

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS  
AND THE THIRTY-SEVENTH AND THIRTY-  
EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE INSANE  
ASYLUM OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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Biennial report of the directors and the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth annual reports of the superintendent of the insane asylum of the State of California by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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AND THE  
THIRTY-SEVENTH AND THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
of the  
INSANE ASYLUM OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
(AT STOCKTON).

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FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 1890.



SACRAMENTO:  
STATE OFFICE, : : : : : J. D. YOUNG, SUPT. STATE PRINTING.  
1890.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

OCTOBER, 1890.

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HON. ROBERT WATT, <i>President</i> .....	Oakland.
Appointed by Governor Irwin, 1876; reappointed by Governor Perkins, 1880; reappointed by Governor Stoneman, 1884; reappointed by Governor Waterman, 1888.	
H. T. DORRANCE, <i>Vice-President</i> .....	Stockton.
Appointed by Governor Waterman, 1888.	
OBED HARVEY, M.D. ....	Galt.
Appointed by Governor Waterman, 1888.	
CAPT. R. S. JOHNSON .....	Stockton.
Appointed by Governor Waterman, 1888.	
ARTHUR THORNTON .....	New Hope.
Appointed by Governor Waterman, 1888.	

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### MEDICAL OFFICERS.

HIRAM N. RUCKER, M.D. ....	Medical Superintendent.
JUNIUS D. YOUNG, M.D. ....	First Assistant Physician.
THOMAS PHILLIPS, M.D. ....	Second Assistant Physician.
A. W. HOISHOLT, M.D. ....	Third Assistant Physician.

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N. M. ORR .....	Treasurer and Secretary of Board.
H. W. TAYLOR .....	Superintendent's Secretary.
T. J. KEYS .....	Steward.
W. H. CHESTNUTWOOD .....	Supervisor.
Mrs. M. E. RAMSELL .....	Matron.



## DIRECTORS' REPORT.

*To his Excellency R. W. WATERMAN, Governor of the State of California:*

In accordance with the law controlling the management of the State Insane Asylum, we, as Directors, submit our biennial report for the two years ending June 30, 1890, together with the reports of the Medical Superintendent and Treasurer, which reports are made part hereof.

Since the submission of our last biennial report a complete change has been made in the medical managing officers of the asylum. Dr. W. H. Mays, who for nearly three years had been Medical Superintendent of the institution, and had zealously labored to promote its best interests, was compelled, for private reasons, to submit his resignation to this Board, at its meeting held September 10, 1888, and the same was accepted, to take effect November 1, 1888.

At the same meeting, Dr. W. R. Langdon, who had been long connected with this asylum as Assistant Physician, and who by his skill in his profession, his earnest and conscientious efforts to perform the duties of his position, his kind and humane treatment of the unfortunates under his care, and his courteous and considerate treatment of those associated with him in the conduct and management of the institution, had made himself esteemed and respected by all, also presented his resignation, much to the regret of all those who had known of his painstaking labors to ameliorate the condition of the patients over whom he had supervision and care.

At an adjourned meeting of this Board, held on September 11, 1888, Dr. H. N. Rucker was elected Medical Superintendent to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Mays, and Dr. J. D. Young was elected Assistant Physician, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Langdon.

On May 10, 1889, in pursuance of an Act of the Legislature, approved March 15, 1889, this Board proceeded to elect an additional Assistant Physician, and this choice fell upon Dr. Thomas Phillips.

Dr. W. A. Washington, an Assistant Physician of this asylum for over three years, died September 4, 1889. He was a highly valued employé of this institution, and possessed in an eminent degree the qualifications of medical skill, humane instincts, pleasing personal address, to make him beloved by the patients under his care, and esteemed and respected by his associates. His death was deeply deplored by all.

At a meeting held September 26, 1889, this Board elected Dr. A. W. Hoisholt to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Washington.

Notwithstanding the fact of this unusual change in the medical management of the asylum within so short a period, we take pleasure in reporting that the selections to fill these important positions seem to have been well made, and each one has readily adapted himself to the performance of the duties of the position to which he has been elected; and each and all show a commendable ambition to make this asylum worthy of the confidence of the people, and a credit to the State from whose treasury it is supported.



We regret that we are again compelled to report that the appropriations made for the year ending June 30, 1889, and also for the year ending June 30, 1890, were inadequate for the support of this asylum. During the month of November, 1888, two hundred patients were removed from this asylum to that at Agnews. It was expected that this removal would have been effected at a much earlier date, but the delay in completing the work of furnishing accommodations at Agnews, postponed the granting of relief to the over-crowded wards of this institution until that time. By referring to the report of the Medical Superintendent herewith, for the year ending June 30, 1889, it will be seen that, notwithstanding the removal of two hundred patients to Agnews during that year, the total number of patients remaining in this asylum June 30, 1889, was only sixty-six (66) less than were here on June 30, 1888.

The excess of the expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889, was \$11,557 32, as shown by bills now on file with the State Board of Examiners, and is to be accounted for, in part, by the large number of patients under care and treatment that year, and, in part, by an effort made to improve the condition of the patients by supplying better food and clothing.

The excess of expenditures over the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, was \$9,971 99, also shown by bills now on file with the State Board of Examiners. This is to be principally attributed to the severity of the last winter. The grounds of the asylum were at one time overflowed, and basements and cellars filled with water. To keep the various buildings warm required an extraordinary consumption of coal, the cost of which was materially increased by the difficulty of transporting it to the asylum. The water from the basement had eventually to be removed by pumping, and provisions also made for draining the low places in the asylum grounds. The land under cultivation was rendered less productive, thereby seriously affecting an important source of supplies to the institution.

