

CHAPTER XXIV.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE HOSPITAL.

(ASYLUM FOR INSANE.)

JOSEPH B. WALKER.

About the year 1830 the condition of the insane of New Hampshire began to awaken a deep interest in the hearts of philanthropic persons in all sections of the state. Among those who manifested an earnest and particular interest in the subject were Dr. Amos Twitchell of Keene, Dr. William Perry of Exeter, Rev. Dr. Charles Burroughs and Samuel E. Coues of Portsmouth, Isaac Hill, Nathaniel G. Upham, and Charles H. Peaslee of Concord, Daniel Abbott and Charles J. Fox of Nashua, John P. Hale of Dover, Ira St. Clair of Deerfield, John Conant of Jaffrey, William Plumer of Epping, Miss Catherine Fisk of Keene, together with many others living in different localities in all sections of the state.

There were, at this time, not very far from four hundred insane persons in New Hampshire. Their condition was deplorable, and no effort was being made for its alleviation. Some were confined in private chambers and chained to the walls; some were kept in out-houses, destitute of all means of warming in cold weather; some were shut up in county jails, and some were wandering around at large, oftentimes a menace to themselves and to those they chanced to meet.

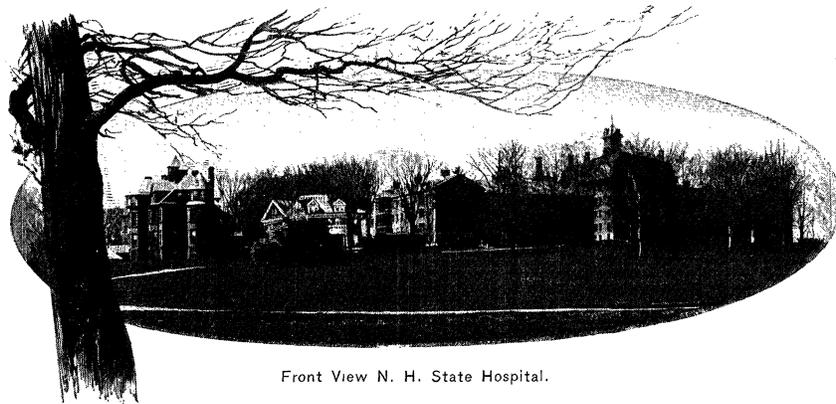
The popular feeling rapidly increased that something should be done for their benefit and upon a scale commensurate with the magnitude of their numbers.

But what, by whom, and in what way? These were questions of difficult solution. As the public interest in the subject deepened, a settled conviction was formed in leading minds that the state should take the initiative in whatever measures might be adopted. Influenced in part, perhaps, by this general sentiment, but feeling deeply the importance of the enterprise, Governor Dinsmore, in his message to the legislature, June, 1832, thus called attention to the condition of the insane:

“I feel no apology need be made, in an age so distinguished for its public and private charities, for calling your attention to a subject which has so much reason and humanity on its side as a measure for the security and recovery of the lunatic or insane. The legislature

of the state has never yet recognized these unfortunate beings as entitled to any special favor from government."

After alluding to the belief once entertained of the incurableness of insanity, he contrasted the enlightened and humane treatment afforded by well-regulated hospitals with that in use throughout the state, and asserted the curableness of the malady in a large percentage of cases, under proper and timely treatment, citing in proof thereof statistics gathered from the reports of some of the best managed institutions in England and the United States, and thereby showing the importance "of having, in some convenient part of the state, a place where patients of this description can be received with as little delay as possible after the commencement of the disease and before improper management shall have aggravated its character and lessened the chances of cure."



Front View N. H. State Hospital.

He also recommended, as a preparatory step, the institution of an inquiry "to ascertain, with as much exactness as practicable, the whole number of insane within the state, distinguishing paupers from others; the number which have been committed to jail within a given time by authority of court, or by their friends or others, without the order or sanction of judicial proceedings; and the length of their respective terms of confinement; and to ascertain, in like manner, the actual or probable amount of costs of court and jailer's fees, and expenses of their support and maintenance in cases of confinement."

In accordance with this recommendation, the governor was requested, by a resolution introduced by Hugh Miller of Peterborough, and passed on the 22d day of June of that year, "to take proper means to ascertain the number of insane persons in the state."

In his message at the opening of the winter session, in November following, Governor Dinsmore, in allusion to this resolution, said:

“I addressed letters of inquiry, containing copies of the resolution, to the selectmen of the several towns in the state, requesting them to furnish me seasonably with the information desired. In one hundred and forty-one towns, being all from which returns have been received, the whole number of insane is one hundred and eighty-nine,—ninety males and ninety-nine females,—one hundred and three of whom are paupers. The whole of those now in confinement is seventy-six, of whom twenty-five are in private houses, thirty-four in poorhouses, seven in cells and cages, six in chains and irons, and four in jail. Of those not now in confinement, many were stated to have been at times secured in private houses, some have been handcuffed, others have been confined in cells, and some in chains and jails.”

