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DANVILLE INTELLIGENCER.

"PLEDGED BUT TO TRUTH, TO LIBERTY AND LAW—NO FAVOR SWAYS US AND NO FEAR SHALL AWE."

VOLUME 78. DANVILLE, MONTOUR COUNTY, PA., FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1907. NUMBER 15

MUCH ILLNESS-- NOT MUCH GRIP

There is a great deal of sickness in town at present—more than has occurred for a long time past. It is all due, no doubt, to the open winter with its unhealthful weather. While it is true that there are probably few serious cases it is nevertheless a fact that one-half of our population is indisposed. The most of these persons are able to be about but a large number are unfit for work and are confined to their homes. A traveling man yesterday stated that it is almost impossible to do much business in Danville now owing to the large number of merchants that are ill. Borough superintendent Gordy states that attendance at the schools is much reduced through illness.

By common consent the prevailing illness is said to be grip, which may or may not be true. A physician remarks that in the majority of cases it is difficult to differentiate between a bad cold and case of grip at certain stages of the latter.

However, when a man takes a chill and has pains and an all-gone feeling he somehow takes the matter in his own hands and diagnoses the attack to suit himself and pronounces it grip, evidently feeling a morbid delight in getting rid of it in that way. Of course, in many instances in is nothing more serious than a bad cold, just as the father and the grandfather of the man had in the days before la grippe began its ravages in this country. It is a question, however, whether most men are or can be disillusionized and whether in the end they are not permitted to hug the delusion that they have the grip while the wise physician—assuming that one has been employed—gives such treatment as he deems best.

Boil the Water.

The warning of Dr. Dixon relating to the purity of the water supply in the Susquehanna below Scranton is important enough to be heeded everywhere. A warning of the same kind should be issued wherever sewage is emptied into running streams from which one or more towns draw their supply of water. Nearly, if not quite, all the running streams in the State are contaminated by impurities which reckless and improvident man turns into them, and the wonder is that epidemics of disease are not more numerous and more destructive of human life.

Wherever there are epidemics of typhoid fever the carelessness in regard to the water supply and the disregard of health and life are most pronounced. Although men are warned to take every precaution to prevent the spread of disease they pay little attention. Although warned that matter taken from the sick room should be disinfected before it is disposed of, this is seldom done. Like the victim of tuberculosis who discharges infected sputum all about him, to the jeopardy of the health and lives of others, the persons who attend typhoid patients, unless they are professional nurses, seldom "take the trouble" to obey a command to disinfect anything. Indeed few precautions are taken by persons who are well, but are liable to infection, to save themselves from an attack of the disease.

Hence Dr. Dixon, not confining his labors to the eradication of typhoid in Scranton, and fearing that there is "an unusual amount of typhoid fever infection in the Susquehanna river by reason of the epidemic of the disease now prevalent in the city of Scranton," warns all corporations or municipalities supplying water to consumers "not to furnish this supply to your consumers unless it be first adequately filtered, otherwise you are to notify the public to boil the water for a period of thirty minutes before the same is used for drinking or culinary purposes." There is little or no danger that the water supply here is infected with typhoid germs from Scranton; nevertheless it would be well to boil all water that is used for domestic purposes. In fact, when in doubt boil the water.

A Surprise Party.

A surprise party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Jenkins, Church street, on Saturday evening in honor of their daughter, Edith's ninth birthday. The evening was spent with music and games. Refreshments were served.

Those present were: Misses Blanche Coleman, Margaret Kinn, Margaret Bennett, Ethel Bodine, Mae Miller, Martha Moodie, Bernice Gaskins, Bertha Garnett, Laura Sticklin, Ruth Ricketts, Lizzie Miller, Jennie Upson, Edith Jenkins, Blanche Jenkins, Emma Jenkins, Annie Jenkins. Masters Earl Young, Arthur Dietrich, George Ricketts, Edward Kinn, William McKinney, Earl Ammerman, Ralph Huntington, Lewis Lenhart, Thomas Davis, William Wertman, James Upson.

Must Use the Right Paper.

