

LB

REPORT

OF

THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

OF THE

LOUISIANA INSTITUTION

FOR THE

DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND

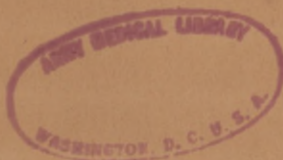
TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

JANUARY, 1867.

ARMY
MEDICAL
DEC 2 1946
LIBRARY

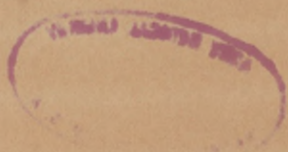
NEW ORLEANS:
J. O. NIXON, STATE PRINTER
1867.



1500

REPORT

1200



REPORT.

—♦♦♦—

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana :

The Board of Administrators of the Louisiana Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, in obedience to law and custom, submit to your honorable bodies a report of their proceedings during the past year.

The present Board organized about the first of April, 1866. The condition of affairs was truly discouraging. The buildings dilapidated, the furniture destroyed or ruined; creditors who had waited long and patiently pressing for their claims, with no present means and no credit, the task of reorganizing and sustaining the institution seemed almost hopeless.

At our first meeting we notified the members of the former Board of the time and place of our next meeting, and requested them to turn over any property or records in their hands. No response has ever been made to this communication, and, notwithstanding our repeated efforts, we have never succeeded in finding any record of the proceedings of the Board which immediately preceded us. Their treasurer, after some delay, presented an unsigned statement of account, showing a balance in his hands of (\$10 77) ten dollars and seventy-seven cents. A copy of this account is hereto annexed, marked (A). We also annex account of John O'Connor, who was for some time Treasurer of this Board, showing the disposition of the funds in his hands, marked (B).

By reference to the report of our Treasurer and Secretary, it will be seen that we have received from all sources during the year (\$20,032 16) twenty thousand thirty-two dollars and sixteen cents. This sum is made up of old appropriation, (\$9,000) nine thousand dollars, appropriation for the current year, (\$10,000) ten thousand dollars, and amount paid by the State of Mississippi, (\$1,482 39) one thousand four hundred and eighty-two dollars and thirty-nine cents. From these receipts are to be deducted the sums paid for discount and interest, to which we have been compelled to submit from the depreciation of the currency of the State, and the absolute necessity of anticipating our means. These items are set out in detail in the report of the Treasurer hereto annexed, and marked (C); we also refer to the report of the Secretary, marked (D).

From these two reports it will be seen that there is on hand:

Cash	\$335 92
Balance on warrant due January 1st 1867.....	500 00
Total	\$835 92
That there are accounts unpaid amounting to \$1,619 98, leaving a deficiency of.....	784 06
Besides this there is a balance due on debts contracted by our predecessors, of.....	2,725 00
Amount estimated for subsistence and salaries for 1867...	20,000 00
For necessary repairs and furniture.....	10,000 00
Total	\$33,509 06

LSC0

Out of the amount expended by us (\$2,867 17) two thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven dollars and seventeen cents was paid for debts contracted by our predecessors.

We are aware of the impoverished condition of the State Treasury, and have therefore asked for nothing more than we believe to be absolutely necessary. On this subject, as well as many other interesting details connected with the past history, present condition and future prospects of the Institution, we respectfully refer your honorable bodies to the report of the General Superintendent, marked (E).

We ask the attention of the Legislature to the sixth section of the act, "To provide for the better management of the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, at Baton Rouge, in this State," approved March 8, 1866. By the terms of this section the administrators are required to receive *all* persons who are in indigent circumstances and unable to pay, &c. Notwithstanding the clearness of the language, some doubt has been expressed whether the Legislature intended that such persons as are clearly too far advanced in life to be capable of profiting by the instructions here imparted, should be received as inmates of this institution; legislation, fixing the ages at which applicants may be received, or declaring that they shall be received without reference to age, would settle this question.

The same section authorizes us to receive and instruct free of charge only those who are in indigent circumstances, and imposes upon us the duty of requiring that those who are able shall pay the expense of their support and tuition. This division into paying and non-paying has been found to work badly, particularly among those in attendance upon the schools. It is too apt to cause an assumption of superiority on the one side, and jealousy, heart-burning and envy, on the other; for it must be remembered that these unfortunate people are peculiarly sensitive. And there can be but little pecuniary benefit to compensate these evils; so few are able to pay that the sum realized from this source would probably never amount to more than a few hundred dollars.

