

616.879

V2

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Supervisors of the Insane

OF THE

STATE OF VERMONT

State College
of Washington
Library

FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING

JUNE 30, 1918

THE TUTTLE COMPANY
MARBLE CITY ^{text} PRESS
PUBLISHERS VERMONT PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
RUTLAND, VERMONT
1918

APR 1 '35

Report of the Board of Supervisors of the Insane for the State of Vermont

FOR THE BIENNIAL TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 1918

To His Excellency the Governor and the General Assembly:

Complying with the requirements of Statute the Supervisors of the Insane present the following biennial report for your information and consideration.

There has been no change during the past two years in the facilities of the state for the care and treatment of the insane, the institutions remaining practically the same. We have all together four hospitals or sanitariums for that purpose, namely:

The Vermont State Hospital at Waterbury, fully owned and controlled by the State.

The Brattleboro Retreat at Brattleboro, which is a private philanthropic institution but under contract to care for such state patients as may be sent there, the state paying at the rate of \$4.50 a week per patient.

The Lake View Sanitarium at Burlington, operating under a license given by the Supervisors of the Insane and receiving private patients only.

The Green Mountain Sanitarium at Burlington which cares for all classes needing medical treatment and may receive insane patients under a license from our Board. This is also a private institution.

The Board has visited the State Hospital and also Brattleboro Retreat, the two institutions where state patients are cared for, once each month.

At these visits all the wards are inspected, condition of the patients and their care noted. Always there are many conferences with the patients and such as have sufficiently recovered to be able to get along outside an institution without detriment to themselves or injury to others are discharged. Much depends upon the environment and the interest of their friends in deciding as to the practicability of a discharge.

The Board grants many conditional discharges, which works out to good advantage, for while a considerable number have to be revoked sooner or later, it gives the patients an opportunity to be at home during a remission of their symptoms or during a lucid interval and to be returned whenever it becomes necessary without the expense and formality of Probate Court proceedings.

We find these institutions well conducted and the quiet and tidy patients happy and comfortable; the noisy and untidy patients are as happy and comfortable as their condition will

permit but all are well cared for, the officers and attendants doing their best to alleviate the condition of these unfortunate people.

The Board visits Lake View Sanitarium and Green Mountain Sanitarium occasionally and examines into the conditions under which the patients are kept. We find them both well ordered and finely equipped for the care and successful treatment of private patients.

At the close of the biennial term, June 30, 1916, the number of patients in these institutions was as follows:

State Hospital.			
State patients.....	629		
Private and part pay patients.....	112	741	
<hr/>			
Brattleboro Retreat.			
State patients.....	309		
Private patients.....	132	441	
<hr/>			
Lake View Sanitarium.			
All private patients.....		12	
<hr/>			
Green Mountain Sanitarium.....		0	1194
<hr/>			
Of these the number of private patients having residence outside the State was:			
State Hospital.....		0	
Brattleboro Retreat.....		73	
Lake View Sanitarium.....		4	
Green Mountain Sanitarium.....		0	77
<hr/>			
Whole number of patients in our hospitals residents of Vermont and transients.			1117
Of these there were private patients residents in Vermont:			
State Hospital.....		112	
Brattleboro Retreat.....		59	
Lake View Sanitarium.....		8	
Green Mountain Sanitarium.....		0	179
<hr/>			
Total number of insane, drug and al- coholic cases supported by the State June 30, 1916.....			938
Of this number there were supported by the State at State Hospital:			
Drug cases committed by Probate Court.....			15
Alcoholic cases committed by Probate Court.....			11
Alcoholic cases committed by Muni- cipal Court.....			34
Brattleboro Retreat:			
Drug cases committed by Probate Court.....			1
Alcoholic cases committed by Pro- bate Court.....			3
<hr/>			
			64

Leaving the actual number of insane residents or transients, in Vermont in our hospitals at the expense of the State on June 30, 1916. 874

In order that comparisons and deductions may readily be made between this and the preceding biennial term, below are given the same data for the term ending June 30, 1918:

State Hospital:			
State patients	631		
Private and part pay patients	106	737	
Brattleboro Retreat:			
State patients	299		
Private patients	137	436	
Lake View Sanitarium:			
All private patients		25	
Green Mountain Sanitarium		0	1198
Of these the number of private patients having residence outside the State:			
State Hospital		0	
Brattleboro Retreat		90	
Lake View Sanitarium		15	105
Whole number of patients in our hospitals residents of Vermont or transients			1093
Of these there were private patients residents of Vermont:			
State Hospital		106	
Brattleboro Retreat		45	
Lake View Sanitarium		10	161
Total number of insane, drug and alcoholic cases supported by the State June 30, 1918.			932
Of this number there were supported by the State at the State Hospital on June 30, 1918:			
Drug cases committed by the Probate Court		8	
Alcoholic cases committed by the Probate Court		2	
Alcoholic cases committed by the Municipal Court		3	
Brattleboro Retreat:			
Drug cases committed by the Probate Court		0	
Alcoholic cases committed by the Probate Court		0	13
Leaving the actual number of insane residents or transients in Vermont in our hospitals at the expense of the State June 30, 1918.			919

Our Board has discharged during the biennial term 202 State patients as compared with 115 discharged during the previous term; notwithstanding it appears that there are 45 more actually insane state patients in our hospitals than there were two years ago and the increase in the previous biennial term was 80.

There is normally some increase in our hospital population, due not so much to an actual increase in mental diseases in our population as to the fact that relatives, guardians and friends are coming more to see the advisability of hospital treatment for the insane rather than to undertake the disadvantages and often perilous alternative of home care; besides the people of this State have much more confidence in our hospitals for the insane than has been the case in former years.

And along this line it may be noted that public opinion throughout the state tends to favor segregation of all mentally defective classes as evidenced by the establishment of the School for Feeble Minded at Brandon. It is the purpose of our Board, however, to discharge all patients who should be cared for outside an institution.

In our last report recommendations were made for a change of statute relative to the care and treatment of alcoholics and drug habitues sent to the hospitals by the Probate Court and also as to those sent to the State Hospital by Municipal courts for six months upon the third conviction for intoxication. Changes were made by the last legislature in accordance with our recommendations so that now all Probate Court cases are sent for a period of one year with the provision that our Board may discharge them at the expiration of four months. With few exceptions, for special reasons, they have been discharged after four months treatment, the discharges being conditional, so that they may be returned by revocation of the discharge by the Supervisors, in the event that they go wrong. Still the original commitment holds over them, with its restraining influence, for the full period. The expense and difficulty in obtaining intoxicants and drugs favors the good results obtained and this policy works out very satisfactorily.

The change in the law which previously sent persons to the State Hospital for six months upon the third conviction for intoxication in a Municipal Court has also proved very satisfactory so that now only a limited number have been sent to the State Hospital, and a considerable number, owing to other measures, have been put to gainful occupations and thereby support themselves and contribute to the support of their dependents.

As a result of these changes in the Statute and their practical application, there are state inebriate and drug cases on June

30, 1918, as compared with the number on June 30, 1916, as follows:

	1916	1918
PROBATE COURT ALCOHOLIC CASES		
State Hospital.....	11	2
Brattleboro Retreat.....	3	0
PROBATE COURT DRUG CASES		
State Hospital.....	15	8
Brattleboro Retreat..	1	0
MUNICIPAL COURT CASES		
State Hospital	34	3
	64	13

Indicating that there are 51 fewer cases of this kind supported by the State than there were two years ago and so far as we can judge the corrective and reformatory results have been equally good.

It occasionally happens that a state patient requires a surgical operation for which neither the State Hospital nor the Retreat at Brattleboro has proper facilities. We have one such positive case under observation at the present time. There is no fund available to pay even the moderate hospital charge for such operations at our general or local hospitals.

It would be economy for the state to provide such a fund, available in the discretion of the Supervisors, both because patients are entitled to surgical relief, and because an operation in some cases would promote the possibilities of a discharge and the state be relieved of further care of the patient.

We recommend that such a fund be made available by act of legislature.

Vermont State Hospital for the Insane WATERBURY, VERMONT

The hospital staff is as follows:

W. L. Wasson, M. D., Superintendent.

E. A. Stanley, M. D., First Assistant.

T. J. Allen, M. D., Second Assistant.

J. C. O'Neal, M. D., Third Assistant.

Changes in the Medical Staff were made necessary by the resignation of Dr. D. D. Grout as Superintendent, which took effect January 1, 1917, whereupon the remaining members of the staff were promoted in order and Dr. O'Neal appointed on July 1, 1917, as Third Assistant.

