

**NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF  
CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS,  
1913, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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Ninth Annual Report of the department of charities and corrections, 1913, State of New Jersey  
by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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OF THE

Department of  
Charities and Corrections

1913

STATE OF NEW JERSEY —

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# Report.

TRENTON, January 22, 1914.

Hon. James F. Fielder, Governor of New Jersey:

SIR—I have the honor to submit my annual report for the year ending October 31, 1913.

The State has had under its care during the year, in its charitable and correctional institutions, a total of 16,188 persons, classified as follows:

Insane—		
In State Hospitals .....	4,881	
In County Hospitals .....	3,817	
		8,698
Feeble Minded and Epileptic—		
In State Institutions .....	791	
In Private Institutions .....	429	
		1,220
Criminal and Delinquent—		
In State Prison .....	2,056	
In Reformatories .....	971	
In Juvenile Reformatories .....	1,376	
		4,403
Soldiers and Sailors, etc. ....		1,135
Blind .....		50
Sick—Tuberculosis .....		645
Miscellaneous .....		37
		16,188

For the support of these wards the State expended during the year:

For maintenance, (current expenses, and ordinary repairs).....	\$2,132,830.49
For permanent improvements, new buildings, etc. ....	477,412.23
For the support of insane in County Hospitals .....	295,662.34
	\$3,008,395.68
A total of .....	
Expended by Counties in addition to money received from State for the maintenance of insane .....	398,457.54
Expended by Counties for permanent improvements .....	5,033.68
	\$3,411,886.90
A grand total of .....	

## REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF

The average daily number under care during the year was .....	11,717
The average annual per capita cost for maintenance was—based on above .....	\$250.02
Including all expenses, buildings, etc., the average cost was—based on above .....	\$291.19

The following table shows the number enrolled at the beginning and at the close of the year, with the increase or decrease in each class:

	1913	1912	Increase	Decrease
Insane .....	7,099	5,888	211	
Feeble Minded .....	661	577	84	
Epileptic .....	443	392	51	
Criminals .....	2,023	2,032		9
Delinquents .....	722	745		23
Soldiers .....	827	879		52
Tuberculosis .....	222	189	33	
Blind .....	48	41	7	
Miscellaneous .....		18		18
Total .....	12,045	11,761	386	102

## INSTITUTION RECORDS.

The law requires the registration in this Department of all State wards. To maintain this record, monthly reports have been required from all institutions under State supervision, this since 1905.

I have made an attempt during the year to verify these reports by an actual checking up of our cards at each institution. This had not heretofore been done. This checking up developed numerous mistakes and omissions made by many of the institutions in their reports as well as a great dissimilarity in the character and methods of keeping institution records. Inmates had been received and not reported; so also with discharges, deaths, etc. It further discovered the custom, long followed in some of the county hospitals for the insane, of carrying paroled inmates on their records for from one to four months, and meanwhile charging the State for their support. Also the further very important fact that there are in our hospitals for the insane, both State and County, many inmates illegally detained, in that no legal commitment has been made. This situation seems to be largely due to the negligence of our committing Judges. The number of patients on September 1, 1913, for whom no Judge's commitments had been filed, was: At Morris Plains Hospital, 132; at Trenton Hospital, 45; Burlington



County Hospital, 1; Camden County Hospital, 34; Essex County Hospital, 165; a total of 277. It was found that some of these cases have been held without commitment papers since 1910, also that at the Trenton Hospital, in addition to the 45 cases reported, 30 cases had been admitted, one in 1911 and 29 in 1913, all of whom had been dismissed from the Hospital by death or otherwise before commitment papers had been filed.

In view of the importance of these matters and that the Department may be able to properly verify bills presented to the State for the support of the State wards, I make the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS.—1. *That it shall be obligatory on the part of each institution to file in this Department a copy of every commitment paper.*

2. *That this Department shall be authorized and directed to devise, and the institutions to adopt, a uniform system of institution records, vital and social.*

3. *That bills against the State for maintenance of State wards shall be verified by this Department as to inmates, before payment.*

#### MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

INSANE.—The Commission on the Care of Mental Defectives, provided for by Joint Resolution of the last General Assembly and appointed by you on May 6, 1913, has been giving much time and study to the work committed to it. The report of the Commission, to be submitted by March 1st, makes it unnecessary for me to again call attention to the present situation in the State with regard to the insufficient provision for these classes:—the insane, the feeble-minded and the epileptic. There are, however, several matters that seem important to call to the early attention of the Legislature.