These plain words of Governor Dinsmore initiated a contest in the legislature between the philanthropists and the conservatives, which was maintained with great earnestness and lasted for as many years as did the American Revolution. The senate and house journals of the period record repeated instances of parliamentary prowess of much interest to persons familiar with legislative contests. It began in 1832. It was not until 1841 that the erection of the first asylum structure was commenced.

In pursuance of the governor's recommendation, a bill was introduced into the house of representatives by Samuel C. Webster of Plymouth, on the 26th day of December of this year, providing “for the establishment of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.” This was read twice and laid upon the table. On the 28th, on motion of Samuel E. Coues of Portsmouth, it was indefinitely postponed by a vote of one hundred and thirty-nine to seventy-eight.

Upon the assembling of the next legislature, in June, 1833, Governor Dinsmore again alluded to the subject in his message, and said, in relation to the establishment of an asylum for the insane :

“Although your predecessors did not feel prepared to sanction the measures recommended, I have never lost the hope of seeing at an early period a zealous co-operation of the several branches of the government, with the friends of suffering humanity, in promoting a charity so plainly recommended by the principles of our religion and by every consideration of justice and philanthropy.”

On the 20th day of June of this year, a resolution was introduced in the house of representatives by Arthur Livermore, of Camp-ton, authorizing the appointment of an agent to examine and inspect sundry asylums for the insane and “report a plan for an asylum in this State.”

The resolution passed to its third reading, on the 25th day of

June, whereupon, its indefinite postponement being moved by John L. Hadley, of Weare, by a yea and nay vote, its postponement was lost by a vote of fifty-four yeas to one hundred and five nays. The resolution was then passed and sent to the senate, where, a few days afterwards, July 1, 1833, on motion of Cyrus Barton, its further consideration was postponed to the next session of the legislature. A resolution was also passed by the house "that each member of this legislature instruct their respective towns to report by their members at the next session the number of insane, and their wishes in relation to the state building an hospital for the use of the insane"; but on the 4th day of July, this resolution, on motion of Warren Lovell, of Meredith, was also indefinitely postponed by the senate.

On the 26th of June still another resolution was introduced to the house by Charles H. Peaslee, of Concord, appropriating ten thousand dollars "for the erection of an insane hospital," the further consideration of which was, on the 3d day of July, on motion of Zenas Clement of Claremont, postponed to the next session of the legislature by a vote of one hundred and eight yeas to eighty-seven nays.

The use of the representatives' hall was granted to Dr. William Perry, of Exeter, for the delivery of a lecture upon the subject of the insane, on the evening of the 2d day of June.

Upon the opening of the session of 1834, Governor Badger warmly urged in his message the importance of taking some measures for alleviating the existing condition of the insane; and on the 11th of June so much of his message as related to the deaf, dumb, and insane was referred to a special committee of the house, consisting of Messrs. Charles H. Peaslee, of Concord; John L. Perley, of Meredith; Hugh Bartley, of Londonderry; John Sullivan, of Exeter; William Gordon, of Charlestown; Otis Amidon, of Chesterfield; and Gideon L. Tirrell, of Shelburne.

On the 24th, Mr. Peaslee, for the committee, presented to the house an able report, accompanied by a resolution for an appropriation by the state of the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars, for the erection of an asylum for the insane, which, on the 30th of the same month, on motion of John Rogers, of Exeter, was postponed to the next session of the legislature. The resolution "authorizing the appointment of an agent for the inspection of certain asylums for the insane," which was postponed in 1833 to the next session of the legislature, was reported on the 18th to the senate, from the committee on unfinished business; and the same day, on motion of Austin Corbin, of Newport, was indefinitely postponed. Twelve days afterward, however, a resolution introduced

to the house by Jacob Taylor, of Stoddard, was passed, which required the selectmen of the several towns to make return to the secretary of state of the number and condition of the insane in their respective towns and districts. Further evidence of the activity of the friends of the insane is found in the fact that the house granted the use of their hall a second time to Dr. William Perry for the delivery of a lecture upon the condition and wants of the insane of the state.

On the 20th of June of the next year (1835), a resolution was introduced in the house of representatives by Charles H. Peaslee, of Concord, "appropriating twenty-five bank shares for an asylum for the insane," which subsequently, on the 25th of June, on motion of John Woodbury, of Salem, was postponed to the next session of the legislature. The next day, however, the house passed a resolution, introduced by Dr. George W. Kittredge, of Newmarket, providing for the appointment of a commission, to consist of one from each county, to ascertain the number and condition of the insane in the several counties of the state, and make report to the next legislature.

