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ABOUT THE ASYLUM.

FORMER PATIENTS GIVE THEIR TESTIMONY.

Alleged "Inside Stories" of the States Mad House Told to the Investigating Commission.

Columbia, May 6.—The taking of testimony by the committee appointed under an act of the last legislature to investigate the affairs of the State Hospital for the Insane commenced yesterday, one witness, an expatient of the institution being on the stand until shortly after 1 o'clock. In answer to the questions he told of the conditions as he saw them at the institution during his stay of several years, and also made several suggestions as to the remedy of these conditions. The names of all witnesses are withheld.

A former patient of the institution came to the hearing in what seemed to be a drunken condition, and was promptly refused admission by the marshal. It is said that he was to testify, but when his condition became known he was turned down. He had received a letter from one of the investigating committee, asking him to meet the committee but failed to appear the evening before, but he had never been officially subpoenaed.

Among the charges made by the first witness were, that patients of the fifth ward of the hospital had been bathed in the same water; that amusements for the patients had not been encouraged by the management; that patient, because he had tried to spit in a nurse's face, had been whipped and then strapped; that the kitchen was very unclean; that the management was not particular about the personal appearance of the patients; that one of the nurses had placed straps on one of the patients just for the sport of it; that he knew of a patient who had been thrown into a frenzy by a nurse teasing him, and that the patient was then strapped; that patients often tease each other; that he went to the room of a paralytic, and that the paralytic's bed was in such a condition that he, with tears in his eyes, apologized that one of the nurses had made a minister who was confined in the hospital mad by saying to him "Come on, old man and take your medicine;" that often delicacies intended for the patients were used by the nurses.

The witness was a young man hardly over thirty years of age, who has been confined in the hospital on two different occasions. He was very intelligent and made a most excellent witness, answering every question without hesitation. His enunciation was clear and he seemed to be very anxious to make himself understood on all statements. He spoke of the different dining places, naming them as the "little pay," "big pay" and "general mess hall," telling of them, as he did to the best of his knowledge.

In the general mess hall, he said, tin plates were used and the meal was served in them. He declared that many of the patients complained bitterly of the fare, but some ate right along and never made complaint. Said he had never been in the kitchen, but had looked in and everything was very dirty. Did not know whether the cooks were hired or not. That to his knowledge the vegetables used came from the farm of the institution. Said he was very fond of soup but had had his taste destroyed by finding a worm in the macaroni soup. Said on the whole the soup was good. When asked concerning the butter used on the table, declared it seemed to be butterine and he disliked it. As to hominy, said he thought it was ground on the place but he had found a weevil in it.

Coming to the matter of bath-

ing patients, he said that it was the custom of bathing them once a week and that very often the old and feeble ones were bathed by other patients. Saw on one occasion several patients of the fifth ward bathed in the same tub of water, but that he did not stay to look at the proceedings. Said that the bathroom of the fifth ward was very uncleanly. Said that the socks of the patients wearing state clothes were of cotton. All patients of his ward had beds and that he had never heard of any sleeping on the floor.

When asked why he did not report a certain condition to the authorities, he said that he did not think it of any use and that it might get him in trouble. Said that Dr. Thompson was very punctual to make the rounds over the entire male department, and that feeling toward him was one of the greatest respect. Said that the nurses were forgetful in the matter of giving medicine. Knew of one patient who had been fed with a tube, and had himself been threatened.

He told of an incident, when he and several others were playing cards in the alcove and stated that one in the party was smoking and that one of the nurses spoke to the man very roughly without first asking him to stop.

In reference to the diversion of the patients, he stated that the only amusements contributed by the state were cards and a weekly dance. That some patients made checker boards or bought them and played checkers. Told of how baseball had been inaugurated by several of the patients, and that it was a great pleasure to many. Witness declared that the only thing that had done him any good during his stay at the hospital was the restraint and baseball, but that the food and air was all against me.

Told of how he had been invited to the room of one of the nurses and given a slice off of a turkey, which was concealed in a drawer in the room. In the matter of discharging patients from the institution he said that he knew one in the place at the present time that should be out.

Declared that while Dr. Babcock was in Europe, conditions were better in some respects, and that sports were encouraged. That the only way that Dr. Babcock discouraged sports was by his indifference, and that as soon as he returned from Europe the lady patients stopped attending the baseball games.

Could not recollect any instance of friction between the nurses and attendants and the management. Had heard of several employes of the institution being discharged.

Was whipped once and afterwards strapped, because he thought that he had been ordered to spit at a nurse. Said that he had heard several nurses talking, who, commenting upon the fact, said that Dr. Thompson had better never see those marks.

Did not notice any well ordered attempt to interest patients in any occupation.

Had heard nurses complain that other nurses were eating delicacies bought or sent to patients, because the patients didn't have sense enough to object.

