

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS

OF THE

STATE ALMSHOUSE,

AT BRIDGEWATER.

—————
DECEMBER, 1856.
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BOSTON:

WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1857.

INSPECTORS' REPORT.

To His Excellency, HENRY J. GARDNER, Governor, and to the
Honorable Council:—

The Inspectors of the State Almshouse, at Bridgewater, in accordance with the tenth section of chapter 275 of the Acts of 1852, herewith submit the following, being the *third* Annual Report of that Institution, for the year ending November 30, 1856.

The Inspectors take great pleasure in presenting to the public the all-important, statistical report of the Superintendent, Mr. L. L. Goodspeed, which is herewith subjoined.

A full report from the Physician is also presented.

A Chaplain is connected with this institution, whose labors, we are happy to say, have been productive of good.

A school has been kept in the institution, and alike all schools, a portion of the pupils take great interest in their books.

The Inspectors feel justified in saying the school compares well with the public schools in the neighboring town, and that the moral influence produced by an education, over the young mind, will well repay the Commonwealth the small amount she has expended on the young inmates of her pauper institutions.

The Inspectors are of the opinion that the classification of pauper children, by an Act of the legislature, 1855, chapter 412, should be modified in some way, or repealed, as all who are conversant with pauper system will readily see. That

system adds much to the expense, which is of great importance, as well as many inconveniences, which we hope the legislature will investigate during the coming session.

The legislature, by an Act of 1852, placed the several State almshouses in their present locations, as a matter of convenience, and economy in transporting paupers; and in its effect, was far better for the Commonwealth than the present law, which transports her pauper children from one extreme part of the State to the other.

The Inspectors beg leave to add a word in relation to the law in regard to State paupers, taken sick in towns.

As far as our experience extends, it is productive of many and very serious evils. The practical effect is, in nineteen cases out of twenty, a cost to the State, the expense of a journey of one or more of the commissioners, or a physician, to a distant town, who, on their arrival, find the patient so far convalescent as to be out of doors, or in a fair way to be so within a few days, so there is no necessity of a physician; neither should the patient be sent to the State Almshouse. It is perfectly natural that, with such a law on the statute book, overseers of the poor of the towns should relieve themselves of all danger of expense, when it can be done by simply writing a letter to the Commissioners. The Inspectors are of the opinion this law should be modified or repealed.

The legislature, in June, 1856, passed a Resolve, appropriating \$1,407.48, for the payment of a boiler and fixtures for the institution. That amount has been drawn from the State treasury, and the debt liquidated, agreeably to its intentions.

In the spring of 1856, the Inspectors of this institution applied to the legislature for an appropriation for various useful purposes, and that body granted the sum of \$3,700. That amount has been drawn from the State treasury, and expended according to the Resolve, viz. :—

Painting,	\$353 50
Front fence,	394 23
Carriage-houses, sheds, tanks, plumbing, &c.,	2,952 27
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	\$3,700 00

The amount, though small, was adequate to meet the present wants.

In justice to the Superintendent of this institution, Mr. L. L. Goodspeed, we feel called upon to say, he is admirably qualified to fill the position,—a position, requiring as it does, a man of business qualifications, and a disciplinarian. Under his supervision, the institution must flourish, to the honor of the State.

J. F. MURDOCH,
W. B. MAY,
MARSHAL LINCOLN,

Inspectors.

STATE ALMSHOUSE, BRIDGEWATER, }
November 30, 1856. }

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Inspectors of the State Pauper Establishment at Bridgewater.

GENTLEMEN:—The following statement of the management and condition of the institution, for the year ending November 30, 1856, is respectfully submitted:—

SUMMARY OF INMATES.

Number of persons in the house Dec. 1, 1855, was . . . 449

During the year ending November 30, 1856, there have been admitted—

Men,	503
Women,	387
Boys,	260
Girls,	187

The whole number who have been in the house during the year, 1,786

Number in the house November 30, 1856—

Men,	148
Women,	200
Boys,	140
Girls,	97
Total,	585

Died during the year, 203

Eloped, 25

Discharged, Indentured, and returned, 973

Of those discharged, one hundred and twenty-two have been sent, at the Commonwealth's expense, where they were legally entitled to receive their support. Of the infirm and youth who have been discharged, in most cases, not possessing the means or ability to maintain themselves, it has been on application of relatives and friends, who have generally given satisfactory evidence that they were both able and willing to relieve the Commonwealth of further expense.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

Received from State Treasurer, as per bills rendered monthly, during the year ending November 30, 1856,	\$33,092 17
By sales from Farm, Oakum, Board of Inmates, and Cash left by Inmates deceased,	1,570 56
Total,	<u>\$34,662 73</u>

EXPENDITURES.