At the next session of the legislature (1836), the subject of an asylum for the insane was again brought forward by Governor Hill in his message, and on the 7th day of June a select committee of ten was appointed "on so much of the governor's message as relates to insane persons in this state, the memorials and petitions praying for the establishment of an insane asylum and the statistical returns from the towns of the number and condition of the insane." This committee consisted of Messrs. Charles H. Peaslee, of Concord; Luther V. Bell, of Derry; Thatcher Bradford, of Hancock; Augustus Jenkins, of Portsmouth; Benjamin F. Folsom, of Gilford; Benjamin Pettingill, of Salisbury; Cyrus Frost, of Marlborough; James Breck, of Newport; Henry H. Lang, of Bath; and Aaron Potter, of Milan.

To this committee were referred the petitions of sundry inhabitants of the towns of Richmond, Fitzwilliam, Nelson, Winchester, Gilsom, Keene, Exeter, Sullivan, Dover, Roxbury, Portsmouth, and Claremont, besides others of individuals whose residences are not mentioned. At the autumn session, other petitions of like purport were introduced and similarly referred.

On the 15th, Dr. Luther V. Bell, for the committee, made to the house of representatives an able report, whereupon the house postponed the further consideration of the subject to the next session of the legislature. Immediately after, on motion of Joel Eastman, of Conway, the clerk was ordered to procure one thousand printed copies of this report for the use of that body.

Early in the June session of this year, Samuel E. Coues, of Portsmouth, was granted the use of the representatives' hall for the delivery of a lecture upon insanity and the insane. A few days later, on the 15th, a resolution of the previous legislature, appropriating twenty-five bank shares belonging to the state for the erection of an asylum for the insane, was referred to the select committee above mentioned. Upon the same day, John L. Hadley, of Weare, introduced to the house a joint resolution which soon afterwards passed both branches of the legislature, that the governor be requested to issue his precepts to the selectmen of the several towns, to take the sense of the qualified voters upon the question, "Is it expedient for the state to grant an appropriation to build an insane hospital?"

At the opening of the November session (1836), Governor Hill, in his message to the legislature, remarked in relation to the returns made in conformity to this resolution, that "less than one half of the legal voters of the state have expressed any opinion, and the official returns, so far as received, would indicate that the vote had been nearly equal for and against the proposition."

In 1837 neither the message of the governor nor the proceedings of the legislature contains any allusion to the subject of an asylum for the insane. Great financial depression, extending throughout all parts of the country, may possibly have discouraged efforts in this direction, which, under other circumstances, would have been made.

The friends of the enterprise, however, were not disheartened, nor were their efforts abandoned, as they cherished a belief that these must ere long be crowned with success. In this anticipation they were not disappointed. On the 21st of June, 1838, a bill was reported to the house from the select committee, to whom had been referred so much of the governor's message as related to insane persons in this state, and petitions praying for the establishment of an insane asylum. This passed to a third reading, when a motion was made by Reuben Wyman, of Albany, to postpone its further consideration to the next session of the legislature, and "that the secretary of state be required to notify the selectmen of the several towns in this state to insert an article in their warrants for holding the annual March meetings, to take the sense of the qualified voters upon the subject of granting an appropriation for building an asylum." Upon the yeas and nays being called for by Warren Lovell, of Meredith, it was found that the motion did not prevail, the yeas being eighty-five and the nays one hundred and forty-four. The bill was then passed, and in a few days its passage was concurred in by the senate.

Thus, after a severe struggle of six years, during which they encountered a most obstinate opposition, its advocates succeeded in

obtaining for the asylum a charter. The limits of this chapter forbid a further mention of the names of these early and devoted friends, to whose protracted and unwearied efforts the institution owes its existence. But for their efforts in its behalf in the legislature, the pulpit, the lecture room, by the way, and wherever an opportunity offered, its erection might have been much longer delayed than it was. In its success, they afterwards had proof of the correctness of their early foresight of its importance, and in a practical demonstration of its usefulness their reward.

By its charter the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane was constituted a corporation, with power to hold real and personal property in any amount necessary for its maintenance and support, "*Provided*, that its annual income from real and personal estate should not exceed thirty thousand dollars." The institution was placed under the management of a board of twelve trustees, the offices of three of whom should become vacant annually, eight to be chosen by the corporation, and four by a board of visitors, consisting of the governor and council, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives for the time being. Its charter also provided that when the sum of fifteen thousand dollars should be secured to the asylum by individuals, the state should make over to it, in aid of its benevolent aims, thirty shares of New Hampshire bank stock, worth at that time about eighteen thousand dollars.

Six months after the passage of this act, a controversy arose between the corporation representing the subscribers to the voluntary fund, and the board of visitors, representing the state, relative to certain powers of control assumed by the former, and different interpretations of the act were urged. So urgently was this controversy waged that Governor Hill, upon retiring from office in June, 1839, was constrained to call to it the attention of the legislature by a special message. This proved timely. The questions involved were settled shortly after by an act of the legislature, "in amendment to and explanatory of the incorporating act," which provided that "the direction, management, and control of all the property and concerns" of the asylum should be vested in the trustees, without power of interference by the corporation.

When, the next year, serious differences of opinion regarding the location of the asylum were found to exist among the trustees, the legislature thought it best that the institution should be placed entirely under the control of the state, which, in accordance with an act passed by that body in 1840, assumed its sole management through a board of twelve trustees, to be appointed by the governor and council. Another act, passed the same year, provided that all

contributions by private individuals, previously made, should be refunded to them if claimed within a specified time.

The location of the asylum at some point in the town of Concord was left to the trustees, who, on the 21st day of January, 1841, selected that which it now occupies; the town of Concord having previously voted to give to the asylum the sum of nine thousand five hundred dollars, provided it should be located within its limits.

Allan Cunningham says, in his *Life of Robert Burns*, that the storm was abroad when the poet was born, and that "He loved to allude, when he grew up, to this circumstance; and ironically to claim some commiseration for the stormy passions of one ushered into the world by a tempest."

As if the tempests, heretofore mentioned as attending the birth of the asylum, in the legislature, the corporation, and its board of trustees, were not enough, the citizens of Concord raised still another regarding its precise location within their town. The people at the south part of its main village wanted it placed in their section, while those at the North end claimed that a proposed site within theirs was the fittest.

The final contest proved lively but short. The South-enders prevailed, and about one hundred and twenty-one acres of their choice building land were surrendered to the asylum's uses. Great as may have been the chagrin of the North-enders it was, presumably, removed by the subsequent conversion by the city of a nearly equal area, in their section, to the peaceful purpose of a burial-ground for the dead.

A building committee, previously appointed, now entered upon the discharge of their duties and procured the completion in October, 1842, of the front portion of the present center building and the adjoining north and south wings, which afforded accommodations for ninety-six patients. From the trustees' report of 1844 it appears "that the whole amount expended in the erection of the hospital, barn, and out-buildings for the farm, consisting of one hundred and twenty-one acres, supply of water, furniture, farming tools, stock, and other property was thirty-five thousand two hundred sixty-six dollars and seventy cents," and that of this sum nineteen thousand dollars only had been paid by the state, the balance having been received from contributions by the town, and citizens of Concord, the society of Shakers, and other benevolent individuals, or realized from the board of patients.

According to Dr. D. Hack Tuke, there were in 1883 eighty-nine asylums for the insane in the United States. Among these the New Hampshire asylum ranks in age as the seventeenth.

The older ones were organized as follows, viz.: Williamsburg, Va.,

1773; Frankford, Penn., 1817; McLean, Mass., 1818; Bloomingdale, New York, 1821; Hartford, Conn., 1824; Lexington, Ky., 1824; Columbia, S. C., 1827; Staunton, Va., 1828; Worcester, Mass., 1832; Brattleboro, Vt., 1836; Columbus, Ohio, 1838; Boston Lunatic hospital, Mass., 1839; New York City Lunatic hospital, N. Y., 1839; Augusta, Me., 1840; Nashville, Tenn., 1840; Philadelphia, Penn., 1841; New Hampshire asylum, 1842.

The asylum was opened for the reception of patients on the 29th day of October, 1842, under the superintendence of Dr. George Chandler, who, in June following, reported to the trustees the admission of seventy-six patients during the previous seven months. Dr. Chandler remained at the head of the institution for about three years, and to him it was indebted largely for the initiation of a wise routine of management. He was succeeded in 1845 by Dr. Andrew McFarland, afterward superintendent of the Illinois Asylum for the Insane, who discharged the duties of superintendent for about seven years, and resigned in the summer of 1852. In 1849, three years before he retired from his office, the Chandler wing was built.

Dr. McFarland was succeeded by Dr. John E. Tyler, who held the office for a period of about four years and a half. During his superintendency the first portion of the Peaslee building was erected, in 1854; steam fixtures for warming the halls and other parts of the house were introduced in 1855; and, in consequence of increasing applications for admission, the Rumford wing was erected the same year, increasing the limit of accommodations to two hundred and twenty-five patients.

In consequence of impaired health, Dr. Tyler resigned his position as superintendent in 1857, and was succeeded by Dr. Jesse P. Bancroft. His period of service was a long one, extending from 1857 to 1883. It was also an active one, during which no less than seven important buildings were added to those previously provided.