Knew several nurses, who would tease patients, just to hear them scream and halloo. Said in reference to a paralytic that during two years time he saw him bathed only once. That most of the patients had soap and towels.

The hearing will continue for several days, judging from the slow progress made at the first session. The boards of regents will not at the present time employ an attorney, but will wait until they are forced to.

At the afternoon session an ex-patient from Abbeville Co.,

told of his experiences at the hospital. He declared that he had contracted tuberculosis while a patient. Did not remember when walls of rooms had been white washed. His chief objection was to the nurses and keepers and also that he did not receive employment. The last witness was a former keeper who had been discharged by the authorities. His story was practically the same as the other two witnesses.

A letter was read from Mr. Fred H. Wines of Beaufort, N. C., an expert, who has been employed by the committee to look into conditions and make suggestions. He says that "the testimony of patients and discharged employes must always be taken with several grains of allowance for mental perversion or prejudice."

Dr. J. L. Thompson, assistant physician of the State Hospital for the Insane was on the stand for the greater part of the day, before the committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the institution. This step was a radical departure from the proceedings of the previous day, when two ex-patients and a former keeper were heard. It seems to be the intention of the committee to learn the conditions of the hospital in the past and the present time, from the men who have charge and really know just the state of affairs. From the testimony today it is evident that the investigation is going to be constructive rather than destructive and that the institution is badly in need of more funds. The need of funds was brought very strongly when Dr. Thompson was questioned in reference to the cost per capita of the patients.

The very interesting statements by Dr. Thompson were that the unsanitary condition was due to the lack of discipline and that the responsibility lies too small help and the disloyalty of nurses.

After Dr. Thompson had been questioned by the members of the investigation committee for several hours, Dr. J. W. Babcock, superintendent of the institution took the floor and asked him several very important questions in reference to his (Dr. Babcock's) administration of affairs.

Dr. Babcock in speaking of cruelty to patients asked Dr. Thompson if it was not true that he had heard that the superintendent had caned one of the nurses, a man by the name of Kinard for cruelty to a patient, in answer to which Dr. Thompson replied that he had.

Among the most important points brought out by the testimony of Dr. Thompson were that there being no way to segregate contagious diseases, naturally many other patients were effected; that the number of attendants was too small for the number of patients; that the condition of the kitchen was not sanitary from a hospital standpoint; that the conditions in the Parker building were bad; that the food was not altogether appetizing and wholesome; that about fifty patients did not have beds; that there was no well ordered system and organization about the institution and that the management were not in touch with each other.

Several cooks and several patients employed in the kitchen. Patient cooks handle the food. That the cooks bathe once each week. That the place where the cooks sleep was in a very foul condition. Never had seen any of the negroes in the institution walking around in the kitchen.

In speaking of food, said that the preparation was not appetizing to a person of sound mind. Some foods was nutritious and some was not. Nutritious food necessary. No examination was made of employes in kitchen. Asked about their carrying germs or diseases

into the kitchen, said it was probable that they would. Thought in a general way that patients got enough to eat. Pantry where food was kept after being carried from the kitchen by a "dumb waiter" to the dining hall was not clean. Some patients slept on floor on quilts and their food was placed there beside them. Dishes washed by patients and not properly done. Plates not as clean as should be and were sometimes greasy. Plates and cups were of tin. Had complained to the superintendent about the conditions of affairs in the kitchen, but had never complained to the board of regents.

Dr. Thompson is assistant physician of the institution and has charge of the male white patients. He has been connected with the hospital for several years and told of the conditions during his stay. When asked concerning the death rate among the tuberculosis patients, he said that it was very light, but that there was no way to prevent the spread of a contagious disease. That management could manage a small epidemic. Stated that there were fifteen attendants over 357 patients in his department. Bedding was not kept as clean as it might be. That it is claimed that wood beds can not be kept sanitary. Many bed-bugs and both body and head lice. Believed it had been eight or ten years since first ward had been whitewashed.

Declared competent man not in charge of the main mess hall where over 200 patients were fed. Nurses and patients waited on the table. Cups and plates were unclean. Very likely that some of the patients realized the condition of place. Coffee grounds found in plate of fried eggs. Very careless way of cooking and method of unclean. Not acquainted with conditions at the dairy. Had been there only once at milking time. Declared that a patient working in the milk house was unclean.

Clerk Got A Loan of \$20,000

The published statement that H. C. Frick has paid \$330,000 for the famous portrait of Christina of Norway, by Hans Holbein, reminds old-timers of how Frick's love for art was at one time almost his undoing.

Frick was a young clerk in the Connellville coke region when he saw what he considered an excellent chance for investment in coal lands. But he had no money. He wrote to Thomas Mellon, then one of the biggest bankers in the state, asking for a loan of \$20,000.

