

ent buildings, offered the site for sale at a price which would have proved a good investment, but the purchase was declined by the holders of the adjacent property. This only objection removed, we hesitate not to report, that your honorable body could not find a more eligible position for the important benefaction which demands our fostering aid.

THE BUILDINGS have progressed as rapidly as the limited appropriations would admit. We found every thing as stated in the report of the architect, the property being all well protected. The cold weather stopped progress, just as the appropriation was nearly exhausted. It is due to the Commissioners to say that they have exercised a most wise and prudent discretion in the use of the money given into their hands. It now remains for you to decide when the work shall be resumed, and how rapidly it shall advance to completion.

We have only one public institution which provides the semblance of suitable accommodation for the Insane: viz. the Maryland Hospital. The report of the Visitors is before you, and it emphatically declares that the Hospital is entirely inadequate to the necessity. To enlarge that building would be injudicious economy. The location is not suitable, the plan altogether unappropriate.

By the census of 1850, there were in Maryland 937 insane and idiotic persons—752 white, 92 free colored, and 93 slaves, (521 males, 416 females.) Of these, 657 were born among us, 83 natives of other States and 69 born in foreign lands.

What proportion of this large aggregate is a charge upon the General Assembly, we are unable to say, but this much is certain, that the proportion is constantly increasing for the want of proper remedial measures. Many of these unfortunate beings are confined in the county Almshouses, and rendered by imperfect medical treatment and injudicious discipline, hopelessly insane, and thus a permanent burden upon the State, who, by timely treatment in a well appointed Asylum might have been restored to sanity and the performance of the duties of citizenship.

It is every year being more clearly demonstrated that insanity is curable, in fact yields to prompt measures, while it is aggravated by delay and oftimes confirmed by the inadequate provision made by the guardians of the public weal. The leading Reviews, both in the United States and Europe, abound with valuable articles upon this topic, and the result of careful statistical comparison is, that while under the old system, only 15 per centum of cases were cured; now, under new treatment, in properly arranged asylums, 75 per centum are cured. A fact at which the heart of the philanthropist must leap for joy, and which appeals to the Legislature of