

By the report of the Physician, Dr. HANK, it will be seen that though we have had contagious diseases to contend with, the health of the prisoners has been remarkably good: precaution having been taken to confine the diseases to those who were attacked, and who speedily recovered.

We have had but few cases of insubordination among the prisoners; their general conduct has been good.

In changing our system of working the prisoners for account of the State, to hiring them to contractors, we find the same difficulties arising as in other prisons where the contract system has been adopted, caused by the different views of the contractor and prisoner; the former complaining that the amount of labor performed by the convict is not enough, and the latter complaining, on the other hand, of being overtasked. Especially is this the case, where the convict has a long time to serve.

In all instances of this kind, the differences have been settled to the satisfaction of the contractors and with justice to the convicts.

Our thanks are due to the Legislature of our State for responding to the call made on them by your Board at their last session for an appropriation for building purposes, by which we have been able to erect two buildings for workshops, one of which, superintended by John Coates, Esq., and built by Messrs. Gill & Beatty, is 70 by 50 feet, and two stories high. It is built in a very substantial manner and cost \$7,640.45. It is occupied by Mr. Porter Cook, in manufacturing and storing fruit and oyster cans.

The other is 70 by 20 feet, and two stories high: was built by prison labor with the exception of laying the brick. Stirling Thomas, Esq., superintended the building, assisted by Mr. Benjamin Reynolds, one of the officers of the institution. Cost \$1,505.01.

The 2d story is occupied by Mr. W. H. Miller, in manufacturing cigars; the lower story for State purposes, comprising the blacksmith, paint and carpenter shops. These buildings have added much to the convenience and improvement of the Institution.

The suggestions made by your Board to the Legislature at its last session in regard to a law shortening the terms of prisoners for good conduct, were not acted on. It is to be hoped they will be at the coming session.

The following is an extract from the report of the Warden of the New Hampshire State prison, showing the beneficial effects of such a law: