

**THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE STATE  
ALMSHOUSE AT TEWKSBURY. FOR  
THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30,  
1887. PUBLIC DOCUMENT, NO.26**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649252169

Thirty-fourth annual report of the trustees of the State Almshouse at Tewksbury. For the year ending September 30, 1887. Public document, No.26 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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BOSTON :  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.  
1888.

**OFFICERS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE ALMSHOUSE.**

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**TRUSTEES.**

J. WHITE BELCHER, . . . . .	RANDOLPH.
LYMAN A. BELKNAP, . . . . .	ANDOVER.
WEAVER OSBORN, . . . . .	FALL RIVER.
WILLIAM T. CAROLIN, M. D., . . . . .	LOWELL.
JACOB H. HECHT, . . . . .	BOSTON.
MRS. SARAH D. FISKE, . . . . .	MALDEN.
MRS. ANNA F. PRESCOTT, . . . . .	BOSTON.

**RESIDENT OFFICERS.**

C. IRVING FISHER, M. D.,	<i>Superintendent and Resident Physician.</i>
JOHN H. COCKER, . . . . .	<i>Assistant Superintendent.</i>
EBEN C. NORTON, M. D., . . . . .	<i>Assistant Physician.</i>
ELIZA B. LAWRENCE, . . . . .	<i>Assistant Physician.</i>
CHARLES B. MARSH, . . . . .	<i>Clerk.</i>

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT.

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*To His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Council.*

The Trustees of the State Almshouse and the State Farm herewith present their Thirty-fourth Annual Report, showing the condition of the State Almshouse at Tewksbury, to which is added the report of the Superintendent and Resident Physician for the year ending Sept. 30, 1887.

The Board of Trustees has held regular meetings at the institution, as required by law, and one or more members have visited it each week and have carefully investigated and examined each department.

Many improvements have been made during the past year, and much has been accomplished for the comfort and well-being of the inmates under our charge.

The Trustees recognize their responsibility in the management of the institution, and nothing will be left undone by them in making such additional improvements and changes from time to time as may be deemed necessary or expedient.

The farm has been productive during the past year, many improvements having been made on the same. The number of cows has been increased, so that the sick and feeble may have a larger supply of milk than formerly, 400 to 425 quarts being distributed each day among the inmates in the different departments of the institution.

For several years past the necessity of providing additional hospital accommodations for male patients has been

alluded to by the State Board in its annual reports, also by the Trustees. At the present time there seems to be no question as to the expediency or necessity for the erection of a building for such a purpose. At the last session of the Legislature the proposition was submitted to the committee on Public Charitable Institutions in relation to enlarging and improving the present hospital building. Plans and estimates were obtained and presented as to the probable cost; but, after a full investigation, it was thought better to erect new buildings than to repair and enlarge the old one. Plans and estimates will therefore be prepared for a new hospital building for male patients, which will be presented at the next session of the Legislature, and an appropriation asked for to carry the same into effect.

It is also recommended that an appropriation be made for increasing the height of the water tower, so that the buildings may be better protected in case of fire; also for painting the outside of the main buildings, and for the erection of a building for the storage of ice.

Under chap. 48 of the Resolves of 1887, a sum not exceeding six hundred dollars was appropriated for the purpose of purchasing additional land for cemetery purposes; eight and one-half acres have been purchased for said object.

A full and detailed statement of the number of inmates admitted and discharged since our last report, the number remaining in the institution, the receipts, disbursements and expenditure of money, and other statistical information, will be found in the report of the Superintendent herewith submitted.

In compliance with sect. 7, chap. 79, of the Public Statutes, the Trustees appointed Messrs. Pedrick & Closson of Lawrence to take the annual inventory and make an appraisal of the real and personal property connected with the institution, and belonging to the Commonwealth, whose report is hereto annexed.

