.

Dr. Teunis Schenck, Physician of the County Hospital, reports for the same year: Remaining in the Hospital July 31st, 1868: Males, 139; females, 177; total, 316. Admitted during year: Males, 1,464; females, 1,229; total, 2,693. Total under treatment: Males, 1,603; females, 1,406; total, 3,009. Discharged recovered: Males, 963; females, 835; total, 1,797. Discharged improved: Males, 303; females, 230; total, 533. Discharged unimproved: Males, 26; females, 29; total, 55. Died: Males, 159; females, 130; total, 289. Total discharged and died: Males, 1,450; females, 1,224; total, 2,674. Remaining July 31, 1869: Males, 153; females, 182; total, 335. Total number under treatment end of year 1866, 3,505; total number under treatment year ending July 31st, 1867, 2,828; total number under treatment year ending July 31st, 1868, 2,613; total number under treatment year ending July 31st, 1869,

3,009. The officers of the Hospital this year were: *Resident Physician*, Teunis Schenck, M. D.; *Assistant*, P. L. Schenck, M. D.; *Consulting Physicians*, John L. Zabriskie, M. D., Homer L. Bartlett, M. D., R. Cresson Stiles, M. D.; James Fitzgerald, *Steward*; Mrs. Ellen M. Martin, *Matron*; Mrs. B. Murphy, *Matron*, S. P. H.

Dr. Edward R. Chapin, Physician in Chief of the County Lunatic Asylum for the same year, reported that "additional wings to the Asylum, which were begun on the first day of May, 1868, and completed on the first day of July, 1869, gave the whole Asylum a frontage of 683 feet; lineal measure, 1,005 feet. The centre building and two wings were commenced during the fall of 1853, and finished in October, 1855; two additional wings of the same dimensions were commenced on the 18th of July, 1860, and finished in June, 1861. The new wings just completed are considerably larger than the old, each measuring 442 feet; each of the old 327 feet around the outer walls. The Asylum will now accommodate 700 patients. A tower has been erected adjoining the engine-house for the introduction of pure air into the buildings; it is of brick, and 50 feet above ground surface, 8 feet below and 10 feet square. At the base is placed a fan, 10 feet in diameter and 7 feet in width; from the fan an underground duct, 7 feet high by 7 feet wide, and 20 feet long, extends to the air chamber under the centre building; the main steam and water pipes are laid in this passage. The air chamber is 12 feet wide by 7 feet wide, and extends to each end of the building. To prevent the rise of dust, the bottom of the chamber is covered with concrete, over which is placed a layer of cement."

The Lunatic Asylum of Kings county, at the time of which we are writing, was excelled in point of convenience, capacity, management and regard for the comfort and health of the patients, but by a very few in the State; and we may say, without affectation, by few in the nation. Its imposing architectural appearance has already been described.

Dr. Chapin appends to his report these statistics:

Patients in Asylum August 1st, 1868, 218 males, 314 females; total, 532; admitted during the year, 134 males, 152 females; total, 286; whole number under treatment, 352 males, 466 females; total, 818; discharged—recovered, 51 males, 55 females; total, 106; improved, 44 males, 36 females; total, 80; unimproved, 11 males, 11 females; total, 22; died, 21 males, 32 females; total, 53; whole number discharged, 127 males, 134 females; total, 261; remaining July 31st, 1869, 225 males; 332 females; total, 557; number of employees, 81.

The annual report for the same year gives as remaining July 31st, 1868, 430 children, 46 adults; total, 476; admitted during the year, 406 children, 46 adults; total, 452; total remaining and admitted, 836 children, 92 adults; total, 928; discharged during the year, 452 children, 46 adults; total, 498; died, 29 children; total, 29; total discharged and died, 481 children, 46 adults; total, 527; remaining July 31st, 1869, 355 children, 46 adults; total, 401; decrease during the year, 75. The salary of Francis McNeeley, the Keeper of the Penitentiary, was on August 1st, 1869 increased to the sum of \$4,000 per annum.

We should have added that on September 23d, according to an act of the Legislature of 1857, chap. 511, sec. 3, of the session laws of that year, the County Treasurer was directed to issue certificates of indebtedness not exceeding \$100,000, and to give his official bond for the same, payable nine months from date, the money to be placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor.