The application was so "nervy" that it interested Mellon, and he decided to look into the matter. He sent a trusted man to the coke region to look over Frick, who was keeping a bachelor's apartments in a one-story clapboard shack. The agent found the place scrupulously clean, and the walls of Frick's room hung with pictures and prints, some of which he had made himself. He came back and reported that the youngster was evidently "frittering his time away" making pictures.

Banker Mellon then sent J. P. Corey of Pittsburg, to look young Frick up. Corey reported that he didn't think the nervy young man was making enough pictures "to hurt." Mellon made the loan and it gave Frick his start in the world.

Lived 152 Years.

Wm. Parr—England's oldest man—married the third time at 120, worked in the fields till 132 and lived 20 years longer. People should be youthful at 80. James Wright, of Spurlock, Ky., shows how to remain young. "I feel just like a 16-year-old boy," he writes, "after taking six bottles of Electric Bitters. For thirty years kidney trouble made life a burden, but the first bottle of this wonderful medicine convinced me I had found the greatest cure on earth." They're a godsend to weak, sickly rundown or old people. Try them. 50c at all Druggists.

Ex-Gov. McSweeney Falls Senseless.

HIS CONDITION VERY SERIOUS. Stricken While Going to His Home.

While returning from his office to his home at Hampton on last Tuesday at about 3 o'clock, ex-Gov. M. B. McSweeney was suddenly stricken and fell unconscious. His two young sons were with him at the time and summoned help. He was taken to his home, where he was found to be in a very serious condition.

Acute digestion is given as the cause of his attack. The former governor has been in bad health for the past several months.

It is said tonight that there is very little hope that he will survive the attack.

A SHOCK TO COLUMBIA

The news of the illness of ex-Gov. McSweeney was received in Columbia with sorrow last night. The former governor was cordially liked here, the city, which was twice his home once as a printer's apprentice and later as the chief executive of the State. And in the years between those two periods of his life he visited Columbia frequently.

He was sometimes referred to as the "newsboy governor," for when he was just 4 years old his father died in Charleston of yellow fever and Miles, as he became large enough, sold newspapers. Later he was a printer's apprentice and was awarded by the Charleston typographical union a scholarship at Washington and Lee university, but on account of his lack of means he was forced to leave college.

While living in Columbia he assisted in organizing the Phoenix Hook and Ladder company and for years was secretary thereof. He was also president of Columbia typographical union. In 1876 he worked hard for the cause of Democracy, having then, at the age of 21, started The Guardian, at Ninety Six. He afterwards moved this paper to Hampton, where a new county had been formed, and his business prospered. In 1896 he was elected lieutenant governor of the State and was reelected in 1898, and in 1899 succeeded to the chair of governor, filling almost the full term of W. H. Ellerbe, deceased. In 1900 he was elected to succeed himself. He was sent to a number of conventions and received other honors from his party.

Gov. McSweeney was always popular among the newspaper men of the State and that was what elected him lieutenant governor. He was at one time president of the State Press association.

Last May Gov. McSweeney attended the State Democratic convention and enjoyed meeting with his friends. He had been confining himself to business at Hampton after leaving Columbia, for his four years in the office of his former had been very expensive, as all declare who have occupied the executive mansion.

While Gov. McSweeney was a man of no education except what he gained at the printer's case, yet he was regarded by those who knew him intimately as a man of wisdom and of determination. This was not so easily apparent under the cloak of genuine friendliness which he at times wore. For he was a man of big heart and generous impulses.

During the great Dewey celebration in New York, Gov. McSweeney was riding at the head of the troops from South Carolina. Seeing a forlorn little newsboy, Gov. McSweeney halted the column for a moment while he spoke to the lad and gave him encouragement. "I once was a newsboy," he said half apologetically for his show

of sentiment. And that was characteristic of McSweeney.

The news which reached here last night was indeed a shock to his friends and the wish heard on all sides that he should soon be restored to health.

His Chicks Drunkards.

Jacob Foes, a farmer of this place, is seeking a gold cure for his chickens. Thirty Plymouth Rocks in his barnyard have become inebriated, and Foes feels it is his duty to reform them.

A week ago Foes placed an old whisky barrel, with an end knocked out, in an open space near the hen house as a shelter for a hen with a brood of little chicks that had been hatched out early. When the sun became hot the hen retired to the barrel with her brood. After a few days Foes observed that every chicken in his barnyard seemed to be in a half stupor—even the young chicks. The roosters went about the yard crowing in a hiccupy way, and the hens clucks in hoarse guttural tones.

Foes was puzzled and he called in W. F. Merrill, a veterinarian, who inspected the coops and found nothing wrong. Then he examined the barrel. One sniff at the air of the interior enlightened him.