It is said that the best way to preserve apples in winter is to wrap them in newspapers so as to exclude the air. The exception is made, however, that the newspaper must be one on which the subscription has been paid, else the dampness resulting from what is "dew" may result in spoiling the fruit.

TO FILL UP THE OLD CANAL

The trustees of the hospital for the insane have made arrangements with the D. L. & W. Railroad company for filling up and improving the land embraced in the old canal where it intersects the hospital property.

In accomplishing this work they propose to apply for an appropriation from the State. In abating the nuisance there it is deemed advisable to get rid of the old canal in the borough. To that end the borough council was asked to interest itself in the proposition and appoint a committee to act in the matter.

Mr. Jacobs, at the regular meeting Friday, moved that a committee of three be appointed to meet with the resident trustees of the hospital for the insane to formulate a plan for piping and filling up the old canal; also again to meet with the trustees and a committee of the State legislature, and endeavor to impress upon the latter the necessity for an appropriation to assist in abolishing the nuisance. The motion carried.

Messrs. Vastine, Sweisfort and Jacobs were appointed as a committee of three by the chairman to meet the trustees and the legislative committee which latter is expected to pay the hospital a visit next week.

The ordinance to prevent the throwing around of medicine samples etc., passed council on the third and final reading.

On motion of Mr. Russell the street commissioner was instructed to notify Foust Bros. to remove the accumulation of ashes, stones, etc., on Ferry street, which obstructs the drain; otherwise the work will be done by the borough at Foust Bros.' expense.

On motion of Mr. Dietz it was ordered that bids be invited for printing 300 copies of the new borough ordinance.

Spring street was reported to council as in a very bad condition. On motion the committee on streets and bridges was requested to visit the spot and determine what improvements can be made.

On motion of Mr. Vastine the committee on streets and bridges was ordered to investigate as to the condition of Ferry street at Robert G. Miller's residence.

On motion of Mr. Dietz it was ordered that the report of the fire chief be accepted and the section of hose in the hands of the superintendent of the water works be returned to the Friendship fire company.

On motion it was ordered that fifty feet of hose be purchased for the Friendship fire company to be used in sprinkling.

Borough Electrician Newton Smith presented his report for operating the light plant during the month past. Eighty-seven tons of coal at $2.50 per ton were consumed amounting to $217.50. The plant was in operation 397 hours, 15 minutes. The total cost of operation for the month was $339.09.

The following members were present: Gibson, Boyer, Dietz, Vastine, Sweisfort, Russell, Eisenhart, Jacobs, Woodside and Angle.

Cantata of Holy City.

The sacred oratorio, "The Holy City," which has been under preparation in this city during the past six months, will be presented in the Mahoning Presbyterian church on the 24th and 25th of the present month. It will be the most elaborate, the most complete and altogether the grandest musical production that has ever been given in Danville.

The soloists are Mrs. Scarlet, Miss Margaret Ammerman, Mrs. Luella Werkheiser-Divel, Irvin Vannan, Walter Russell and H. C. Haskell, of Wets Brook, Me

The chorus consists of forty of Danville's best voices and most accomplished singers, as follows:

Sopranos—Miss Newbaker, Miss Ammerman, Miss Aten, Miss Vastine, Miss Klase, Miss Lyon, Miss Jamesen, Miss Reese, Miss Bennetts, Mrs. Sober, and Mrs. McClure.

Altos—Mrs. Divel, Mrs. Scarlet, Miss Reese, Miss Lyon, Miss Lowrie and Miss Fry.

Tenors—H. C. Haskell, R. M. Jacobs, William Rishel, George Lunger, Clyde Davis, John B. McCoy, Howard Klinger, Frank Cousart.

Bases—W. R. Miller, Walter Russell, Irvin Vannan, Frank Brown, Jesse Shannon, Joseph R. Patton, Charles Lyon, C. C. Ritter, W. L. McClure, John Henning.

Rehearsals are of almost nightly occurrence and those fortunate enough to be present as spectators on one or more occasions express themselves as delighted with the high order of the music and predict the fullest measure of success for the oratorio.

Aids Coal Diggers.

The Susquehanna, while it has not reached a dangerous height at any time this winter, has been usually high for long periods. This has been of untold profit to the river coal men, who are looking forward to reaping a rich harvest next summer. Some of the big beds near this city became very nearly exhausted last summer, when the river was low, but the high water has been bringing down large quantities and the coal men who have been over the river say there is now a big, fresh supply on hand.

SPECIAL COURT YESTERDAY

The court house bell rang yesterday morning. Judge Evans and Associate L. W. Welliver were on hand. Attorneys and witnesses were present and everything had been arranged for a habeas corpus proceeding, which at the last moment was unexpectedly called off.

The proceedings had been instituted to secure the release of James M. McKenney, Jr., from the hospital for the insane at this place. The petitioner set forth that he is unlawfully restrained of his liberty and that such restraint to the best of his knowledge and belief is not by virtue of any commitment or detainer for any criminal or supposed criminal matter. He, therefore, prayed for a writ of habeas corpus agreeably to the act of assembly directed to Dr. Hugh B. Meredith, superintendent of the said hospital.

All the parties were in court or within easy reach including, not only the petitioner and Dr. Meredith, but the mother and other relatives of the former. James M. McKenney is a handsome, finely built young fellow belonging to a prominent family of Pittsburg. He was well dressed and as he appeared in court bore none of the traces of dementia. What story lay back of his commitment did not develop, as the hearing did not proceed.

Hon. Grant Herring, counsel for the petitioner, stated that an agreement had been reached between his client and the relatives of the latter, in which his release was agreed to provided he would yield to a certain wish of his relatives. This was fully brought out in the following order of court, which was immediately made by Judge Evans:

"And now January 7, 1907, this matter came on to be heard and after consideration thereof and the production of the said James M. McKenney, Jr., in person before the court and the said James M. McKenney stipulating that he will voluntarily go to and remain at the farm of William Muldoon near White Plains, New York, for a period of two months from this date, it is ordered that said James McKenney be forthwith discharged from the custody of the State hospital for the insane at Danville, Pa.

By the Court,
CHARLES C. EVANS, P. J.

Charles P. Orr, of Pittsburg, and Hon. John G. Harman, of Bloomsburg, represented the relatives of the petitioner, at whose instance the latter was committed to the hospital.

The occasion yesterday was the first that Grant Herring and John G. Harman, with his Honor Judge Evans, the three contestants in the bitter fight for the judgeship last fall, met together at the local bar since the election. It was indeed a pleasure to see these talented gentlemen with no conflicting interests and all differences buried working together harmoniously as during the many years of the past.

Highly Colored Descriptions.

The highly colored reports of the visit of the lunacy commission to the hospital for the insane here Tuesday, which appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer and the North American yesterday, caused a good deal of criticism.

Whatever the defects of the big building may be it is a well-known fact that it is not the illy-appointed prison house and the death trap that it is described as being in the above named papers. If overcrowding is relieved, it is believed that the buildings with slight improvements can be retained in use. Buildings constructed within thirty years or so should not be so antiquated as to be valueless.

The reports in the Philadelphia newspapers are scarcely accurate in any particular. One of them emphasizes the fact that there are no fire escapes on the building at all, while every person who has ever visited the hospital has knowledge to the contrary

Representatives of the city papers present with the commission did not seem to want news that related to any of the better features of the institution, but whenever they scented anything like a scandal their pencils became very busy. This paper in its report endeavored to present such facts as would really enlighten its readers as to some of the real problems that face the commission.

It did not dwell upon the deaths that have occurred among the patients while in the hands of attendants for the reason that they were all sufficiently aired in these columns when they took place and all the facts were made use of, which under the circumstances it was possible to obtain.

THE COST.

The presence of the typhoid fever epidemic in Scranton has brought the board of charities of that city face to face with a great emergency. The board is compelled to expend on behalf of the poor who are victims of the disease about $500 a day. It has asked the citizens to contribute an emergency fund of $10,000, but the response thus far has only amounted to about $1,200.

Will Retain Passes.

By a vote of 8 to 4, the members of the Shamokin borough council last week defeated a resolution presented by one of the members calling upon them to surrender their street railway passes.

ADA KRUM RESTORED TO HOME

Charles Sutton and Miss Ada Krum the runaway couple, who were apprehended at Athens, this State, with John Grier Voris, arrived in this city Monday. The girl has been restored to her parents and Sutton alias Wray, is languishing in the county prison with two charges hanging over his head.

The couple arrived on the 4:31 Pennsylvania train and were hustled directly to the office of Justice Dalton where the deserted wife and the mother of the latter as well as of the runaway girl had been in waiting since twelve o'clock.

The meeting of the mother and the daughter who had been given up as lost contained an element of deep pathos. The woman yielding to her motherly instincts, although deeply hurt, showed a disposition to take her daughter back and to forgive all. The girl, however, had much to explain.

She confessed that she did not know what had prompted the course she had taken. "I just got it into my head to go away," she said, "and I did not want to go alone." The little journey abroad, however, will probably last her a life time. Sutton and the girl made their way on foot the entire distance from Danville to Athens, estimated to be 148 miles. They left Danville on November 5, arriving at Athens about Thanksgiving day. Some where between Berwick and West Nanticoke they spent two weeks with a farmer, where both Sutton and the girl were employed husking corn. They confessed that they had endured many hardships, but that there was only one night when they had no shelter. This occurred where a forest fire was raging and the country folks were all out. The burning timber afforded warmth and among the fire fighters Sutton and the girl found plenty of company.

The following from the "Athens Evening News" of Saturday, throws a little light on a new phase of the affair:

"Charles Sutton was taken into custody by Chief Mulligan and County Detective McGovern today noon at the local plant of the American Bridge company where he has been employed for the last five weeks.

According to his story he and the 17-year-old girl, his sister-in-law, left Danville last November and walked to Athens, working at various farms for a few days at a time along the way. They reached Athens about December 1 and he secured work at the bridge plant. He and his sister-in-law having been living as man and wife, boarding with a family residing in one of the old tannery houses west of the Chemung river. The girl is in a delicate condition but Sutton maintains that he is not the responsible party."

Sutton was committed to the lockup Saturday afternoon, the girl being detained at one of the hotels. At her own request late Sunday night she was taken to the lockup and was placed in a cell next to Sutton.

The girl is only seventeen years of age and is prepossessing in appearance. It is a sad case of infatuation and, mere child that she is, she becomes an object of deep sympathy. Sutton, who was working and earning fair wages, had purchased some up-to date clothing for her so that notwithstanding her hard lines she was by no means unpresentable.

To the charge of desertion and non-support preferred by his wife, Jennie Sutton, he pleaded guilty, but undertook to justify his conduct by making verbal counter charges against his wife.

To the other charge embodied in information lodged by Mrs. Mary A. Krum, accusing him of being responsible for her daughter, Ada Krumn's condition, he pleaded not guilty and in this he was borne out by the sworn testimony of the young girl herself.

The girl's testimony, however, had little force in view of evidence given in by officer Voris, which was to the effect that she had told the county detective at Athens that Sutton was guilty. This and other testimony to practically the same effect the girl at the hearing before Justice Dalton acknowledged was true. In view of all the facts Sutton was held for court on both charges, bail in the first case being fixed at $200 and in the last case at $500. He made little or no effort to secure a bondsman and was committed to jail.

The mother, the deserted wife and the restored daughter, after the hearing, all returned to the home in the country.

Typhoid at Pittsburg.

Pittsburg is in the midst of one of the worst typhoid fever epidemics in the city's history. Poison-laden water is the cause of the disease there, as in Scranton, and Dr. J. F. Edwards, superintendent of the bureau of health, declares that the only hope of relief lies in inducing the citizens to boil the water. With such examples as these on every hand, those who doubt the efficacy of this precaution and refuse to practice it are guilty of criminal recklessness.

Cave Exposed Skeleton.