The Expenditures, during the year, have been as follows, viz. :—

For Salaries,	\$5,579 25
Labor of Mechanics on repairs, blacksmithing, &c.,	413 44
Dry Goods and Bedding,	1,698 68
Clothing,	528 02
Medicines for Medical Department,	568 88
Shoes and Leather,	573 24
Working Oxen, Beef Cattle, and other Stock,	1,710 00
Expense of returning Paupers,	311 05
Hay and Straw,	1,042 87
Transportation of merchandise, &c.,	738 18
Trees,	104 05
Coal and Wood,	2,397 11
Milk,	306 05
Corn, Meal and Oats,	755 £3
Hardware, Crockery, &c.,	113 15
Carts, Carriages, Harnesses, and Stone Machine,	582 50

For Post-office expense,	\$20 71
Lumber for repairs,	101 37
Cooking Ranges, Stove and Furnace Pipe,	491 24
Library and School Books,	116 68
Iron Bedsteads,	205 00
Stationery, Newspapers, &c.,	64 35
Fixtures for stone building,	142 80
Furniture,	112 25
Farming Implements,	109 20
Provisions and Groceries:—Beef, Pork, Flour, Butter, Cheese, Lard, Rice, Beans, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Oil, Soap, and small groceries,	15,877 13
	<hr/>
	\$34,662 73
Amount of Inventory, November 30, 1855,	\$3,544 20
Cash received for the year ending November 30, 1856,	34,662 73
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Whole amount,	\$38,206 93

Inventory, November 30th, 1856.

Provisions and Groceries,	\$1,553 62
Bedding, Bedsteads, and Clothing,	675 00
Coal and Wood,	1,818 66
Farm Stock, Tools and Carriages,	781 90
Books and Stationery,	97 50
Fixtures for stone building,	142 80
Furniture, (additional,)	112 25
Leather and Shoes,	87 50
Cooking Ranges, Stove and Furnace Pipe, (addi- tional,)	491 25
Cash paid for transportation of Paupers,	311 05
Labor and Cash paid towards building dead house and blacksmith shop,	75 00
Board and Labor of Mechanics; also of Men and Teams, upon improvements for which the ap- propriation was made,	200 00
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	\$6,346 53

Balance, (which is the support of paupers through the year,)	\$31,860 40
Average number of inmates through the year,	557
Average cost of each pauper for the year,	\$57 20
Average cost of each pauper per week,	1 10

The above statement shows the cost of supporting each pauper through the year, (exclusive of the income of the farm,) and exceeds that of the year previous about twelve cents per week. This is mainly attributable to the increased number of insane and idiotic poor who have been admitted into the institution the past year. Many of these, of course, are not capable of performing any labor, but require constant care and oversight; and are, therefore, comparatively, a very expensive class of inmates; while others, placed under the charge of attendants, have done considerable labor upon the farm; and in other departments, where their services were required, have made themselves very useful;—in fact, all the inmate labor we have had upon the farm during the summer months, has been performed by the able-bodied portion of the insane, with the exception of the boys, who have been required to perform such work as their age and capacity enabled them to do.

When it is remembered that the inmates whose services would be profitable in carrying on the farm work, are those who come in at the approach of winter, to remain only till the return of spring, it will be seen that we must rely, almost entirely, upon the insane, for the principal part of our pauper labor; and as manual labor conduces so much to health, mentally as well as physically, that throwing it entirely one side, in a pecuniary point of view, the result has been so salutary in improving, and in some cases, a complete restoration to reason, that the additional expense for attendants sinks into insignificance, compared with the great good done to this unfortunate class of our State poor.

Some alterations during the past year have been made for their better accommodation, and with a further outlay of a few hundred dollars, provision might be made for a number considerably larger than the present.