Dr. Grout had been Superintendent since Sept. 5, 1905, and during his administration the hospital greatly prospered.

Under the administration of the present Superintendent and Staff the people of the state may be assured that the affairs of the hospital are in competent and faithful hands, and that everything possible for the well being of the patients will be done in a skillful and kindly way.

Everything is clean, orderly and conducted on a well ordered system.

The following data give the movement of hospital population and other pertinent facts:

	Men	Women	Total
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1916 . . .	399	342	741
Number of patients admitted in two years	316	189	505
Number of patients discharged in two years	256	102	358
Number of patients died in two years	94	62	156
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1918 . . .	370	367	737
Absolute discharges by Board of Supervisors . . .	12	2	14
Conditional discharges by Board of Supervisors	72	48	120
Absolute discharged patients returned on new order of commitment	0	1	1
Conditionally discharged patients returned on new order of commitment	2	7	9
Conditional discharges revoked by Supervisors . .	13	11	24
Cases twice or more discharged	0	0	0
Number of epileptics June 30, 1918	29	23	52
Number of tubercular patients	3	0	3
Number of patients eloped	0	0	0
Number Probate Court alcoholic cases June 30, 1918	2	0	2
Number Probate Court drug cases June 30, 1918.	3	5	8
Number Municipal Court alcoholic cases June 30, 1918	3	0	3
Number of Nurses and Attendants (Being one to 9 5 patients)	34	40	74

Brattleboro Retreat

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

The Medical Staff is as follows:

S. E. Lawton, M. D., Superintendent.

Jonathan H. Ranney, M. D., First Assistant.

Myron D. Lipes, M. D., Second Assistant.

The following changes in the Medical Staff of the Retreat have taken place during the biennial period: Dr. Ernest L. Tracy, Second Assistant Physician, resigned November 2, 1916, to take up general practice in Brattleboro. Dr. Herbert W. Taylor, First Assistant Physician, was called to the Government service, April 3, 1917, and was succeeded by Dr. Roy C. Jackson, who entered upon his duties as First Assistant Physician, April 2, 1917. Dr. Jonathan H. Ranney was appointed Second Assistant Physician May 1, 1917, and was made First Assistant after the resignation of Dr. Jackson which took place, January 15, 1918. Dr. Myron D. Lipes was appointed Second Assistant Physician to succeed Dr. Ranney, February 28, 1918. The two latter are still in service.

To this institution are sent by the Probate Courts practically all the state patients from Windham and Bennington Counties and a large proportion from Windsor and Rutland Counties, thus relieving the State Hospital of what would otherwise be an impossible number of patients.

This is an excellent and most worthy institution and merits the support and backing of the state.

The patients are given kindly consideration and are well cared for.

There were here on June 30, 1918, 301 State patients and 135 private patients and of the private patients 90 were residents of other states and provinces, indicating that this institution is very useful to the State and also that it has a widespread reputation.

During the past year there has been installed a congregate dining room for nurses which is a positive improvement and is very satisfactory to the nurses, especially at this time when competent attendants are so difficult to obtain.

The following table shows the movement of population for the biennial period together with other pertinent data:

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1916.....	State	309
	Private	132
Number of patients admitted in two years.....	State	92
	Private	177
Number of patients discharged as recovered.....	State	32
	Private	34
Number of patients discharged as improved.....	State	35
	Private	47
Number of patients discharged as unimproved.....	State	4
	Private	30
Number of patients died.....	State	41
	Private	65

Of the private patients remaining there are 45 residents of the State of Vermont.
Of the private patients remaining there are 90 residents of other States or Provinces.

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1918.....	State	299
	Private	137
Number of absolute discharges by Supervisors of State patients.....	Male	4
	Female	1
Number of conditional discharges by Supervisors of State patients.....	Male	34
	Female	29
Number of elopements of State patients.....	Male	3
	Female	1
Number of absolutely discharged State patients returned.....	Male	0
	Female	0
Number of conditionally discharged State patients returned by revocation of discharge by Supervisors.....	Male	6
	Female	4
Number of voluntary patients admitted in 2 years.....		53
Number of tubercular patients admitted in 2 years.....		0
Number of tubercular patients remaining June 30, 1918.....		0
Number of epileptic patients admitted in 2 years.....		6
Number of epileptic patients remaining June 30, 1918.....		20
Number of Nurses.....		26
Percentage of nurses to patients.....		1 to 16
Number of drug cases committed at the expense of the State in 2 years under provision of Sec. 3736 of Vt. Public Statutes.....		1
Number of drug cases discharged.....		1
Number of alcoholics admitted under this Act.....		5
Number of drug cases remaining.....		0
Number alcoholic cases remaining.....		0

