

(editor's note: This paper was transcribed from a handwritten cursive copy with various difficulties. For a perfect rendition, the reader might wish to consult the original, itself a copy, in the volume entitled *Literary Club Papers*, Dec 20, 1890 to May 30, 1891)

Longview Asylum

The asylum for the insane of this County is one of the notable charities of the community. It is the outgrowth of a combination of circumstances which have determined its peculiar legal status. It has been the subject of more than thirty years contention and its history is that of a great political wrong. I have thought an account of its establishment, growth and present condition might not be uninteresting to the Club.

The first asylum for the insane erected in Ohio was built in Cincinnati under an act of the legislature passed January 22nd 1821 (Local Laws Vol. 19 page 59) entitled "an act establishing a Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum for the State of Ohio."

By the terms of this enactment the trustees of Cincinnati Township were to furnish a Site for said institution, containing not less than four acres of land within one mile of the Public Landing on the Ohio River, and erect the necessary buildings (which were to be of brick) for the safe keeping, comfort and medical treatment of such idiots and insane persons of this State as might be brought to it for these purposes. The trustees were to receive certain compensation for the care of such patients, to be paid by the County, [sending the same if paupers or only the friends or guardians if the patients had estates. *sic*]

In addition the trustees were required to admit, and care for, free of all charge, all boatmen belonging to boats owned by citizens of Ohio or to boats of the Citizens of other states which provided hospital accommodations to boatmen of this state. They were also required to receive into said institution and care for all the paupers of Cincinnati Township.

The institution was to be known as "The Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Ohio." The state donated for the purpose of assisting in the erection of said Asylum ten thousand dollars in depreciated or uncurrant bank bills then in the State Treasury from which were realized \$35,000 in specie.

The trustees were, at the date of the passage of said act, the owners of Out Lot 59 on the original plan of Cincinnati, containing four acres of land being the premises now occupied by the Cincinnati Hospital. This was chosen as the site for the Hospital and Asylum and the trustees entered on the erection of a building thereon which was completed prior to January 27th 1824 as appears from the following notice published in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette on that date, to wit: "Notice. By reference to the law establishing a Commercial Hospital & Lunatic Asylum for the State of Ohio in the Township of Cincinnati the undersigned Trustees merely give notice agreeably to the 12th Section, that they are prepared to receive Lunatics and Insane persons agreeable to the 6th section of the Statute in such case made & provided. Benjamin Hopkins and Benjamin Mason, Trustees of the Township of Cincinnati, 1st Month (Jan) 26th 1824."

Henry A Ford in the "History of Cincinnati", page 206 says the movement for the erection of a Commercial Hospital in Cincinnati was inaugurated by Dr. Daniel Drake and the plan of an insane department was added at his sole suggestion. Mr. Ford further tells us that the first building was 53 feet front by 42 feet deep and three stories high; that in 1827 an addition was made to it 44 by 28 feet and two stories high, and a further addition was made a few years afterwards with a capacity for one hundred and fifty patients, and the basement was turned into a poor house, and was to some extent used as an orphan asylum. He says that the portion of the building appropriated to the use of the insane was designed rather as a place of confinement than an Asylum.

A resolution was prepared by the Legislature on March 1st 1831 (Local Laws Vol. 29 page 241) appointing a commission to visit the institution and enquire and report among other things "Whether the cells and apartments of the Lunatic Asylums are sufficiently separated from each other by thick walls to prevent the inmates from communicating with each other, and whether means of restraint and comfort and the various conveniences found necessary and proper elsewhere have been provided." It does not appear to have dawned on the legislative mind that there could be too much restraint for insane patients. They must not only be confined in cells but must be separated by thick walls to prevent communication with each other.

The Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Ohio was the parent institution from which afterwards sprung the Orphan Asylum, the City Infirmary, The Cincinnati Hospital and Longview Asylum. It was the beginning on the part of the State which has led to the establishment of the great Benevolent Institution of which Every Citizen of Ohio is justly proud. The Legislature on March 7th 1835 (Local Laws Vol. 23 page 294) authorized the purchase of land for a lunatic Asylum, and at the next Session (Local Laws Vol 33 page 288) authorized the erection of an Asylum for the insane on the land recently purchased for that purpose at Columbus. Said institution was to be known as the Lunatic Asylum of Ohio. On March 9th 1838 an act was passed (Swan's Statutes page 567) entitled "an act to provide for the Safe Keeping of Idiots, Lunatics or Insane Persons to be sent to the Ohio Lunatic Asylum and repealing all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of said act." Thus the Cincinnati Hospital & Lunatic Asylum of Ohio ceased to be a state institution on March 9th 1838 although the name remains till March 11th when it was changed to Commercial Hospital of Cincinnati.

The directors of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum reported to the General Assembly December 19th 1838 (Legislative Document 37 General Assembly part 1 Document 18) that the East wing of the Asylum had been completed and that said institution when finished will accommodate one hundred and fifty patients. The opening of the State Asylum at Columbus did not solve the problem of the care of the insane in Hamilton County. An asylum capable of accommodating not more than one hundred and fifty patients could provide for but a small part of the insane of the State. The quota of Hamilton County in such an institution must necessarily have been insignificant and notwithstanding the withdrawal of the insane belonging to other parts of the State from the Commercial Hospital that institution soon became so overcrowded that it was necessary to secure new

quarters and the Lick Run Woolen Mills property was converted into a temporary Asylum. This was soon to found inadequate.

The State afterwards built two additional hospitals for the insane, one at Dayton and the other in the northern part of Ohio and on April 7th 1856 the Legislature passed "An Act to provide for the uniform government & better regulation of the lunatic Asylums of the State and the Care of Idiots and insane" (Ohio Laws vol. 53 page 81) which divided the State into three districts, known as the Northern, Central and Southern districts. Hamilton County together with thirteen other counties constituted the Southern District, the asylum for which was located on at Dayton. It appears from the 4th annual report of the Dayton asylum made to the Governor Nov 2nd 1858 that this asylum had capacity for one hundred and sixty patients and that it had been full for eighteen months and that one hundred and fifty applications for admission had been refused for want of room.

In the mean time the commissioners of Hamilton County, in order to afford better accommodations for the insane of the County had purchased land near Carthage and commenced the construction of a County infirmary & Asylum for the insane, but some question arose as to the legality of these proceedings, and the Legislature on April 10th 1856 three days after the County had been assigned to the Dayton insane district, passed "an act to authorize the County commissioners of Hamilton County to sell certain real estate in Said County and to provide for the erection of a County infirmary & lunatic asylum therein" (Ohio Laws 53 page 235). This statute authorizes the commissioners to confirm the purchase of certain lands made by them for a County infirmary and lunatic asylum in the vicinity of Carthage in the year 1857 and to pay certain contractors for work done & materials furnished. The act authorized the commissioners to complete such infirmary and lunatic asylum in such manner as its capacity shall be sufficient to accommodate 300 inmates, at an additional cost of not more than two hundred thousand dollars.

One year later, namely on March 10th 1857 the legislature passed an act (Curwen's Statutes Vol. 4 p. 2873) making Hamilton County a separate district for Lunatic Asylum purposes and providing for the erection and government of an asylum therein, and that the commissioners shall cause all the insane of the County to be placed in such asylum when completed. The act further provided that the inmates of the asylum be supported and the salaries of its officers paid from "a fund consisting of all the money raised in the County of Hamilton by County tax for the support of Idiots, lunatics and insane persons and of such appropriations as shall be made by the State for the support of the curable lunatics in said asylum equal to the amount annually raised by taxation from the County of Hamilton for the support of lunatic asylums in the State." In other words, all the taxes paid by Hamilton County toward the support of the insane was turned over by this statute to the county for the use of said asylum. This was a fair and equitable arrangement between Hamilton County and the people of the remainder of the State. The county had undertaken at large expense to itself & without cost to the State to provide and did provide an asylum for the support of its own insane in consideration of which it was to be relieved in the future from contributing to the erection of asylums in other parts of the State or to the cost of maintaining the insane outside of the County.