The various works of digging stone, wall making and other

necessary improvements, in addition to the ordinary farming, have furnished abundant means for employment of the inmates.

Those who are not able to labor at heavy work, have been, as heretofore, employed at picking oakum, breaking stones for paving yards, roads, walks, &c.

Notwithstanding much labor has been done in preparing the land for cultivation, as its improved condition already shows, there yet remains a large amount of necessary labor to be done, before the farm will be brought under good cultivation.

The produce raised upon the farm is as follows, viz. :—

- 16 tons of Hay and Millet.
- 2,000 bushels of Potatoes.
- 800 bushels of Carrots.
- 400 bushels of Beets.
- 1,500 bushels of Turnips.
- 200 bushels of Parsnips.
- 875 Cabbages.
- Various other vegetables in small quantities.
- 75 Swine.

The above may be considered a very fair crop, although it is not so large as was indicated in the early part of the season—a large part of the turnip crop having rotted in the ground after being about two-thirds grown.

The method of conducting the farm, making fertilizers, the raising of crops, &c., has been about the same as last year, with the exception of a small experiment in the cultivation of millet, the result of which has been so satisfactory, that I am convinced that it is one of the best crops we can raise.

One hundred fruit trees have been set, also quite a number of ornamental.

The school, numbering from fifty to one hundred scholars, has been in operation through the year, and, notwithstanding the many hindrances, in a school of this character, in many cases, a commendable degree of improvement has been made. The children admitted here, with few exceptions, are ignorant of the rudiments of school instruction, having previously learned little or nothing of school, save a distaste for it; consequently, a good deal of training is necessary before proper habits, so essen-

tial to learning, are acquired. This being accomplished, there is no reason why our school should not compare favorably with the public schools in our town.

A convenient school-room, well fitted and furnished, is provided; also a competent teacher, who not only devotes his time to them during the hours set apart for instruction, but has the general charge and oversight of the boys while engaged in recreation, work, &c.

On the subject of the system of classifying the children and youth admitted to the three almshouses, I expressed myself fully, in my last report. The experience of another year has presented no reason to change my views, but, on the contrary, has strengthened my convictions, that some alteration or modification of the law, would be for the interest of the Commonwealth as well as a benefit to the children.

From the operations of the law passed at the last session of the legislature, chapter 171, section 2, I have been led to suggest, whether it ought not to be repealed, or in some way modified, as to prevent its liability to abuse—or what, perhaps, would be better, that the whole subject of pauper laws should be referred to a committee of the legislature, who, if they found cause, could revise and prepare a code, to be presented for the action of the legislature. That such a course would result favorably to the care and support of those persons who justly are entitled to the charities of our Commonwealth, as well as somewhat lessen the pauper expenses, there can be no doubt.

To those assistants who have proved themselves competent to discharge the various duties assigned them, I am under obligations for the interest they have shown in conducting the affairs of the institution.

Respectfully submitted,

LEVI L. GOODSPEED,

Superintendent.

BRIDGEWATER, November 30, 1856.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse, Bridgewater.

GENTLEMEN:—The following Report of the condition of the Medical Department of this institution, for the year ending November 30, 1856, is herewith transmitted.

TABLE No. 1.

No. of Births during the year,	67
Patients remaining Nov. 30th, 1855,	62
admitted during the year,	1,026
discharged, well,	701
improved,	65
died,	203
remaining,	119

TABLE No. 2.

A List of those that have Died, Age, when and with what Disease.

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Death.
James Gorman, . . .	70 years,	Dec. 1,	Debility.
David Crowley, . . .	45 years,	3,	do
Lavina Powers, . . .	91 years,	4,	Old Age.
Mary Sullivan, . . .	61 years,	5,	Consumption.
Thomas Kindergan, . . .	4 months,	7,	do
Jane Mannassa, . . .	69 years,	8,	do
Lucy Sprague, . . .	50 years,	12,	do
Daniel Sullivan, . . .	44 years,	14,	Paralysis.
Joseph Morea, . . .	47 years,	16,	Consumption.
Joanna Harding, . . .	75 years,	17,	do
Mary Hunt, . . .	20 years,	22,	Dropsy.
Daniel Lyons, . . .	27 years,	25,	Consumption.
Hugh Lyons, . . .	21 years,	26,	Hip Disease.
John Peters, . . .	3 months,	29,	Marasmus.
Nancy Brown, . . .	49 years,	30,	Anemia.
Edward Landagan, . . .	6 months,	31,	Hydrocephalus.
Joseph Weston, . . .	40 years,	1856. Jan. 4,	Consumption.
Rosanna Haynes, . . .	1½ months.	6,	Debility.
Jeremiah Phelan, . . .	33 years,	7,	Consumption.
Frederick Schronan, . . .	12 years,	7,	Pneumonia.
Isabella Squiers, . . .	1½ months.	9,	Debility.
Edward Lavers, . . .	27 years,	10,	Sec. Syphils.