The history of the transactions of the Superintendents of the Poor, and of the poor establishment of the county, for the year ending July 31st, 1870, and of the year ending July 31st, 1871, are so unimportant and so few that we shall not make mention of many of them, especially as the abstracts from the annual reports of the different departments which we present give a fair history of their condition during that time. It is, however, proper to add that there was a growing determination on the part of a large class of the community to have the office of Superintendents of the Poor abolished, and a Commission of Charities, &c., created in its place. On May 8th, 1870, \$80,000 was placed to the credit of the Superintendents of the Poor, and on the 3d of May \$28,000 was placed to their credit, to be expended in paying off debts and liabilities incurred on account of the new Alms-House, in course of erection.

On October 4th, 1870, it was ascertained that \$148,685 had been expended on the new Alms-House; the same was placed in the sole charge of the Superintendents by the committee.

The annual report of the Superintendents for the year ending July 31st, 1870, shows that there were remaining at date of last report in Alms-House, 737; Hospital, 335; Nursery, 401; total, 2,080. Admitted and born during the year, Alms-House, 2,216; Hospital, 3,394; Nursery, 539; Asylum, 314; total, 6,463. Total Alms-House, 2,953; Hospital, 3,729; Nursery, 940; Asylum, 871; whole total, 8,493. Died and discharged during the year: Alms-House, 2,206; Hospital, 3,354; Nursery, 512; Asylum, 270; total, 6,342. Remaining July 31st, 1870: Alms-House, 747; Hospital, 375; Nursery, 428; Asylum, 601; total, 2,151. Total number relieved, either wholly or in part, during the year ending July 31, 1870, 46,712. Total amount of paid bills, \$559,116.16; receipts, \$22,091.35. Signed, Henry Corr, Thomas Foran, Henry Seiler, John J. Scott, Cornelius Ferguson, Superintendents of Poor of Kings County.

Dr. Teunis Schenck, resident physician to the County Hospital, gives as remaining in Hospital July 31st, 1869, 153 males, 182 females; total, 335; admitted during the year,

1,813 males, 1,581 females; total, 3,394; total number under treatment, 1,966 males, 1,763 females; total, 3,729; discharged—recovered, 1,293 males, 1,232 females; total, 2,525; improved, 307 males, 174 females; total, 481; unimproved, 20 males, 23 females; total, 43; died, 183 males, 122 females; total, 305; total number discharged and died, 1,803 males, 1,551 females; total, 3,354; remaining July 31st, 1870, 163 males, 212 females; total, 375.

Dr. Edward R. Chapin, physician of the Lunatic Asylum, states that there were, on the 1st of August, 1869, in the Asylum, 224 males, 334 females; total, 558; patients admitted during the year, 130 males, 184 females; total, 314; whole number under treatment, 354 males, 518 females; total, 872; discharged—recovered, 57 males, 73 females; total, 130; improved, 20 males, 42 females; total, 62; unimproved, 10 males, 10 females; total, 20; died, 29 males, 29 females; total, 58; whole number discharged, 116 males, 154 females; total, 270; remaining July 31st, 1870, 238 males, 364 females; total, 602; number of employees, 83.

This was the thirteenth annual report of Dr. Chapin.

John Driscoll, Keeper of the County Nursery, shows there were remaining July 31st, 1869, 355 children, 46 adults; total, 401; admitted during year, 466 children, 73 adults; total, 539; total, 821 children, 119 adults; grand total, 940; total discharged during the year, 484; died, 28; discharged and died, 512; remaining July 31st, 1870, 428; showing an increase of 27 inmates during the year.

This year there was an annual report of the expenses of the Penitentiary for the year ending July 31st, 1870, showing that the total expenses that year were \$65,898.99. On November 10th, 1870, John Cunningham, Esq., was appointed Keeper of the Kings County Penitentiary for the term of three years, to date from November 1st, 1870.

We have now given the history of the Board of Superintendents of the Poor, from the creation of that office down to December 31st, 1870, a term of 43 years, and, we may say, down to April, 1871; for, between the rendition of the annual reports of the various departments under their charge, on the 14th of April, 1871, there is nothing recorded of sufficient importance to be inserted in this history.

On the 14th of April, 1871, *the office of Superintendents of the Poor in the County of Kings ceased to exist, by or under that name.*

By an act of the Legislature, passed on the 4th of April, 1871, the Superintendents of the Poor of Kings County were to be known and designated as the "COMMISSIONERS OF CHARITIES OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS."