

structed with special reference to the needs and requirements of the insane; modern improvements in heating, lighting and ventilators have been introduced, although the expenses incurred in the construction of the heating apparatus and in operating the same seems to your Committee to have been extraordinarily large, and every convenience approved by experience has been employed for the security and sanitary advantages of its inmates.

The officers, from the President down to attendants, seem to have been selected with due regard to those traits of character that ensure firm but kindly treatment of the insane, and your Committee were pleased to find none of those evidences of brutal treatment which are said to be the approbria of many of the so-called asylums.

The capacity of the institution is sufficient to accommodate two hundred and fifty patients comfortably, and by crowding, three hundred might be taken care of within its walls, at present its patients number one hundred and sixty, about one-third of whom are pay patients and the rest supported by the counties.

The institution is in debt for the completion and furnishing of the building, to the amount of fifty-three thousand one hundred and fifty-three dollars and eight cents, and ask an appropriation to cover this amount. At present it relies upon its pay patients as a chief resource for the payment of its expenses, but its visitors suggest that it would be more equitable to conduct it as a purely charitable institution, and to divide the whole annual cost of conducting the establishment by the number of patients it will accommodate, and having thus ascertained the cost per patient, to allow each county to send as many as its proportion of a general tax would at that rate pay for.

The Committee have also visited five other charitable institutions, and beg leave to report as follows in reference to them.

1. The Baltimore Manuel Labor School is located one mile from the Spring Grove Hospital, and is devoted to the care and education of indigent boys who have lost one or both parents, or whose parents are of such character and habits as justify the removal of their children from their influence. These boys are instructed, in addition to the usual elementary branches of an English education, also in the arts of husbandry and gardening, and, at a suitable age, are bound out to either farmers or mechanics. Some sixty-three bright, active, healthy boys are now in the institution, subject to such daily instructions from the Superintendent and Teachers as they may respectively need. The school has the appearance of a large family, and seems to have been quite success-