TABLE No. 2—*Continued.*

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Death.
Alexander Withers, . . .	33 years,	Jan. 12,	Anemia.
Mary Murphey, . . .	4 months,	13,	Variola.
David Smith, . . .	93 years,	14,	Old Age.
Mary O'Connors, . . .	75 years,	16,	do
Mary Slowy, . . .	60 years,	16,	Debility.
Elizabeth Maynard, . . .	22 years,	16,	Consumption.
Ann J. Raffety, . . .	6 months,	16,	Scrofula.
Frank Francowya, . . .	45 years,	18,	Consumption.
Ann Brown, . . .	25 years,	18,	Exhaustion.
John Harrocks, . . .	8 months,	19,	Debility.
John Francis, . . .	53 years,	19,	Consumption.
Mary E. Stetson, . . .	20 years,	21,	do
Mary A. Julia, . . .	40 years,	22,	do
Mary Powers, . . .	65 years,	29,	do
Patrick Dargan, . . .	57 years,	30,	Diabetes.
William Mowatt, . . .	6 years,	Feb. 5,	Variola.
Ellen Barry, . . .	3 years,	5,	do
Edward Corrigan, . . .	9 years,	7,	Pleurisy.
Ellen Russell, . . .	7½ months.	8,	Variola.
Rose Mowatt, . . .	39 years,	8,	Erysipelas.
John Flannegan, . . .	7 years,	8,	Variola.
Cath. Brown, . . .	2 years,	9,	do
Timothy Galvin, . . .	9 months.	9,	Marasmus.
Rebecca Abbot, . . .	48 years,	10,	Debility.
Jane Landers, . . .	67 years,	11,	do
Evan G. Evans, . . .	41 years,	11,	Consumption.

TABLE No. 2—Continued.

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Death.
Nawcy Riley, . . .	78 years,	Feb. 12,	Old Age.
Abel Fletcher, . . .	28 years,	12,	Sec. Syphilis.
Honoro Tracy, . . .	18 years,	12,	Dysentery.
Susan C. Way, . . .	7 months,	12,	Marasmus.
Edward Conley, . . .	9 months,	15,	Menengritis.
William Mallally, . . .	7 months,	15,	Marasmus.
Motte Sullivan, . . .	35 years,	16,	Consumption.
James Bennett, . . .	35 years,	18,	do
Hubert Collins, . . .	8 months,	18,	Inflammation of Brain.
Keziah Cole, . . .	26 years,	19,	Debility.
John Pitts, . . .	5 weeks,	24,	Marasmus.
Timothy Carrigan, . . .	40 years,	26,	Consumption.
Margaret Parks, . . .	1½ years,	28,	do
Alice Smith, . . .	18 years,	29,	do
Martha Wilson, . . .	80 years,	March 2,	Old Age.
Margaret Norton, . . .	1½ year,	4,	Convulsions.
Emma Rollins, . . .	65 years,	4,	Laryngitis.
Martha J. Wright, . . .	3 years,	5,	Variola.
Udolph C. Tarlton, . . .	30 years,	7,	Disease of Heart.
Ann McGuire, . . .	3½ months,	8,	Marasmus.
John Coffee, . . .	1½ year,	8,	Consumption.
Sarah Larrabee, . . .	32 years,	8,	do
Jose L. D. Azeaveado, . . .	40 years,	9,	do
Mary E. Lovelace, . . .	9½ months,	11,	Marasmus.
Rowland Parkins, . . .	40 years,	11,	Typhoid Fever.
John McCarty, . . .	5 months,	11,	Marasmus.