Under chap. 63 of the Resolves of the year 1886, a sum not exceeding seventy-five thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose of erecting hospital buildings at the State



Almshouse. Messrs. Hartwell & Richardson, architects, of Boston, were employed by the Trustees to prepare plans and specifications for two hospital buildings, which were approved and accepted as required by said resolve. The contract for the erection of said buildings was awarded to Messrs. Hardy & Cole of Andover; the boiler-house and chimney to C. F. Foss of Lowell; the plumbing to Messrs. Costello & Co. of Lowell. The steam heating is being done by the day, under the direction of the Trustees and Superintendent. It is expected said buildings will be completed and ready for occupancy about Jan. 1, 1888.

For five years Dr. C. Irving Fisher has been officially connected with the institution as Superintendent and Resident Physician, three years of which time it has been under the supervision and management of the Board of Trustees. At the close of another financial year we repeat what has been stated in previous reports, that during the administration of Dr. Fisher he has devoted his best energies to the interests of the institution, and has performed the varied and responsible duties required of him in an honest, faithful and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

J. WHITE BELCHER.  
WEAVER OSBORN.  
LYMAN A. BELKNAP.  
SARAH D. FISKE.  
JACOB H. HECHT.  
ANNA F. PRESCOTT.  
WM. T. CAROLIN.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

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TEWKSBURY, Sept. 30, 1887.

*To the Trustees of the State Almshouse and State Farm.*

I have the pleasure of presenting to you the Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the State Almshouse.

There have been 2,362 admissions during the year, of which 457 were "nominal admissions"; making the actual number of persons admitted 1,905.

There were 829 inmates at the beginning of the year. The smallest number present was 799, on the 27th of June, and the largest number was 1,007, on March 8th.

There have been 142 persons transferred during the year, 68 having been sent to the State Farm and 74 to the State Primary School.

The number supported during the whole or part of the year has been 2,733.

The number remaining at the end of the year is 877.

The daily average number of inmates has been 904, which is 13 less than last year. The cost of maintenance has been \$2.08 per week per capita, or 32 cents more than last year.

This increase is due largely to the fact that the diminution of numbers has been among the well, while there has been a large increase among the sick and feeble, as will be seen, in part, by the hospital tables, requiring a larger force of attendants to care for them and do the necessary labor.

It will also be seen, by reference to schedule "A," that there has been a marked increase in the valuation of real estate by permanent improvements, and in personal property.

### HOSPITALS.

The hospitals have received 1,669 patients, or 286 more than last year. The number of primary admissions has been 1,388, and 198 different diseases have been represented.

The morning calls in the "out-patient" department have numbered more than 8,000, and most of these have been seen by the physician again during the day.

There have been 171 deaths, 108 males and 63 females. This is 28 more than last year, but the death-rate has not increased. Of the above number (171) 33 were among the insane. The causes of death represent 48 different diseases.

Notwithstanding the prevalence of contagious diseases, such as scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria, in the cities and towns near us, we have been entirely free from them. There have been but four cases of typhoid fever, and these came from outside.

*Maternity.*—There have been 91 confinements, which is 4 less than last year. More than 80 per cent. were illegitimate; 45 of the mothers were born in Ireland; 26 were born in England and her Provinces, and 16 in the United States.

There has been one death from puerperal septicæmia.

There are remaining in all the hospitals at the end of the year 166 patients.

Dr. Ella M. Patton resigned last May, after a year and a half of zealous and able work. Dr. Eliza B. Lawrence was appointed her successor. Dr. Eben C. Norton will have completed two years of service within the coming month. He has tendered his resignation, to go into private practice. In him the institution will lose a faithful and efficient medical officer.

#### INSANE ASYLUM.

There has been no material change in this department during the year.

There have been admitted 77 patients, 14 male and 63 female. Of these 47 were transfers from other State hospitals and 30 were from the almshouse department. The number remaining at the end of the year is 349, 55 males and 294 females.

Table No. 6 of this report shows in part how they have been employed during the year and what they have accomplished. Beside this, they have been useful in gathering the