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**Biennial Report**  
of the  
**Supervisors of the Insane**  
of the  
**State of Vermont**  
for the two years ending  
**June 30, 1942**



THE PRINTCRAFT SHOP, BARRE, VERMONT

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## BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORS OF THE INSANE

To T. C. Dale, Commissioner of Public Welfare :

The State Board of Supervisors of the Insane submit the following report for the biennial term ending June 30, 1942.

Following the usual custom, which also is a provision of Statute, the full Board have made monthly visits to the State Hospital at Waterbury and the Brattleboro Retreat at Brattleboro. On these visits the hospitals have been inspected, many cases interviewed, and the general care and treatment of patients noted.

On these visits the Board have discharged State and part-pay patients as follows :

From the State Hospital :		
Conditional discharges	241	
Absolute discharges	24	
	—	265
From Brattleboro Retreat :		
Conditional discharges	39	
Absolute discharges	8	
	—	47
		—
Total number of discharges		312
Number of State and part-pay patients died :		
State Hospital	145	
Brattleboro Retreat	53	
	—	198
		—
Total discharged or died		510

Due to relapse or recurrence of mental trouble requiring further hospital treatment, the Board have found it necessary to revoke the conditional discharge of patients discharged during this or previous biennial terms as follows :

State Hospital revocations	95	
Brattleboro Retreat revocations	17	
	—	112

Our biennial report two years ago showed a net decrease of four patients considering both State and private patients in the State Hospital and Brattleboro Retreat, the first time there had been a decrease since the State Hospital was opened in 1891.

This biennial term we are able to report a slightly greater decrease in the number of patients.

On June 30, 1940, there were in the State Hospital :

State and part-pay patients	978	
Private patients	106	
	—	*1084

\*Includes 21 patients on visit and elopement.

On June 30, 1942, there were:		
State and part-pay patients	938	
Private patients	130	
	—	**1068
A decrease of		16
At the Brattleboro Retreat there were on June 30, 1940:		
State and part-pay patients	398	
On June 30, 1942, there were	391	
	—	7
A decrease of		7
A decrease, considering both institutions, of		23

During the biennial term six convicts at the States Prison or House of Correction at Windsor became insane and were transferred to the State Hospital, and seven criminal insane at Waterbury, transferred there from Windsor during this or a previous biennial term, had recovered and were returned to Windsor. There are now at the State Hospital 43 criminal insane, 41 men and 2 women. Most of these are chronic and incurable. Of the criminal insane at Waterbury 2 were yet insane at the expiration of their prison sentence. These were committed as regular patients by the Washington County Probate Court upon application for a hearing by the Board of Supervisors.

Upon recommendation of the Board of Supervisors the Governor has authorized the transfer of:

- 3 inmates of the Brandon State School to the State Hospital,
- 1 from Weeks School at Vergennes to Waterbury,
- 1 from Riverside Reformatory at Rutland to Waterbury, and
- 1 returned to the Reformatory from the State Hospital.

Under the reciprocal agreement with other states for the transfer of insane persons from the State when they have been apprehended and adjudged insane to the state where they have a legal residence, we have had 23 applications from other states to receive patients in Vermont, mostly from the New England States and New York. Of these 9 have been accepted and transferred to the State Hospital; 3 accepted but not transferred as having either recovered or removed by friends; and we have declined to receive 12 as not having a legal residence in some town in Vermont. We have made 5 applications to other states to receive patients, and all 5 have been accepted and duly transferred.

On December 16, 1940, Dr. Horace G. Ripley, who had been Superintendent of the Brattleboro Retreat for 17 years, resigned to engage in private consultation practice, and Dr. George A. Elliott was appointed Superintendent by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. R. M. Pelton, who had been a member of the Board of Supervisors for 35 years, died at his home in Richford on June 3, 1941. A brief obituary appears later in this report.

\*\*Includes 16 patients on visit and elopement.

Dr. H. A. Ladd of Essex was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy.

The facilities in Vermont for the care of mental cases consist of the:

Lake View Sanatorium at Burlington where a small number of mild cases are cared for:

The Green Mountain Sanatorium at Burlington where a small number are temporarily cared for;

The Brattleboro Retreat, where ample facilities and accommodations can adequately care for all classes of mental patients with rooming space and living quarters of the best for those who can afford to pay for the extra refinements of hospital care and treatment:

The State Hospital at Waterbury where all classes of cases are cared for; no patients are received from outside the State of Vermont.