The first of these, in the order of construction, was the Kent building, erected in 1867. This is the corresponding building, on the female side of the asylum, to the Peaslee building, on the male side. It embodied most of the advanced ideas pertaining to the custody of highly excited patients prevailing at the time of its erection, and is still well abreast of those of the present period.

The very greatly-enlarged number of patients in 1868 rendered necessary a new kitchen, bakery, cellar, dining-room for employees, sewing-room and chapel. These wants were all supplied in the present chapel building, which was built this year and designed to meet them.

The ventilation of the old buildings proved more and more defec-

tive as time elapsed and the number of patients increased. In 1869 Dr. Bancroft devised a new system for the halls and rooms in these, and from time to time, as fast as practicable, it was introduced with gratifying success.

The enlargement of the asylum structure on the south brought into very objectionable contiguity the barn and stable of the institution. The necessity for larger structures of this character, better planned and more remotely located, was met in 1871 by their removal and reconstruction upon the sites which they now occupy.

In 1874, the Peaslee building, originally occupying a foremost rank among buildings of this description, was found to have become of insufficient capacity and wanting in some important features, which the experience of the period following its erection had suggested. It was accordingly enlarged to double its original size, and furnished



Twitchell Building.

with such additional conveniences as the most advanced treatment of excited patients required.

Three years later it became apparent that the asylum had outgrown its boiler house and repair shops, and that a new structure to meet these wants had become imperative. After a careful consideration of these and of the most desirable way of providing for them, the present boiler house and workshops were constructed in 1877.

Twice since its erection has the central building of the asylum been enlarged. Its accommodations were first increased in 1860 by an addition of some thirty-six feet upon its west side. The greatly-enlarged number of employees calling ere long for still more room, an additional story was put upon it in 1879. These additions have about doubled its original capacity.

The next addition made to the asylum structure was that of the

Bancroft building. This was suggested partly by the need of additional room on the female side of the asylum, and partly by a desire, on the part of the friends of a somewhat limited class of patients, for more ample accommodations and a more private life than is usually found practicable at state institutions for the insane. To meet this want, the comely structure designated as above was erected in 1882.

After an active service of twenty-five years, in 1882 Dr. Bancroft resigned the superintendency, and was succeeded by his son, Dr. Charles P. Bancroft, who is still in office. Familiar with all the traditions of the institution, he has administered its affairs on lines largely corresponding thereto.

In 1894, under his immediate supervision, the balance of the asylum group was secured by the erection of the Twitchell building, a companion structure, on the male side, to the one last mentioned on the other; and, like that, designed to afford more elastic accommodations than could be had in the older halls of the asylum. These buildings have not only improved the classification of patients, but have rendered possible the specific treatment of individual cases, formerly afforded only at institutions outside the state.

In 1899 the legislature made to the asylum an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars, for the improvement of its warming plant, the erection of a building for the use of female nurses during their intervals of active service, of a new laundry, of a farmhouse, and for certain specific repairs of other buildings. This work is now completed. A new chimney, one hundred and fifty feet high, for the accommodation of the boiler house, has been erected, a new laundry has been built and furnished, the house for female nurses approaches completion, and the other work contemplated by the legislature has been partially executed.

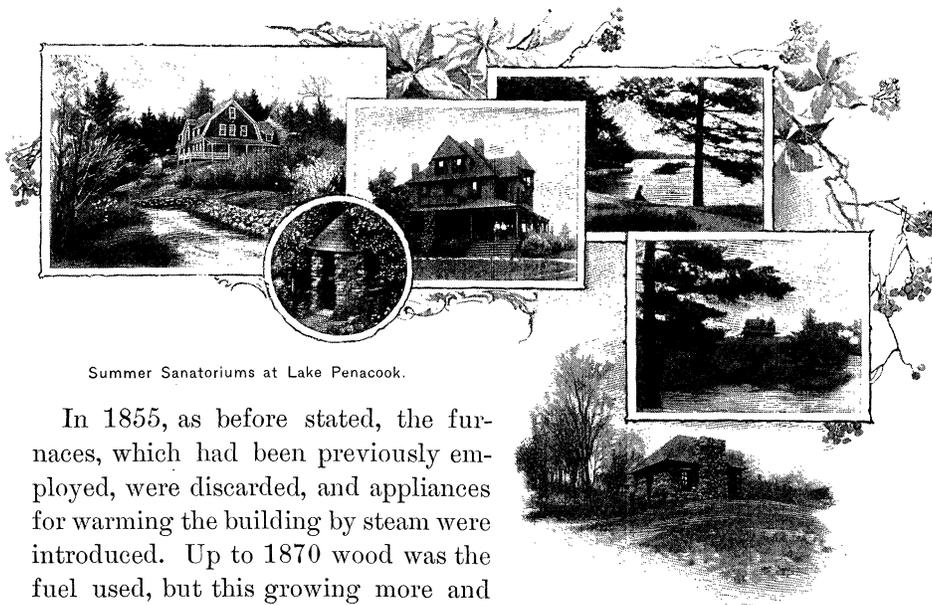
Such has been the growth of the asylum structures up to the present time. Its accommodations have been increased from those at first provided for ninety-six patients to those which can now accommodate four hundred.