It has been claimed that there was an agreement between the State and County authorities to that effect and then this agreement was binding on the State and could not be abrogated without the consent of the County because it was protected by the constitutional inhibition against laws impairing the obligation of contracts.

There is however no evidence so far as I can find that there was any formal contract made or attempted to be made between the County & State to the effect claimed. Yet while this is true, there is very strong evidence that there was a mutual understanding between the parties to that effect. The circumstances existing at the time and the conduct of the parties tend to show that there was such an understanding.

- 1st the county had commenced the erection of an institution for the care of its paupers and insane. This plan was abandoned & in its place and asylum exclusively for the insane was built thus requiring the county to construct and maintain two separate institutions instead of one, a course that would not probably have been pursued without some inducement having been offered.
- 2nd The act of the Legislature which made Hamilton County a separate lunatic asylum district and which was passed about the time the change of plan was adopted and three years before the asylum was completed contained the provision which it is contended was agreed on between the County and the State authorities.
- 3rd The arrangement embodied in the act of March 1857 continued in force for fifteen years.
- 4th When the provisions of the statute of 1857 was changed by the Legislature in 1873 the authorities of Hamilton County protested on the ground that the repeal was a violation of a tacit understanding and was a breach of good faith.
- 5th in a written opinion of the Attorney General of the state Hon. Cheney M. Olds – given at the request of the Auditor of State Sept 25th 1865 as to the proper construction and legal effect of Section 33 of the act of Feb. 27th 1861 which is identical with section 4 of the act of March 10th, 1857, he says under the act constituting Hamilton County a separate district for asylum purposes and providing for the erection of Longview Asylum Hamilton County assumes and undertakes to care for and support in said asylum all such insane persons as would otherwise be entitled to admission into any state asylum from Hamilton County “and it is in consideration of that understanding on her part that the State agrees to appropriate annually for the support of the curable lunatics in said asylum an amount equal to the amount annually raised by taxation from Hamilton County for the support of lunatic asylums in the State.”

I think the conclusion is inevitable that there was an understanding to the effect above stated, at the time the County of Hamilton abandoned the plan of erecting an infirmary & lunatic asylum and concluded to construct a building exclusively for the insane, and while I do not wish to be understood as claiming that such an agreement, even if it had been entered into with the greatest formality, would be binding on the State, yet the

equity & justice of such an agreement remain, and are morally binding on the State when it comes to consider what amount should be appropriated to the support of this asylum.

As I said before the provisions of the act of 1857 were just and equitable but the statute was fatally defective in its provisions as to the manner in which the amount due to Hamilton County should be determined. The duty was devolved on the Auditor of State and the result was a continuous wrangle and contention between this official and the asylum and county authorities as to the correctness of his apportionments. It is impossible now to know the details of the numerous controversies that arose but it would appear that in most instances he was in the wrong. Appeals were handed to the Legislature and more than once appropriations were made by that body to correct the erroneous rulings of the State Auditor.

A sample of these troubles is furnished in the care of the State on the relation of the superintendent and directors of Longview against the Auditor of State in the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1865. In making up the apportionment to Hamilton County for the support of its asylum the auditor had excluded two items aggregating \$38,000 appropriated for furnishing & making additions to the Columbus Asylum and an item of \$14,000 for improving the heating apparatus at the Northern Asylum. The attention of the Auditor was called to the omission by Dr. Langdon in a letter dated July 28th, 1865 in which he protests against the exclusion of said items and asks the Auditor to reexamine the matter. In answer to the communication the auditor on Sep. 29th 1865 declines to accede to the request to include the disputed items and encloses an opinion of the Attorney General sustaining his ruling. The auditor suggests that if the superintendent is not satisfied with the decision it is his privilege to institute proceedings in court. The asylum authorities elected to examine their privilege in this respect and an application was made to the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel the Auditor of State to include the disputed items.

Hon. Aarvin F Perry represented the asylum and the Attorney General resisted the application. The court on final hearing granted a preemptory writ on the officer and the amount claimed by the superintendent was added to the apportionment of Longview Asylum. The Auditor of State was not pleased with the decision & in his annual report he takes occasion to berate the asylum (three pages being devoted to that purpose) in a most undignified & uncalled for manner.

I have referred to this at some length as it shows the nature of the controversy that arose from time to time under the provisions of the act of 1857 and it is especially important as showing the irritation caused by its working between the State and County authorities. The ill feeling growing out of these disagreements and others that arose from year-to-year increase until finally Dr. Scott of Warren County took up the quarrel on behalf of the State and he proved to be the most persistent aggressive & unrelenting enemy that Hamilton County ever had in the legislature. Taking advantage of the animosities entertained by the State officials and others who have been drawn into the numerous contentions and the fact that the amount due Hamilton County for the year 1873 from the state under the law of 1857 was about \$48,000 more than it cost the county to run the asylum, he was enabled notwithstanding the injustice and bad faith of the measure, to have passed through the Legislature the act of April 28th 1873 which repealed the

provisions of the act of 1857 & substituted in its place a law which provided that Hamilton County should receive for the support of Longview Asylum a sum which should be as such a proportion to the entire appropriations for the support of the curable insane of the state as the population of Hamilton County bears to the proportion of the State outside of said County. In other words making the appropriations to which Longview Asylum should be entitled to depend on the relative proportion of the population of the County to that of the State outside of the County instead of measuring it by the amount of money paid by the County for the support of insane asylums as provided by the act of 1857. Under the former rule Hamilton County was entitled to receive according to a calculation made by Asa W. Waters, Esq. in 1881 \$16.47 of every \$100 appropriated by the State for the support of lunatic Asylum's. While under the latter rule is entitled to only \$10.82 of each \$100.

According to the report made by the directors of Longview Asylum to the Governor for the year 1879, at which time Judge H. D. Peck was president of the board, Hamilton County had paid into the state treasury for the support of the insane of the state between 1873 and 1878 \$67,700.00, and received back only the sum of \$465,992 or at the rate of \$60,382 per annum over what she received; so that in six years Hamilton County paid into the fund \$361,294 per annum over what she received. Between 1879 and the present time the county has paid into the State treasury on that account \$155,000 in excess of what has been received from it making a total of \$516,294 paid to the State since 1873 for the support of lunatic asylums over what has been received from it for the support of the operation of the act of 1873.

This is been heavy burthen on the County and in view of the understanding had when the asylum was built, an unjust one. Yet the county was and is powerless. It is a case of numbers against right and justice.

The injustice of the law of 1873 has been so apparent that no general assembly since 1880 has insisted on its enforcement. In the years 1880 to 1883 both inclusive, the legislature appropriated \$10,000 each year in excess of the amount due under the statute of 1873. Since 1883 the legislature has wholly disregarded the rule of 1873 and has appropriated Longview gross sums in the same manner that appropriations were made to the other asylums and not only has it fared better but the bickerings and irritation between the State and County have wholly ceased. It must be admitted that the Legislature in recent years has been liberal towards this County, the amounts appropriated approximating what is paid by the County for the support of the insane asylums in the state, and this gives promise that in the end the state will deal fairly by the County in the matter of Longview Asylum but it will require time and labor to bring the legislature to the point of restoring the law of 1857.

