

BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
Supervisors of the Insane
OF THE
STATE OF VERMONT
FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING
JUNE 30, 1934



THE VERMONT PRINTING COMPANY
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

Gift
Vermont State Board of
Supervisors of the Insane
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REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORS OF THE INSANE FOR THE STATE OF VERMONT

To *William H. Dyer*

Commissioner of Public Welfare:

In accordance with the usual custom and the provision of Statute the State Board of Supervisors of the Insane herewith submit to you and through you to the Governor and the General Assembly their biennial report for the term ending June 30, 1934.

There are only two institutions in the state operating under license from our Board to receive and care for insane persons. These are the Lake View Sanatorium and the Green Mountain Sanatorium both located at Burlington. These are visited and inspected at least once a year. Both have suitable facilities for the care of insane patients and are well adapted to the class of which they receive and treat. They are both well conducted and are entitled to public confidence. No patients are cared for in either of these Sanatoria at state expense, all being private patients.

All insane persons cared for at the expense of the state are patients at the State Hospital for the Insane at Waterbury, wholly owned and operated by the state, and the Brattleboro Retreat at Brattleboro which is a private institution held in trust by a Board of Trustees, without stockholders or dividends, but by a provision of law is under obligation to receive and care for insane patients committed by Probate Court at the expense of the state, for which the state pays at the rate of \$6.00 a week.

Sec. 5533 of the Public Laws of Vermont provide that the criminal insane be kept at the State Hospital at Waterbury and that the insane poor be cared for either at the State Hospital or at the Brattleboro Retreat and that at least two hundred shall be at the Retreat for each five hundred at the State Hospital, or in that proportion as near as practicable.

Not counting the 102 private patients but counting the 50 criminal there are now 895 patients at the State Hospital at state expense. There are at the Brattleboro Retreat 391 state patients.

This makes the proportion at the Retreat somewhat larger than the two to five ratio. But as the State Hospital is nearly filled to its capacity it would seem advisable to allow the matter to remain as it is until some adjustment can be brought about. In this connection it might be of interest to consult the table herewith appended showing admissions by Counties.

Our Board has visited the State Hospital at Waterbury and the Brattleboro Retreat at Brattleboro once a month when the several wards are visited and many personal interviews had with patients.

At these visits particular attention is given to selecting patients who are not insane or have recovered or sufficiently recovered to warrant their discharge. Friends or guardians may remove private patients at any time they may think advisable. All state patients, that is those committed by Probate Court at the expense of the state, can be discharged only by the Board of Supervisors of the Insane.

You will observe from the tables further along in this report that we have discharged 278 state patients during the biennial term; from the State Hospital 225 conditional, 25 absolute discharges, and from the Brattleboro Retreat, 25 conditional and 3 absolute discharges.

Much the larger number are conditional in order to avoid expense to the town of another Probate Court procedure in the event that further hospital treatment becomes necessary at some future time.

The advisability of this policy is apparent by the fact that 96 conditional discharges have been revoked; 85 State Hospital patients and 11 Brattleboro Retreat patients, practically one for every three conditional discharges. This proportion of revocations to conditional discharges is practically the same as in former biennial terms. The time these patients were able to get along outside an institution varied from several months to several years.

In making discharges we have adhered strictly to spirit and wording of the Statute in discharging patients not insane or so far sane as to warrant their discharge, and in discharging idiots and persons Non Compos or demented persons who are not dangerous. We are aware that this sometimes creates a problem for the town to which Non Compos or chronic invalids not insane are returned. They are often a great care or a nuisance requiring oversight that the town has no facilities for providing. But the Statute contemplates that such persons shall not be held in a hospital for the insane.

A "Committee on the Handicapped" drawn from the membership of "The Rural Survey" made up of well-known men and women conversant with social and economic conditions in Vermont, and need of care for the handicapped, have among other things recommended "The establishment of a State Infirmary for the indigent chronic sick, the expense of whose care should be met in whole or in part by the towns." This recommendation deserves careful consideration and if any action is taken along these lines we would hope that it might in some way be made to take care of the Non Compos who are not admissible to the State

School at Brandon and also the chronic and incurable inebriates and drug addicts who are repeatedly sent to the State Hospital and maintained at the expense of the state simply to keep them sober or free from drugs for the duration of their stay.

On June 30, 1932 there were 1250 patients at the expense of the state at the State Hospital and the Brattleboro Retreat including alcoholic and drug cases. You will observe from the following tables that on June 30, 1934 there were 1286 such state patients, an increase during the biennial term of 36. A substantial increase is likely to continue which will require additional space at the State Hospital in the near future.

For the ten year period from June 30, 1922 to June 30, 1932, the average increase of patients chargeable to the state has been 56 for each biennial term. While the increase the past two years has been considerably less still it indicates the tendency of friends, guardians and overseers of the poor to hospitalize mental cases. Confidence in the hospitals and the growing feeling that mental cases should be cared for in a hospital for mental disease as much as surgical cases should go to a surgical hospital, accounts more for the increase than does actual increase in the incident of insanity.

