
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

LUNATIC ASYLUM AND HOSPITAL.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly :—

Your Committee, appointed to visit the Lunatic Asylum and Royal Hospital, beg to report as follows :

They have visited both Institutions, and found the Lunatic Asylum in as good and comfortable a condition as could be expected, considering the smallness of the building and the miserable position of its location.

The provisions were of good quality.

The number of patients were twenty-two, viz.: eighteen men and four women.

Your Committee recommend the removal of the Asylum to New Westminster as soon as practicable.

The Hospital requires to be wholly re-painted, and the walls, ceilings, etc., white-washed. A new system of drainage is also required, as the present drain runs underneath the Hospital from one end to the other, and ends some few feet above the well from which the drinking water is obtained. The sewage from the water closets empty into this drain,—a condition of things well calculated to produce disease.

A proper supply of drugs should be furnished, the present stock being very incomplete.

Iron bedsteads are recommended in place of the present wooden stretchers, which are in all stages of dilapidation. There is also an almost total absence of ward furniture. Each patient should be furnished, in addition to his bedstead, with a small table and chair.

The dead-house, which is underneath the Hospital, should be well removed from the main building.

The largest ward is heated by a stove, for which fire-places should be substituted, and this can be easily effected.

The Hospital grounds should be laid out so as to enable patients approaching convalescence to take necessary exercise therein.

The floor of the wards should, if practicable, be re-covered, and kept waxed,—or, if this cannot be done, it should be well painted.

Another ward should be erected (the extreme capacity of the Hospital being twenty beds), in view of increased population.

One ward should be provided and set aside as a day ward, dining-room, &c.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBT. SMITH,
Chairman.