Lake View Sanitarium

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

F. W. SEARS, M. D., Superintendent.

For several years this institution was owned by Dr. Walter D. Berry, who was also the Superintendent. On January 1, 1917, he sold it to E. O. Crossman, M. D., and Dr. Sears became associated with him in its management on May 1, 1917. On June 1, 1918, Dr. Sears assumed full control. Important improvements have been made by the new management for the better care and treatment of mental disorders. A full hydrotherapeutic outfit has been installed and also a system for giving continuous baths on two floors and additions made to the electrical outfit. It is a well equipped sanitarium for the treatment of nervous and mental diseases, besides being very pleasantly situated with well kept grounds on the border of Lake Champlain. It is a very desirable institution for the care of private patients where scientific treatment and kindly consideration may be assured.

The following table shows the movement of population during the biennial period:

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1916.....	12	
Number of patients admitted in 2 years.....	118	
		130
Number of patients discharged recovered.....	23	
Number of patients discharged improved.....	53	
Number of patients discharged unimproved.....	19	
Number of patients died.....	10	105
		25
Number remaining June 30, 1918.....		25
Number of epileptics.....	5	
Number remaining residents of Vermont.....	10	

Green Mountain Sanitarium

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

T. E. HAYS, M. D., Superintendent.

This institution is equipped to care for insane patients and is licensed by our Board to enable them to do so, but its purpose is that of a general medical sanitarium and no insane patients have been retained there during the biennial term, such as have appeared having been transferred to a hospital more for that purpose.

It is a well equipped institution for the care and treatment of all general diseases.

Respectfully submitted,

R. M. PELTON, M. D.,

F. E. STEELE, M. D.,

W. N. BRYANT, M. D.,

State Board Supervisors of the Insane.

Appendix

TABLE I—STATE HOSPITAL
Residence of Persons Admitted

Counties	Men	Women	Total
Addison.....	13	10	23
Bennington.....	4	2	6
Caledonia.....	24	18	42
Chittenden.....	62	39	101
Essex.....	3	1	4
Franklin.....	26	21	47
Grand Isle.....	1	0	1
Lamoille.....	16	13	29
Orange.....	14	15	29
Orleans.....	36	12	48
Rutland.....	28	10	38
Washington.....	64	39	103
Windham.....	4	1	5
Windsor.....	21	8	29
Total.....	316	189	505

TABLE II

Admission by Towns and Counties—Brattleboro Retreat

Fourteen were private patients at the time of their admission, being transferred to state later.

Rutland County	Men	Women	Total
Rutland.....	12	4	16
Wells.....	1	0	1
Fair Haven.....	1	0	1
Ira.....	0	1	1
Pittsford.....	1	0	1
Poultney.....	1	2	3
Proctor.....	1	1	2
Pawlet.....	0	2	2
Brandon.....	3	1	4
W. Rutland.....	1	0	1
Middletown Springs.....	1	0	1
Danby.....	1	0	1
Mendon.....	1	0	1
Bennington County			
Bennington.....	8	4	12
Sunderland.....	0	1	1
No. Bennington.....	1	2	3
Arlington.....	1	0	1
Shaftsbury.....	1	0	1
Manchester.....	1	1	2
Sandgate.....	1	0	1
Dorset.....	1	0	1
So. Shaftsbury.....	0	1	1
Readsboro.....	1	0	1
Winhall.....	1	0	1
Windham County			
Brattleboro.....	6	0	6
Rockingham.....	2	1	3
Whitingham.....	1	0	1
Vernon.....	1	0	1
So. Londonderry.....	0	1	1
Townshend.....	1	0	1
Westminster.....	1	0	1
Dummerston.....	1	0	1
Halifax.....	2	0	2
Windsor County			
Springfield.....	1	0	1
Plymouth.....	1	0	1
Woodstock.....	1	0	1
Windsor.....	3	2	5
Ludlow.....	3	3	6
Chittenden County			
Essex.....	1	0	1
Totals.....	65	27	92