TABLE No. 2—*Continued.*

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Death.
Michael Crimmins, . . .	2 weeks,	March 13,	Infantile Debility.
Dennis Murphey, . . .	4½ years,	13,	Consumption.
Susannah Lumey, . . .	20 years,	13,	Pneumonia.
Margaret Brannan, . . .	2½ years,	14,	Scrofula.
Caroline Perkins, . . .	19 years,	18,	Puerperal Convulsions.
Charles Kineary, . . .	7½ months,	19,	Pneumonia.
Ellen Shields, . . .	30 years,	20,	Apoplexy.
Mary McQuellan, . . .	8½ months.	21,	Debility.
Michael Sweeney, . . .	28 months,	21,	Pneumonia.
Mary A. Wright, . . .	1¾ year,	22,	Syphilis.
Mary Leydon, . . .	3 months,	23,	Marasmus.
Julia Henry, . . .	4½ months,	23,	Scrofula.
Richard Sullivan, . . .	3¼ years,	23,	Consumption.
Phillip Quinn, . . .	59 years,	24,	Debility.
James Dooley, . . .	3½ months,	24,	Infantile Debility.
Wm. H. Powers, . . .	3½ months,	25,	Pneumonia.
Bartholemew Mahoney, .	30 years,	26,	Consumption.
John Cavanaugh, . . .	8 months,	26,	Erysipelas.
Edward Duffy, . . .	3½ years,	26,	do
John Sullivan, . . .	3½ months,	27,	Variola.
John Welch, . . .	3 months,	27,	Infantile Debility.
Cath. Dixon, . . .	1 yr., 6 mo.	27,	Cholera Infantum.
Patrick Hogan, . . .	1 yr., 6 mo.	29,	Scrofula.
Aurora Daley, . . .	1 yr., 6 mo.	29,	Consumption.
Caroline E. Morris, . . .	29 years,	31.,	do
Hannah Harrington, . .	25 years,	31,	do

TABLE No. 2—Continued.

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Deate.
Patrick Kelley, . . .	12 days,	March 31,	Inanition.
Eugene Kinney, . . .	4½ months.	April, 1,	Meningitis.
Susan Killion, . . .	55 years,	2,	Apoplexy.
Edward Burke, . . .	20 years,	2,	Consumption.
Cath. Callahan, . . .	30 years,	3,	do
Mary Watson, (col.) . .	27 years,	4,	Syphilis.
Mary J. Hutchinson, . .	14 days,	4,	Inanition.
Mary A. Sullivan, . . .	37 years,	4,	Consumption.
Mary A. Cook, . . .	3 months,	5,	Marasmus.
Peter Garrison, . . .	68 years,	7,	Erysipelas.
John Leary, . . .	1 year,	10,	Debility.
Joseph Sullivan, . . .	2 years,	13,	Variola.
Sarah Andrews, (col.) . .	97 years,	14,	Old Age.
Thomas Stacy, . . .	30 years,	15,	Consumption.
Elizabeth Thornton, . .	27 years,	18,	Brain Fever.
Isabella Gay, . . .	5 weeks,	18,	Inanition.
Daniel McCarty, . . .	49 years,	17,	Consumption.
Joseph Hawthorn, . . .	3½ months.	22,	Marasmus.
Adams F. Jones, . . .	45 years,	22,	Consumption.
John Brighton, . . .	4½ months,	24,	Marasmus.
George Seeley, . . .	60 years,	26,	Apoplexy.
Anna Gaffy, . . .	2½ years,	29,	Marasmus.
Daniel Valentine, (col.) .	78 years,	May 3,	Old Age.
Fanny Renney, (col.) . .	81 years,	4,	do
Peter Turney, . . .	9 months,	6,	Croup.
James Isherwood, . . .	1 yr., 4 mo.	7,	Scrofula.