Longview Asylum is an anomaly in the system of the State, governing the care of the insane. It is regulated by a special act of the legislature limited in its operation to this County. The five asylums outside of Hamilton County belong to the State and are governed by a general law. Each is managed by a board of trustees appointed by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each trustee is appointed for the term of five years, but they are removable at the pleasure of the appointing power, thus making the trustees and officers subject to removal for political reasons. And so

strong is the demand for places by the active politicians of both parties that a change of the political complexion of the chief executive and Senate is soon followed by a general change in the trustees & officers of the State asylums. The Board of Directors of Longview consists of five members, two of whom are appointed by the governor and one each by the Common Pleas Court, the and the County Commissioner.

They hold office for five years and are not removable for cause, which gives the board a fixed tenure and makes it free of sudden political changes. When the writer became a member of the board six space years ago it was composed of four Democrats and one Republican, today the figures are exactly reversed, yet during that period I do not know of a single officer or employee having been appointed or removed for political reasons. In the management of the asylum politics do not figure more prominently than in the conduct of the Literary Club.

In the state system the theory is that only the curable or acute insane are to be kept in the asylums while in Hamilton County, the original intention was to provide in Longview for all the insane of the County. Neither of these plans has been realized in practice. It has been found impracticable to exclude the chronic insane from the State asylums and the accommodations at Longview are not adequate for all the insane of the County. The plan adopted by this County of caring for all the insane in one institution and under one management rather than having part in an asylum and the remainder in the infirmary is undoubtedly correct and it is perhaps only a question of time when it will be the policy of the state. The State Board of charities strongly urges the adoption of the Hamilton County plan and the State is from year-to-year enlarging existing asylums and building new ones with a view of ultimately taking charge of the entire insane population of the State.

In the meantime it is urged against Hamilton County by the other counties that the former keeps its chronic insane in Longview Asylum and draws from the State for their support while the remainder of the State is compelled to maintain its chronic insane in the infirmaries and it is true that there are about 300 persons in the asylum who would have to be provided for in the infirmaries if the same rule prevailed here as in other parts of the state. The answer to this is that something should be allowed this County in its investment in Longview and what it costs to support the chronic insane now in the asylum is but a partial return on the cost of erecting & maintaining its asylum.

As I said above the case of the insane in this county is an exception to its general system of the State and for more than twenty years spasmodic efforts have been made on part of the state to acquire the ownership and control of Longview and make it a part of the State System. Within eight days after the passage of the act of April 28th 1873 the general assembly passed a joint resolution (Ohio Laws p. 409) making it “the duty of the governor, auditor of state and attorney general to confer with the proper authorities of Hamilton County & Longview asylum as to the prices & equitable terms upon which said asylum & the government thereof can be transferred to the state & to report to the next session of the General assembly.”

This was followed in April 20th 1881 by a joint resolution (Ohio Laws 78 p. 438) directing the Supreme Court to appoint a commission of three – one of whom should be

from Hamilton County – to enquire and report on the same subject. Ex-governor Jacob D. Cox was one of the members of said commission. It visited the asylum, heard testimony and investigated the matter referred to in the joint resolution. I have not been able to find the reports made by either of these committees, but I have a copy of the printed brief of Asa W. Waters, Esq who represented the county before the last committee. From this it appears that attorney General Nash, on behalf of the State agreed before the committee that the main asylum building with the 38 acres of land on which it stands cost Hamilton County when completed \$533,763; that the lands afterwards added cost \$49,850 and that permanent improvements made between 1860 and 1881 amounted to \$326,515 making the total cost of the asylum up to 1881 \$910,128. Since the latter date the commissioners have built an addition to the female wards of the asylum costing \$115,000 making the total cost over one million.

No final action was ever taken by the Legislature in this subject although the matter is talked over in an informal way on each succeeding session. The representatives outside of this County while anxious to have the state become the owner of the asylum appear to be unwilling to pay what the property is worth and even hint that Hamilton County ought to turn it over to the state, without compensation. It is useless to consider this latter proposition. The transfer of the asylum to the State should be carefully considered by the County authorities before giving their consent on any terms. It would make it necessary for the County to provide at once for the accommodation of not less than four hundred and fifty insane people including those now in the infirmaries and the entire cost of these would thereafter devolve on the County and other expenses would be put on the County which we can not now enumerate. It appears to me that so long as the State will continue to appropriate sufficient funds to support the insane in Longview as it has substantially done for the last few years it is better for the County to hold the asylum. The experience of the past shows how deficient it is to make a contract with the State that will be satisfactory to the authorities who come in the future to manage the affairs of the State and the County.

Longview Asylum was completed & occupied in March 1860. It was by far the largest and best equipped asylum in the State. Its capacity was 400, while that of the Columbus Asylum was 250, the Dayton Asylum 160 and the northern asylum 135 patients respectively. There was transferred to Longview from the old Lick Run Asylum 296 patients and from the Dayton Asylum 23 making together 319. In thirty one years the number has increased to 815 being an average annual increase of 16. But there should be added to this in estimating the total insane of the County at this date 137 insane persons now in City and County infirmaries which gives 952 as the entire number of the insane of the County in the public institutions.

If we assume that 319 included all the insane of the County in 1860 then the increase has been at the rate of $20 \frac{4}{10}$ persons per year, or in other words while the population of the County has increased about 76 percent, the insane has increased about 200 percent during the past 31 years. This increase is no doubt to a considerable extent apparent rather than real. The better accommodations now afforded induce persons to send their afflicted friends or relatives to the asylum who would not otherwise have done so. The public

horror of a madhouse or Bedlam is gradually fading and in its place is growing the conviction that it is better, from every point of view, that the insane should be sent to an asylum rather than that they be cared for in private houses. The result of this is that the number of insane in the asylum today is much larger in proportion to the total number in the County than it was 30 years ago. Another reason for the increased number in the asylum is that the better accommodations and care prolong the lives of the inmates beyond what they would be under less favorable conditions. There are now in Longview 29 patients who were removed there from Lick Run asylum 31 years ago. These explanations however do not fully account for the increased number of insane in the public institution of the County. The unwelcome fact is that insanity in this County has steadily & persistently increased for the last thirty years.

With the exception of the addition recently made to the female wards, the institution remains practically the same as it was 30 years ago while the number of patients has more than doubled, and more than one hundred men are forced to sleep on the floor every night for want of room, every portion of this part of the institution is congested with patients. A movement has recently been made to have an addition built to this side of the asylum. The suggestion of this enlargement of the asylum has brought forth a rather vigorous communication from a prominent physician of this city, which recently appeared in a public journal. As to the doctor's strictness on the periodical visits of the grand-jury to the asylum claiming that they were not qualified to judge whether the management was proper or not & suggesting that instead of the grand jury a committee of Physicians should perform that duty, it is only necessary to say that this duty is enjoined by law & the directors and officers of the Asylum have no authority to determine in whom the visitorial power shall reside.

The suggestion that the directors should require the medical staff of the asylum to become members of the Medical Society of Cincinnati and withhold their pay unless they could produce certificates showing attendance at the meetings of society was perhaps intended as a bit of pleasantry. The objection point of the article was the proposed addition. The doctor is a convert to what is known as the Cottage system in asylum architecture and he is so far confirmed in his belief that he thinks anyone who does not subscribe to the faith is in need of an injection of 19th century lymph, whatever that may be. I may say on behalf of the asylum authorities that they are not hostile to the Cottage plan. They have considered the subject. It has its advantages and at the same time it has its drawbacks. Just now it is the popular idea and many new institutions are being planned and built accordingly. We have in this State one institution of this kind – the Toledo Asylum – and so far the experiment has given satisfactory; yet it is an experiment and in judging of the success of the Toledo asylum it must be remembered that it is presided over by one of the oldest and most experienced superintendents in the State, a man who would be likely to make any asylum he had the management of appear to be a success no matter on what plan it was constructed. Time alone can determine whether the Cottage system will justify present expectations and eventually displace the present asylum. It is to be hoped that it may do so, and not only so but that in the near future both the Cottage and the present systems may be supplanted by some plan better than either.