The whole amount expended upon these various structures, from first to last, by the state, has been three hundred and eight thousand five hundred dollars, or, considering the character of the accommodations afforded, the very low sum of seven hundred seventy-one dollars and twenty-five cents per patient. Whatever the asylum has cost beyond this amount has come from sources other than the state treasury.

It is located in the very heart of the city of Concord, upon a tract of ground highly improved, of about one hundred and twenty-five acres. Some twenty acres of this are occupied by its various build-

ings and adjacent grounds; the remainder by the pond, farming areas, groves, avenues, and paths. In addition to this tract, the asylum owns a pasture of fifty acres, about half a mile distant, and near Long pond, land to the amount of fifty-three acres more.

One of the greatest boons enjoyed by the institution is that of an unlimited supply of purest water. This is secured to the institution by a well sunk by Dr. J. P. Bancroft upon the premises in 1880, which has a diameter of fifty feet and a depth of fifteen. From it is daily taken a supply of about sixty thousand gallons.



Summer Sanatoriums at Lake Penacook.

In 1855, as before stated, the furnaces, which had been previously employed, were discarded, and appliances for warming the building by steam were introduced. Up to 1870 wood was the fuel used, but this growing more and more dear in price, and its supply more and more uncertain, gave way to coal; and for the last thirty years the steam for heating, washing, cooking, etc., has been made by this.

The land at Long pond, before mentioned, lies upon the west side of the pond, and has a shore line of about two hundred and fifty rods. It is sheltered from cold winds by a lofty range of hills which rise behind it. Every year, from May to November, about twenty patients of each sex occupy it as a sanatorium. It possesses attractive landscape features, having a varied surface, partly open and partly covered with forest. Two brooks of clear water traverse it in deep, wooded valleys. Roads, walks, and secluded paths lead over it in various directions and invite to life and exercise in the open air.

Here, upon a commanding spot, a comely house was erected in 1890, which affords accommodations to about twenty female patients. Distant from this some forty or fifty rods, some seven years later, another was built for the use of an equal number of male patients.

When occupied, both are in charge of able superintendents and receive daily visits from a medical officer from the asylum.

To these houses and grounds an abundant supply of pure water flows by gravity from a spring belonging to the asylum.

This sanatorium has proved to be a very valuable curative agency of the institution. The patients visit it with delight and leave it with regret.

In addition to these buildings at the sanatorium, mention should be made of the neat cottages on the asylum grounds occupied by the gardener and the machinist. Both these men are permanent employees and necessarily reside near to their work. Allusion should also be made to the well-planned and well-constructed farm buildings. These are important, inasmuch as the asylum raises its own milk, most of its vegetables, and all of its pork. Few farms in the state, if any, are better managed or more remunerative. The market value of farm and garden products raised in 1897 was thirteen thousand nine hundred twenty dollars and thirty-one cents.

It is an interesting fact in its history that devoted friends of the insane have ever watched the progress of the asylum and made liberal contributions to its permanent funds. It has been deemed just and proper to put on record here the names of these generous patrons.

Before its opening even, in 1837, Miss Catherine Fisk of Keene, a lady of high culture and benevolent impulses, bequeathed to it a legacy of nearly six thousand dollars, charged with certain temporary annuities, since terminated. By the terms of her will this bequest was not to be paid to the asylum until the expiration of fifty years from the time of her decease. It has since (1887) been received. Held by the state as trustee, it now amounts to twenty-six thousand three hundred seventy-eight dollars and forty-three cents.

In 1846, and at subsequent times, the state, as trustee for the asylum, received in partial payments from the estate of Jacob Kimball, of Hampstead, a legacy amounting to six thousand seven hundred forty-three dollars and forty-nine cents, the interest of which is annually paid by the state treasurer to the asylum.

Again, in 1847, Samuel Bell, of Chester, made to the asylum a generous donation of money, to be expended in the purchase of books for the use of such patients as might be benefited by their perusal. With this some two hundred and fifty volumes of standard works, well suited to the purpose intended, were procured. These formed the nucleus about which the present asylum library has grown up. The important additions since made have resulted from numerous smaller and later gifts. This collection of books, now containing over two thousand volumes, is of great value as a remedial agency in

the treatment of large numbers of convalescent and mildly affected patients.

