

ther propose to confine their cares to citizens of Maryland; the one has at the present time, thirty-five (35) patients from the District of Columbia, sustained by government; thirty-four (34) from the city and county of Baltimore, from the indigent classes; thirty-seven (37) from other counties in the State, leaving twenty-four (24) remaining paying patients, from this and other States. Total 130, January 1st, 1852. This institution can properly accommodate but 120 patients, but by appropriating two large parlors for lodging rooms, 15 more can be received; meanwhile this accession of numbers, diminishes the comfort and trenches on the remedial means of the hospital. This institution—the first movement for establishing which was in 1798—was first opened under charge of “an attending physician and other persons,” in 1807, under the title of “The Public Hospital, for the relief of Indigent Sick persons and the cure of Lunatics;” and, finally, the establishment under various restrictions and conditions at different periods, was leased by the city of Baltimore to private individuals, conditioned on being “exclusively devoted to the treatment of lunatics.”

A board of visitors was appointed by the legislature in 1828—Dr. Mackenzie retaining the lease from the city, till the first of January, 1834; at which time, by act of the legislature, the hospital was taken possession of by the president and board of visitors, in the name of the State; having at the time 26 inmates. At the present date the resident physician pronounces the institution seriously incommoded by receiving a larger number than 120; and positively suffering disadvantages with 135 patients which is the maximum.

The message of the Executive for 1849, contains the following paragraph in relation to the wants of the Insane:

“Although the Hospital is now filled to its utmost capacity, there are hundreds of insane persons in the State, one hundred and twenty three of whom are in the Baltimore Alms-House, and eight in the Penitentiary, without the means of proper treatment for the mitigation or cure of the awful malady with which they are afflicted. However urgent may be the demands of humanity in behalf of this unfortunate class of persons, and however clear the obligations of society to provide for their wants, in view, nevertheless, of the proximity of the Hospital to the city of Baltimore, and the limited extent of its grounds, it is questionable whether instead of enlarging the present building, it would not be wiser and better to dispose of the establishment and employ the proceeds, with such appropriation as the Legislature may choose to make, in the purchase of a sufficient quantity of land and the erection of an Asylum upon the most modern and approved plan, adapted in all its arrangements for the comfortable accommodation, treatment and cure of insane patients, and of a style and character worthy the munificence of the State.”