The Statute providing for the deportation of patients to other states if they have a legal residence there and reciprocally provides for receiving patients from other states who have a legal residence in some town in this state, works out fairly well and is much better than the old custom of railroading patients from one state to another. We have received 13 applications from other states to receive insane patients and have accepted seven. We have made application to other states to receive insane patients to the number of eleven of which nine have been accepted and the patients deported. Other cases are now in process of adjustment.

We have recommended the transfer from the States Prison or House of Correction to the State Hospital of four criminals who had become insane, and recommended the transfer from the State Hospital back to the Prison or House of Correction of three who had recovered. There were at the State Hospital three criminal insane patients who were yet insane at the expiration of their sentence. These we have had committed as regular patients by the Probate Court.

We have recommended the transfer of one patient from the State Hospital back to the Industrial School at Vergennes and one back to the State School at Brandon both having sufficiently recovered to warrant the transfer.

During the biennial term we have authorized 13 surgical procedures for state patients. The Statute of 1919 authorizes the expenditure for

surgical cases a sum not to exceed \$500.00 in any biennial term. There were many less patients then, than at the present time. This sum is now too small to meet the requirements for accidents and emergencies occurring in 1286 state patients covering such surgical needs as acute abdominal troubles, appendicitis, strangulated hernia, fractures and many other surgical liabilities. We would recommend that at least \$1,000.00 be authorized for a biennial term.

VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE
WATERBURY, VERMONT

MEDICAL STAFF

Dr. E. A. Stanley, Superintendent
Dr. J. C. O'Neil, First Assistant
Dr. H. A. Ladd, Second Assistant
Dr. L. P. Forest, Third Assistant
Dr. Evelyn B. Fisk, Fourth Assistant

The following shows the movement of population and other data for the biennial period:

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1932	Part pay and State*880 Private *88
Number of patients admitted in two years	Part pay and State 345 Private 281
Number of patients discharged as recovered	Part pay and State 90 Private 34
Number of patients discharged as improved	Part pay and State 59 Private 54
Number of patients discharged as unimproved	Part pay and State 24 Private 27
Number of patients discharged as not insane	Part pay and State 111 Private 28
Number of patients discharged as undetermined	Part pay and State 0 Private 0
Number of patients died	Part pay and State 130 Private 40
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1934	Part pay and State†895 Private†102
Number of conditional discharges by Supervisors of State and part pay patients	225
Number of absolute discharges by Supervisors of State and part pay patients	25
Number of conditionally discharged patients returned by revocation of discharge by Supervisors	85
Number of epileptic State patients admitted in two years	18
Number of epileptic State patients remaining June 30, 1934	66
Number of nurses	113

Percentage of nurses to patients	8.82
Number of drug cases committed at the expense of the State in two years	16
Number of drug cases (State) discharged	17
Number of drug cases (State) remaining	0
Number of alcoholic cases (State) admitted in two years	44
Number of alcoholic cases (State) discharged	34
Number of alcoholic cases (State) remaining	5
Number of criminal cases 4 women and 46 men	50

*Includes patients on visit and elopement.

‡Includes 22 patients on visit and elopement.

BRATTLEBORO RETREAT
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

The medical staff is as follows:

Horace G. Ripley, M. D., Superintendent
Freeman A. Tower, M. D., Senior Assistant Physician
Marius Peladeau, M. D., Senior Assistant Physician
Margaret E. Hatfield, M. D., Assistant Physician
Louis H. Gold, M. D., Assistant Physician
Feiga Goss, M. D., Medical Interne

The following table shows the movement of population for the biennial period ending June 30, 1934, together with other pertinent data:

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1932	Part pay and State	370
	Private	278
Number of patients admitted in two years	Part pay and State	95
	Private	452

Of the above 95 part pay and State patients, 15 were first admitted as private patients prior to June 30, 1932, and transferred during this biennial period to State Account by Order of Probate Court.

Of the above 452 private patients, 40 were first admitted as private patients, and subsequently transferred to State Account by Order of Probate Court.

Number of patients discharged as recovered	Part pay and State	4
	Private	48
Number of patients discharged as improved	Part pay and State	21
	Private	147
Number of patients discharged as unimproved	Part pay and State	2
	Private	22
Number of patients transferred to other hospitals	Part pay and State	1
	Private	32
Number of patients discharged as not insane	Part pay and State	1
	Private	94
Number of patients died	Part pay and State	46
	Private	55

Of the private patients remaining there are 59 who are residents of the State of Vermont. Of the private patients remaining there are 216 who are residents of other states and provinces.

