

500 patients. Dr. Preston delivered a most interesting and instructive address advocating State care for the insane.

Among other things, he informed the Committee that there are 4 County Asylums in the State located as follows:

One each in Washington, Allegany, Frederick and Cecil counties, which care for a total of about 300 inmates.

In addition to this, the County Almshouses confine between 300 and 400. The insane institutions are,

1. State Institutions at Springfield and Spring Grove.

2. County Asylums.

3. County Asylums and Bayview.

Worse conditions prevail in County Asylums than in State Hospitals, because

1. Patients are under "custodial" care.

2. They are political institutions.

3. The physician is an ordinary practitioner.

4. Attendants are without proper training.

5. Patients are without occupation and "Idleness" is the worse thing for an insane person.

But the worst conditions of all are to be found in the Almshouses. "God help the inmates." They contain the submerged lower tenth with no hope, in the words of Dante, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here."

In most of the counties they are a disgrace.

Sexes are mingled together.

One almshouse confined three males and five females, insane, in a room 12 by 14 feet.

In one, a blind insane colored woman was confined with a number of insane men.

In one county almshouse, an insane colored woman has actually given birth during her confinement in the institution to seven children