The giving way of the earth at the upper end of the Lutheran cemetery at Bloomsburg Monday afternoon exposed a coffin and some of the bones in one of the graves.

TYPHOID HAS GRASPED BERWICK

Dreaded typhoid fever has laid its strong grasp upon Berwick and the densely populated district surrounding.

The matter has been kept rather quiet, but came to light last evening when the Berwick board of health met to adopt means to remedy the situation.

It developed that there are 24 cases in Berwick proper, 8 in West Berwick and 5 in the surrounding country. This list does not include a number of typhoid fever patients who are convalescent.

Typhoid fever is particularly to be dreaded in Berwick, where so large a portion of the population is made up of ignorant foreigners, with whom restrictions or precautions can have but little effect.

At the meeting last night of the Berwick board of health the situation was thoroughly discussed. People were asked to take extreme precaution in aiding the authorities to stamp out the disease. Citizens were asked to boil all water used for drinking or culinary purposes, and phyicians were asked to report at once to the board of health all new infections.

Preparing Bill.

As might have been gleaned from the report of council proceedings, Saturday morning, a new move has been made by our citizens in their endeavors to get rid of the abandoned canal.

As a result of the action taken by council a petition was presented to the board of hosptial trustees signed by George B. Jacobs, Amos Vastine and Dr. Jno. Sweisfort, the special committee of councilmen appointed by Chairman Gibson, which in turn was laid before the lunacy commission when it met at the hospital for the insane, Tuesday.

The petition reads as follows:

"To the Trustees of the State hospital for the Insane at Danville:

You are hereby respectfully requested to kindly call the attention of the lunacy commission during its coming official visit to the said hospital to the condition of the abandoned Pennsylvania canal from the Western line of the hospital property to and through the borough of Danville with a view to their recommending to the State legislature a State appropriation for the purpose of partially defraying the proper and necessary cost of piping and filling up the bed of the said portion of said canal and of the abatement of the nuisance occasioned by the pollution of certain waters flowing through and from the said hospital property into the said canal."

Chairman Walton read the petition before the commission and without entering upon a discussion of the merits of the propositionsaid it would receive due attention and ordered that it be made a matter of record.

Coincident with the presentation of this petition a bill is being drafted asking the State legislature to make an appropriation equal to one-third the cost of piping and filling up the canal from the western end of the hospital grounds in and through the borough. The remaining two-thirds of the cost, it is thought, can be provided for by the D. L. & W. railroad company and the borough of Danville—by one of these or each paying equal parts.

The hospital for the insane with the consent of the D. L. & W. railroad company will fill up the canal, at the hospital, which will divert the stream of polluted water flowing into the old canal at the western end of the hospital grounds down through the borough. It is because of this water, the diverting of which the State is responsible for that the legislature will be asked to make an appropriation.

Died at Bloomsburg

George Louterette, of Bloomsburg, formerly of Mausdale, where he filled the position of head miller with the Haney-Frazier Milling company, died at his home in Bloomsburg last evening of pneumonia.

Mr. Louterette, who was a cornetist of ability, was widely known and very popular among a wide circle of friends in this section. Before Christmas he had an attack of grip. Between Christmas and New Year's, before he had fully recovered, he played for a dance at Bloomsburg. He suffered a relapse and contracted pneumonia, which resulted fatally.

The deceased was fifty years of age and is survived by a wife. His parents, who reside at Valoys, New York, also survive. The remains will be taken to Montour Falls, New York, for burial.

DR. DIXON.

The Harrisburg Patriot extends the compliments of the season to Dr. Dixon, head of the State's health department, in the following fashion: "The work that Dr. Dixon is doing to stamp out disease wherever it appears and to educate the people to the necessity of better sanitary supervision and to the filtration of all water is of incalculable value. He should be upheld and supported by public sentiment and supplied with whatever funds are necessary to carry on the great work in which he is engaged."

THE MC'S.

The Scranton Republican remarks that "the McC's are in the ascendancy in Pennsylvania just now. McCrea is the greatest living railroad man and McClain is the most important member of the legislature. Well, there have been a number of famous Mc's in history."

