

372 Fifth Avenue.

Received

FEB 11 1882

MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Hon. William A. Grace.

Mayor of N.Y. City.

Dear Sir.

A Meeting of the
Central Council (of which you are
an ex-officio member) of the
"Charity Organization Society
of the City of N.Y." will be held
at the Rooms of the State Board
of Charities, 67 Madison Ave. on
Wednesday next Feb'y 15th at
8.30 p. m.

Very truly yours.

J. Roosevelt Roosevelt. Secretary.

regular.
An ~~adjourned~~ meeting of the Central

Council of the Charity Organization of
the City of New York, will be held on

Monday. April 3rd at 67 Madison
Avenue, at 8-30 P. M.

J. R. Russell.

Secretary.

372 Fifth Ave.

Apr. 24/02

LR Roosevelt

March 24

May 4,
Conference



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

Hon. Abram S. Hewitt
~~City Hall~~
City.

No. 105.]

STANDING RESOLUTIONS: "RESOLVED, That when any member is unable to attend a meeting of the Council, it is expected that he will send written notice thereof to the Secretary at the Central Office."

"RESOLVED, that absence from three consecutive meetings of the Central Council, without notice sent to the General Secretary, shall be equivalent to a resignation."

Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, }
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK *May 4th* 188*8*

A stated Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at *this office*
on *Tuesday May 8th* at *4:30* o'clock *P.* M

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Jas. K. Gracie

Secretary.
Chairman.



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

Hon. Abram S. Hewitt
& City Hall, City

No. 105.]

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, }
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK,

May 29th 1888

A stated Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at the Presidents office 120 Broadway
on Tuesday, June 12th at 3³⁰ o'clock P.M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Jas. K. Gracie

Secretary.
Chairman



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.



Hugh J. Grant,
City Hall, City.

No. 105.]

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, {
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK. *August 3rd* 18*89*

A stated Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at *this office*

on *Tuesday, August 6th* at *4³⁰* o'clock *P*.M-

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Otto T. Barnard

Secretary.

Chairman



Hon. Hugh J. Grant,
City Hall,
City.

No. 105.]

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, {
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK. *September 7th 1889.*

A stated Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at *this office*

on *Tuesday, September 10th* at *4³⁰* o'clock *P.* M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Otto T. Barnard

Secretary.
~~Chairman~~

B.



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.



Hugh J. Grant,
City Hall
City

No. 105.]

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, {
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK, *October* 18 *89*

The postponed Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at *this office*

on *Thursday, October 17th* at *4 30* o'clock *P.* M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Otto T. Bannard

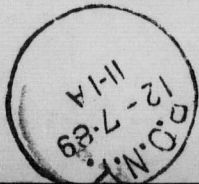
Secretary.
~~Chairman.~~

B.

Charity Organizing Society
Dec. 7/09



13
Hon. Hugh J. Grant,
City Hall,
City



No. 105.]

STANDING RESOLUTIONS: "RESOLVED, That when any member is unable to attend a meeting of the Council, it is expected that he will send written notice thereof to the Secretary at the Central Office."

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, {
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK, *Dec. 7th* 18 *89*

A stated Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at *this office*

on *Tuesday, Dec. 10th* at *4:30* o'clock *P. M.*

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Otto J. Bannard

Secretary.

~~Chairman~~

E.



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE

Hon. Hugh S. Grant,
City Hall,
City.

No. 105.]

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, }
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK,

June 7th 1890.
at stated Meeting of the

Central Council
will be held at *this office*
on *Tuesday, June 10th* at *4 30* o'clock *P*M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Otto F. Bannard

Secretary.
Chairman



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE

Hon. Hugh S. Grant,
City Hall,
City.

No. 105.]

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2nd Office
Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, }
21 University Place: }

NEW YORK, *June 7th* 1890.

at stated

Meeting of the

Central Council

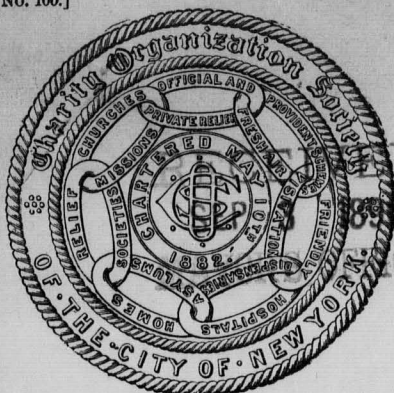
will be held at *this office*

on *Tuesday, June 10th* at *4 30* o'clock *P.*M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Otto F. Bannard

Secretary,
~~Chairman~~



ROBT W. DE FOREST,
President.

CHAS. S. FAIRCHILD,
Vice-President.

CONSTANT A. ANDREWS,
Treasurer.

OTTO T. BANNARD,
Secretary.

Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

CENTRAL OFFICE,

21 University Place.

CHAS. D. KELLOGG, General Secretary.

(Telephone No. 380. 21st Street.)

Cable Address "CHARITY, NEWYORK."

Sept 2nd 1890.

2.

Hon. Hugh J. Grant,
City Hall, N. Y. City.

Dear Sir:

The next regular monthly meeting
of the Central Council will be held at
120 Broadway, 9th Sept. at 3 P.M.

Please observe that this notice
is sent in compliance with the
constitution, but that no quorum
is expected, and attendance is not
required.

Otto T. Bannard,
Secy. per C.

Charity Organzⁿ Socy

Sep 2/90

Meeting

13



TOP
JG 87



12-18
8-3-91
D. J. Grant

NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

Hon. H. J. Grant
City Hall.
N. Y. City

No. 105.]

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office, }
21 University Place, }

NEW YORK

August 8, 1891

Meeting of the

will be held at

on

my office, 120 Broadway
Tuesday, August 11, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

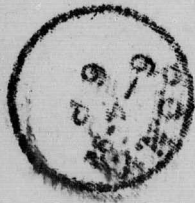
Robt. W. Anderson

Gen'l Sec'y.
Chairman.

B.



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.



Hon. H. S. Grant,
City Hall,
City.

No. 105.]

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

Central Office }
21 University Place. }

NEW YORK,

June 4th 1892.

A regular Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at

21 University Place

on

Wednesday, June 2nd at *4.30* o'clock *P.* M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Robt W de Forest

~~Genl Secy.~~
Chairman.

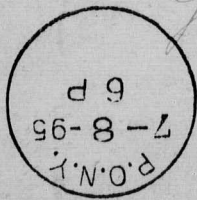
A.

2

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.

United States of America

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Hon. Wm L. Strong,
City Hall,
City.

No. 105.]

STANDING RESOLUTIONS: "RESOLVED, That when any member is unable to attend a meeting of the Council, it is expected that he will send a written notice thereof to the General Secretary at the Central Office."

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Charity Organization Society

OF THE CITY OF

United Charities Building, }
105 East 22d Street. }

NEW YORK,

July 8, 189*5*

The next regular Meeting of the

Central Council

will be held at

105 East 22d St.

on

Wednesday, 10th inst.

at

3 30

o'clock

P. M.

Your prompt attendance is requested.

Robt. W. de Forest

Gen'l Sec'y
Chairman.

93.

dependence. ~~It encourages the establishment of such dependent~~
~~institutions. It is the policy of the United States to~~
~~improvement of the~~

ARTICLE III.

Membership.

SECTION 1. The Society shall be composed of the following persons :

- 1.—Members of District Committees.
- 2.—Active Members (any person who shall subscribe not less than five dollars to the Society annually).
- 3.—Life Members (any person who shall subscribe one hundred dollars to the Society).
- 4.—*Ex-officio* Members (as specified in section 3 of this article).

SEC. 2. No person shall be a member of the Society until approved and admitted by the Committee on Membership.

SEC. 3. The Mayor of the City of New York, the President of the Board of Commissioners of Police, the President of the Board of Health, the President of the Board of Commissioners of Charities and Correction, ~~a representative of the State Board of Charities~~, and a representative of the State Charities Aid Association shall be *ex-officio* members of the Society.

SEC. 4. The Committee on Membership shall consist of three persons appointed by the President of the Council for one year. It shall meet as often as may be necessary and pass upon the names of all persons qualified for membership, and shall file a certified list of such names as are approved in the Central Office of the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

The Central Council.

SECTION 1. The management of the Society shall be vested in a Central Council, which shall have the control of all questions of principle and of all matters relating to the work of the Society generally.

SEC. 2. The Central Council shall consist of—

- 1.—~~Fifteen~~ *Twenty* members of the Society, who shall be elected by ballot at the regular annual meeting.
- 2.—The Chairman or one delegate from each District Committee.
- 3.—*Ex-officio* members of the Society, as provided in section 3 of article iii.

SEC. 3. 1.—The Officers of the Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and shall be elected by ballot at the first meeting of the Council after the annual meeting of the Society.

2.—The Officers of the Council shall also be the officers of the Society.

SEC. 4. The Council shall have power to fill vacancies occurring in its own body.

SEC. 5. 1.—There shall be a regular meeting of the Council on the first of each month. Special meetings may be called by vote of the Council or by any officer, with the concurrence of three members, and of such meetings at least *5* days notice in writing shall be given, specifying the business to be brought forward.

2.—At any regular meeting of the Council five members shall constitute a quorum, but at any special meeting the presence of ten members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

SEC. 6. The Council may adopt a regular order of business for its meetings and suitable regulations for the conduct of the same, and may from time to time alter or suspend such regulations.

SEC. 7. The Council shall make such by-laws as it may deem necessary, governing the direction of the Society, and may also alter or suspend such by-laws.

ARTICLE V.

The Central Office.

There shall be a Central Office or headquarters of the Society, where the Council shall meet and the general business of the Society shall be transacted, and where record shall be kept of all the work of the Society.

ARTICLE VI.

District Committees, etc.

SECTION 1. The city shall be divided, for the purposes of the Society, into such districts as the Council shall designate, but the Council may unite any two or more of such districts into one, and may at any time rearrange such districts.

SEC. 2. 1.—In each district or combination of districts, there shall be a District Committee, consisting of five or more residents. The Council shall, after its organization, appoint the members of such committee, and they shall thereafter have power to fill vacancies in their own number, subject to the approval of the Council. In case a rearrangement of districts shall be made at any time by the Council, it shall appoint in the first instance the committee for the newly-combined districts.

2.—Each District Committee shall elect from its own numbers a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SEC. 3. 1.—Each District Committee shall, subject to the control of the Council, manage the work of the Society within its district, and appoint and recall visitors.

2.—All persons employed by the Council or District Committees, in any capacity whatsoever, shall subscribe to the Constitution of the Society before being assigned to any position.

3.—The District Committees may also make by-laws for their own government and adopt any measure which they deem expedient, provided that such by-laws and measures do not conflict with the Constitution of the Society nor with its by-laws.

SEC. 4. An office shall be established in a central and convenient position in each district or combination of districts, for the meetings of the Committees, for receiving applications, and for facility of reference.

SEC. 5. The District Committees shall only deal with the cases of persons resident in their respective districts.

ARTICLE VII.

Subscriptions and Funds.