TABLE No. 2—*Continued.*

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Death.
Charles Gray, . . .	4½ months,	May 9,	Debility.
John Logan, . . .	4¼ months,	10,	Marasmus.
Catharine Blanchard, . .	1 week,	11,	Inanition.
Sarah Wells, (col.) . .	61 years,	12,	General Palsy.
John Smith, . . .	35 years,	18,	Debility.
Mary O'Brien, . . .	1 yr., 3 mo.	20,	Hydrocephalus.
Louisa Preston, . . .	3¼ months,	20,	Marasmus.
Albert Danville, . . .	4 days,	22,	Inanition.
Timothy Deneen, . . .	31 years,	25,	General Palsy.
Patrick Blake, . . .	43 years,	25,	Consumption.
Henrietta Lewis, . . .	5 days,	26,	Inanition.
John Leydon, . . .	30 years,	June, 1,	Consumption.
John Surney, (col.) . .	3 months,	2,	Convulsions.
Henry Kanaka, . . .	25 years,	8,	Paralysis.
Christy Laville, . . .	40 years,	15,	Epilepsy.
Robert Kanaka, . . .	25 years,	15,	Consumption.
Hannah Moran, . . .	3¼ months,	16,	Marasmus.
Thomas Griffin, . . .	54 years,	20,	Debility.
John Atwood, . . .	40 years,	22,	Delirium Tremens.
Michael Lara, . . .	54 years,	23,	Consumption.
Bridget McNamee, . . .	45 years,	24,	Delirium Tremens.
Catharine Dorety, . . .	5 months,	25,	Infantile Debility.
John Kelley, . . .	33 years,	26,	Consumption.
Mary Caffrey, . . .	24 years,	27,	Dropsy.
Betsey Sculley, . . .	36 years,	29,	Acute Diarrhœa.
Eliza Root, . . .	37 years,	July 1,	Consumption.

TABLE No. 2—Continued.

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Death.
Samuel Robinson, . . .	2 yrs., 8 mo.	July 2,	Marasmus.
Dennis Lynch, . . .	20 years,	2,	Consumption.
Charles Denney, . . .	40 years,	12,	do
Florence Lewis, (col.) .	29 years,	14,	do
Margaret Callahan, . .	28 years,	15,	Puerperal Fever.
Michael Riley, . . .	60 years,	18,	Consumption.
Elizabeth Pedester, . .	27 years,	23,	Chronic Diarrhœa.
Sarah A. Johnson, (col.)	52 years,	27,	Disease of Heart.
John Caria, . . .	20 years,	28,	Scrofula.
Daniel Hart, . . .	27 years,	31,	Consumption.
John Neil, . . .	20 years,	August 1,	do
Mary Dacey, . . .	27 years,	3,	Gangrene.
Ann Demaine, . . .	22 years,	4,	Consumption.
Charles Hills, . . .	11 years,	10,	Epilepsy.
Ann Fleming, . . .	50 years,	11,	Anemia.
Thomas Carlin, . . .	41 years,	22,	Dropsy.
Roger Curley, . . .	65 years,	22,	Debility.
Dennis Crimming, . . .	35 years,	27,	Consumption.
William H. Donor, (col.)	45 years,	28,	Paralysis.
Bridget McMally, . . .	30 years,	Sept. 3,	Consumption.
Margaret Callahan, . .	2 months,	7,	Infantile Debility.
Abner Seymour, (col.)	60 years,	12,	Debility.
Dudley Cannon, . . .	23 years,	12,	Consumption.
Edward Smith, . . .	38 years,	15,	Pneumonia.
Louisa A. Chubert, . .	1 year,	15,	Marasmus.
Christopher McCavil, . .	10½ months,	17,	Croup.