FOOT RACE WITH ESCAPED PRISONER

It seldom occurs that a policeman is called upon to give such a striking exhibition of his sprinting qualities as was witnessed yesterday morning when Officer Voris pursued an escaped offender down the Northumberland road.

George Mock was arrested Tuesday evening charged with "disorderly conduct and with disturbing the peace of the neighborhood." George had been imbibing and was put in the lockup until he should be in a suitable condition for a hearing.

At 9 o'clock yesterday morning he was to have had a hearing before justice Dalton. He was being conducted to the 'Squire's and had reached James Martin's store when he made a dash for liberty. He crossed Mill street, closely followed by Chief Mincemoyer, who in stepping upon the sidewalk, in front of J. H. Cole's store caught his foot in the curb and fell striking his knees on the pavement. He was badly bruised and momentarily disabled.

The chief quickly recovered and dashed off in pursuit, although under handicap of his bruised knee he was unable to quite keep up with the prisoner. He stuck to the chase, however, until the finish and was at no time far in the rear.

Had Mock been running for his life he would not have made better time. He dashed along the streets and alleys of the third ward and had reached a point on West Center street near the Mahoning creek bridge when he was sighted by Officer Voris, who was coming down East Center street, having joined in the pursuit.

Notwithstanding his heavy avoirdupois he made a good record as he dashed down West Center street. Mock took a short cut across to Northumberland street. Officer Voris by cutting across the foundry yard gained a little time, but when he emerged on Northumberland street Mock was already be low the trestling and was making the gravel fly as he ran with freedom in full view.

It was at this point that the sight was worth seeing. The lusty officer, divesting himself of his heavy coat as he ran, flung it into the hands of a bystander and showed that when it came to sprinting he was rather more than a match for the lighter man that he was in pursuit of.

A minute later Mock was out of town headed for the dug road. It finally became evident that the officer was gaining slightly and thus the race continued until the man pursued became to climb the dug road. At this point the two men were only some ten yards apart, when the officer called upon Mock to surrender, which he did without further hesitancy.

The prisoner was brought back to town and arraigned before the justice. Fine and costs amounted to $10, which he found a way to pay and was released.

Youthful Bandits.

Led astray by reading trashy half-dime novels, three Berwick lads, Percy Klinepeters, aged 12 years, his brother William Klinepeters, 14 years, and Thomas Horan, 13 years, saved up a considerable sum of money and after purchasing revolvers, a bowie knife and a large quantity of cartridges, together with a supply of the favorite literature, they embarked on a freight train Monday to exploit the South, as they told some of their companions, and said they would never return home.

The lads were all attending the public schools of that town, and their escape was not learned by their parents until they failed to return home for supper Monday evening. Inquiring among their former companions they revealed the scheme. The coterie of youths whose minds had become inflamed from reading the novels contained several others besides the above three. For some time preparations had been under way for the event. Money had been saved up and fire arms procured. When the time for leaving home arrived, however, all but Horan and the Klinepeters backed out. These three, bidding the others a last farewell, and saying they would never return home until they had won fame and fortune, embarked on a D. L. & W. freight train. They said they would first go to Newport, R. I., where Horan had friends, and from there go South. However, they did not have a good knowledge of directions.

The railroad detectives at Northumberland and Sunbury were notified to look for the lads, but the bunch had passed that point earlier in the afternoon and their whereabouts is still unknown.

The two Klinepeters each carried revolvers and Horan a large bowie knife. They also carried 500 rounds of cartridges each, and took a large bundle of half-dime novels. They purchased new shoes before starting, and were thought to have about $36 in cash when they left Berwick.

Wire Had Fallen.

Several of the arc lights on Mill street were out for awhile last evening. The cause lay in the fact that a wire at the corner of Pine and Lower Mulberry streets had fallen. As soon as the accident could be repaired the lights were turned on.

Our light plant is ably managed and it is very seldom that a mishap, even of the minor sort, occurs.