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1934	Part pay and State	391
	Private	275
Number of conditional discharges by the Supervisors of State patients	Male	10
	Female	15
Number of absolute discharges by the Supervisors of State patients	Male	1
	Female	2
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	4
	Female	7
Number of voluntary State patients admitted in two years		0
Number of epileptic State patients admitted in two years		4
Number of epileptic State patients remaining June 30, 1934		22
Number of drug cases committed at the expense of the State in two years		0
Number of drug cases (State) discharged		0
Number of drug cases (State) remaining		0
Number of alcoholic cases (State) admitted		2
Number of alcoholic cases (State) discharged		0
Number of alcoholic cases (State) remaining		2
Number of nurses		77
Percentage of nurses to patients		1 to 8.6

LAKEVIEW SANATORIUM
WALDO J. UPTON, *Medical Director*
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1932	10
Number of patients admitted in two years	71
	—
	81
Number of patients discharged as recovered	33
Number of patients discharged as improved	27
Number of patients discharged as unimproved	7
Number of patients died	3
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1934	11
Epileptics	0
Patients residents of Vermont remaining	8

GREEN MOUNTAIN SANATORIUM
T. E. HAYS, M. D., *Medical Director*
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1932	0
Number of patients admitted in two years	8
Number of patients discharged in two years	8
Number of patients died	0
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1934	0
Epileptics	0
Residents of Vermont	0

The following table shows the population and status in all the hospitals for care of the insane in the State on June 30, 1934.

State Hospital:		
State and part pay patients	895	
Private patients	102	997
Brattleboro Retreat:		
State and part pay patients	391	
Private patients	275	666
Lakeview Sanatorium:		
All private patients		11
Green Mountain Sanatorium:		
All private patients		0
Whole number of patients in our hospitals, residents, non-residents and transients	—	1674
Of these there are private patients, non-residents:		
State Hospital	0	
Brattleboro Retreat	216	
Lakeview Sanatorium	3	
Green Mountain Sanatorium	0	219
		<u>1455</u>
Of these there were private patients, residents of Vermont:		
State Hospital (not including part pay)	102	
Brattleboro Retreat	59	
Lakeview Sanatorium	8	
Green Mountain Sanatorium	0	169
		<u>*1286</u>
Of this number there were supported by the State:		
State Hospital:		
Probate Court Drug Cases	0	
Probate Court Alcoholic Cases	5	
Brattleboro Retreat:		
Probate Court Drug Cases	0	
Probate Court Alcoholic Cases	2	7
		<u>1279</u>
Leaving the actual number of insane residents or transients in our hospitals at the expense of the State on June 30, 1934		

*Of this number there were 22 absent from the State Hospital either on a 30 or 60 day visit permit or on elopement.

Table showing the number of admissions to the State Hospital and the Brattleboro Retreat by Counties during the biennial term from July 1, 1932 to June 30, 1934. This does not include private patients.

State Hospital	
Addison	36
Bennington	1
Caledonia	29
Chittenden	79
Essex	5
Franklin	41
Grand Isle	3
Lamoille	19
Orange	20
Orleans	21
Rutland	50
Washington	66
Windham	0
Windsor	21
	<hr/>
Total	391

Brattleboro Retreat	
Addison	0
Bennington	30
Chittenden	0
Caledonia	0
Essex	0
Franklin	0
Grand Isle	0
Lamoille	0
Orange	1
Orleans	1
Rutland	8
Washington	1
Windham	35
Windsor	19
	<hr/>
Total	95

At our monthly visits at the State Hospital and the Brattleboro Retreat we have found both institutions in good condition and well conducted. In both places the Superintendents and Medical Staff are

capable and efficient. The word "Asylum" was long ago discarded in designating these hospitals and rightly so, for they are hospitals in fact, the patients being well and kindly treated as mental patients the same as in other hospitals they are treated as medical or surgical patients.

At the Brattleboro Retreat during the biennial period, Osgood Infirmary has been constructed; it was opened in November 1933. It is a modern building, furnished with up-to-date equipment, four stories in height with a capacity for 98 patients. Large verandas, 16 feet wide and 50 feet long have been constructed connected with six of the largest wards, three male and three female. We regard the construction of these verandas as contributing much to the health, comfort and well-being of the patients. Many other improvements have been made about the grounds.

We take this occasion to express our appreciation to Dr. E. A. Stanley, Superintendent of the State Hospital and to Dr. Horace G. Ripley, Superintendent of the Brattleboro Retreat for their uniform courtesy and assistance.

To you Commissioner Dyer, we extend our thanks for your aid and helpful suggestions in our work in supervising the care of the insane of the State, the transfer of patients and discharges of those able to get along outside an institution.

Respectfully submitted,

R. M. PELTON, M. D., Richford
F. L. OSGOOD, M. D., Saxtons River
F. E. STEELE, M. D., Secretary, Montpelier

Supervisors of the Insane

Dated:

Montpelier, Vermont
June 30, 1934.