Two years afterwards, in 1849, the institution received as a contribution to its fund the sum of two hundred dollars from John Williams of Hanover.

Abiel Chandler, of Walpole, the founder of the Chandler Scientific school at Hanover, who died in 1851, bequeathed to the asylum two legacies,—one of six hundred dollars, charged with the life estate of a niece, and another of one thousand dollars, and at the same time made the institution his residuary legatee. The several sums, paid to its treasurer and financial agent from time to time by his executors, amounted to twenty-seven thousand six hundred thirty-one dollars and fifteen cents. This fund, which bears the name of its donor, has been fixed by the trustees at thirty thousand dollars. Increased by the addition to it of interest, it now stands upon the books of the institution at that amount.

The Countess of Rumford, who died at Concord in December, 1852, was also a benefactress of the asylum. Feeling a deep interest in this and other benevolent institutions in her native state and elsewhere, at her decease she left to such a very large proportion of her estate. To her kindness the asylum is indebted for a legacy of fifteen thousand dollars, which was paid to its treasurer in 1853.

Mrs. Mary Danforth, of Boscawen, who also died in 1852, after making other specific bequests, left to the asylum the residuum of her estate. From this, the sum of three hundred and forty-seven dollars and ninety cents was realized by the institution.

One of the early trustees of the asylum was William Plumer, of Londonderry, who ever manifested a deep concern for its welfare. It was found after his decease that, retaining this interest to the last, he had left to it a legacy of five hundred dollars, which was paid to its treasurer in 1863.

Still another benefactress of the asylum was Mrs. Peggy Fuller, of Francestown, from whose estate it received, in 1862-'63, the sum of eighteen hundred and fourteen dollars and forty-two cents.

In 1862 the institution received from the executors of the will of Mrs. Fanny S. Sherman, of Exeter, a lady of great excellence of character, a legacy of five thousand dollars, the annual income of which is, by her direction, given to indigent patients, to assist them in paying the necessary expenses of their support, and is the first bequest ever received by the asylum to which any particular direction has been attached by the donor. Some five years later the sum of two hundred and two dollars and ten cents was paid to the asylum by his executors, as a legacy of Horace Hall, of Charlestown.

The largest bequest ever made to the asylum was the munificent one of Moody Kent, who died in 1866. Having watched its progress with great interest for a long series of years, he left to it, at his decease, the residue of his property, after the payment of numerous legacies to relatives and friends. From his estate the institution received about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (one hundred and forty-nine thousand four hundred and forty-four dollars), which sum, increased by a small addition derived from accrued interest, now constitutes the present Kent fund of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The Reverend Charles Burroughs, D. D., of Portsmouth, who, for about thirteen years, had held the office of president of the board of trustees, left at his decease, in March, 1868, as an evidence of his deep interest in the asylum, a bequest of one thousand dollars, to be paid to the institution at the close of the life of Mrs. Burroughs.

Isaac Adams, of Sandwich, after having served the institution for several years with signal ability as one of its trustees, upon retiring from the board, in 1868, accompanied his resignation with the liberal gift of one thousand dollars, requesting that the interest might be expended in affording means of indoor recreation to male patients so situated as to be deprived of it in the open air. The income of this fund, which now amounts to three thousand dollars, is used as the foundation of active measures to secure the important result suggested by its donor.

In 1872 John Conant, of Jaffrey, the constructing agent of the first asylum buildings, for many years a member of its board of trustees, and for six years its president, gave expression to a deep interest long entertained for the institution by a generous donation of six thousand dollars, as an addition to its permanent funds.

The third on the list of female patrons of the institution stands the name of Miss Arabella Rice, of Portsmouth, who died in 1872 and left to it a legacy of twenty thousand dollars as a proof of her deep interest in its welfare and in that of the unfortunate class to whom it ministers.

Isaac Spalding, of Nashua, for many years a member of the board of its trustees, and from 1868 to 1875 its president, died the latter year, leaving to the asylum a legacy of ten thousand dollars as his contribution to its permanent funds.

In 1883 the asylum received a legacy of one thousand dollars from the estate of Miss H. Louise Penhallow, of Portsmouth. In 1885, another of one hundred dollars was received from the estate of Mrs. Rhoda C. Piper, of Hanover, and, in 1886, still another of five hundred, from that of Mrs. Betsey S. Smith, of New Ipswich.

In 1891 Mrs. Abigail B. Walker, a lifelong resident of Concord, died, leaving to the asylum a legacy of fifteen thousand dollars. Two years later it received from the estate of Abial A. Low, of Brooklyn, N. Y., a bequest of five thousand dollars, conditioned upon the support for life of an aged patient in whose welfare he had long manifested a deep interest. The last permanent fund received by the institution was a small one of two hundred dollars received from the sale of a spring on Rum hill, in Concord, whose use had been long superseded by water from another source.