LUNACY COMMISSION AT HOSPITAL

The lunacy commission visited the hospital for the insane at this place Tuesday and conducted a thorough investigation, not only as relates to overcrowding and the condition of the buildings, but also as to management, the pay and treatment of employes and as to whether or not the State is not being defrauded by the admitting of patients into the hospital as indigent insane who have estates or relatives who are responsible for their maintenance. Some deplorable facts were unearthed and it is quite evident that radical recommendations will be made along at least several of the lines of inquiry.

Of the lunacy commission the following gentlemen were present: Hon. Henry F. Walton, chairman, Hon. Edward F. Beidelman of Dauphin; Senators Milton Hiedelbaugh of Lancaster, and James F. Woodward of Allegheny City. Of the board of hospital trustees the following were present: I. X. Grier, Esq., H. M. Schoch, Hon. James Foster, of Danville; Dr. B. H. Detwiler, of Williamsport; Howard Lyon of, Hughesville, and G. R. Van Alen, of Northumberland. Dr. H. L. Orth, superintendent of the hospital for the insane at Harrisburg, was also present. Newspaper men were on hand as follows: Fred A. Long, Thomas F. Logan and Ben K. Raleigh, representing respectively the Philadelphia "North American," the "Inquirer," and the "Evening Bulletin." A representative of the Intelligencer was also present. John R. K. Scott, Esq., of Philadelphia, accompanied the commission as attorney. Harris Lighty, of Philadelphia was stenographer. In addition to the above the county commissioners and the local board of poor directors were present by request.

The commission did not arrive at the hospital until nearly 11 o'clock and as soon as practicable got down to work. Every inquiry was conducted in the most searching manner. There was no mincing of words, nor was there any special consideration shown for the standing or position of the person questioned. The commission had no fault to find with the management, nor with the capability of the board of trustees. The flagrant defect of the hospital, aside from the lack of room, that impressed the commission was the antiquated type of building.

It will interest the people of Danville to know that the big institution here, which, viewed from the outside, is the object of much local pride, was Tuesday pronounced the worst, the most obselete and objectionable of all the hospital buildings in the State. Chairman Walton in an interview with the Intelligencer representative, after the investigation, expressed his disapproval in these words: "The building is wholy unfit for the purpose and I would recommend that the whole structure be torn down, and replaced by new buildings constructed according to modern ideas. I would recommend that the building be torn down wing by wing and the new structure completed in sections, to take over the patients gradually"

He regretted that the temporary buildings for which an appropriation was made by the last legislature had not been erected. These structures, he said, embodied modern ideas and would have improved conditions very much.

At noon the lunacy commission, board of trustees and all others present had dinner at the institution. Dr. Meredith, the superintendent, was the only witness examined during the morning session. The bulk of the work was done in the afternoon.

Dr. Meredith made a very good impression on the commission, revealing that he was laboring conscientiously with considerable odds against him to care for and benefit the insane charges committed to his care. In answer to questions, Dr. Meredith stated that he is 54 years of age, that he is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, class of '77. He has been connected with the institution for twenty-eight years and has been superintendent for eighteen years. His salary at present is $4000 annually, having been raised from $3000 about a year ago.

The capacity of the institution, Dr. Meredith said, is equal to 500 male patients and 350 females. At present there are 683 men and 613 women at the institution. As a result of the overcrowding the patients sleep in the corridors and other unsuitable places.

The chairman explained that it had come to the ears of the commission that large numbers of patients are committed to the hospitals of the State as indigent insane when they have estates or relatives who are responsible for their keeping. It was the intent of the law, he said, that no person is to be committed in this way except actual paupers. As the result of the loose and illegal way in which insane are committed to the hospitals the State is annually defrauded out of large sums of money. Inasmuch as the commission is determined to get at the bottom of the matter the request is made that persons throughout the State come forward or communicate with the chairman who know of patients committed as indigent who have estates or relatives responsible for their support.

Dr Meredith admitted that there are a number of patients in the institution here classed as indigent, for whom support should be paid. It is hard to get at the facts. Seventeen cases, he said, are now under investigation.

Hon. R. S. Ammerman, attorney for the board of trustees, explained what method was usually employed to defraud the State. Corrupt politics, he said, is mostly at the bottom of it, which in every community gives certain men a "pull" with local authorities. It is nothing short of a conspiracy to defraud the State. An order of relief is issued to an insane person who has an estate or relatives who are liable and he is committed as a charge from the poor district, which pays the pittance of $1.75 for his maintenance at the hospital—a sum which is refunded to the poor district by relatives who expect to profit.

P. M. Kerns of the local poor board was called before the commission. He said that the Danville and Mahoning poor districts has 37 charges at the hospital and that it is able to collect from only two or three.

C. W. Cook, county commissioner, said that Montour county has five charges at the hospital and that it has been unable to collect anything in either case.

It was the sense of the commission that things are radically wrong in this respect and that the error should be corrected by legislation. Some practical recommendations in this matter will no doubt be made. It was suggested that instead of committing patients to the hospital on the testimony of two physicians the matter should be taken before court to determine what the patient's real circumstances in life are.

Howard B. Schultz, steward of the hospital, was called to explain to the satisfaction of the commission his methods of purchasing supplies for the institution, and whether he encouraged competition by inviting bids at the proper intervals, etc.

The commission investigated the matter of help or attendants very closely. Paul Clapp, head male nurse, was called before the commission. His salary, he said is $37 per month. In reply to a question he admitted there was considerable complaint among the nurses on the score of wages.

Miss Schoolly, head nurse in the female wards, was also called. She said $27 was the highest paid under the new schedule, $23 formerly being the highest. Beginners now receive $18 per month. She admitted that there was much complaint on the score of remuneration and that the nurses would enjoy their food better if they could be in a separate apartment. Later in making a tour of the buildings the commission was much impressed with the hard conditions that the nurses, especially the female nurses, are up against in their daily life. There will undoubtedly be some recommendations made by the commission that will make the situation of nurse at the hospital more desirable.

Recommends Big Appropriations.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 9.

The board of State charities, in its report recommending appropriations to the various institutions throughout the State that come under its supervision, is very liberal with the State insane hospitals.

New buildings to relieve the crowded conditions have been recommended for Danville, Norristown, Harrisburg, and Warren, and the legislature will not dare to turn down what has for years been a necessity at these institutions.

The report will be presented to the legislature at its meeting next week. It says that the board has heard exhaustively each individual institution, its needs and its necessity to apply for State aid, and the ability and willingness of those not under State control to be in part self sustaining. The legislature is requested to vote first for the appropriations to State institutions, and for the entire amounts recommended by the board and that the appropriations to all other institutions, or semi-State and private institutions penal, correctional and charitable, have been provided for.

Attention is called to the overcrowded condition of the hospitals for the insane, and emphasis is given the imperative need of additional buildings and additional facilities for the care of the patients.

An early consideration of appropriations for the completion of the Allentown and Spring City hospitals is urgently recommended and a statute asked for providing one method of commitment and to make clear the power to discharge patients. The declaration is made that there are 1,000 patients in the insane hospitals who might be taken out if there was any one to look after them.

For the years 1905-06, $2,000,000 was appropriated for the care and treatment of the insane, and the board for the years 1907-8 recommends an appropriation of $2,500,000.

The Pennsylvana State insane hospital at Harrisburg asked for $391,000, of which the board recommends $385,500, including $100,000 for building for convalescent women; $55,000 for building for recent acute cases, and $50,000 for an assembly building and amusement hall.

Other institutions have been recommended for the following appropriations for 1907-08:

Eastern penitentiary, $178,013; home for training deaf children, $44,000; soldiers' and sailors' home, Erie, $122,500; Morganza reform school, $164,000; Huntingdon reformatory, $230,486; Mont Alto sanitarium for consumptives, $20,000; Norristown insane hospital, $326,000; Warren insane hospital, $250,500; Danville hospital, $404,000; Wernersville chronic insane hospital, $35,500; Polk institution for feeble minded, $814,000; Western penitentiary, $246,000