

Which was read the first time.

The Committee on the part of the Senate appointed to join the Committee from the House of Delegates for inspecting the condition and ascertaining the wants of The Maryland Hospital, respectfully report:

The joint committee visited the institution and examined its present state, guided in their survey by the President of the Board of Visitors and other gentlemen of the board, with the advantage from that source of the most ample information upon all the details of the establishment.

Your committee, though impressed with the great intrinsic worth of this property of the state, and with its capacity for ultimately answering the benevolent ends of its foundation, could not at every step in their observation but mark how far it is now from being in a condition to accomplish them. The appropriation of the last session was faithfully and, your committee believe, judiciously expended by the visitors whose disinterested zeal and prudence were fully indicated to your committee; but upon so extensive a building suffering under the neglect of so many years, the sum expended could not more than suffice to repair in part, the actual delapidation and furnish a very scanty supply of furniture for a small portion of the establishment. A statement of those expenditures as rendered by the Treasurer of the board is herewith presented.

Without relating the history of this institution from its origin in 1797, it will be recollected, that although it became the absolute property of the state in 1827, and was then subjected to her general supervision, yet that it was then under a lease to individuals which expired only in the present year: So that the state may be esteemed only now to have the actual charge and use of it devolved upon her. It is only now that her efforts can freely and effectually begin to render this an asylum for those to whose afflictions it was dedicated, and the experiment can only now start of giving a wide scope to its benevolent usefulness, and of deriving from itself while thus useful, the means of sustaining itself. This period is effectively the opening of the institution under the States control, and nothing discouraging is to be argued from the past fortunes of the institution nor from its actual necessities. It is now, it is true, destitute of many conve-