On August 8, 1941, the Board issued a license for the care of mental patients at the Spring Lake Ranch in Cuttingsville, conducted by Wayne A. Sarcka and his wife, Elizabeth Man Sarcka. The inmates or paying guests there, amounting to 25 or 30, mostly from out of the State and mostly men, are all voluntary cases of various types of neurotics requiring oversight and healthful living conditions. The treatment is essentially occupational therapy and the plant is a large farm. It is a worthy and well conducted institution.

The people of Vermont may be assured that in all these institutions the interest of the patient is given first consideration, with kindly treatment and the best of medical service.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to Dr. J. C. O'Neil, Superintendent of the State Hospital, and to Dr. George A. Elliott, Superintendent of the Brattleboro Retreat, for their uniform courtesy and helpfulness at the regular meetings of the Supervisors and at other times as well.

To you, Commissioner Dale, we extend our thanks for your helpfulness at all times.

For more detailed statistical information you are referred to the following tables and especially to Table V for the full data of the hospitalized insane in the State.

Respectfully submitted,

F. L. OSGOOD, M. D., Saxtons River

H. A. LADD, M. D., Essex

F. E. STEELE, M. D., Secretary  
Montpelier

State Board Supervisors of the Insane

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont,  
June 30, 1942.

TABLE I  
VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE  
Waterbury, Vermont

MEDICAL STAFF

J. C. O'Neil, M. D., Superintendent  
J. L. P. Forest, M. D., First Assistant Physician  
G. F. West, M. D., Second Assistant Physician  
Bertha C. Wiseman, M. D., Third Assistant Physician  
Samuel I. Epstein, M. D., Fourth Assistant Physician

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

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1940:	
Part Pay and State .....	*978
Private .....	*106
Number of patients admitted in two years:	
Part Pay and State .....	325
Private .....	317
Number of patients discharged as Recovered:	
Part Pay and State .....	143
Private .....	54
Number of patients discharged as Improved:	
Part Pay and State .....	79
Private .....	55
Number of patients discharged as Unimproved:	
Part Pay and State .....	16
Private .....	24
Number of patients discharged as Not Insane:	
(including Alcohol and Drug Cases)	
Part Pay and State .....	69
Private .....	21
Number of patients discharged as Undetermined:	
Part Pay and State .....	1
Private .....	1
Number of patients died:	
Part Pay and State .....	145
Private .....	50
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1942:	
Part Pay and State .....	**938
Private .....	**130
Number of Conditional Discharges by Supervisors of	
State and Part Pay patients .....	241
Number of Absolute Discharges by Supervisors of	
State and Part Pay patients .....	24

\*Includes patients on visit and elopement.

\*\*Includes 16 patients on visit and elopement.

Number of Conditionally discharged patients returned by Revocation of Discharge by Supervisors .....	95
Number of Epileptic State patients admitted in two years .....	20
Number of Epileptic State patients remaining June 30, 1942 .....	63
Number of nurses .....	105
Percentage of nurses to patients .....	10.17
Number of Drug Cases committed at expense of the State in 2 years	15
Number of Drug Cases (State) discharged .....	15
Number of Drug Cases (State) remaining .....	0
Number of Alcoholic Cases (State) admitted in 2 years .....	30
Number of Alcoholic Cases (State) discharged .....	36
Number of Alcoholic Cases (State) remaining .....	0
Number of Criminal Cases (2 women and 41 men) remaining .....	43

TABLE II

## BRATTLEBORO RETREAT

Brattleboro, Vermont

The Medical Staff is as follows:

Superintendent, George A. Elliott, M. D.  
 Assistant Superintendent, Freeman A. Tower, M. D.  
 Clinical Director, Neils L. Anthonisen, M. D.  
 Senior Physician, Marius Peladeau, M. D.  
 Senior Physician, Lindsay E. Robinson, M. D.  
 Senior Physician, Feiga Gross, M. D.  
 Assistant Physician, Roger D. Hebert, M. D.  
 Dentist, Lawrence A. Desillier, D. D. S.

The following table shows the movement of population for the biennial period ending June 30, 1942, together with other pertinent data:

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1940:	
Part pay and State .....	398
Private .....	367
	765
Number of patients admitted in two years:	
Part pay and State .....	83
Private .....	621
	704

In addition to the above 83 part pay and State patients, 6 other patients were first admitted as private patients prior to June 30, 1940, and transferred during this biennial period to State Account by Order of Probate Court.

Of the above 704 patients, 40 were first admitted as private patients, and subsequently transferred to State Account by Order of Probate Court. Of the Private patients remaining, there are 74 who are residents of the State of Vermont, and 296 who are residents of other states and countries.

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1942:	
Part pay and State .....	391
Private .....	370
On Visit—Private .....	6
	767
Number of Voluntary State patients admitted in two years .....	0
Number of epileptic State patients admitted in two years .....	2
Number of epileptic State patients remaining June 30, 1942 .....	18
Number of drug cases committed at the expense of State in 2 years .....	2
Number of State drug cases discharged .....	2
Number of State drug cases remaining .....	0
Number of State alcoholic cases admitted .....	6
Number of State alcoholic cases discharged .....	6
Number of State alcoholic cases remaining .....	1
Number of nurses .....	116
Percentage of nurses to patients .....	1 to 6

TABLE III

LAKEVIEW SANATORIUM, INC.  
Burlington, Vermont  
Dr. Waldo J. Upton, Medical Director

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1940 .....	6
Number of patients admitted in two years .....	80
	86
Number of patients discharged as recovered .....	34
Number of patients discharged as improved .....	22
Number of patients discharged as unimproved .....	13
Number of patients died .....	6
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1942 .....	11
Number of patients residents of Vermont, remaining .....	5

TABLE IV

GREEN MOUNTAIN SANATORIUM  
Burlington, Vermont  
T. E. Hays, Medical Director

Number of patients remaining June 30, 1940 .....	0
Number of patients admitted in two years .....	2
Number of patients discharged in two years .....	2
Number of patients died .....	0
Number of patients remaining June 30, 1942 .....	0
Epileptics .....	0
Residents of Vermont, remaining .....	0

TABLE V

The following shows the population and status of all the hospitals for the care of the insane in the State on June 30, 1942:

State Hospital:		
State and part pay patients .....	*938	
Private patients .....	130	
		1068
Brattleboro Retreat:		
State and part pay patients .....	391	
Private patients (6 on visit permit) .....	376	
		767
Lake View Sanatorium:		
All private patients .....		11
Green Mountain Sanatorium .....		0
		1846
Whole number of residents, non-residents and transients .....		
Of these there were private patients, non-resident:		
State Hospital .....	0	
Brattleboro Retreat .....	296	
		296
Number of Vermont residents in hospitals .....		1550
Of these there were private patients:		
State Hospital (not including part pay) .....	130	
Brattleboro Retreat .....	74	
Lake View Sanatorium .....	5	
		209
Number of patients supported by the State .....		1341
There were of this number at the State Hospital:		
Drug cases remaining .....	0	
Alcoholic cases remaining .....	0	
Brattleboro Retreat:		
Drug cases remaining .....	0	
Alcoholic cases remaining .....	0	
		0
Leaving the actual number of insane residents or transients in our hospitals at the expense of the State on June 30, 1942		1341

\*Includes 16 patients on visit permit.



TABLE VI

Number of admissions to the State Hospital by Counties during the biennial term from July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1942. This does not include private patients.

Addison .....	21
Bennington .....	7
Caledonia .....	19
Chittenden .....	97
Essex .....	4
Franklin .....	45
Grand Isle .....	1
Lamoille .....	15
Orange .....	20
Orleans .....	20
Rutland .....	40
Washington .....	21
Windham .....	4
Windsor .....	11
Total .....	325

TABLE VII

Admission to the Brattleboro Retreat of State Patients by Counties.  
July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1942, inclusive.

Addison .....	1
Bennington .....	33
Caledonia .....	0
Chittenden .....	1
Essex .....	0
Franklin .....	0
Grand Isle .....	0
Lamoille .....	0
Orange .....	0
Orleans .....	0
Rutland .....	13
Washington .....	0
Windham .....	36
Windsor .....	7
Total .....	91

**IN MEMORIAM****ROLLIN M. PELTON, M. D.****Richford, Vermont**

Dr. Pelton died June 3, 1941, after a protracted illness.

He was a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Insane for more than thirty-five years, in which capacity he gave valuable service as he was a man of sound judgment, with a sympathetic understanding of human nature and kindly interest in the welfare of those unfortunate patients whose mental illness made hospital care and treatment necessary.

Dr. Pelton graduated in medicine at the University of Vermont in 1888 and began general practice at Richford the same year, where he remained all his life.

He was not only a successful physician having the confidence of all who knew him, but he took an active part in town and State affairs and had large personal business interests.

He was a member of the School Board for thirty years; was Village Trustee thirty-five years; he was also a director of the Richford Savings Bank and Trust Company for thirty years and its Vice President, and for many years the Health Officer.

He represented the town in the Legislature of 1904, and was County Senator in 1906. He was a member of the Franklin County Medical Society and the Vermont State Medical Society.

In his passing the town, the medical profession and the State, as well as the Board of Supervisors of the Insane, have lost a valuable man. His demise is sincerely regretted, but he will always have a kindly place in the hearts of all who knew him.

He is survived by one daughter, Eleanor.