SECTION 1. Subscriptions to the funds of the Society shall be paid to the Treasurer or to such person as shall be designated by the Council for that purpose. All annual subscriptions shall become due on the first day of *March* in each year.

SEC. 2. The Treasurer or other persons designated to receive subscriptions shall make monthly reports to the Council of all sums received. The Committee on Membership shall thereupon cause to be entered, opposite the name of each subscriber, on the list prepared by it, the payment of the sum received, and shall notify all annual subscribers who fail to pay their dues within the month of *March* that the same are unpaid.

SEC. 3. No member of the Society shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting or election of the Council, or shall be elected to any office, who, after being notified as

*The President
of the Board
of Com. of
Emigration*

*The N.Y. City
Commissioner*

above provided, shall have failed to pay his annual dues. But no election shall be invalidated because of the fact that members disqualified under this section voted thereat.

ARTICLE VIII.

Meetings of the Society.

SECTION 1. An annual meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place, in or about the month of *April*, as the Council may designate. The Council may also call a special meeting at any time.

SEC. 2. Any twenty-five members of the Society shall have power to require the President of the Council to call a special meeting, by a written request, specifying the business to be brought forward; and the President of the Council shall thereupon call a meeting within twenty days.

SEC. 3. 1.—Every meeting of the Society shall be announced at least five days previously by circular and advertisement.

2.—Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum.

3.—At any special meeting only such matters shall be brought forward or discussed as were specified in the notice of such meeting.

SEC. 4. The Council shall submit to the annual meeting a report of their proceedings and of the condition of the Society. They shall also submit a statement of the financial condition of the Society and of its income and expenditures during the past year; also estimates for the ensuing year, and such further suggestions and statements as they may deem expedient.

ARTICLE IX.

Amendments, etc.

This Constitution shall not be amended except by the resolution of a two-thirds vote of a meeting of the Council, at which at least ten members shall be present, due notice of such amendment having been already given at a previous stated meeting of the Council.

Charity Organization Society
Oct 11
J. H. Roosevelt

(TO BE USED FOR COPIES OF OFFICIAL LETTERS.)

STATE OF NEW YORK—STATE COMMISSION IN LUNACY.

CARLOS F. MAC DONALD, M.D., PRESIDENT,
 GOODWIN BROWN,
 HENRY A. REEVES,
 COMMISSIONERS.

T. E. MCGARR, SECRETARY.

New York
~~ALBANY~~

June 7, 1895.

To his Excellency

The Governor:

Sir:- Although directly concerned in the result of the debate which has arisen over the bill to transfer the dependent insane of New York county to the custody of the State, and in lieu of the four asylums now occupied by them to establish the Manhattan State Hospital, and although on their behalf deeply solicitous of the action which you shall finally decide to take upon this bill, till now the State Commission in Lunacy has scrupulously abstained from official interference with what, primarily at least, is declared to be a legal question. It has not sought to influence the decision of that question, though various misleading newspaper reports to that effect have been published. It would not now intermeddle with any purely legal matter requiring action at the hands of the Chief Executive of the State; but there are considerations higher than the technical views of statutory or constitutional construction which have been or may be submitted to you in dealing with the bill referred to; and there are occasions when the spirit and governing purpose of legislation should be invoked to control its interpretation and to apply a remedy for any defect in language or in the mere mode of enactment.

Believing that the pending measure in your Excellency's hands carries with it consequences of the largest and most far-reaching

1 Governor 2

2 import to the people of both the State and County of New York,
3 and that in their moral character not less than in their pecu-
4 niary magnitude the interests involved rise to an immeasurably
5 higher level than merely verbal disputation, we come to you in
6 all sincerity and earnestness to ask if this is not such an
7 occasion as should and must warrant you in disregarding narrow
8 limitations or rules for technical guidance and in acting on
9 the broadest basis of executive direction, to-wit: the obvious
10 will and desire of the people, in this case of both State and
11 County, as expressed by a unanimous vote in both Houses of the
12 Legislature.

13 We feel impelled to do this by a solemn sense of official ob-
14 ligation, which has become imperative as a result of a careful
15 inspection, completed on yesterday, of the buildings, offices,
16 apartments and grounds occupied and used by the insane of New
17 York county at the asylums at Central Islip and on Ward's, Black-
18 well's and Hart's Islands. That inspection served to deepen
19 convictions under which, heretofore at different times, the
20 Commission has signified its opinion of the very serious evils
21 exist~~ing~~ing in the organization and management of the county insane
22 asylums, and has sought, with only meagre and most unsatisfactory
23 success, to secure the adoption and enforcement of proper re-
24 medial measures. That inspection brought vividly to view the
25 useless and almost hopeless character of any undertaking that
26 shall proceed on the basis of compelling the present management
27 to suitably care for the insane. That inspection left in our
28 minds no room for longer doubting that, as at present organized
29 and directed, local authorities who are responsible in the matter
30 are either unable or unwilling to make sufficient provision for

1 Governor 3

2 the insane inmates of its so-called asylums. In either event ~~th~~
3 the responsibility of continuing under their charge for another
4 year the 6,700 inmates of those Asylums, with the moral certainty
5 that their condition, already in many respects deplorably bad,
6 must grow worse rather than better, becomes so serious, and in
7 our eyes so appalling, that we can not refrain from setting be-
8 fore you the exact facts and circumstances as we have found them
9 to be - avoiding betrayal by pardonable depth of feeling into
10 intemperate or indecorous warmth of language, but using plain
11 speech to describe actual conditions of which you ought to know
12 when you come to act on this bill.

13 It should be premised that scarcely any adequate preparation
14 to meet the constant net increase in the number of the County's
15 dependent insane during several years past, or even to meet it
16 for the year to come, has been made; indeed, so little efficient
17 attention has been paid to this obviously essential phase of the
18 situation, it is a fact that some buildings intended to enlarge
19 accommodations woefully deficient and put under contracts that
20 called for their completion in 1893, stand to-day unoccupied be-
21 cause contractors have not been forced to fulfill their obliga-
22 tions, while the material and construction of most of the new
23 work as finally turned over to and accepted by the Commissioners
24 of Charities and Correction is of a character which must strike
25 the most ~~xxxx~~ casual observer as wholly inferior and unfit.

26 In the meantime, owing to this inability or refusal of the
27 local authorities to provide the needed accommodations, the
28 dreadful overcrowding of the inmates, for many years a prominent
29 and actual ground for complaint, has steadily increased, and un-
30 der county control, must continue to increase for an indefinite

1 Governor 4

2 time to come. At Central Islip, the newest of the county asy-
3 lums, and where most of its recent expenditure for new buildings
4 has been made, the new groups of brick cottages added to the pre-
5 vious frame pavilions were calculated to house 750 patients, but
6 already they contain 800, though of the group nearest the central
7 offices two entire cottages intended to house 50 patients each,
8 while otherwise fitted for occupancy, are unused because in all
9 the time since work upon them was practically closed no sewerage
10 connection has been made and for that sole reason, sorely needed
11 as they have been and are, these brick buildings have for months
12 lain idle. And it should be added that the mode of heating the
13 brick cottages in use, by means of steam pipes laid under ground,
14 is seriously threatened by reason of the dangerous state of the
15 duct in which the steam pipes are carried; it has given way in
16 over one hundred places and is liable to give way at any other
17 point whenever extra weight is put upon it. Beyond patching of
18 these holes nothing has been done and nothing seems to be intend-
19 ed to be done, toward remedying this vital defect while the
20 weather remains warm enough to save the inmates from suffering
21 with cold. Should the duct fail of its purpose and the steam
22 pipes be so exposed as to lose their heat, it would be impossible
23 to keep those poor people through the winter at Central Islip,
24 where it would be impossible to crowd them into other buildings,
25 but they would have to ^{be} brought back to the islands to swell the
26 sum of misery there.

27 Barring poor material and faulty workmanship in those badly plan-
28 ned and built brick cottages and their dependencies, the condition
29 of ~~affairs~~ affairs at Central Islip is fairly commendable, in
30 comparison with the rest of the County's asylums. It is here

1 governor b

2 where, with a competent architect to plan and with honest super-
3 vision to enforce, an ample field lies invitingly open for an al-
4 most indefinite expansion of the present plant, and for com-
5 fortably, conveniently and advantageously sheltering and employ-
6 ing the thousands of insane now on the Islands. Of course to
7 carry out this prime purpose, the one main object of the bill in
8 your hands, a very considerable outlay will be needed, not all
9 at once, but as the bill provides within five years all the in-
10 sane on Hart's and Blackwell's Islands, now numbering 1600 on
11 the former and 550 on the latter, will have to be removed. To
12 supply accommodations for that number, at the State care limit of
13 \$550. per capita for buildings completely furnished and equipped,
14 \$1,182,500. would be needed, while to remove say 3,000 of the
15 3850 on Wards Island, to which work the bill fixes no limit of
16 time, on the same State care basis \$1,650,000 will be needed.
17 Hence to complete the work of transfer from the Islands to Cen-
18 tral Islip, as contemplated in the bill, will involve an eventua-
19 al expenditure of fully \$3,000,000, of which, if the present
20 ratio of New York county's ~~xxx~~ valuations to those of the State
21 as a whole remains substantially unchanged \$1,350,000. would be
22 paid by taxation on New York county and \$1,650,000 by taxation
23 on the other counties.

24 To present to your Excellency the situation just as it was
25 found to be at this time, with sufficient fullness for a clear
26 understanding, we submit a summary of the facts observed by us or
27 received in reply to our inquiries.

28 Since 1890 the Board of Apportionment has not appropriated any
29 money for new buildings, but in 1892 \$500,000 was secured for this
30 purpose by the issue of bonds. In December, 1894, the Board

Governor 6

declined to make any appropriation for new buildings, enlargements or betterments, Mayor Gilroy declaring, in the presence of Mayor-elect Strong, that the asylums should be given up to the State. For the year 1895 the Board allowed only \$50,000 for the repair account of the entire department, of which sum only \$15,000 was assigned to the asylums, and that is now almost exhausted. The Board did somewhat increase the appropriation for salaries and supplies, and with the ordinary increase of population the weekly per capita allowance for maintenance would have been about \$3.05; but the transfer to the asylums of about 200 inmates of the alms-house and other department buildings will necessarily reduce this allowance considerably. Out of the allowance for maintenance all the betterments, furnishing and repairs, beyond the \$15,000 mentioned, have had to be paid at the expense of food supplies and other creature comforts. In the matter of repairs this includes roofs, plumbing, doors, windows, steel ceilings, etc., and for furnishing it required purchase of new bedsteads, woven wire mattresses, hair for mattresses to be made by patients, tables, chairs and other ward furniture. What ~~proportion~~ proportion of the maintenance fund has been applied to objects usually covered by special appropriations can not be precisely given, as the accounts are not separated, but we are satisfied that fully one-fourth of the whole has been absorbed. All these repairs and betterments have been made while patients were occupying the wards, because the overcrowding is so great that not even the smallest ward could be emptied for the purpose. Floors were laid and ceilings and wards painted while at night. patients slept in the rooms where the work was done.