TABLE No. 2—*Continued.*

NAME.	Age.	Date.	Cause of Death.
Dennis O'Brien, . . .	70 years,	Sept. 20,	Concussion of Brain.
Ellen O'Brien, . . .	45 years,	26,	Consumption.
John McElhenry, . . .	35 years,	October 4,	do
Ellen Champion, . . .	3½ months,	8,	Infantile Debility.
John Watson, (col.) . . .	18 months,	10,	Consumption.
Mary Thornton, . . .	6½ months,	11,	Cholera Infantum.
Thomas McLaughlin, . . .	26 years,	13,	Hip Disease.
Lucy E. Greenbank, . . .	5 months,	15,	Marasmus.
John Sexton, . . .	8 years,	17,	Scrofula.
Sarah Hull, . . .	35 years,	17,	Consumption.
Jack Kanaka, . . .	35 years,	19,	do
Thomas Keenan, . . .	18 years,	25,	do
Nancy Hill, (col.) . . .	77 years,	30,	Debility.
Thomas Trussell, . . .	81 years,	Nov. 2,	Old Age.
Eliza McCarty, . . .	1 yr., 6 mo.	3,	Convulsions.
Frances Rose, . . .	24 years,	5,	Consumption.
James Lambert, . . .	40 years,	10,	Disease of Heart.
Isabella Jones, . . .	2½ months.	14,	Inanition.
Michael Murray, . . .	23 years,	15,	Consumption.
Hannah Crowley, . . .	1¼ month,	17,	Inanition.
Levi Scott, (col.) . . .	80 years,	19,	Old Age.
Joanna Courtney, . . .	50 years,	19,	Consumption.
John Donovan, . . .	70 years,	20,	Senile Debility.
Clarence Morse, . . .	9½ months.	20,	Marasmus.
Mary Jenkins, . . .	5¼ months,	28,	do

Any one familiar with the nature and condition of the class of persons who are received into the State almshouses, will not be surprised at the large number embraced in the hospital report. A great number of them are previously diseased when they come into the institution, many of them with diseases which are incurable, neither patient nor friends expecting a recovery; in fact I have heard many of them say that they came here to die; having expended their all in pursuit of health, now bereft of money and friends, they come here to be made as comfortable as the nature of their disease will admit.

The principal disease with which this class of patients are afflicted is consumption, which in most cases can be clearly ascertained to be hereditary. Amongst this class of patients are many from the seaports where the whaling business is prosecuted. Most of them are natives of the Sandwich or other islands in the Pacific ocean, who are shipped on board of whalers. At that time they are apparently healthy; they go into the Northern ocean, where they are exposed to severe cold, fogs and wet, many times clothed in a manner unsuited to their accustomed habits, obliged to eat provisions altogether different than those used at home; there a predisposition to tubercular disease is engendered, and when coming on to this coast the change of climate is again so great that by the time the ship arrives, the Kanaka sailor, who had become predisposed to the disease, is now a confirmed case of consumption; and being a stranger in a strange land, he is sent to the State almshouse, there to linger out a miserable existence; nothing can be done but to palliate as much as possible his sufferings, a cure of course being out of the question.

In the persons of others afflicted with different diseases we find the constitution so broken down by previous disease, dissipation, continued exposure and bad living, that he cannot withstand an attack of disease, however mild, as well as one otherwise situated, and he soon succumbs to it; or if he should survive that attack, becomes a confirmed invalid and more susceptible to the inroads of any new disease which may be raging around him. In fine, when we consider that with a few exceptions the vast majority of the persons admitted to the hospital are of the character and in the condition I have

mentioned, it will readily be conceded that they are most unpromising cases.

During the year there has been, as will be seen by the report, an increased amount of sickness, in comparison with that of last year, but not as severe in its character. At the beginning of the year we were visited by the smallpox, but it did not spread to any great extent, as more than two-thirds had either had the disease previous to their arrival into this country or had been vaccinated within five years. By attending closely to vaccination among the remainder the prevalence of the disease was arrested. During the summer and autumn we were highly favored, not having any great amount of "bowel troubles," as we did have during the same time in the previous year. What we did have was of a mild character and yielded readily to medical treatment.

By reference to Table I it will be seen that there have been sixty-seven births in the institution during the year; with one or two exceptions the cases have all terminated favorably. We had one case where to save the life of the mother it became necessary to destroy that of the child. A majority of the mothers acknowledge the illegitimacy of their offspring, and many of the remainder probably lie when they say to the contrary.

On account of the increased amount of sickness, our hospital accommodations had become too small, and it was necessary for the welfare and comfort of the sick that more room should be provided, therefore two large wards were added to those already in use. I am now enabled to make a better classification of patients, and by having fewer in a ward, they have better air and their chances of recovery greatly increased. In conclusion, I take pleasure in stating that I am under great obligations to the Consulting Physician, Dr. Pratt, of Bridgewater, for his readiness at all times to aid me with his advice, and for his untiring interest in the medical department of this institution.

Respectfully submitted,

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STATE ALMSHOUSE, BRIDGEWATER, }
November 30, 1856. }