

616.879

V2

BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Supervisors of the Insane  
OF THE  
STATE OF VERMONT  
FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING  
JUNE 30, 1936



THE VERMONT PRINTING COMPANY  
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORS OF THE INSANE FOR  
THE STATE OF VERMONT

---

To T. C. Dale

*Commissioner of Public Welfare:*

The State Board of Supervisors of the Insane submit the following report of their activities, the condition of hospitals for the care of the insane, care and movement of patients and other pertinent data for the biennial term ending June 30, 1936.

At the monthly meetings of the Board at the State Hospital at Waterbury and the Brattleboro Retreat at Brattleboro the various wards are visited and inspected, care and treatment of patients noted and personal contact and consultation with such patients as indicate a wish for a personal conference.

Especial effort is made to contact patients whose mental condition is such as to make a discharge seem warranted. In making discharges three important questions are to be considered:

- 1st—What is best for the patient taking into consideration benefits that further treatment may have on their mental infirmity and their moral right to be freed from further compulsory detention? Have they recovered sufficiently to warrant a discharge?
- 2nd—What is the duty of the State to provide further care and what is due the State to be relieved of further expense in that particular case?
- 3rd—Is the person safe to be at large and is any injustice done to a community in allowing him or her to be free from restraint; And does the obligation to care for the person rest with the State or with the town in cases that will become a care and possible expense to the town in case of discharge?

Giving each of these three points careful consideration, and treating each as an individual case with consideration and factors peculiar to itself our Board during the biennial term have discharged from the State Hospital 257 State patients and from the Brattleboro Retreat 69 making 326 altogether, as compared with 278 discharges made from these institutions during the previous biennial term.

Of the 326 discharged in this biennial term 295 have been conditional discharges and 104 revocations of conditional discharges have been made,

the discharges having been made either in this or some previous biennial term.

This approximates 1 revocation to 3 conditional discharges which has been the usual proportion of revocations for a number of years past.

Notwithstanding the relatively large number of discharges made you will note from the accompanying tables that there were on June 30, 1934 391 State patients at the Brattleboro Retreat and 895 State and 102 private patients at the State Hospital making 1388 which the State must support or make housing provision:

That on June 30, 1936 there were 374 State patients at the Brattleboro Retreat and 79 private and 961 State patients at the State Hospital making 1414 an increase of 26 in the two years:

That while the number at the Brattleboro Retreat is 17 less the number at the State Hospital is 43 more for which provision must be made.

It is apparent that the congestion at the State Hospital two years ago is much more acute at the present time and additional wards at the State Hospital is urgently recommended.

The medical staff at the State Hospital consists of the Superintendent and four assistants.

Some assistance is afforded by two senior medical students during the University of Vermont Medical College term. The Students being changed every two weeks, and by two medical internes during the summer months, these assist in some routine work and physical examinations.

While we have observed no neglect of medical service to the patients yet it would seem that the medical staff is too small for the number of patients and that the addition of one or perhaps two physicians to the staff would be commendable.

During the biennial period our Board have effected the deportation of eleven insane patients to other states:

4 to Massachusetts, 1 to New Jersey, 3 to New York, 2 to Rhode Island, and 1 to Nebraska.

We have received ten from other states as legal residents of Vermont: 4 from Massachusetts, 2 from New Hampshire, 3 from New York and 1 from New Jersey.

The Governor has accepted and acted upon our recommendation for the transfer to the State Hospital of 7 criminals who had become insane at the State's Prison or House of Correction, some of whom have been returned as recovered.

We have recommended 6 major surgical operations for patients; three

at Brattleboro Retreat and three at the State Hospital; payment being made out of the appropriation for our Board.

There have been other major surgical operations done for patients at the State Hospital. Funds to defray the expense of these operations were provided from the appropriations to the State Hospital, appropriation for our Board being so small that funds were not available from it.

You will note from the table containing a summary of all the insane in the State and their status that on June 30, 1936 there were 1338 patients at the State Hospital and Brattleboro Retreat supported by the State. Two years previously there were 1286, an increase of 52.

This in part is accounted for by the fact that on June 30, 1934 there were 102 private patients at the State Hospital while at the end of this biennial term there were but 79 private patients there, indicating that the Probate Courts have found that patients, either from their own resources or from funds provided by relatives, are less able to pay their hospital charges than they were two years ago, which considerably increases the expense incurred by the State in caring for State Patients.

