

is, that the State will be compelled to support 200 or 300 prisoners in idleness until further room and accommodations are provided by the Legislature.

A Special Committee has been appointed by the House of Delegates to consider the question, and it is to be hoped the defect will be remedied, as your Committee are fully impressed with the conviction that some measures should be immediately adopted, not only to prevent the evils complained of, but to secure the services of the now necessarily idle convicts, and thereby contributing to an increase of the revenue of the Institution, which is already self-sustaining, and yielding this year a surplus over its liabilities of \$1,524.67. In connection with this, it will be remarked that the prices of provision, clothing, &c., have materially increased, and in the last five years nearly 100 per cent. Your Committee examined the books of the Institution, which are kept in an admirable clerical style by the very efficient clerk, John J. C. Dougherty, Esq., to whose ability we bear cheerful testimony, as also to the thorough medical ability displayed by the Physician, Dr. E. R. Baer, who has faithfully labored day and night among the convicts to prevent the introduction of any disease among them, and though the typhus fever has been prevailing to an alarmingly fatal extent in the Baltimore City Jail, which immediately adjoins the Penitentiary, and only contains about one-half of the number confined in the latter. Dr. Baer has, by his faithful and skilful attention, been successful in preventing any spread of it in his hospital, and in the treatment of the *only three* cases which occurred, was successful, none of them proving fatal.

Your Committee would suggest that in view of promoting the means already in successful operation for the improvement of the morals of the convicts, a regular Chaplain should be employed, believing it would be productive of great good, and seed sown in good ground, and which would show its good effects upon the criminal when discharged from prison. The want of a *permanent* Chaplain, who could devote the whole of his time to the moral and religious improvement of the convicts, and who could give valuable aid to the Executive in his exercise of the pardoning power should be appreciated and supplied. Your Committee would call your attention to the recommendation of the Executive of the importance of introducing by law a system of abatements in the period of confinement, graduated according to the term of the sentence, as a reward for good conduct. The abatement of five days per month, contingent upon good conduct and strict observance of the rules of the Institution, and that abatement to be forfeited upon any violation thereof or attempt at escape, we are satisfied would be a measure of great importance and benefit both to the State and its prisoners. Your Committee