The buildings erected out of the \$500,000 bond issue were

1 Governor 7

2 expected to accommodate 690 patients. But, as the subjoined
3 table shows, the population since that time has increased 1326,
4 so that the new buildings would not suffice for the increase,
5 much less help relieve the overcrowding of the old buildings.
6 Two of the cottages at Central Islip, designed to contain 100
7 patients, stand empty because they are not ~~sewer~~ sewered, the grade
8 line of the buildings being too low to admit of connection with
9 the present sewer, while five other buildings there, though oc-
10 cupied, are not provided with electric light:

11		Male	Female	Total
12	Number of patients January 1, 1892,	2495	2955	5450
13	Number of patients, June 6, 1895,	3158	3618	6776
14	Increase	663	663	1326

15 We now ask your attention to a somewhat more detailed state-
16 ment of the condition of affairs at the several county asylums.

17 Blackwell's Island.

18 In the spring of 1894 a general transfer of female patients
19 from Blackwell's to Ward's Island took place, but some had to be
20 left behind for lack of accommodations at the latter place. For
21 their use the best three of the asylums buildings were retained,
22 to-wit: the stone buildings known as The Retreat, and the two
23 new brick pavilions. The intention was to gradually reduce the
24 number and to abandon these buildings as soon ~~as seen~~ as new
25 buildings could be erected. The ~~number~~ number was diminished
26 until, on May 11, 1895, 516 remained. The access of almshouse
27 patients made it necessary to again increase the Blackwell's
28 Island population; it now numbers 542, and will probably have to
29 be increased to a point in excess of last spring. The buildings
30 are comparatively good, though crowded to almost double their

2 proper capacity, but from the lack of sufficient bathing facil-
3 ities - the general bath-house having been given up to the Met-
4 ropolitan Hospital - there is great hardship, especially in view
5 of the filthy condition of those patients transferred from the
6 almshouse. The kitchen and laundry facilities - being in case
7 only a small part of those of the Hospital named - are also in-
8 adequate and unsatisfactory.

9 Ward's Island.

10 This Island is divided between the female patients, about 1500
11 in all, on the west side, and the male patients, about 2300 in
12 all, on the east side. On either side only one building has
13 build with a view to its occupation by the insane. On the west
14 side the "Branch Asylum", so-called, was built by the then ten-
15 ants of that part of the Island, the Emigration Department, for
16 an asylum, to which a wing has been added, divided in single
17 rooms, for 240 patients. On the east side the main asylum
18 building built in 1870, with wings since added, was intended to
19 accommodate about 1000 patients, but now contains some 1600.
20 Beside this, on the east side is what is known as the "East
21 Building", which till recently was occupied as a general hospi-
22 tal. It consists principally of large open wards; is in no
23 way suited for insane persons; it is extremely bad repair, and
24 its plumbing and fixtures are of the oldest and poorest kind.
25 On the west side, beside the "Branch", there are the Verplanck
26 Hospital, suited for about 400 ordinary hospital patients, and
27 now containing 500 insane patients; two barrack buildings put up
28 many years ago for ~~men~~ housing casual emigrants, and four pa-
29 vilions hold ⁱⁿ under pressure 60 beds each. These last named
30 six buildings were never designed for occupation by either the

1 Governor 9

2 sick or the insane, and could only be rendered suitable for such
3 service by extensive alterations; all are in bad repair, and at
4 least one is not worth repairing but should be torn down. When
5 built, over forty years ago, the Verplanck was a good building
6 of the then accepted model, but was not suited to confine insane
7 persons, except possibly of the quietest and mildest type. Af-
8 ter the Emigration Department gave it up, in 1892, partial re-
9 pairs were made, but the roofs, floors, walls, ceilings, etc.,
10 were left untouched. The living apartments of the buildings on
11 both sides of the Island are crowded so far beyond their intend-
12 ed capacity that the kitchen, laundry, etc., are wholly inade-
13 quate to do the work needed by so many persons; they should be
14 doubled in both number and capacity, so that, for example, the
15 food could be cooked and served at each building, instead of hav-
16 ing to be carried long distances in wagons.

17 Hart's Island.

18 On this Island there are 1600 patients. Of the buildings for
19 them only two are of brick or were planned with any regard to oc-
20 cupation by insane. Even these are simply large open dormitor-
21 ies; one was very cheaply and poorly built; four other frame
22 buildings of the same dormitory arrangement, are poorly built
23 and in bad repair. Of the other buildings three are barracks
24 built over 30 years ago and now entirely unfit for human habi-
25 tation. The remainder are small frame sheds occupied by prison-
26 ers from the work-house on Blackwell's Island until, in 1893,
27 they were turned over to the insane. Not one of these struc-
28 tures was intended, or is in any way fitted, for its present use,
29 and they should all be vacated forthwith.

30 Beside the character of the buildings, there are other fea-

1 Governor 10

2 tures of Hart's Island which make it unfit for occupation by
3 insane or by any other class of patients. A large part of the
4 land under water has been enclosed by crib-work and is used in-
5 termittently as a dumping ground for city refuse. If the fill-
6 ing in were finished, and earth were spread over the surface so
7 that vegetation could result, the effect would not be so unhealth-
8 ful, but as it is the stench is most offensive and the health of
9 the residents has been injuriously affected. The Island is, and
10 has long been, used for the city cemetery, or "Potter's field" al-
11 though the available space is nearly exhausted. Of course the
12 nearness of so many thousands of dead bodies is a constant men-
13 ace to the health of the living and a great^{wrong} to which the insane
14 should never be subjected; and it is intensified by the practice
15 of carrying the bodies, often in an advanced state of decay, upon
16 the passenger steamer, in close proximity or sometimes in actual
17 contact with the visitors, employes, patients, and with articles
18 of food supply used on the Island. No more horrifying conjunc-
19 tion than is daily to be seen on this boat could well be imagined.

20 Central Islip.

21 The original wooden buildings on the farm at Central Islip were
22 intended for 300 patients, and the brick buildings built under the
23 \$500,000 bond issue of 1892 were intended for 450, making 750
24 beds in all. They now contain 800, or ~~an~~ 50 more than the esti-
25 mated capacity, although two pavilions, each to hold 50 patients,
26 are not yet occupied and can not be until provision is made for
27 sewerage. Work on the new brick pavilions and accessories was so
28 delayed by the contractors that the last of the transfers could
29 not be made till some ten days ago, and there is still need of
30 additions and repairs. Though the number of inmates was raised

1 Governor 11

2 from 300 to 800 no increase in the kitchen, bakery or laundry
3 plants was provided for, and while some increase has been obtain-
4 ed by diverting part of the maintenance fund, they are alto-
5 gether too small and must be enlarged before winter. The first
6 plan of sewage-disposal proved a failure, and the sewage now runs
7 out on the ground about half a mile from the buildings - a thing
8 to be speedily stopped or serious sanitary effects must be ex-
9 pected. The duct which carries the steam pipes for heating the
10 pavilions has broken down in many places and other breaks are
11 sure to come whenever loaded wagons are drawn over it, as tran-
12 sit between the buildings will require. The possibility that
13 the heating of these buildings in winter may be interrupted is a
14 most alarming one. Want of funds cut down the electric light
15 plant from what was originally proposed, and now five of the new
16 brick buildings have to be lighted by oil lamps, a most dangerous
17 resort.

18 The following table shows the estimated capacity of the several
19 asylums and the actual number of patients resident therein on
20 June 6, 1895:

	Capacity	# Census of Patients
22 Female department - Blackwell's Island,	354	553
23 Female department - Ward's Island,	1110	1513
24 Male department - Ward's Island,	1620	2314
25 Hart's Island	1302	1598
26 Central Islip	650	798
27 Total	5036	6776

28 #The word "capacity" stands for that number of patients whom,
29 at the utmost, it is considered justifiable to confine in the sev-
30

1 Governor 12

2 eral buildings. The normal or rightful capacity of many of them
3 is even smaller, and some are not fit to be occupied at all.

4 It can safely be said that in those asylums there are not proper
5 accommodations for more than one-half of their present inmates.

6 One important point which has not had the attention it merits, ~~it~~
7 is the fact that the buildings and grounds now occupied by the
8 insane on Blackwell's Island to the number of 550, and all the
9 available lands and buildings on Hart's Island, where 1600 insane
10 patients are kept, except the accommodations needed by a few
11 work-house men employed to bury the dead in Potter's field, will,
12 within five years, under the terms of the bill, be released by
13 the State to the County through the removal of the inmates to
14 Central Islip; and that all of this space and buildings would
15 revert to the City for other charitable uses, of which there is
16 great need.

17 To our regret we are obliged to say that notwithstanding the
18 recent searching investigation of the New York county asylums,
19 matters in some respects have grown worse rather than better.

20 One of the steamboats on which we went from one island to another
21 was crowded with visiting friends of patients who filled the
22 cabin and upper deck, while the space forward was thickly litter-
23 ed with food supplies mixed with other freight, and among it were
24 two to three dozen bodies in rough coffin-shaped boxes, the stench
25 from which was simply intolerable.

26 In one of the large dining-rooms for patients, which we enter-
27 ed about mid-day, ten or twelve large rats were running over the
28 floor; it was stated that every effort to exterminate these ver-
29 min had failed; when a high tide flooded the sea-wall hundreds
30 would be driven from its crevices.

1 Governor 13

2 Some of the beef which was being prepared for cooking was of
3 the
4 decidedly bad quality, obnoxious to both eye and the nose; the
5 meat supplies generally are not up to the standard, and the con-
6 tractors in this line are allowed much too great latitude. The
7 cooking and the laundrying facilities are entirely inadequate and
8 unfit.

