

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
MEDICAL OFFICERS OF AMERICAN  
INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTIC  
AND FEEBLE-MINDED PERSONS.  
SESSIONS: MEDIA, JUNE 6-8, 1876.  
COLUMBUS, JUNE 12-15, 1877**

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**VARIOUS**

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MEETING OF SUPERINTENDENTS  
OF  
INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTS.

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THE occasion of the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, in 1876, bringing together people of all classes, from all parts of our country, seemed to make it feasible for the first time to call an assemblage of representatives of institutions devoted to the care and education of idiotic and feeble-minded children; accordingly, the management of the Pennsylvania Training School issued an invitation to all other existing institutions in the United States to meet at Media, Pennsylvania, which invitation was favorably responded to.

The minutes of the meeting for organization at Media, in 1876, and of the second meeting, held at Columbus, Ohio, in 1877, together with some of the papers read at the latter meeting, are herewith published, by order of the Executive Committee.

MEETING FOR ORGANIZATION.

At a meeting of Superintendents of Institutions for Idiots and Feeble-Minded Persons, held at Pennsylvania Training School, Media, on June 6th, 1876, there were present DR. E. SEGUIN, of New York; DR. H. B. WILBUR, of Syracuse, New York; DR. G. A. DOREN, of Columbus, Ohio; DR. C. T. WILBUR, of Jacksonville, Illinois; DR. H. M. KNIGHT, of Lakeville, Connecticut; DR. I. N. KERLIN, of Media, Pennsylvania.

On motion, DR. H. B. WILBUR was appointed chairman.

On motion, DR. KERLIN was appointed secretary.

DR. WILBUR stated the object of the meeting, as follows: In view of

the importance of union to effect any good purpose, it seems necessary that the superintendents of institutions for the feeble-minded should organize to forward their special work ; therefore, the call of this meeting.

Whereupon, DR. DOREN offered a resolution, that " We, who are assembled, do form an association."

DRS. DOREN and C. T. WILBUR referred to the importance of such an organization for pushing the development of institutions of the West, where everything was ripe for the best results.

DR. DOREN referred to the evil of establishing any more " experimental schools," which were always subject to doubt and attack, and thought that the day of experiment in this matter had passed.

DR. C. T. WILBUR read portions of the law calling into existence the institution in Iowa, to show that in that State the first move was for a permanent institution.

DR. H. B. WILBUR reported an " Agenda on Education and Training of Idiots and Imbeciles," in England, prepared by a committee of the Charity Organization Society.

On motion, DRS. H. B. WILBUR and KERLIN were appointed a committee to draft a Constitution to be submitted to the next session.

On motion, adjourned to meet to-morrow (Wednesday) at 4 P.M.

*June 7th, 1876.*

The Association met this afternoon in the " Keystone Hall" of Pennsylvania Training School, at an entertainment of music, calisthenics, and other exercises, given by the children and ladies of the institution. Members of the Board of Directors, and DRS. JOSEPH PARISH, of New Jersey, and TUCK, of " the Massachusetts School for Idiots," were guests on this occasion. After witnessing various Kindergarten and other evening games, and a drill by the cadets of the school, a meeting of the Association was held at 8.30 P.M. Present, DRS. SEGUIN, C. T. WILBUR, H. B. WILBUR, H. M. KNIGHT, G. A. DOREN, I. N. KERLIN. DR. GEORGE BROWN, of Barre, Massachusetts, had arrived, and was present at this meeting.

The committee on Constitution reported a form, which, after various amendments, was adopted, as follows :

#### CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—The name of this Association shall be " The Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiots and Feeble-Minded Persons."

ART. II.—The object of the Association shall be the discussion of



all questions relating to the causes, conditions, and statistics of idiocy, and to the management, training, and education of idiots and feeble-minded persons; it will also lend its influence to the establishment and fostering of institutions for this purpose.

ART. III.—The members shall be balloted in by a unanimous vote, and shall be composed of the medical heads of existing institutions, and of such persons as have distinguished themselves by their interest in this defective class.

ART. IV.—The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of three, who shall be elected annually, or in failure thereof, the officers in place shall continue to act.

ART. V.—The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to call special meetings; to make proper arrangements therefor; if desirable, to assign to members subjects for special report; to take charge of and arrange for the publication of all proceedings referred, and to perform such other duties as may be required.

ART. VI.—The regular meetings shall be held annually, at a time and place to be designated by the Association.

On motion of DR. KERLIN, an election of officers for 1876-77 was held under the adopted Constitution, with the following result:

*President.*—DR. E. SEGUIN.

*Vice-President.*—DR. H. B. WILBUR.

*Secretary and Treasurer.*—DR. I. N. KERLIN.

*Executive Committee.*— $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{DR. H. B. WILBUR.} \\ \text{DR. E. SEGUIN.} \\ \text{DR. I. N. KERLIN.} \end{array} \right.$

On motion of DR. C. T. WILBUR, it was

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee make arrangements with some medico-psychological journal to act as the organ of the Association in publication of its proceedings.