"The chickens are drunk," Merrill said. Then he explained to Foes that the whisky barrel, which had been in a damp cellar all winter had been affected by the sun, which brought the alcohol out of the wood. The hen that picked at the wood first must have communicated the secret to the other fowls and all became visitors to the barnyard "speakeasy."

Foes thought an easy solution of the difficulty would be to burn the whisky barrel. This he did, but the craving for drink had become too strong in the chickens. An old rooster with the instinct of a confirmed toper, found his way to an improvised silo where Foes kept a supply of malt which he buys from a brewery to feed his cattle. This proved a substitute for the whisky barrel, and soon all the chickens were clustered about the silo devouring the malt. Foes has shut the chickens off from their new form of dissipation, but fears that unless he breaks them of the habit they will wander off the farm in quest of strong drink.

Able Young Financier

It is an unusual thing to find a young man under 21 who thinks more of making and saving money than he does of spending it; but Mr. C. J. Hughes, local agent of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work, has called the attention of The Enquirer to the case of a boy under 9, who if he is spared and keeps on the way he is going, will make his mark in the business world some day.

The little fellow is Master Robert, son of Mr. J. W. Betts, who lives about three miles south of Yorkville. Robert has among other things, a calf, eight guineas, a Wyandotte cock and 15 hens, and a credit of \$41.15 in his savings account in bank all accumulated principally as the result of his thrift, economy and business judgment.

Upon inquiry it develops that the little fellow has been developing habits of economy and thrift since he was about three years old. He began by saving the eggs of a hen that was assigned to him by his father as his own, and when there were enough eggs to warrant their being converted into cash he kept the money against future needs, and it was not a great while before he began to drift into other ventures.

One of Robert's most successful deals was in the purchase of a calf for \$2. His uncle pastured the calf for the manure, and the grown animal was

finally sold for \$25. A deal that was not quite so lucky involved the purchase of a sow with a litter of pigs for \$11. The sow and all of the pigs but two died. He gave one of the pigs to his father for trouble in connection with the raising and finally sold the other for \$9.

Not long ago, young Robert bought a Wyandotte cockerel for \$2.45, and later he bought a calf and a pig, and is carefully looking after the increase of his different investments.

Some of the neighbors who have been watching the little fellow's deals with much interest say that he knows the crow of every rooster and the cackle of every hen on the place, and he can tell from the size, shape or color of each egg which hen laid it.

He has a surprising stock of information about poultry, live stock and general farming especially for a boy of his age, and there is no doubt of the fact that if he keeps on in the direction he has been going his accumulations will eventually amount to something worth while—Yorkville Enquirer.

Robbers Loot Laporte Store

Robbers looted the store of C. F. Sonneborne of Laporte, Ind., May 6, for the fourth time in six years and covered their getting-away by an explosion of dynamite that wrecked and set fire to the building. The thieves carried off \$1,000 worth of goods in a delivery wagon, drawn by Humming Bird (2:04), a valuable trotting horse, which they stole from a nearby stable.

The robbers, four in number, were overtaken shortly before noon in the Calena woods near the Michigan line by Sheriff Anliss and Chief of Police Cochran. An exchange of shots followed, during which three of the robbers escaped. The fourth was captured, and all the plunder was recovered. A posse is searching the woods for the escaped robbers.

When the officers arrived with the captured robber it was necessary for the police to display their firearms to awe the crowd of 2,000 persons, who gathered around the prisoner, and were yelling "lynch him." The prisoner gave his name as Jos. Robesky. He is 26 years old and says he came from Chicago.

Sack Of Guano Exploded.

Yesterday afternoon on the plantation of Mr. S. L. Moore, between Waterloo and Harris Springs, a very unusual accident occurred.

A ten-year-old negro boy while trying to untie a sack of acid had his left hand torn and lacerated by a terrible explosion. No one seems to know the cause of the accident.

The shock and jar were felt by others at work in the field and resembled dynamite. The boy suffered a profound shock, sand and dirt being blown in his face and eyes. His thumb and fingers were amputated by Drs. Wilbur and Fennel, who are attending the case.

An Unusual Case At Hospital

A very unusual case came under attention of Dr. J. C. Harris at the hospital today. A negro named Henry Butler was sent here from Belton yesterday afternoon suffering from a peculiar illness, and was placed in the hospital under the care of Dr. Harris. An examination was made and an operation decided upon. This was performed today, and a stone the size of a guinea egg was taken from the negro's bladder. The strangest part of the case was that, imbedded in the side of the stone was a pistol ball. Upon being questioned, the negro admitted that he had been shot at a hot supper about 5 years ago, and that the bullet had not been removed. He is now doing nicely and will soon be out.—Anderson Daily Mail.