

the Provincial Lunatic Asylum and was placed in the care of a board of commissioners consisting of William Jack, Esq., George Matthew, Esq., and Dr. Peters. The last-named acted also as medical superintendent.

During the first thirteen and a half months of its existence, thirty-one inmates were admitted into the temporary asylum. When abandoned, in 1848, six hundred and fifty-two patients had received the benefits of its treatment. A record preserved in the sessions *ci* the peace minute-book states that of the above thirty-one admissions "there have been discharged—cured, six; improved, five; to friends, not improved, two; died, four. Of the remaining fourteen, one is much improved, two perceptibly improved and eleven without any visible improvement." From the same source we can judge that restraint was employed in the institution, inasmuch as Mr. Matthew, in submitting some accounts, remarked that these were for actual expenses attending the keeping, and that no allowance was made for destruction of house or for furniture, including straight-jackets.

The year after the temporary asylum was opened at St. John, the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, in compliance with a petition of the House of Assembly, appointed commissioners for the purpose of selecting a site for a permanent asylum, preparing a plan of the proposed structure, and estimating the probable cost of land and building.

A few months later, namely, December 2nd, 1836, the commissioners presented an exhaustive report, embracing all the subjects referred to them for consideration. It computed the number of lunatics in the province to be one hundred and thirty, or one in every thousand of the population, and recommended suitable sites. It estimated the cost of buildings at less than £8000, furniture £2000, and land from £700 to £1000, according to the quantity purchased, and dealt with questions of cost of maintenance, amusement, religious instruction and possibilities of cure. Accompanying the report was a plan for the proposed structure, a modification of the asylum at Worcester, Mass.

Little further action was taken, however, until 1845, when a correspondence was entered into between the governments of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick with a view to the erection of a combined asylum for the three prov-