During the past two years many repairs and improvements have been made in the various departments of the Brattleboro Retreat. Among the most important of these should be mentioned the following:

The installation of galvanized iron ventilating flues throughout the attics of the Main Building. This increases the high standard of the ventilation of the wards, and also provides added protection against fire.

A cafeteria for the accommodation of the nurses and other employees. Because of the increase in numbers of these workers, the dining room facilities for them had become entirely inadequate, and to cope with the situation the dining room was greatly enlarged and a modern cafeteria installed, up-to-date in design, equipment and decoration.

The bakery has been completely reconditioned. A new oven, bread and cake mixers, and other mechanical devices, are featured in the remodelled department.

In the big general kitchen a new ceiling of flex board has been installed, and an improved ventilating stack erected. This department has been furnished with new steam-jacketed kettles.

At both the Brattleboro Retreat and the State Hospital at Waterbury the patients are cared for with every consideration for their comfort, contentment and well being. The medical staff in both places is of high grade and the patients receive competent medical attention.

---

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, 1934	Part pay and State*	895
	Private*	102
Number of patients admitted in two years	Part pay and State	454
	Private	277
Number of patients discharged as recovered	Part pay and State	88
	Private	37
Number of patients discharged as improved	Part pay and State	63
	Private	38
Number of patients discharged as unimproved	Part pay and State	28
	Private	43
Number of patients discharged as not insane	Part pay and State	183
	Private	29
Number of patients discharged as undetermined	Part pay and State	2
	Private	1
Number of patients died	Part pay and State	139
	Private	37
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1936	Part pay and State†	961
	Private†	79
Number of conditional discharges by Supervisors of State and part pay patients		232
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		88
Number of epileptic State patients admitted in two years		19
Number of epileptic State patients remaining June 30, 1936		77

---

Number of nurses	122
Percentage of nurses to patients	8.52
Number of drug cases committed at the expense of the State in two years	20
Number of drug cases (State) discharged	18
Number of drug cases (State) remaining	0
Number of alcoholic cases (State) admitted in two years	55
Number of alcoholic cases (State) discharged	56
Number of alcoholic cases (State) remaining	7
Number of criminal cases 4 women and 50 men	54

---

\*Includes patients on visit and elopement.

†Includes 20 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  
 William K. Skinner, M. D., Senior Assistant Physician  
 Lillian M. Mahoney, M. D., Assistant Physician  
 Feiga Gross, M. D., Assistant Physician

The following table shows the movement of population for the biennial period ending June 30, 1936, together with other pertinent data:

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1934	Part pay and State	391	
	Private	275	
		—	666
Number of patients admitted in two years	Part pay and State	95	
	Private	537	
		—	632
<p>In addition to the above 95 part pay and State patients, 7 other patients were first admitted as Private patients prior to June 30, 1934 and transferred during this biennial period to State Account by Order of Probate Court.</p> <p>Of the above 632 patients, 42 were first admitted as Private patients, and subsequently transferred to State Account by Order of Probate Court.</p>			
Number of patients discharged as recovered	Part pay and State	14	
	Private	143	
		—	157
Number of patients discharged as improved	Part pay and State	52	
	Private	232	
		—	284
Number of patients discharged as unimproved	Part pay and State	3	
	Private	42	
		—	45
The total number of patients discharged was:	Part pay and State	69	
	Private	417	
		—	486

Number of patients died	Part pay and State	51	
	Private	52	
		—	103
Total number of patients discharged and died	Part pay and State	120	
	Private	469	
		—	589
Number of patients returned to their homes	Part pay and State	67	
	Private	381	
		—	448
Number of patients transferred to other hospitals	Part pay and State	2	
	Private	36	
		—	38
Of the 486 patients discharged, 134 were without psychosis	Part pay and State	9	
	Private	125	
		—	134
Of the Private patients remaining there are 73 who are residents of the State of Vermont, and 259 who are residents of other States and Provinces.			
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1936	Part pay and State	374	
	Private	332	
	On visit. Private	3	
		—	709
Number of conditional discharges by the Supervisors of State patients	Men	39	
	Women	24	
		—	63
Number of absolute discharges by the Supervisors of State patients	Men	6	
	Women	0	
		—	6
Number of absolutely discharged State patients returned	Men	0	
	Women	0	
		—	0