8 Everywhere a painful lack of proper facilities is observable.
9 The buildings in almost every ward are overcrowded to a most dan-
10 gerous degree, which only the direst necessity can tolerate or
11 excuse. Their general condition is one of manifest dilapidation
12 and decay, to an extent hardly credible after so much of adverse
13 criticism and public exposure; and despite the best efforts of
14 the medical officers and the attendants, whose zeal in maintain-
15 ing discipline and order under difficult conditions and against
16 heavy odds deserve a meed of public commendation, the state of
17 very many of the patients is one of extreme wretchedness and squa-
18 lor which must appeal strongly to the sympathies of any intelli-
19 gent observer, whether lay or medical, and which can not be truly
20 characterized as less than a burning disgrace to the great commu-
21 nity in whose name it is perpetuated. This could not well be
22 otherwise in such miserable apologies for habitations as are used
23 to house many of the 1600 patients on Hart's Island, some of them
24 being mere hemlock sheds hastily thrown together over thirty
25 years ago to receive prisoners of war and afterwards pressed into
26 the service for sheltering, if such it could be called, the in-
27 sane for whom no better quarters could be found elsewhere; most
28 lamentably deficient in facilities for heating and lighting, for
29 cooking and distributing food, for laundry, bathing, clothing,
30 day room and dormitory privileges, employment and amusement, they

1 Governor 14

2 are and have long been utterly unfit for human beings to live in,
3 and actually, in construction and arrangement, they ~~are~~ com-
4 pare unfavorably with some pig pens at the State Hospitals, yet in
5 these fearful places the insane are packed like sardines in a
6 box. To institutions thus inadequate and dreadfully overpressed
7 with inmates, recently, as if to unload on the State just before
8 it was expected to take possession of the asylums, the department
9 ordered a transfer from the alms-house of 137 persons, nearly
10 all very old, very decrepit, needing extra attention, and many
11 of them, as the Commission was convinced from its own observation
12 and from the answers to its inquiries, are not proper subjects
13 for commitment to an insane asylum; indeed, one of the certifying
14 physicians stated that a considerable number of them are idiots
15 and imbeciles, over whom, under the new constitution, the Commis-
16 sion has no jurisdiction, and who are obviously improper persons
17 for the wards of an insane asylum. Most of the others^s are of
18 the class known as dotards or persons suffering from senility,
19 or the mental enfeeblement of old age, who in a properly conduct-
20 ed alms-house could be kept in sufficient physical comfort; in
21 fact, with few exceptions, they had been inmates of the alms-
22 house for many years, and it will hardly be pretended that any
23 sudden occasion or valid reason for the transfer had arisen.
24 Furthermore, the Commission feels constrained to say, what it
25 saw itself, that the condition of these patients as to bodily
26 cleanliness and suitable clothing, although after their reception
27 they had been cleansed and purified of vermin, was entirely at
28 variance with the rules which the Commission, pursuant to law,
29 has prescribed to govern admission of patients to State hospitals;
30 quite a number were filthy in person and ~~and~~ clothing and several

1 Governor 15

2 were afflicted with the contagious disease vulgarly known as itch.
3 The transfer of these patients in such a distressful condition
4 to already dangerously overcrowded buildings, exposing their
5 other inmates to the peril of infection by vermin and of conta-
6 gion by disease, was, in the opinion of the Commission, and in-
7 defensible outrage.

8
9 Summing up results of our observations made within the past
10 few days, we can do no less than brand the condition of affairs
11 at the Island asylums of New York county as disgraceful and dis-
12 tressing to a degree which demands the earliest possible relief.
13 Above most other of God's afflicted creatures the insane deserve
14 the kindest attention and care; yet the helpless inmates of these
15 so-called asylums are poorly clothed, poorly fed, poorly lodged,
16 crowded into unfit buildings having hardly one-half the required
17 of almost every luxury and of many of the most ordinary comforts
18 capacity, deprived as well as of some of the decencies of life.
19 In the name of our common humanity and on behalf of these thous-
20 ands of wretched people, we implore your Excellency to give them
21 of any doubt there may be as to the literal limit
22 the benefit of your authority to act on this bill. Sign it, and
23 so hasten the solution which must inevitably come, sooner or lat-
24 er. Let the courts finally determine whether or not this doubt
25 be tenable. Where the scale hangs evenly poised, let the welfare
26 of suffering humanity and the moral sensibilities which raise
27 man about the brute serve as the turning weight which shall lead
28 you to affix your name to one of the great progressive steps - the
29 shining crown of a series of real reforms in the State's relations
30 to ~~int~~ its dependent insane - that will honorably distinguish your
administration for all time.

Do not forget that the only recourse adequate to a removal of

Governor 16

the evils we have sought to depict rests in your hands. Unless the bill is signed and the transfer to the State be made, no real or large improvement can be expected, because no money has been appropriated by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment except for maintenance, the city authorities believing that the State would assume full charge of the institutions during the present year.

We are sure that in giving effect to a measure of State policy unanimously adopted in both Houses and appealing so strongly as this bill does to the highest emotions of the human breast, all good citizens of our State will heartily applaud and uphold your action.

We have the honor to be

Respectfully yours,

Carlos J. MacDonald

Goodwin Brown

Henry A. Reeves

Commissioners

STATE OF NEW YORK—STATE COMMISSION IN LUNACY.

CARLOS F. MAC DONALD, M.D., PRESIDENT.
 GOODWIN BROWN,
 HENRY A. REEVES,
 COMMISSIONERS.

T.E. MCGARR, SECRETARY.

ALBANY, July 12, 1895

To the Honorable

William L. Strong

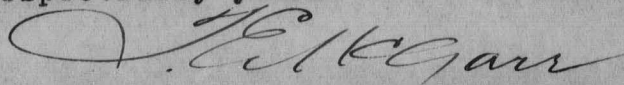
Mayor

Dear sir:

It having been represented in the public press that in a recent letter to Governor Levi P. Morton, the State Commission in Lunacy had characterized the bodily condition of inmates of the New York City Insane Asylums as one of squalor and filth, and there being reason to apprehend that you may be misled by such representations into an erroneous idea of what language the Commission used and what position it holds toward said institutions, I am directed to address you this note of explanation, inclosing therewith a copy of said letter to Governor Morton and respectfully asking that you examine it with sufficient care to note that the only inmates of any of the asylums to whom the term "filthy" was applied were the 137 patients on Ward's Island (since increased to 172), who had been transferred thereto from the Alms-house a few days before the Commission saw them, and who were unquestionably filthy in both person and clothing when transferred.

I am,

Very respectfully yours



Secretary

To RECEIVE ATTENTION COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE STATE COMMISSION IN LUNACY, ALBANY, N. Y.

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John P. Moore.

H. H. Butler, Post

Robert J. Wright.

Department of
Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners Office,
66 Third Avenue.

12
New York, July 18th 1895

John E. Redys Esq
Secretary—

Dear Sir —

Enclosed please
find copy of Letter mailed
this day to his Honor Mayor
Storoy at Richfield Springs,
which I trust will relieve
him of any feeling of
anxiety as to our Department
Very truly Yours
H. H. Butler

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

Copy

*No. 66 Third Avenue,
New York,*

July 18,

1895.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

39.
I called to-day with my colleague, Commissioner Faure, upon your Secretary, and beg leave to say that this Board has a copy of a letter addressed to your Honor, from the N. Y. State Commission in Lunacy dated July 10th, again calling your attention to the condition of the Insane Asylums and their inmates of this City, and urging that you take immediate steps to enlarge the accommodation, and improve the condition of the inmates, upon the ground that their condition was such that the Board of Health should be asked to certify "to the necessity of enlarged accommodation for their inmates upon grounds of not merely of their own" "health and safety as well as that of hundreds of employees constantly" "associated with them, but also and distinctively of the danger to the" "health and safety of the community at large, which might become a very" "serious one in event of an outbreak of infectious or contagious disease".

During the last fifteen years when this City has been afflicted with the scourges of Typhus fever, Small-pox and severe Diarrhoeal troubles, the Insane Asylums have had strange immunity from their presence, and when appearing have always been controlled without calling for outside help, and confined and stamped them out in the Wards where they ap-

John P. Faure.

W. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

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GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

peared; this was notably so when a few years since, Typhus fever was epidemic, and the resources of the Board of Health were taxed to such an extent, that this Department cared for their own, and established Typhus camps in connection with nearly all our large Institutions, and with the aid of our able Medical Boards prevented its spreading.

In the course of the next few days, we will transfer from Ward's Island to Central Islip, about two hundred patients and we hope within a month to transfer an additional three hundred to Buildings on Blackwell's Island, that are now in process of repair when they will be in every way comfortable, thus relieving the over-crowding to the extent of five hundred.

While this Board recognizes the necessity of much larger accommodation, they can see no reason for the extraordinary measures asked for by the State Commissioners in Lunacy, and from all the records of the Department, and from close personal visitation and investigation, believe that the Insane of this City and County are better housed, fed, clothed and generally cared for than they have been for many years, and that to wait for the action of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to make proper appropriations for 1896, will entail no suffering upon the inmates

This Board very much regrets that your period of rest and relaxation from the cares of office should be disturbed by matters seeming

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

189

to come within our control, and assure you that nothing will be left undone, to contribute to the care and comfort of the thousands of inmates in the different Institutions of this Department.

Hoping that your stay at Richfield will result in great benefit to your health, I am

Very respectfully yours,

H. H. Porter
President.

New York, Aug. 12th, 1895.

152

Dear Sir:-

It has been arranged, that our fellow Trustee, his Honor, Mayor Strong, is to visit the Floating Hospital on Wednesday morning next, the 14th inst., which will meet him at pier eight, foot of Rector St., North River, at about 9:30 A. M. of that day.

President Brookfield joins me in saying, that he hopes that as many as possible of the members of the Board will endeavor to be present.

The Mayor and other guests will remain on board an hour or more, returning from Staten Island either by way of Stapleton or New Dorp.

The Floating Hospital will leave foot of
West 52nd St., at 8:10 A. M.
West 34th St., at 8:40 A. M.
West 10th St., at 9:20 A. M.

By joining the Floating Hospital at any of the above points, Trustees desiring to do so, will have an opportunity of being on board, to greet the Mayor on his arrival.

Those Trustees who may be unable to start from earlier landings, will kindly join the party at the foot of Rector St.

Very truly yours,



Chairman Floating Hospital Committee.

To
Hon. Wm L. Strong

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York, Aug. 20, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary.

Sir:-

I am directed to notify you that the sealed letter was forwarded
to Warden Pillsbury, as requested by you.

By order,

Arthur Phillips,
Secretary.

(COPY).

Monday, August 24, 1895.

Kernal Forgetson,
Stood out by Watchman for disturbing the quiet of
Prison at night.

Sept. 8, 1895, 2 P.M.

Kernal Forgetson, May 31, 1895, 4 months.

On complaint of Keeper Wm. H. McDonald for persist-
ently demanding to see the Deputy Warden or Hall-keeper in relation to a
package he had already made inquiries about, and upon refusal violently
abused the above officer, using profane and blasphemous language, also
abused the Deputy Warden and Hall-keeper, and the Judges who sentenced
him using disrespectful and violent language in a loud and boisterous
manner.

(Signed) Wm. H. McDonald,
M. Kennedy,
Chas. L. Coppins.

Released Sept. 10, 4 P. M.

(Signed) L. D. Pilsbury,
Warden.

(COPY).

Sept . 16, 1895.

Hon. H. H. Porter,

President, Dept. P. C. & C.

Dear Sir:-

Kernal Forgetson was convicted Feb. 15, 1895 upon two charges of "possessing obscene pictures" and sentenced by Court of Special Sessions to nine months imprisonment. He appealed to the General Sessions was released upon bail Feb. 25th and sentenced here May 31st, his sentence having been reduced to four months. He will be released on Friday next the 20th.

Herewith I transmit extract from our "Punishment Record".

Deputy Warden Coppins, who ordered his confinement in "dark cell" informs me that he was very violent and abusive in his language in presence of a large number of other prisoners, and also states that he had received every article sent him with the exception of a large watermelon which the rules did not permit him to have.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Louis D. Pilsbury,
Warden.