Last year, although there was no general request or necessity for increasing the rate of maintenance for the insane, which was already sufficiently high, in view of the special appropriations made for salaries, repairs, etc., and receipts from pay patients, the rate was raised from \$4.00 to \$4.50 a week to apply to both county and State hospitals. The State contributes toward the support of approximately 3,000 patients in county hospitals. The new rate, therefore, adds to the State budget about \$40,000 for these. The counties similarly contribute toward the support of their patients

maintained in the State hospitals, approximately 2,500, and this adds to the counties' expense about \$32,500. The State, by the increased rate for State hospital patients, about 3,600, (pay patients eliminated) must pay the additional sum of \$46,800. This is in all a net increase for maintenance of the insane already under public care of \$120,000 in round numbers. With a per capita cost already higher than in other states, this increase should not have been made and the old rate should be restored. Until the financial resources of the State shall enable it to provide for the hundreds of defectives now denied admission to our institutions for lack of room, and until the fearful overcrowding at Morris Plains and the Vineland Home for Feeble Minded Women has been relieved, there will be small justification for increasing the rates of expenditures for those already under care.

**COMMITMENT LAW.**—The revised commitment law of 1913 has caused great dissatisfaction and uncertainty, due, apparently, to the inability of those chiefly concerned with it to interpret and comply with its provisions. This law should be revised and simplified.

**Feeble-Minded and Epileptic.**—The law of 1908 authorized the care of feeble-minded men over 21 years of age at the State Village for Epileptics. The unwisdom of this policy is now apparent. The development of the colony idea at the Vineland Training School would seem to make it possible to care for this class economically and efficiently without imposing them upon other established institutions where they do not belong. Under these latter conditions, the cost of their care would be increased and the administration of the institutions complicated. The State Village for Epileptics was established for epileptics and it should care for epileptics only,—all classes of epileptics. When it does this, its management will be difficult enough, both by reason of size and character of inmates to tax the ability and strength of its administrative officers.

During the past year a new building was completed at the Village, the original purpose of which was for the housing of feeble-minded men. On account of the opening of the colony at the Vineland Training School, it was possible to provide for the 25 feeble-minded men that had already been committed to the Village and they were re-transferred to Vineland. An additional reason for this action was that the building thus vacated would enable the

Village to receive certain epileptic inmates then being cared for in our insane hospitals. Acting under the authority of Section 6, Chapter 263, Laws of 1908, I made petition to the several county Judges for the transfer of certain of these cases to the Village. These transfers are now being effected. It is worthy of note that thus, for the first time since the opening of the Epileptic Village, it has begun to fulfill one of its original and chief purposes, namely, the relieving of our hospitals for the insane of the care of epileptics.

*Recommendations: The Law authorizing the commitment of feeble-minded males, Chapter 311, Laws of 1908, should be repealed.*

*The law governing the admission of inmates to the Epileptic Village should be amended and all restrictions as to certain classes of epileptics stricken out, so that this institution shall be made to serve as an institution for all epileptics, without restriction as to their mental or physical condition. With the adoption of this policy, it should be kept in mind that additional facilities must be provided at the Village for the care of those classes of epileptics not heretofore received, namely, the insane, the violent, the dangerous, and the helpless.*

There are now 349 State wards enrolled at the Training School at Vineland. The present appropriation is based upon care for 300. That this number has been exceeded has been due to the constant pressure upon this Department to commit children, and commitments have been made as rapidly as the Training School officials would receive them. There are still a large number of applicants on our waiting list, both for the Training School and for the State Home for Feeble-Minded Women. The probable completion of a new building at the latter institution early in the spring of 1914 will, I hope, take care of all pending applications, and for the present, at least, relieve the pressure for admission to that institution. While the Training School has increased its capacity to a limited degree by the organization of a colony for a number of the older boys, and while there is hope that efforts made during the year to secure the organization of a similar colony in Burlington County will be successful, still with both of these additional outlets, the State will be far short of sufficient accommodations for feeble-minded children, particularly those of the lower grades. The time