

Mr. Davis, from the Committee appointed to visit the Spring Grove Asylum, submitted the following

REPORT.

The Joint Committee appointed to visit the Maryland Hospital for the Insane at Spring Grove, Baltimore county, to look after the interest of the State in that Institution, respectfully report that they proceeded to the said Hospital, and after making a thorough examination found the title of the property is "vested in the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital," and their successors forever. That the President and Visitors have very extensive powers of purchasing any "messuages, tenement houses, and real estate," and "all other hereditaments of whatsoever nature, kind and quality they be in fee simple, or in any other manner, and also all personal estates whatever." They also have full power and authority to give, grant, sell, lease, demise and dispose of the same at their will and pleasure as they shall judge most beneficial and advantageous to the good and charitable end, and purposes of the Act of incorporation.

Your Committee find that under the Act of eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, chapter two hundred and five, the Maryland Hospital was declared to be a "common hospital" for the reception of all kind of patients, until by resolution number sixty-five of the December Session, eighteen hundred and thirty-eight, the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital were enjoined to make the same exclusively a lunatic asylum; and to appropriate one-half of its capacity to the accommodation of the pauper lunatics of the State, to be treated at the expense of the county sending such lunatic paupers, and the Act of eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, chapter —, fixed the amount to be paid by the county sending a lunatic pauper to the institution at one hundred dollars per annum. The amount now paid by the counties for the support of their pauper lunatic is two hundred dollars per annum; and while the Committee do not think this power would be exercised to the detriment of the institution or abused, yet a wise and just policy requires that the State alone should exercise discretion as to the propriety of selling or disposing of this property, and the title of which ought to be vested in the State.

The State has wisely reserved to herself the power to regulate by law this hospital, and she exercised that power when it was changed from a common hospital to an insane asylum, and she has also reserved the power to alter and change the Act of incorporating the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital wherever it may seem right for the Legislature to do so.

The asylum is a large and commodious building, con-