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York, Sept. 17, 1895. 189

GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge your note given to Mr. Forgetson in behalf of his friend (who proves to be his brother) who is serving a sentence in the Penitentiary for possessing obscene pictures. He presented your note last evening and on being told by me that I wished him would make a written statement of any charges or complaints that he had to make, he grew very violent and threatened to go to the News-papers and said much that proved him to be unworthy of any kindness at our hands.

I at once communicated with Warden Pilsbury of the Penitentiary and requested that he make me a report of the record of Kernal Forgetson during his term, a copy of which and a record of the punishment book is herewith enclosed.

I would not trouble you under ordinary circumstances but this person, on appearing here this morning and being refused a pass to visit his brother (as his term expires on Friday and the regular visiting day is Saturday) threatens to again call upon you, and I thought it well that you should have all the facts before you.

Respectfully yours,

H. H. Porter
President.

46 Second St - Albany N.Y. Sunday
Sept. 22/95

Mayor Strong Dear Sir
CcC

I hope you
will pardon the liberty I have taken
writing to you. I thought - you might
be able to give me some information on
a subject - which is of great importance
to me. I would like to know if the
records of the Orphan Asylum at
Randalls Island are kept - as far
back as 1839 my Mother was adopted
from that place in that year. She
had a Brother in the same institution
The people who adopted my Mother
never told her who adopted her Brother
I could never receive any information from
them. would you kindly tell me

I would have to write to some time ago
I wrote to Supt- Blake who has charge
of Charities in New York. Thinking he could
enlighten me on this subject- but- receive
no answer. if you could do anything
for me in this matter I would be under
everlasting obligations to you. I am so
anxious to know if Mother Brother is
alive and if he is not- if any of his family
in case he married. My Mother's name
was Catherine Beecher and her Brother
name was John Beecher. again asking
your pardon for this liberty

I remain your respectfully

Jeanette Brunett
46 Second St
Albany N.Y.

Referred to
Chautes & Coe
SEP 23 1895
for examination and report.
W. L. Strong,
MAYOR.

(COPY).

New York, September 25th, 1895.

Hon. H. H. Porter,
President.

S i r :

In answer to the annexed communication from His Honor the Mayor, which was referred to me, I would say that I have no recollection of ever having heard from this woman Jeannette Bennett, and I have had the records carefully searched, but in those days, as they were not as fully and as carefully kept, as at present, the following is the only history obtainable.

"John James Beecher, aged 10 years, born in England,
admitted June 19, 1837.

Catharine Beecher, aged 8 years, born in England,
admitted June 19, 1837."

Respectfully,

(Signed) William Blake,

Supt.

I have written Mrs. Jeannette Bennett the above history
of the cases.

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

September 27th, 1895.

GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to return enclosed letter from Miss Jeannette Bennett, Albany New York, in regard to record of her mother's brother, who was at one time in the Asylum, Randall's Island, together with copy of a letter from Superintendent Blake, giving the only information obtainable.

By order,

A large, flowing handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "G. F. Britton".

Secretary.

(Two Enclosures).

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

October 4th, 1895.

GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

My dear Sir:

Our Purchasing Agent, Mr. Robert A. Johnston died yesterday afternoon, which leaves the Department without a Purchasing Agent. I will see you to-morrow.

Yours truly,

Robert J. Wright
Commissioner.

John P. Faure.

W. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

October 4th, 1895.

GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

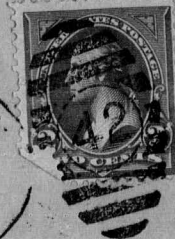
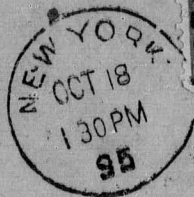
I have the honor to acknowledge your communication in behalf of Mr. Sterrett, Overseer of the Poor in the former Town of Westchester, with accompanying letters of recommendation, and would say that the Board had a conference with Mr. Sterrett and explained to him that the Salary Appropriation for this year would not permit the appointment of an additional employee in the Department; but that the Board, in its Estimates for 1896, would include an amount to cover the employment of Mr. Sterrett and any additional aid that may be necessary.

Very truly yours,

W. H. Porter

President.

61.



Margaret O. Council

Ward 34

Albion Ward

The Nurse

Bellerose Hospital
Foot 26th St. City



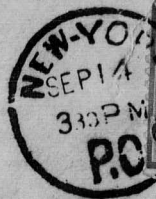
Reddell's 93 in this way day & the poor
victims have to buy them food.

Miss Connell

I ask you in the name of Christ
our Saviour to give me my poor
murdered girl wedding ring. it
was traced to you. you came to
my little home masked and in
the presence of a witness a U S
detection and in the hearing of
three other witness called me an old
thing. for having my poor murdered girl
in (as you said) an old charity
hospital. to me it was not an old
charity hospital for all the poor girl
had to eat the few days she was there
was what I carried to her, and the med-
icine and other delicacies I took to her
were stolen it cost me the least 12⁰⁰ pr
week & all the time those friends stole it
from her, & then lied about it & the thing
worse I have been told is now wearing the
girl's stockings & vest I took. the friend
Murray whom you told in my flat did ^{not}
steal the wedding ring took two dollars
in money from me on account of five
to be good to the poor helpless girl

until I could take her out the best detection
in this city have traced the ring &
the murder, one person has confess-
ed & that alone will send more than
me to prison. I pray you give me the
stolen wedding ring of my murdered girl
I will give you \$25.00 for it. it cost 26
& one of the little stones was lost. As for
God save let me have it. I will forgive
you all. & promise you will not get in
trouble when that fiend the murderess
is taken. don't think I am alone and
friendless if I did send my friends to an
old charity hospital as you said. you said
enough while to convict my porter.

give me the stolen ring of my murdered
girl. the curse of God will rest upon you
until you do. I will give you \$20.00 &
you can go free & no trouble. there
was a private autopsy on the body of
that poor murdered girl after she had
been taken to the receiving tomb by two
of the best doctors in this city. she was
poisoned with the black bottle warden
said she had odema of the lungs an
infernal lie. that human slaughter house
is not a charity hospital. for the patients
who go there have to buy all they get



Margaret O'Connell
ward 34
Bellevue Hospital
New York City



Madam

I have been informed that you are reporting around that I abused you the day you called at my home. as you stated to "console me" about the murder of my girl. when you make such a statement you know you tell an absolute falsehood. I can prove it was to the contrary. You not only abused me shamefully. But you called me an old ^{thing} & if I had been a lady I would not have put my friends in an old charity hospital. & you called me not only an old thing but a despicable thing & you declared in a loud, ^{frantic} voice that she had lived with these men. I & my friends had no chance ^{whatsoever} to ask you a question or say a word. You called myself a lady. They have traced my child writing since the theft to you I told you I believed your friend took it you declared she did not. You & she were

the only ^{persons} ~~one~~. Console me. You were
implying brutal in yr language & manner
to me & I do not hesitate a moment
to say that you are worse than they have
proven you to be. (a thief of a wedding ring off
a poor dead girls finger) Now if you do
not take back yr lying reports that I
abused you. You may have something
else more serious to account for
than the theft (as has been reported)
the wedding ring of a poor sick woman
a patient. not a nursing as you
said in a supposed human hospital
who struck that poor girl with the bed
pan. you told me that she hit the bed
who beat & struck her with the bed pan ^{when}
she was too sick to raise up who jammed
the bed pan under her & lacerated her back

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert F. Wright.

Department of



No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

October 21st, 1895.

GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, and Chairman of the

Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Dear Sir:

I am directed to transmit, herewith, the Estimates for 1896, for the Department of Charities and the Department of Correction, in accordance with Section 189 of the Act of 1882.

By order,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. F. Britton".

Secretary.

John P. Faurel

H. H. Porter, Pres

Robert J. Wright

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

October 21st, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

It has occurred to me that it might interest you to see that our Institutions, (notwithstanding that they are so severely criticised at home, and the fact that appropriations have been dealt out with a parsimonious hand), are appreciated by gentlemen thoroughly conversant with their management, in the old Country.

I enclose a short note from Dr. Landee R. Oswald, of Glasgow, Scotland, and who stands in regard to the Institutions of that City as our Board does to those of this County, from which you will see that he has formed a high opinion of their management.

Very respectfully, yours,

President.

I, JOHN F. CARROLL, Clerk of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and Clerk of the Court of Oyer and Terminer held in and for the City and County of New York (each being a Court of Record and having a Common Seal), do hereby certify that the annexed is a copy of *a Presentment of the Grand Jury*

now on file in the Clerk's Office, and that the same has been compared by me with the original, and is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original.



3d N.Y. C.S., 5th Ed., § 74, p. 687.

GIVEN UNDER my hand and attested by the seal
of the said Court this *Second* day
of *November* in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and ninety- *five*

John F. Carroll

New York, Oct. 31st, 1895.

To the

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE
OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

THE GRAND JURY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, respectfully present to the Court, as follows:-

Pursuant to the obligations imposed upon them by the statute as well as by the charge of the learned Court, the Grand Jury have proceeded to appoint a special committee to inspect and report upon the condition of the City Prison commonly known as "The Tombs" prison and the Common Jail of the City and County of New York commonly known as the Ludlow Street Jail.

This committee has visited both prisons and upon their report the Grand Jury beg to present, as follows:

In regard to the City Prison, the Grand Jury report that every facility was afforded to the special committee by the Warden for a thorough inspection of the prison.

It is found that the sanitary condition of the prison is as good as can be expected in view of the present crowded condition of the cells. The committee was informed by the Warden that he had no cause to make complaint as to the plumbing or heating of the building. It was found, however, that the prison was lamentably overcrowded. This condition results not from any peculiar circumstances at the present time, but is a natural and inevitable result of the great increase of the population of the City with the consequent increase in crime since the year 1838 in which the present Tombs Prison was completed. At that time the number of cells for male

The toilet accommodations are filthy to a degree

(2)

that can scarcely be imagined. The facilities for bathing prisoners was 157 and the number of cells for female prisoners was 39.

In the year 1885, 76 cells for male prisoners and 26 cells for boys were added to the cells then in the building. There are now 298 cells. It is manifest from the most casual inspection of these figures that the present cell accommodations are entirely inadequate for the principal prison for the greatest City in this Country.

As a result of this over-crowded condition, many cells are necessarily occupied by two prisoners. This condition of things is very greatly to be deplored. The confinement within one narrow cell of two persons charged with crime can not but result not only in the greatest discomfort of the prisoners themselves, but in many cases in great moral injury to the person so confined.

We are aware that this matter has been called to the attention of the Court by very many previous Grand Juries, and that no action has been taken by the authorities whose duties it is to remedy such abuses. We are compelled, however, by our sense of duty to again call the matter to the attention of the Court and to express in the strongest terms possible our deep conviction that increased cell facilities should at once be given to the City Prison.

In regard to the Common Jail of the City and County of New York known as Ludlow Street Jail, the committee found a very different condition of things. Without going into details, it can be said that the sanitary condition of the prison is a disgrace to the County.