These funds, twenty in number, amounted on the first day of October, 1899, to three hundred and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one dollars and ninety-two cents. Their annual income, amounting to not far from fifteen thousand dollars, is mostly devoted to the aid of indigent patients and the procuring of such remedial agencies as the needs of the asylum, from time to time, require.

The settled purpose of the trustees as to each of these funds and to every other which may hereafter be given to the asylum, amounting to one hundred dollars or over, unless otherwise ordered by the donor, is to maintain the principal thereof intact, and so to expend the income, from time to time accruing, as the greatest good of the patients and of the asylum shall suggest. The following vote of the trustees, regulating their purpose in this regard, presents more in detail the rules by which they are governed :

“ All funds amounting to one hundred dollars and upwards which have heretofore been or which may hereafter be given to the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane shall, unless otherwise ordered by the donors, be entered upon the books of the financial agent as permanent funds, with the surnames of the donors attached to each, and be forever kept intact. The income of each shall be expended from time to time, in accordance with the conditions upon which it was given, or, in the absence of conditions, in such manner as the trustees shall deem to be for the highest interest of the asylum and its patients.”

Mention has been made of some of the asylum's earliest friends. Very prominent among them were Miss Catharine Fisk and Charles H. Peaslee.

The former was the principal of a young ladies' school in Keene, and a woman of large heart and good sense, who died in 1837. Foreseeing that success would, sooner or later, crown the efforts being made for the benefit of an unfortunate class of persons for whose sufferings she felt a deep sympathy, she left her entire estate, temporarily charged with certain annuities, to the first hospital for the insane which should be established in New Hampshire. Hers

was the first bequest made to the asylum, and now constitutes, with a single exception, its largest permanent fund.

During the protracted efforts put forth in the legislature by the friends of the insane to induce the state to co-operate with benevolent individuals who were ready to aid in measures to promote their welfare, General Peaslee stood most prominent, *primus inter pares*, in the circle of his associates. At no less than five successive sessions of the legislature he did his utmost to secure the establishment of an asylum by the state at which this unfortunate class of its citizens might receive the care of which they were in desperate need.

Indeed, never since its establishment, sixty years ago, has the asylum been in want of devoted and influential friends. Upon the roll of these are found the names of some of the foremost men of the state: of ex-President Pierce; of ex-Governors Hill, Steele, Berry, and Goodwin; of Amos Twitchell, William Perry, Carlton P. Frost, and George B. Twitchell, all eminent in and without New Hampshire as members of the medical profession; of Ichabod Bartlett, Charles H. Atherton, Josiah Quincy, John P. Hale, William Plumer, George B. Upham, George W. Haven, Samuel E. Coues, Charles Burroughs, Isaac Spalding, Dexter Richards, and of many others equally worthy of mention.

In order to elevate the *morale* and increase the efficiency of the attendant force in the wards, a school for the instruction of nurses in service at the asylum was established in 1888, which has since graduated ten classes. Its course of study extends through two years, and is accompanied by examinations and illustrated by lectures by the faculty of the school. Certificates of graduation, signed by officers of the asylum, are awarded to such members of the school as have satisfactorily passed the prescribed examination at the close of the course.

During the session of the legislature in 1897, a question was raised in the house of representatives as to the ownership of the asylum, and it was referred to the committee on the judiciary. This committee subsequently reported that:

There is no doubt in the mind of the committee that by the terms of this act and the subsequent action of the trustees thereunder, the property and all interests of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane became invested in the state as completely and irrevocably as though the original charter had created a state asylum.

At its next session (1899) the legislature submitted to the supreme court similar inquiries, in the form of definite interrogatories, to which the court made reply, in part, as follows:

1. Who owns the real estate in Concord occupied by the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, and is the title a fee-simple, simple, or charged with a trust?

Answer. The nominal title to the property is in the corporation known as the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, and the state, being the only member of the corporation, is the real owner.

The asylum has accommodations for about four hundred patients, and in constant residence about one third of all the insane in the state.

It has been in operation about sixty years, being one of the older institutions of the kind in the United States. Up to the close of its last financial year (September 30, 1902) it had treated seven thousand seven hundred and thirty-three patients, of which number two thousand five hundred and fifty-five, or thirty-three per cent., had been discharged as recovered.

Its curative agencies have always been maintained abreast of the best of the time being, and to this fact is due, in a large degree, the high rank which it enjoys among the kindred institutions of this country. This is also due in some measure to the fact that it has met a want felt long before its organization, and which must forever exist.