The most remarkable asylum for the insane; perhaps, in the world is at Sheel in Belgium. Its peculiarity consists in the fact that the patients, instead of being confined in wards or buildings or circumscribed limits, live with and are cared for by the inhabitants of the town who receive a small compensation for this care. One patient, usually, is assigned to a family and he or she lives in and is treated as a member of the family and shares in its laborers and its joys. These families are peasants or poor people who cultivate small gardens or carry on some petty industry. This system has prevailed in that place for centuries and grew from there being located there a shrine celebrated for its cure of mental disorders. The location was in the midst of a barren, sterile plain. The insane who were brought there for treatment were housed and cared for by the villagers surrounding the shrine.

This continued from age to age. The number of persons who visited the shrine increased as the village grew, and as one generation of the villagers passed away the next took up the same calling and by degrees became accustomed to the insane and skilled in their care, in short became trained attendants. The village has grown to 10,000 inhabitants & the number of patients to 1500. The quiet and homeless insane live in the town, the more disturbed in the outskirts while the violent cases are assigned to the peasants and laborers in the surrounding country. Recently the state has provided a medical staff & a code of laws governing the institution. The characteristics of the plan are: 1st the insane live and associate with sane people. 2nd They are furnished with regular employment. 3rd they are under less restraint than when kept in aggregate communities. The system is the result of ages of experience in the care of the insane. It is a growth, a development. The more it is investigated the more is found to admire and imitate. Before Dr. Luke and Miss Dix were born this system existed & flourished. The great reforms in the care & treatment of the insane that has been inaugurated in England & this country and in other parts of Europe have not discounted or discredited the Sheel Asylum. It perhaps contains more possibilities – more suggestions as to what model asylum of the future will be than anyone now known.

It is in marked contrast with the English or aggregate system after which our institutions are modeled. The latter grew out of the jail, the mad-house & the Bedlam, and while it has left off most of the cruelties & barbarities of those horrible beginnings, the strong lines of severity are still visible.

Whether the Sheel system is adopted to the habits of our people is doubtful. It would require modification. The Cottage plan belongs to the aggregate system instead of having a number of wards under the same roof each cottage is a ward. At Toledo each cottage accommodates from 40 to 50 patients. It perhaps affords better light and more pleasant quarters and to the extent this is done it is an improvement. Yet in the cottage as in the present plan the patients are herded together in companies of from 30 to 50 persons with two or three attendants to watch over them.

I do not know whether this can be changed or improved but the thought of the reformers of today is directed to that end. The hope of finding an escape from the present system is enjoying attention and demanding a change. I do not see, however, that the cottage

promises much in the direction of a Reformation. It is merely a modification in the form of the buildings – the system of treatment and care remains unchanged. It is not a new departure nor has any great possibilities, and I fear that too much is expected from the experiment. As stated above it is being tested at Toledo and pending that trial it would not be prudent for this country to adopt it while yet in the experimental stage and it would be particularly imprudent to attempt to engraft onto the present buildings at Longview. What is really wanted and what is proposed to build at Longview is a strong ward in addition capable of accommodating 150 disturbed and dangerous patients so as to relieve the other wards and enable the authorities to make a better classification of patients and afford this class the most comfortable corridors suitable to their condition.

At Toledo there are two such buildings. The building of cottages would not supply what is needed at the asylum. The criticisms referred to above are a promising sign of the times showing that the medical profession is not satisfied with the prevailing system for the care and treatment of the insane. But the reform must be vastly more radical than a change of the form of the buildings in which the insane is sheltered. If lasting good is to result an entirely new system must be originated based on new lines of treatment. The suggestion is ventured that the future will witness marvelous changes in asylum management in this country and let us hope their coming will not be long delayed.

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March 7, 1891