The toilet accommodations are filthy to a degree

(3)

that can scarcely be imagined. The facilities for bathing are entirely inadequate. It is manifest that prompt action should be taken to remedy this lamentable condition of affairs. A lavatory should be furnished and spray baths for prisoners; the present plumbing should be entirely substituted by modern and improved plumbing with properly constructed water closets; new baths should be placed in the Warden's apartments; there should be improvements in the facilities of the prison laundry; the floor in the basement which is now old and broken should be taken up and replaced with concrete; new heating apparatus should be put in to take the place of the present antequated and imperfect one; the entire building including the cells should be freshly painted; the windows and locks now in use are unsafe for a prison and should be replaced by those of more modern pattern.

The above are a few suggestions made by the committee. There are many more which might properly be made.

The Grand Jury beg that the Court will call the attention of the proper authorities to the suggestions contained in this presentment.

(signed)

Richard J. Cross,

FOREMAN.

Secretary

Howard Lapley.

M. J. General Sessions

40

Tombs Prison

Presentment
Grand Jury
October 1895

2299

COLE

John P. Faure.

W. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

November 13th, 1895.

GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

Job. E. Hedges, Esq.,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

If there are any poor persons to whom you think that the City's donation of a half-ton of Coal will be acceptable, I will feel very much obliged if you will send me a list of their names and addresses. I will see that they are visited and remembered in the distribution.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. Wright

Commissioner.

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

November 22nd, 1895.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am directed to state that the letter received through your office, from Mr. Henry Kirstein, in regard to the "Lad. Deb. Nurs. & Ch. prot." has been referred to the State Board of Charities, as this Department has no jurisdiction over the charity named.

By order,

Arthur Phillips
Asst. Secretary

(COPY.)

New York, November 22, 1895.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am directed to state that the letter received through your Office, from Mr. Henry Kirstein, in regard to the "Lad. Deb. Nurs. & Ch. Prot." has been referred to the State Board of Charities, as this Department has no jurisdiction over the charity named.

By order,

(Signed) Arthur Phillips,

Asst. Secretary.

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York, November 23rd, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor's Office,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of a note from your Secretary, dated the 22nd instant, with several enclosures referring to the "Ladies Deborah Nursery and Child's Protectory", all of which have been promptly forwarded to the President of the State Board of Charities for suitable action, as I do not understand that this Department has any jurisdiction over the Charity alluded to.

This Department is in correspondence with the State Board of Charities on the subject, and any co-operation that it is deemed we can furnish, will be promptly and gladly rendered upon notification to that effect from the State Board of Charities.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John P. Faure". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Acting President.

John P. Faure

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert F. Wright

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York,

December 4th, 1895.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary,
Office of the Mayor.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago, you asked me, over the telephone, in regard to certain lands under water around Ward's Island. When I attempted to reply, I was told that you were busy. I find that we have on file a communication from Denis McMahon, dated June 9th, 1892, to the Hon. Hugh J. Grant, then Mayor of New York City, submitting a proposition for the sale of his water rights around Ward's Island, and another communication from Mr. McMahon to Mayor Grant, dated June 15th, 1892, referring to the same subject. Also a communication from the same gentleman to this Board, dated Nov. 30th, 1892, in relation to the same matter.

Please advise me if you desire the return to your Office of the communications addressed to Mayor Grant.

Very respectfully,

G. F. Britton

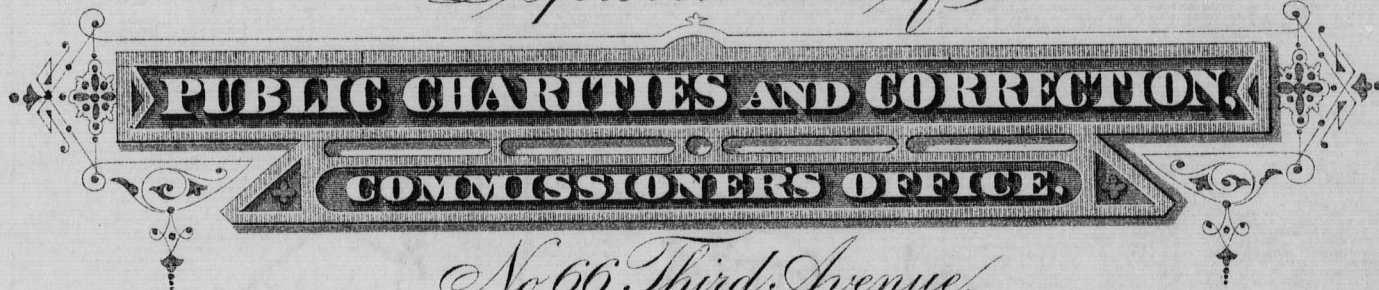
Secretary.

John P. Faure.

H. H. Porter, Pres.

Robert J. Wright.

Department of



GEORGE F. BRITTON,
SECRETARY.

No. 66 Third Avenue,

New York, December 6th, 1895.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to return, herewith, by direction of Commissioner Faure, the Report of the Special Committee of the Prison Association of New York, on the condition of the Prisons and Work Houses of the City and County, received by the Commissioner from you with the understanding that it was to be returned to-day; and to say that copies of the report have been made, and placed in the hands of each of the Commissioners of this Department, for their immediate attention.

By order,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. F. Britton".

Secretary.

DIOCESAN HOUSE,
TWENTY NINE LA FAYETTE PLACE,
NEW YORK.

Dec 10. 95

My dear Mr. Strong

He

I beg leave
to commend the enclosed com-
munication from Messrs. Eddie,
Kapler and Smith to the
Kind consideration of the Board
of Estimates and Apportionment,
and am

Very faithfully yours -

H. C. Potter

Hon. W. C. Strong.

The Right Reverend Henry C. Potter, D.D.

Bishop of New York,

Right Reverend and Dear Sir:-

The undersigned, a committee representing a number of the dependent blind in this city, beg to submit for your consideration the following facts, as a basis for their request for an increased appropriation for the relief of the blind in this city.

Year by year the means by which the blind may make a living are gradually decreasing. In the early years of the history of the New York Institution for the Blind, which was founded in 1831, the following branches of industry were taught:- broom, brush, and basket making, carpet weaving, chair caning, mat and mattress making, and also hat-box making. Today the trades that are taught in that institution are simply mattress making and chair caning. In former years the Institution employed its graduates in the various branches named. Today they have no occasion for their services.

On May 25th, 1863, a Blind Mechanics Association was organized which gave employment to upwards of forty persons at a cost to the state of \$2,500. After a few years this effort failed, and those who were so employed were again thrown on the pity of a cold world.

It is needless, we presume, to state the fact that there is not a living for a blind man in peddling. The law, quite properly, forbids one of our number from hiring a guide unless he is sixteen years or over; but, on the other hand, the wages such a boy could command places him beyond our reach.

There is only one argument which may be urged against this increased appropriation, and that is that it might draw to this city a number of blind people who have no claim upon New York. But we believe that the Board of Public Charities with their organization, can do much to separate those who are worthy and legally entitled to participation in this fund from those who are not.

We are grateful for your gracious consideration, and remain,

Respectfully yours,

Archibald Cadie.

John Koster.

William Smith Chairman

310 W. 40th St. City

John W. L. Strong
Bond of Estimates
and appointments

157.

LOCAL--NEW YORK COUNTY.

--:o:--

LAW OF NEW YORK.--By Authority.

(Every law, unless a different time shall be prescribed therein, shall not take effect until the twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Section 43, Art. 11, Chap. 8, General Laws.)

CHAPTER 872.

AN ACT to amend Chapter four hundred and four of the laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-five, entitled "An act to authorize appropriations for the poor adult blind in the City of New York, not provided for in public or private institutions."

Accepted by the City.

Became a law June 4, 1895, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed, three-fifths being present.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section: 1. Section one of chapter four hundred and four of the laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-five, entitled "An act to authorize appropriations for the poor adult blind in the City of New York, not provided for in public or private institutions," is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Par. 1. The department of charities and corrections of the City of New York is hereby authorized and empowered in its discretion to insert in the departmental estimate of the expenditures required for that department, directed to be annually furnished to the board of estimate and apportionment of said City by section one hundred and twelve of chapter three hundred and thirty-five of the laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-three, an item of expenditure for the relief of poor adult blind persons in the City of New York not to exceed fifty thousand dollars.

Par. 2. Section four of said Act is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 4. The Department of Charities and Correction shall distribute the sum so appropriated each year in uniform sum not to exceed one hundred dollars to any one person, to such poor adult blind persons, not inmates of any of the public or private institutions in said City of New York, who shall be citizens of the United States and of said City continuously for three years previous to the date of application for said relief, and under such rules and restrictions as the said Department may deem necessary.

Par. 3. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Par. 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

State of New York
Office of the Secretary of State. ss.:

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original law.

John Palmer,

Secretary of State.

45.

Department of
Public Charities & Correction,
Commissioners Office,
66 Third Avenue,
New York,

Henry H. Porter, President.

John P. Faure,

Robert J. Wright.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

December 11, 1895.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office,

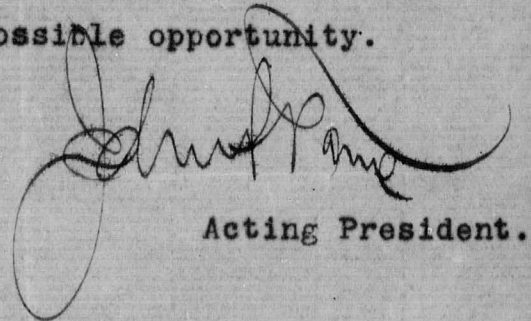
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I acknowledge receipt of your note of the 10th inst., in which is referred to this Board, by his Honor the Mayor, a communication from Anna M. Jackson, Chairman, "Women's prison Reform Committee."

The communication has been referred to the Chairman of the "Committee on Charities" of this Board, who has some very positive views on the subject which he will take great pleasure in presenting to his Honor, the Mayor, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Very truly yours,



Acting President.

ward 18.

City of N.Y. Asylum for the Insane,
Wards Island -

9th Dec^r: 1895-

To - His Honor. The Mayor of New York City,
Mayor W^m S. Strong -

Your Honor,

I beg to state that for upwards of three years I have been unlawfully incarcerated in the above Institution, being a perfectly sane man and a British subject.

In 1892 I went from my own residence, of my own volition, to Bellevue Hospital simply to consult the Chief Physician in reference to insomnia; but though suffering from ^{the} acute nervousness which always accompanies that painful affliction I was perfectly rational. I was, moreover, very quiet, sober & gentlemanly in every way. - The Chief physician being absent, I told the clerks in the office, at their request, what I had called for. After they had asked me some curious, ^{- impertinent} questions, which, nevertheless, I answered quietly & courteously, I was sent by them, in charge of an attendant, to another part of the building to see the doctor, as I supposed. I soon found that I was in a man-trap - the "Insane Pavilion". - I was there deprived of my liberty without any warrant or form of law. My pockets were searched, in spite of all my protests, and their contents taken from me, my hat was hidden away, and I was relegated to the society of mad-men & drunkards. Here I was detained for about a week, subjected to most painful indignities and galling restraints & inconveniences, and suffering from great anxiety of mind. I was then mysteriously transferred, under false pretences,

to this madhouse, where I have been detained, as I say,
since the 9th of Sept: 1892.

