

# HOUSE . . . . No. 228

---

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOSPITALS FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

---

BOSTON, Dec. 12, 1912.

HON. ALBERT P. LANGTRY, *Secretary of State, State House, Boston.*

DEAR SIR:—The Board of Trustees of Hospitals for Consumptives make the following recommendations, which appear in the annual report of this Board, with such recommendations drafted in the form of bills.

1. The Board would recommend that the sum of two thousand dollars be appropriated for the salary and other necessary expenses of a trained worker, whose duty it shall be to follow up patients discharged from the state sanatoria, to ascertain how far the efforts of the State in caring for these patients are made effective by co-operation with local boards of health, and to provide the Board with data which will enable it to efficiently handle this most important work. At the present time the Board feels that much of the time, money and effort spent in caring for consumptives at the State sanatoria is wasted because local boards of health and other local forces, whose duty it is to guide and advise patients discharged from our State sanatoria, do not perform this part of their work. The Board feels this appropriation to be a necessary and urgent one.

## LAKEVILLE STATE SANATORIUM.

## I.

2. The Board recommends that the sum of thirteen thousand dollars be appropriated for the purpose of constructing a pavilion for thirty patients, with quarters and equipment for nine employees; and that the sum of six thousand dollars be provided for two additions to the present wards for men and women, providing for ten additional private rooms, with baths, at the Lakeville State Sanatorium.

Although this institution was originally built for one hundred and fifty patients, by means of tents, etc., during the summer months accommodations are provided for an average of one hundred and seventy-five. During the cold weather, however, it is difficult to provide suitable quarters for this large number. The Board feels this additional room is necessary, particularly in view of the fact that there is a large number of patients waiting admission to this institution.

The private rooms are much needed in view of the large number of advanced and dying cases. It is only right that these patients, not only for their own sake, but for the sake of others, be treated in private rooms when dangerously sick or dying.

## II.

3. The Board would further recommend that the sum of twelve thousand dollars be appropriated to provide land and equipment for a dairy, divided as follows:—

Land, 75 acres, which already has on it a two-tenement house and two barns, \$6,000; forty cows, and dairy equipment, \$4,000; remodeling barn, water supply, etc., \$2,000.

The Board asked for a similar appropriation last year, which was not granted. The same need exists at the present time. There is not enough milk obtainable in this part of the State to furnish a satisfactory supply at the sanatorium, except at exorbitant prices. The Board believes that by producing its own milk it can not only get a better supply but can obtain it at a far lower cost.

## III.

4. The Board would ask for the sum of one thousand dollars for the purpose of equipping a laboratory at this institution. Such a laboratory could not be provided for out of the original appropriation. There is an urgent and evident need that every such institution be equipped with adequate facilities for examining sputum and other necessary scientific work for the benefit of the patients.

## NORTH READING STATE SANATORIUM.

## I.

5. The Board would recommend that an appropriation of six thousand seven hundred and three and  $\frac{31}{100}$  dollars (\$6,703.31) be granted for the purpose of making alterations and additions to the dining room; and that six thousand two hundred and twenty-four and  $\frac{62}{100}$  dollars (\$6,224.62) be granted to construct a pavilion for twenty-four patients. The North Reading State Sanatorium is in exactly the same position as the Lakeville State Sanatorium in that, although originally intended for one hundred and fifty patients, it has been found possible in the summer months to accommodate an average of one hundred and seventy-five by means of tents, etc. This involves undesirable crowding, not only in the dining room but in the wards. The long list of patients awaiting admission to this institution makes the need for such an addition an imperative one.

## II.

6. A sidewalk leading from the hospital buildings to the main highway, a distance of about 580 yards, is greatly needed. The road which passes through the institution grounds for a distance of about 800 yards has never been fully completed, and is in need of repair. During the winter and spring months there has been an excessive amount of surface water about the buildings. Although some work has already been done to correct this condition there is still need

for further expenditure. The Board recommends that the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) be provided for the building of a sidewalk, drainage of ground and repair of the road.

## WESTFIELD STATE SANATORIUM.

### I.

7. Children's Ward and Equipment. We have now 60 children from 5 to 16 years of age. It is undesirable for many reasons, both from the standpoint of the children and the adult patients, to have them cared for in the same ward building. The admission of so many children from all parts of the Commonwealth lessens the number of available beds for adult patients from the western part of the State. At the present time there are more than 100 applicants waiting to gain admission to the Westfield State Sanatorium. This delay is not only a hardship, but means in many cases the loss of an opportunity to get well. A patient with tuberculosis often becomes far advanced during the three or four months delay now necessary. Children respond to sanatorium treatment quickly, and often when they have advanced disease recovery is possible. Caring for tuberculous children will do more toward lessening the number of deaths from consumption than any other method of prevention or control. The Board would recommend that the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) be provided for the purpose of constructing a building to provide sleeping, recreation and school quarters for tuberculous children.

### II.

8. Power House and Laundry Plant with Equipment. Our present power house is in the basement of the service building. It was located there because the original appropriation for constructing the institution was too small to permit of a separate building. It has been a constant source of annoyance because of the vibration of machinery, and the dirt from the coal dust, tracks and blows into the kitchen

and dining rooms. We would move the present laundry into the new building on account of the ever present danger of fires in laundries. A fire in the building in which the laundry and power plant are now located would endanger the whole institution as it is in the central building of the group. The present laundry could readily be made into a dining room for the patients in the children's ward, and would be needed for that purpose. In addition to moving our present power plant, we should need as additional equipment one new boiler, one new reciprocating engine and a water pump. This building also provides twelve rooms for employees. The Board would recommend that the sum of seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000.00) be granted for the purpose of constructing such power house and laundry.

Very truly yours,

D. L. PRENDERGAST,  
*Chairman.*