---

Number of conditionally discharged State patients returned by revocation of discharge by Supervisors	Men	6	
	Women	10	
			16
Number of voluntary State patients admitted in two years		0	
Number of epileptic State patients admitted in two years		7	
Number of epileptic State patients remaining June 30, 1936		21	
Number of drug cases committed at the expense of the State in two years		0	
Number of State drug cases discharged		0	
Number of State drug cases remaining		0	
Number of State alcoholic cases admitted. For 6 months		3	
	For 1 year	6	
Number of State alcoholic cases discharged. 6 months		3	
	1 year	6	
Number of State alcoholic cases remaining		0	
Number of nurses		96	
Percentage of nurses to patients		1 to 7.3	

## LAKEVIEW SANATORIUM

DR. WALDO J. UPTON, *Medical Director*  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

---

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1934	11
Number of patients admitted in two years	124
	<hr/>
	135
Number of patients discharged as recovered	55
Number of patients discharged as improved	42
Number of patients discharged as unimproved	17
Number of patients died	9
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1936	12
Epileptics	0
Number of patients, residents of Vermont	7

---

## GREEN MOUNTAIN SANATORIUM

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

---

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1934	0
Number of patients admitted in two years	9
Number of patients discharged in two years	9
Number of patients died	0
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1936	0
Epileptics	0
Residents of Vermont	6

The following table shows the population and status in all the hospitals for the care of the insane in the State on June 30, 1936.

State Hospital:		
State and part pay patients	961*	
Private patients	79*	
	—	1040
Brattleboro Retreat:		
State and part pay patients	374	
Private patients	335	
	—	709
Lake View Sanatorium:		
All private patients	12	12
Green Mountain Sanatorium:		
All private patients	0	0
	—	—
Whole number of patients, residents, non-residents and transients		1761
Of these there are private patients, non-residents:		
State Hospital	0	
Brattleboro Retreat	259	
Lake View Sanatorium	5	
Green Mountain Sanatorium	0	
	—	264
Number of Vermont residents in hospitals		1497
Of these there were private patients, residents of Vermont:		
State Hospital (not including part pay)	79	
Brattleboro Retreat	73	
Lake View Sanatorium	7	
Green Mountain Sanatorium	0	
	—	159
Number of patients supported by the State		1338
There were of this number at the State Hospital:		
Drug cases remaining	0	
Alcoholic cases remaining	7	
Brattleboro Retreat:		
Drug cases remaining	0	
Alcoholic cases remaining	11	
	—	18
Leaving the actual number of insane residents or transients in our hospitals at the expense of the State on June 30, 1936		1320

\*Includes 20 patients on visit or elopement.

Number of admissions to the State Hospital by Counties during the biennial term from July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1936. This does not include private patients.

State Hospital	
Addison	21
Bennington	8
Caledonia	48
Chittenden	111
Essex	6
Franklin	55
Grand Isle	4
Lamoille	15
Orange	26
Orleans	37
Rutland	52
Washington	50
Windham	11
Windsor	10
Total	454

Admission to the Brattleboro Retreat of State patients by Counties, July 1, 1934, to June 30, 1936, inclusive.

Addison	0
Bennington	39
Caledonia	0
Chittenden	0
Essex	0
Franklin	0
Grand Isle	0
Lamoille	0
Orange	0
Orleans	0
Rutland	6
Washington	0
Windham	31
Windsor	19
Total	95

For their uniform courtesy and co-operation in our work we wish to express our appreciation to Dr. E. A. Stanley, Supt. of the State Hospital and to Dr. Horace G. Ripley, Supt. of the Brattleboro Retreat.

To you, Commissioner Dale, for your assistance and helpful suggestions we extend our thanks and appreciation.

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, 1936.

---

#### *IN MEMORIAM*

Since the fore-going biennial report was prepared the State has met with a great loss in the death of E. A. Stanley, M. D., Superintendent of the State Hospital, the death occurring on Aug. 19, 1936 at his home in the hospital in Waterbury.

On Jan. 1, 1908, Dr. Stanley became one of the medical staff at the State Hospital and became Superintendent in 1918 following the death of the former Superintendent, Dr. Wasson.

Dr. Stanley was a capable alienist and an efficient administrator. He had and merited the confidence and personal regard of all who were associated with him in the hospital work as well as the entire community and all who knew him.

His kindly and sympathetic attitude towards the patients under his care; his wholesome council and advice to them as well as to their anxious relatives and friends endeared him to all.

His passing is a positive loss to the State and he will be sadly missed by his many friends.

---