

control of the internal affairs of the institution from the old board of commissioners and their secretary to a new commission consisting of the heads of governmental departments.

The system then adopted still remains in vogue, the commissioners retiring with any change of government.

Prior to 1872, the medical superintendent was allowed no discretion whatever as to the character of patients admitted. Provided the required legal conditions were complied with, he was powerless to refuse any case. All classes were sent to him, and this without any previous application having to be made. The overcrowding of the institution led to the betterment of this state of affairs by the publication, on June 26th of that year, of the following regulation made by the commissioners:

"It is ordered, in consequence of the crowded state of the Lunatic Asylum, that, until further notice, the Medical Superintendent be authorized to exercise his judgment in reference to receiving additional patients. All magistrates and others are therefore notified that, except in the case of Lunatics clearly dangerous and violent, it would be advisable before issuing or procuring warrants of apprehension and commitment, to communicate with Dr. Waddell."

On the 31st of October, 1875, after over twenty-six years of faithful service, Dr. Waddell tendered his resignation as medical superintendent. He was, however, induced to extend his term of office up to May 1st, 1876, that he might induct his successor, Dr. James T. Steeves, into the duties of the position.

On his installation, Dr. Steeves found the asylum much overcrowded. Some additional accommodation had been gained by the conversion of the basements and space over the laundry into dormitories, but at the close of his first year in office, the building, originally calculated to receive two hundred, had no less than two hundred and seventy-six inmates. To meet the emergency he suggested that the north and south wings of the building should each be extended one hundred feet so as to provide room for eighty more patients. A modification of this suggestion was carried into effect on the male side in 1879-80, and on the female side in 1881-82. The relief, however, was but ephemeral. Very soon the building was again crowded, and the problem of providing for those seeking admission became as pressing as before.