#### EXPENDITURES FROM CONTINGENT FUND.

As will be seen from the report of the Treasurer, considerable drafts have been made upon the Contingent Fund for extra work and material upon the new buildings lately erected upon the asylum grounds. The alterations have generally been made to conform to new conditions that have arisen since the buildings were first projected, and as none of the alterations have been of sufficient importance to necessitate a change of the original plans—the cost of no single change being \$1,000—the work has been ordered by this Board and the extra expenditures paid from the Contingent Fund, the architect and Superintendent of the buildings in every case fixing the prices to be paid for the several changes.

We have also to report that we have expended \$2,500 from the Contingent Fund in the purchase of three fourths of a block of land, and have had the same deeded to the State. This piece of land was situated near the former boundaries of the asylum grounds, but separated therefrom on two sides by unused streets, which could be closed without detriment to the public interest. The City Council of Stockton, upon a petition from this Board, passed an ordinance closing the said streets and granting the use of the ground to the asylum. By this purchase

and grant, the asylum is much benefited, as the land acquired is near the new building for the Male Department, and has furnished a convenient site for the new engine house and workshops that have been located thereon. The well for gas is also being bored upon the same piece of ground.

#### THE NORTH-STREET CANAL.

The extraordinary high water of the past winter seriously impeded the contractor in the completion of the North-Street Canal, besides seriously damaging and washing away portions of the levee that had already been completed. Further time had therefore to be granted for the completion of the work.

The pipe line designed for conducting the sewage from the asylum into a tidal basin in the canal, is now being laid, and will soon be completed, thereby removing a great cause for complaint, and improving the sanitary conditions about the asylum.

#### EXPENDITURES FROM THE APPROPRIATION FOR ERECTION OF NEW BUILDINGS, AND FOR PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

By an Act of the Legislature approved March 15, 1889, an appropriation of fifty thousand five hundred dollars (\$50,500) was made for certain specified erections and improvements upon the asylum grounds.

Plans were carefully considered and finally adopted for the different buildings and improvements contemplated, to wit: for the erection of boiler house, engine-room, workshops, morgue, lavatories, ironing-room, associated dining-room, and residences for two Assistant Physicians and Supervisor. The contract for performing the work was duly let after advertising for proposals as required by law.

After the contract was let, however, there were changes in the conditions of affairs at the asylum, which necessitated the modification of the plans in some respects, one of the most important of which was that of authorizing the contractor to construct the residence originally designed for the Supervisor upon the same plan that had been adopted for those of the Assistant Physicians. This change was effected because of the fact that the Legislature had provided for the employment of three Assistant Physicians at the asylum, and for the further reason that a residence for the Supervisor was not then demanded.

The total cost of changing this house so as to make it upon the same plan as the others was about \$900.

The cost of making the above mentioned change, as has been heretofore stated, was paid from the Contingent Fund, as was also that of several other changes in the original plans, which, in the judgment of this Board, seemed necessary in order that buildings and improvements should more fully meet the present requirements of this institution.

Although these improvements were not completed as soon as expected, owing to the impossibility of pushing the work during the past winter, at the present writing they are all finished and most are being used for the purposes for which they were designed, and it is confidently expected that soon all will be in use, to the great advantage and benefit of this institution.

## APPROPRIATION FOR FURNISHING BOILER HOUSE AND FOR REPAIRING BUILDINGS, ETC.

In the expenditure of this appropriation made by the last Legislature, of \$29,750, plans and specifications for the proposed work were carefully prepared and two contracts let, one for the cement work and the other for plumbing, roofing, water tanks, and general repairs.

The Treasurer's report will show the amount expended from this appropriation up to June 30, 1890, since which time new boilers have been placed in position, and the work contracted for completed. The pipe connections between the new boilers and buildings are being made, and it is expected that they will soon be used for the purpose of heating the buildings, and a considerable saving in the consumption of fuel be thereby made.

We confidently submit these improvements to all interested in the welfare of the asylum, firmly believing that they have been judiciously made and the appropriations economically expended.

## APPROPRIATION FOR WATER, LIGHT, AND FUEL.

In order to intelligently and legally expend the appropriation of \$40,000 made by the last Legislature so that, if possible, the results would meet the anticipations of the people, this Board consulted with the Attorney-General of this State, and obtained his opinion as to their powers and duties in the premises.

Being instructed that the matter of the expenditure of this appropriation was left with this Board, the members thereof being expected to use their best judgment as to the action to be taken, it was decided that as the Act of the Legislature expressly provided for boring wells to supply the asylum with water, light, and fuel, two wells should be bored—one for water and one for gas. It is a well known fact that water obtained from a well giving off a considerable quantity of gas is unsuitable for culinary or irrigation purposes, and it was therefore the purpose of this Board to bore one well to a moderate depth for the purpose of obtaining an increased supply of pure water for the grounds, which was much needed, while the well to be bored for gas should be sunk to as great a depth as possible. In June, 1889, the Board advertised for proposals for boring the two wells, as above stated, the bids to be opened at the regular meeting of the Board to be held on July tenth. At that meeting no propositions satisfactory to the Board were received, and an adjournment was then taken to July twenty-fourth, at which time contracts were made for boring each of the two wells. The water well has been completed, a fair flow of water being obtained at the depth of one thousand and seventy feet, which, having been analyzed by experts at the request of this Board, is pronounced to be of a quality suitable for culinary and irrigation purposes.

Unexpectedly, however, in boring this well a moderate flow of gas was obtained, and the same has been utilized by placing a receiver over the well and conducting the gas to the ironing-room of the laundry at the Female Department, where it is very successfully used in heating the irons. Besides the saving in fuel, the advantages derived in using gas for that purpose are particularly satisfactory to the persons there engaged, and as the supply is adequate for the requirements of the room, the