I have written, without avail, six times to the
Commissioners in Lunacy; five times to the British
Consent; once to the British Ambassador; once to the Grand
Secretary of the Masonic Order; three times to Sir Wm. T.
Whiteway, Premier & Attorney General for Newfoundland;
once to the Bishop of Newfoundland; once to Sir James
Winter, Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland;
once to James Pitman Esq., Barrister-at-law, Newfound-
land, Friends of mine, who have known me for many years;
once to the City Magistrate of Halifax; three times to Wm. D.
Campbell, attorney & Counsellor-at-law, World Building, N.Y.;
twice to the N.Y. Herald; once to the N.Y. World; twice
to Commissioner Fawcett. By this mail I am writing to
Governor Morton, and to the Commissioners of Public
Charities & Correction for New York.

I understand it is the law of this State & City that
no Alien - even from another State - can be lawfully
detained in this Institution, even if insane. Most
respectfully, then, I ask Your Honor why I, who
am sane, an Alien - a British Subject - should have
all the trouble I have been put to, and am being put
to, in order to procure my restoration to liberty.

I am sure there is something very wrong, which I
ask you earnestly to have set right.

I have never heard from any of my own Friends:
I am afraid my letters to them have not been forwarded
by the Officials of this Institution.

As you, Your Honor, sometimes come into contact
with Mr. Fawcett & the ^{other} Commissioners, you can, if you

think it necessary, make yourself more fully ac-
quainted with the circumstances of my case by per-
-using my communications to them.

Hoping for speedy liberation from this
horrible place through your intervention,

With much respect,

I beg to remain,

Your Honor,

Your most obedient Servant,

Wm. O'Connor

P.S. I must ask Your Honor to pardon me for writing
this in pencil, on such paper, and in such form; -
I have been ruthlessly & brutally deprived of all my writing
material by order of Dr. Macy, because I wrote a letter to
Commissioner Fawcett about a week ago. You can see this
letter and judge for yourself whether there is anything in it
to warrant Dr. Macy's arbitrary & inhuman proceeding.
I am sure I was only exercising a right ^{- that of writing -} which was recognized
and accorded ^{to unfortunate individuals in circumstances as I am,} away back in the Dark Ages, and surely
it is not only unchristian but inhuman to ignore
& refuse it at the end of the nineteenth century - in the
year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
ninety five in one of the greatest cities in the Christian
world!!

William O'Connor

NEW YORK CITY ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,
WARD'S ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY.

Male Department. W. A. MACY, M. D.,
Medical Superintendent.

REFERENCE NO.—

December, 12th., 1895.

41.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York, etc.
City Hall, N. Y.

Sir:-

I respectfully enclose to you herewith a letter written by Mr. Wm. O'Connor, a patient admitted to this Asylum on September, 9th., 1892.

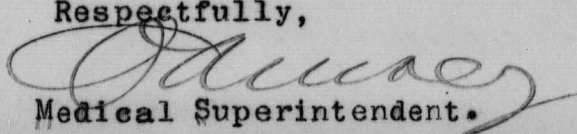
Mr. O'Connor is suffering from Chronic Melancholia and has a good many delusions of a persecutory character.

When admitted, Mr. O'Connor talked readily of his delusions claiming that he was operated upon or played upon by electricity, and that sparks were drawn from his bed and bedding and that people tried to draw his thoughts from him by electricity. Lately, the patient has been under rather better control and has at times refused to talk of his delusions though not giving them up.

On June, 12th., he was taken to Court on a writ of Habeas Corpus and later he was examined by Dr. C. S. Elsbach and Dr. Jas. E. Kelly who appeared in the case at the request of the people obtaining the writ, but the case was dropped as the physicians satisfied themselves that it was necessary to have Mr O'Connor cared for in an asylum.

We shall be glad to furnish any further information required in this case.

Respectfully,


Medical Superintendent.

41.
Department of Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners' Office,

66 Third Avenue,
New York,

December 16th, 1895.

HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, City of New York.

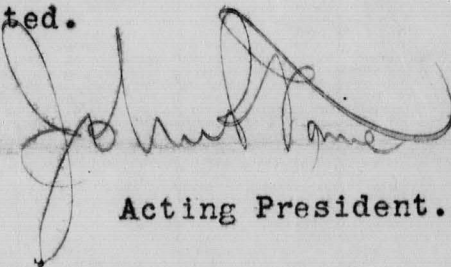
Member, Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Dear Sir:-

Herewith please find copy of preamble and resolution adopted by the State Board of Charities at a meeting held on the 11th inst.

In compliance with a suggestion contained therein, this Board proposes to make application to your Honorable Body for the appointment of not less than five Inspectors at a compensation commensurate with the responsible duties contemplated.

Respectfully yours,



Acting President.

(ENCLOSURE.)

WHEREAS the State Board of Charities has been requested to appear by its President before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York in support of a pending application to the said Board by the Commissioners of Public Charities of the City of New York for an appropriation to enable said Commissioners to employ suitable agents to determine whether the inmates of Charitable Institutions are those received and retained pursuant to law and are proper subjects of support at public expense or should be discharged; and

WHEREAS this Board is of the opinion that the appropriation of a reasonable sum for the purpose named and the employment by the Commissioners of Public Charities of the City of New York of competent and faithful agents would greatly reduce the number of children and other persons now supported as public charges and thereby save large sums of money annually to the City of New York; and

WHEREAS the performance of such work by said agents would in no wise interfere with the powers or duties of the State Board of Charities or of its own Inspectors, and, as the recommendation herein contemplated is in no sense intended as a limitation or delegation of any of the rights, powers or obligations, of the State Board of Charities; therefore

RESOLVED, - That President Stewart be authorized to recommend that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York make such appropriations to the Commissioners of Public Charities of New York City as will enable them to employ a sufficient number of suitable agents for the purpose hereinbefore mentioned.

The above preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted at a meeting of the State Board of Charities held on the 11th of December, 1895.

(COPY.)

Bellevue Hospital,

Dec. 18, 1895.

A Special Meeting of The Medical Association of the Charity Hospitals Of The City Of New York was held at this Institution at 8.15 P.M.

President J. West Roosevelt in the chair.

President Roosevelt stated that the object of this meeting would be specified in the resolutions as read by Dr. Austin Flint, viz:- (see appended resolutions).

WHEREAS: The Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, acting under a keen sense of their responsibility for the proper management of the Hospitals under their charge, had thought it well to extend to their other Hospitals the Organization which for thirteen years has given satisfactory results in Bellevue Hospital, in the belief that such action on their part would secure the best possible service to the sick poor in the Hospitals and to the public; and

WHEREAS: The extension of the plan of Organization of Bellevue Hospital to the other Hospitals involved handing over practically the appointments of the Medical Staffs of their Hospitals to the Medical Profession, and the removal of such appointments from any political influence what so ever; and

WHEREAS: It became necessary in giving to the Medical Profession such nominations, to confide the same to some organized Medical body, its bodies adequately representing the profession, and:

WHEREAS: The natural and logical advisers of the Commissioners would have to be the members of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital, consisting of a stable Organization and representing all the different important interests, including the undergraduate colleges and the General Profession, the latter being represented in the Fourth Division of Bellevue Hospital; and

WHEREAS: The Commissioners have actually reorganized the Medical Boards of their Hospitals in accordance with the plan of organization of Bellevue Hospital, and have actually given the professional nominations without reserve, to the Medical Profession, in the only way that seemed suitable, just, judicious and proper; and

(COPY.)

Bellevue Hospital,

Dec. 18, 1895.

A Special Meeting of The Medical Association of the Charity Hospitals Of The City Of New York was held at this Institution at 8.15 P.M.

President J. West Roosevelt in the chair.

President Roosevelt stated that the object of this meeting would be specified in the resolutions as read by Dr. Austin Flint, viz:- (see appended resolutions).

WHEREAS: The Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, acting under a keen sense of their responsibility for the proper management of the Hospitals under their charge, had thought it well to extend to their other Hospitals the Organization which for thirteen years has given satisfactory results in Bellevue Hospital, in the belief that such action on their part would secure the best possible service to the sick poor in the Hospitals and to the public; and

WHEREAS: The extension of the plan of Organization of Bellevue Hospital to the other Hospitals involved handing over practically the appointments of the Medical Staffs of their Hospitals to the Medical Profession, and the removal of such appointments from any political influence what so ever; and

WHEREAS: It became necessary in giving to the Medical Profession such nominations, to confide the same to some organized Medical body, its bodies adequately representing the profession, and:

WHEREAS: The natural and logical advisers of the Commissioners would have to be the members of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital, consisting of a stable Organization and representing all the different important interests, including the undergraduate colleges and the General Profession, the latter being represented in the Fourth Division of Bellevue Hospital; and

WHEREAS: The Commissioners have actually reorganized the Medical Boards of their Hospitals in accordance with the plan of organization of Bellevue Hospital, and have actually given the professional nominations without reserve, to the Medical Profession, in the only way that seemed suitable, just, judicious and proper; and

WHEREAS: The individual disappointments involved in this reorganization were inevitable, but probably less than would have occurred under any other plan of reorganization; and

WHEREAS: The conditions in the Medical management of the Hospital were believed by the Commissioners to lack harmony, unity and efficiency, and some remedy for the conditions seemed to be imperatively demanded;

RESOLVED: That this Body believing that it represents as adequately and properly as possible, the Medical Profession of the City of New York, commend the action of the Commissioners, in reorganizing the Hospitals under their charge and that it believes that this action should be accepted by the Profession with gratitude and approval, as putting the responsibility of the Medical and Surgical care of the Hospitals where it properly belongs;

RESOLVED: That a copy of these preambles and resolutions be sent to the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, with the request that they be transmitted to his Honor, The Mayor of the City of New York.

The members of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital present at this meeting of the Medical Association of the Charity Hospitals of New York City respectfully request to the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction that they appoint as Honorary Consultants all who were members of the Consulting Staffs of the various Hospitals under their charge when the present plan of reorganization was adopted.

(SIGNED) J. West Roosevelt, M. D.
Austin Flint
Louis A. Stimson,
A. Jacobi,
Austin Flint, Jr.,
William T. Lusk,
Frederick S. Dennis,
Fred Walker Gwyer,
Alexander Lambert,
Herman M. Biggs.

Moved and seconded that these resolutions be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

Meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
(SIGNED)

Alexander Lambert, M. D.
Secretary, Med. Assn.

*Department of Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners' Office,*

*66 Third Avenue,
New York,*

December 19th, 1895.

HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

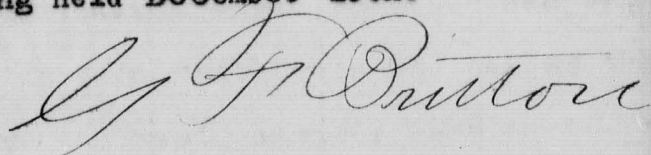
G. F. Britton, Secretary.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of resolutions adopted by the Medical Association of the Charity Hospitals of the City of New York, at a meeting held December 15th.

By order,



Secretary.

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*Department of Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners' Office,*

*66 Third Avenue,
New York,*

December 19th, 1895.

HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.
G. F. Britton, Secretary.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of December 3d, requesting a brief summary of the condition of this Department on the first day of January, 1895, the work which has been accomplished during the current year, and any suggestions for the conduct of the Department in future, I beg to state, as follows:

On January 1st, 1895, many of the institutions of the Department were greatly overcrowded, owing to the fact that the buildings had to accommodate a population very largely in excess of the number proposed to be housed, when these edifices were first erected. This state of affairs, which was due, principally, to the growth of our City, had not been recognized by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for some years past, or, at least that Board had failed to comply with the urgent requests of the Commissioners that funds be furnished sufficient to erect new buildings, or to make additions and repairs to those already existing. This statement will be self-evident, from a glance at the figures, which show that from 1890 to 1895, inclusive, this Department asked for

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Commissioners' Office,*

*66 Third Avenue,
New York,*

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HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

\$3,130,750. for New Buildings, and was allowed \$322,900 only; and during the same period, for repairs, \$592,400. was asked for, and only \$366,300. was granted. We believe that a careful investigation would show that the Board of Commissioners has been most reluctantly compelled to deny requests for really necessary and important improvements, solely on account of lack of funds to pay for same.

Some of the most evident of these evils have been: the overcrowding of the City Prison and the Penitentiary; the small, old and unsanitary building known as Gouverneur Hospital; the poor accommodations at the Alms House, and the lack of many needed improvements at the City Hospital, Blackwell's Island.

The Board of Estimate in allotting the appropriations for the present year, allowed but the meager sum of \$60,000. for "Alterations, Additions and Repairs to Buildings and Apparatus, including Steamboats, and including \$10,000. for the purpose of furnishing Bellevue Hospital with Bathing Facilities." -- or \$50,000. for Additions, Repairs, &c., for all Institutions and Steamboats. The amount necessary to keep in repair three large steamboats (none of them new) and two steam launches, is considerable; and a portion of this must be kept unused until the very close of the year, to provide

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New York,*

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JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

for any possible accident or emergency. After deducting the sum reserved for the boats, it will be seen that only minor improvements could be attempted by the Department during the present year.

Some of these, however, have been of signal service and value to the Department, notably the steps taken to improve the make of the Ambulances, to secure uniformity of design and structure, providing for interchangeableness of parts in these vehicles, and thus adding greatly to the efficiency of the service and the comfort of patients.

Improvements have been made in the Waiting Rooms on the 26th St. Dock, and sanitary conveniences provided therein.

Electric Lights have been placed in twelve of the ward operating rooms and also in the Prison Ward at Bellevue Hospital. (It was greatly desired to have electric lights throughout this important institution, but this was impossible, for lack of funds).

At the City Hospital, Balckwell's Island, ventilation has been improved, so far as limited means would permit.

The Laundry Plant at the Work House has been greatly improved, and much work for other institutions can now be done there.

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*66 Third Avenue,
New York,*

HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

Improvements on Blackwell's Island have resulted in rendering habitable and comfortable, certain abandoned pavilions, and the placing in them of some 300 Insane; also the completion of some delayed work at the City Farm, Central Islip, which has provided for 200 more, thus greatly relieving the overcrowded buildings on Ward's Island.

Perhaps the most noteworthy improvement made during the present year has been the construction of Medical Baths at Bellevue Hospital, the fitting up of which was made possible by the appropriation for the year, in which these baths were specifically mentioned. They are rapidly nearing completion, and it is believed will be found a most valuable auxiliary in the treatment of many cases.

In asking for the greatly increased amounts, absolutely necessary to carry on the work and improvements required for the coming year, the Commissioners hope that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment will ask the Legislature to provide for the issue of bonds for a sufficient sum to cover the most pressing needs of the Department .

*Department of Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners' Office,*

66 Third Avenue,

New York,

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HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

In conclusion, I would respectfully refer you to the copy
of a letter addressed by the Commissioners to ^{Your} ~~His~~ Honor, as Chair-
man of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and to report of
General Superintendent Macdonald for details concerning the Insane
Asylums, -- both given in the printed Estimates for 1896, and here-
with enclosed.

For the Board of Commissioners,

G. F. Britton

Secretary.



Department of
Public Charities
Commissioners Office,

66 Third Avenue,
New York,

Dec. 22d, 1895.

Silas C. Croft, President.
John P. Faure, Commissioner.
Jas. R. C. Beirne, "
Geo. J. Briddan, Secretary.
H. G. WEAVER, Secretary.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to enclose statement of the General Book-keeper & Auditor of this Department, showing the amounts of bills transmitted from time to time to the Comptroller for payment; also those in course of preparation and recently filed in this office.

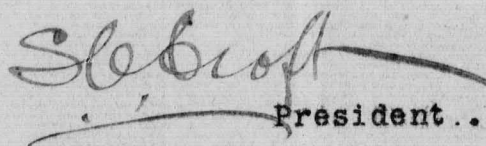
In assuming office January 1st, the present Board found that from two to three months elapsed before bills after having been received at this office were transmitted to the Comptroller. This resulted in numerous complaints from merchants doing business with the Department, and knowing this would have the result of discouraging competition from reliable merchants who would naturally base their prices upon a reasonable time credit, I personally gave this matter attention. It took some time for accumulated work to be disposed of; but within the first three months the work became so systemitized that no bills have since been retained in this office beyond 15 days.

By reference to the enclosed postal card you will note that immediately upon the transportation of bills to the Comptroller's Off-

ice, notice is at once sent to those to whom these bills are due, in order that they may locate the responsibility for any delay that may occur in the payment of same.

I do not recall a single case of complaint in the matter of payment during the present year that can be properly charged to any unreasonable delay in forwarding bills.

Yours very truly,


President..

(Enclosure.)

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.

United States of America.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



The Mayor.

City Hall.

N.Y. City

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New York, Dec 23rd 1895.

A Meeting of the Board of Managers
of St. Luke's Hospital, will be held at the
Hospital on Friday next, the 27th instant,
at 5.30 p.m.

J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr.
Secretary
J. P. M.

Department of Public Charities and Correction.

RANDALL'S ISLAND HOSPITAL AND SCHOOLS,
and
INFANT'S HOSPITAL, RANDALL'S ISLAND.

M. C. DUNPHY,
Superintendent.

NEW YORK,

Dec 26 1895.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong
Mayor

Dear Sir:

Permit me to express to you
my sincere gratitude for allowing the
extra employees asked for Randall's
Island which will enable me to
improve the service materially;
also for your kind recognition
of my services in increasing my
salary.

Very respectfully
Mary C. Dunphy

*Department of Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners' Office,
66 Third Avenue,*

HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

New York,

December 27th, 1895.

Mr. Job. E. Hedges,

Secretary, Mayor's Office,

City Hall, New York.

Dear Sir:-

I acknowledge receipt of your note of yesterday enclosing communication from Henry Jackson, Esq., which is forwarded as per instructions of His Honor, the Mayor.

In reply I hasten to say that the Manhattan Hospital is a private Hospital not in charge of this Department and that its name is now "The J. Hood Wright Memorial Hospital".

Referring to the Harlem Hospital, I am in accord with Mr. Jackson to the effect that the building is undersirable and that I trust that the efforts of this Board to secure the necessary funds to erect a suitable and proper Hospital for the Harlem District will be successful.

Respectfully yours,



Commissioner.

*Department of Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners' Office,*

66 Third Avenue,

New York, December 28th, 1895.

HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of December 3d, I beg to report in regard to matters more especially affecting the Correctional Institutions of this Department, as follows:

On entering upon my duties as Commissioner, I found that the Locks of cell doors at the City Prison were in extremely bad condition, rendering the cells insecure; the Plumbing Work was in need of repair, and the old straw beds were decidedly objectionable. The beds have been renewed; 142 new Yale Locks have been put on cell doors; and the plumbing has been put in good order. The Prison has been partially repainted, and, considering its being so old a structure, and its constantly overcrowded state, it is now in passably fair condition.

At Essex Market Prison, the straw beds have been taken out and replaced by wire spring mattresses; the building renovated, the plumbing work looked after, and it too may be considered in passable condition.

Jefferson Market has been painted, minor improvements made, and the plumbing temporarily repaired. We desired to put

*Department of Public Charities and Correction,
Commissioners' Office,*

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66 Third Avenue,

New York,

HENRY H. PORTER, Pres't.,
JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

in new cots, or mattresses, but the funds available would not permit of their purchase.

Fifty-seventh St. Prison is now being painted; the plumbing has been repaired, and when the work now in progress is completed, it will be found in very good condition.

The Prison on East 121st St. is comparatively new. The water-flow, however, was found to be insufficient; this has been remedied by the Architects. About 100 cart-loads of rubbish have been removed, and we believe this building is now in an excellent condition.

The small Prison at 158th St. and Third Avenue is at the present time undergoing repair and will be found upon inspection to be well kept.

At the Penitentiary a much-needed want has been supplied in erecting a new office for the Warden. This addition has been put up entirely by Department labor, and from stone quarried on the Island, its cost has been merely nominal in comparison with its value, and the work upon it is of the best quality.

At the Work House various improvements have been made, the most notable, perhaps, being the extensive improvements in the Laundry; rendering possible the employment of a large number of the

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66 Third Avenue,

New York,

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JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT J. WRIGHT.

G. F. Britton, Secretary.

Women sent to the Work House, many of whom are now employed at the various institutions as Helpers, but who could not be thus employed after January 1st next.

For the coming year, for Jefferson Market Prison, new canvas cots will be supplied, and the same for the Tombs. These cots will be placed, like berths in a ship, so as to insure separate beds for prisoners.

For Jefferson Market, application has been made to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for \$10,000. which sum will put the Plumbing of this important Prison in thorough repair; while at Essex Market, further painting will be done, as soon as possible.

Many visits to the prisons of the Department, and a careful scrutiny of the employees, convinced us that there were some who might be designated as "Drones"; we have endeavored to replace this element with efficient workers, and we hope that this has not been one of the least of the improvements made in the service of the Department, though it is one which admits of still further remedial action.

Very respectfully,

Robert J. Wright

Commissioner.

ST. JOHN'S GUILD,

501 FIFTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK.

Dec 31- 1895-

Hon. H. L. Strong,
Mayor's Office City Hall

Dear Sir:

A meeting of the Committee on

THE CHILDREN'S FREE CITY HOSPITAL

will be held at

on

the Hospital
Thursday Jan 6th at 4 P. M.

By order of the Chairman,

J. Henry Trumbull
Secretary