

construct suitable buildings, where the inmates may be judiciously classified, and means furnished for such occupation as is contemplated by section 6, of the Act of Incorporation.

The necessity for such an Institution will not be doubted. The inebriates of the Commonwealth, who are unable to provide for themselves, are very numerous. They should be accepted as the wards of the State, and prudent provision made for the recovery of as many of them as may be within reach of recovery; and for the custody of such as may be incurable, and who would otherwise be burdensome or dangerous to their families and to the community.

The protection of the families of inebriates, and the saving of their property from waste, seems to be the duty of the State, and while it is true that under the seventh section of the Act of Incorporation, "any Circuit Court of this State, and also the Superior Court of Baltimore, shall have the power to arrest any person alleged to be a drunkard, incapable of taking care of himself" or his property, and under specified legal proceedings, appoint a Committee, who shall have the power, with the "written consent of the Court," of confining such person in the Asylum; it is equally true that further legislation is needed to enable the Trustees to provide suitable buildings in a convenient and permanent location, where the provisions of the charter can be fully complied with.

It is well known that many such persons do not realize their condition till reduced to want by the loss of property and reputation; and hence the necessity for provision being made for their custody and employment, that they may not become a public burden as paupers, or swell the records of crime by violations of law. In this view of the case, it is clear that the safety and economy of the Commonwealth will be served by such appropriations as will meet the demands of the class referred to.

In addition to the fact that the families of inebriates need the protection of law, it is an encouraging feature of the subject that a portion of inebriates are reclaimed, and may become again the protectors of their households and contributors to the welfare of society. It would indeed be remarkable if some inebriates are restored by their own efforts, some by the aid of Temperance Societies, and some by the influence of religion, if, in Institutions where all the agencies of self-help, abstinence and Christian effort are combined, there should not be more positive results.

The Board of Trustees have held six meetings during the year, and the Executive Committee eight—in all fourteen.