

Overcrowding is a subject on which I have frequently written in my former Reports, but faithfulness to all the interests involved demands this further reference to the subject.

On examining the "Brief Statements" at the end of this Report, it will be found under the head of "Patients remaining and in what condition," that only forty nine are returned as improved. From these, and from those who may be admitted in the course of the year, will the recoveries for the year 1876 principally come. There will also be found in the same Table two hundred and six returned unimproved. From among these but few may be expected to recover, and to this incurable class there is being made every year some additions, and the evil is steadily growing worse and worse. The building was originally designed to accommodate only two hundred. It will be observed that the crowding amounts to one in addition to every four, and the worst feature of the case is, that the house is filled to its original limit with incurables, or, with those from among whom but few may be reasonably expected to recover, and the only alternative to meet the difficulty is to increase the capacity of the Institution or to limit the number of patients to be admitted.

In last year's Report I referred to some improvements and repairs that were then required which have not yet been made, but I deem it unnecessary to make further reference to the subject, feeling assured that they will be attended to at your earliest convenience. On the whole, the house is in as good a condition as it can well be put under the circumstances.

The Farm and Garden have been cultivated with our usual care and attention, and have produced an unusually large crop. This department has always had a fascination for the writer, and he has always taken an interest in it, but in no year of his superintendence has he been more gratified with the results than the past one.

At the commencement of the farming and gardening operations it required the years of 1850 and 1851 to reduce the rough land to make the necessary preparations for a crop. In 1852 we secured our first return, the proceeds from that date to 1874 inclusive, say twenty three years, was twenty six thousand three hundred and seven dollars eighty eight cents, as is stated in last year's Report. This year the amount received was one thousand one hundred and eighty six dollars ninety nine cents, making a total for twenty four years, twenty seven thousand four hundred and ninety four dollars eighty seven cents.

Newspapers, &c., have been continued gratuitously by their generous proprietors, and I desire, on the part of our household, to thank them most sincerely for their thoughtfulness and liberality. There is no kind of literature that insane persons peruse with greater gratification than the newspaper, especially when it contains the news of the locality whence they come.

The following are the Papers, &c. received:—"The Patriot" and "Argus," Charlottetown, P. E. Island; "Religious Intelligencer" and "Christian Visitor," St. John, N. B.; "Saint Croix Courier," Saint Stephen; "Union