The voice of the gentlemen present favored "The Chicago Journal of Mental Science," DR. J. S. JEWELL, Editor.

On motion of DR. H. M. KNIGHT, the following persons were elected members of the Association:

DR. GEO. S. BLACKIE, of Nashville.

DR. H. P. AYRES, of Fort Wayne.

MRS. N. L. DOREN, of Columbus.

MRS. DR. GEO. BROWN, of Barre.

DR. E. C. SEGUIN, of New York.

On motion of DR. BROWN,

*Resolved*, That all who have been or are trustees or managers of institutions be hereby constituted honorary members.

On motion of DR. DOREN,

*Resolved*, That an annual assessment of Five Dollars be laid upon each active member of the Association for 1876-77, for current expenses. At midnight, on motion, adjourned to 7 A.M.

*June 8th, 1876.*

The Association met at 7 A.M., DR. SEGUIN in the chair; all present.

On motion of DR. DOREN, MRS. DR. KNIGHT of Lakeville, and MRS. DR. C. T. WILBUR, of Jacksonville, were unanimously elected active members of the Association.

On motion of DR. KNIGHT, MRS. DR. H. B. WILBUR and MRS. DR. KERLIN were proposed for membership, whereupon a discussion arose as to the advisability of admitting to membership any but those who had actively or officially participated in the immediate work, or who had distinguished themselves by some literary or other highly meritorious service. The objections of DR. H. B. WILBUR and KERLIN were overruled by the adoption by the majority of the following from DR. DOREN:

*Resolved*, That in all cases where ladies have been identified with our work, as in the instances of MRS. DR. H. B. WILBUR and MRS. DR. I. N. KERLIN, they be elected members, and that these ladies are now so declared.

A fraternal letter from DR. BLACK, of Frankfort, Kentucky, was read, regretting his absence, and expressing sympathy with the meeting. Also a similar one from DR. JARVIS, of Massachusetts.

On invitation of DR. DOREN, the second meeting of the Association will be held at the State Institution, at Columbus, Ohio, in June, 1877.

On motion, adjourned *sine die*.

ISAAC N. KERLIN, *Secretary*.

#### THE SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

of "The Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Persons," convened at Columbus, Ohio, on June 12th, 1877, holding its meetings at the Ohio State Asylum for the Education of Idiotic and Imbecile Youth.

The Association met at 9 P.M.

Present, DR. SEGUIN, President; DR. H. B. WILBUR, of Syracuse; DR. BEATON, of Ontario; DR. and MRS. DOREN, of Ohio; DR. and MRS.

BROWN, of Barre; DR. ARCHIBALD, of Iowa; DR. and MRS. KNIGHT, of Connecticut; DR. KERLIN, of Pennsylvania; DR. TUCK, of Massachusetts.

Numerous friends were also in attendance, among them DR. N. S. TOWNSHEND; HON. P. HITCHCOCK and J. A. LUTZ, Trustees of the Ohio Institution; DRs. GUNDBRIE and MORSE, of the State Central Hospital for Insane; and ladies of the institution.

DR. WILBUR, of Syracuse, presented and read his paper on "Classification of Idiots," when, on motion of DR. BROWN, discussion on this paper was postponed until to-morrow.

Adjourned to 9 A.M. to-morrow.

*Wednesday, June 13th, 1877.*

The Association met at 9 A.M.; all present.

DR. DOREN presented plans of extension and improvement proposed for the Ohio Asylum.

DR. E. SEGUIN read an interesting paper on "Sensorial Idiocy," which, on motion, was referred for publication.

The paper of DR. WILBUR, on "Classification," was submitted for discussion, in which most of the members participated. The general voice of the meeting was, that all existing systems of classification are imperfect and unsatisfactory.

During the discussion, DR. DOREN introduced some typical cases illustrating the Mongolian type, Cretin type, Aztec type, etc.

Adjourned to meet at 9 P.M.

The Association met at 9 P.M.

DR. BROWN, of Barre, presented and read his paper on "Heredity," which was followed by DR. GUNDBRIE on "Some of the Doctrines of Heredity." He proposed that, on the ground of reversion to higher types, even drunkenness was dying out.

Adjourned.

*Thursday, June 14th, 1877.*

The Association met at 9.15 A.M.

Letters congratulatory of the objects of the meeting and regretting absence, were presented from DR. KIRKBRIDE, of Philadelphia; DR. FLETCHER BEACH, Lower Clapton (Clapton Idiot Asylum), England; DR. G. E. SHUTTLEWORTH (Royal Albert Asylum), Lancaster, England; DR. JOSEPH PARRISH, Burlington, New Jersey; DR. E. BLACK, Frankfort, Kentucky; DR. C. T. WILBUR, Jacksonville, Illinois; DR. R. J. PATTERSON, Batavia, Illinois.