We have been much embarrassed by the difficulty of determining in some instances, whether the applicant was really a resident of the State, and suggest that we be authorized to require in all cases the certificate of the Clerk of the District Court, or President of the Police Jury for the parish from which the applicant claims to come, or from the Recorder, or some other competent authority, if from New Orleans, that the applicant is a resident of the State; and should the Legislature adhere to the policy of requiring pay from those who are able, that he or she is in indigent circumstances.

It would be presumptuous in us to urge the claims of this asylum upon you; the institution is yours; it was founded, and has been sustained by you. It is a monument to your generosity, bearing eloquent testimony that in the day of her pride and prosperity Louisiana did not forget the unfortunate and the helpless, and we cannot doubt that whatever may be your present embarrassments and difficulties, you will continue to extend to it your fostering care and generous aid.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES O. FUQUA,

President pro tem. of the Board of Administrators.

Baton Rouge, January 1st, 1867,

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Gentlemen of the Board of Administrators for Louisiana Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind:

No report having been published from our Institution to such an extent as to reach the great mass of those most interested, since the beginning of the war, I feel it my duty to present a brief epitome of the history of the Institution from the commencement of the war. At that time the number of our pupils was seventy-seven (77), and our yearly appropriation \$25,000 00. We had teachers of finished education in the scholastic department, and men of first rate abilities in the broom shop and painting room, where trades were taught our blind and mutes.

As soon as the actual scenes of war began to close around us, our numbers rapidly diminished, until those only who had no homes to which they could go were left—their number varying from twenty-five to thirty.

For several months we were left to our own resources, and were supported some time by the proceeds of cakes, etc., made, in part, by our girls, and sold by our little boys, and by the sale of vegetables from our garden, and by means advanced by benevolent individuals. When these resources failed, we applied for and received rations from the Federal authorities, which were continued until last year, when they evacuated our buildings, the larger portion of which they had been using since January, 1863, for hospital purposes. The Legislature of 1865 made an appropriation of \$18,000 for the benefit of the Institute, but owing to the depleted condition of the treasury, very little of it could be drawn, and the Institution continued in a crippled, discouraging state. In the succeeding year, upon the accession of your Board, more life and spirit was breathed into our affairs, and since that period the Institution has been steadily going forward in its benevolent mission.

DIFFICULTIES YET BEFORE US.

Placed as I am in daily contact with the two unfortunate classes committed to your care, and witnessing every moment the benefits, physical, intellectual and moral, which such institutions ought to and do confer on them, I cannot but deplore that our limited means still prevent us from making the Institution as useful to them as it is capable of being. While some institutions have from six to twenty pianos, we have but two, and they are old and worn out; and while the whole time and energies of teachers in the mechanical departments were devoted exclusively, at a former period and still in other institutions, to the instruction of pupils in the mechanical arts, these branches have been taught by teachers in the literary department.

From the force of circumstances, the advantages which the blind have enjoyed for learning music, and both mutes and blind for learning trades, have been less than they should have been; and we trust that before

another year has expired, that such provisions will be made as to make their advantages equal to those of any State in the North or South.

I am satisfied that your Board has done all it could do, with the means placed at its disposal, towards restoring the Institution to a sound and efficient condition. The regularity of your meetings, your rigid investigations of its accounts, the methods you have adopted of acquainting yourselves with its workings in all its departments, the requirement of monthly reports producing on the minds of the employees the impression that their faithfulness was appreciated, or their want of it marked, has silently but steadily impressed on them a sense of responsibility. There has been felt to be a kindly but firm supervision of its affairs. In a ten years' connection with institutions in three States, I have never met a more disinterested or laborious Board.

OUR BUILDINGS.

So far as I can judge, I believe Louisiana has built as fine, if not a finer, edifice for her mutes and blind than any in the world. The men who conceived and executed the design of making such generous provisions for the unfortunate of their day, and of the distant future, were men of large and liberal views, and we believe that Louisiana has less means but not less heart now than in former years.

The building has been examined a few weeks ago by two of our most experienced and competent architects, Messrs. Young & McVay, who are of the opinion that the building, if allowed to remain unrepaired, will suffer immense injury. Though some repairs have been made on the roof, still large quantities of water get into the house during every rain, causing the plastering to drop off and the timbers to decay. In the Chapel, where the ceiling is very high, there is great danger of injury to the lives and limbs of the pupils from the unsound state of the plastering. The tin covering on the galleries all around the house is broken and corroded, and the wood-work and floors are rotting, and the paint is worn off the beautiful iron railings which surround the whole main buildings, and they are rapidly corroding. Added to this, our Venetian blinds are, in a great measure, ruined, and most of our chairs are without backs, and we have but the wreck of the splendid set of furniture which was here before the war. To replace these, repair our building and make our fences and out-houses, I think will require \$10,000.

ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.

The annual appropriation for the support of the Institution before the war was \$25,000; and though the altered condition of the State calls for economy, yet it is to be hoped that every advantage that mutes and blind enjoy in other States will be extended to those of our State, and that those States which have no institutions of their own, in looking around for a suitable place to send their beneficiaries, will find our Institution in no sense inferior to any. To accomplish this object will not require less than \$15,000. A conviction that the State will heartily and liberally support the Institution, would inspire all interested in it with new life and energy, while any other impression would paralyze their interest and efforts.

MISSISSIPPI PUPILS.

As stated in the report to the last Legislature, I was sent by the Board which preceded you to Mississippi to effect an arrangement with the Board

of Trustees of the Deaf and Dumb, and the Legislature of that State, for the education of her mutes in the Louisiana Institution. I succeeded in making an arrangement with them—they, on their part, agreeing to pay \$250 a year per pupil, and I, on the part of our Board, agreeing to gather them in and give them all the advantages that the circumstances of our State and Institute permitted.

After a thorough canvass of the whole matter, the engagement was renewed for this year, and most of the same pupils returned with me to school. This arrangement, by combining the interests and efforts of two States in a benevolent enterprise, and by bringing together a large number of sprightly and interesting pupils who mutually stimulate and encourage each other, I look upon with great gratification.

The three gentlemen who constitute the Board of Trustees in Mississippi, Drs. Poindexter and Cabaniss and Judge Potter, are men who have long since familiarized themselves with benevolent schemes of this kind, and in whose hands the interests of the mute children of that State are not likely to suffer, and who will cooperate, in an enlightened and liberal spirit, with the members of your Board in any plan which they believe to be for the real interests of the deaf and dumb.

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENTS.

Before the commencement of the war, our mutes were engaged in learning the printing business. We then had complete sets of type, not only for printing a paper, but also for printing books in raised letters for the blind. During the war, it came into the hands of the military authorities, and a great number of printers were detailed to print official documents, who, when they used the type, threw them into pi, and in that way, and other ways, have nearly ruined all the type. As printing is calculated to cultivate and keep up the acquaintance of the mutes with written language, it is perhaps the very best business for them to learn. In printing he finds the same advantages which a speaking person receives from the conversation of educated people. At present, the more advanced mutes are learning the photographic art, for which the practiced sharpness of their perceptions qualify them. Ours is the first institution in which this art has been taught, and some of them have made sufficient progress in it as to be able already to make a living by pursuing it. The blind are learning to bottom chairs with cane and to make brooms. They are inclined to rely principally upon the last business for a support. Some of them will probably acquire a sufficient knowledge of music to be able to earn a living by teaching it. As they have a most praiseworthy desire to make themselves independent of the State and of their friends, I would recommend that after they shall have acquired a sufficient knowledge of these trades, they should be presented by the State with the requisite machinery and some material to work up, or, as is done in some institutions, they should remain as journeymen workmen and be paid in proportion to their work until an amount is put down to their credit sufficient to start them in business. In this way we encourage a laudable ambition and relieve the State from what might be a permanent burden.

OUR DISCIPLINE.

In our management of the pupils, we have sought to encourage a feeling of cheerfulness and happiness, and our appeals are constantly to their principles and honor, and to the best feelings of their natures, and not

their fears alone. In the main, these appeals have been successful, and our pupils will compare favorably with those of any school in regard to the harmony and good feeling existing between themselves and between them and those placed over them, and also in their cheerful devotion to their studies, and in their polite and inoffensive course toward those outside of the Institute.

THEIR STUDIES.

The practice I have adopted this year of devoting the whole of every Friday to examination of the different classes of the mutes and blind, as well as the musical and the mechanical departments, enable me to testify intelligently to a very general zeal and heartiness on the part of the teachers, and a corresponding interest and improvement on the part of the pupils. We have especially endeavored to break up the habit of learning by rote, and of cultivating the memory at the expense of much higher faculties. We want the teachers to think and make their pupils think.

LEGAL PUPILS.

According to the By-Laws, no pupils are admitted above the age of twenty-five, yet during and since the war several blind persons have been sent to us who were between thirty and fifty. As no other provision had been made for some of them, we could not refuse them admittance. As the number of this class may increase, and the Institution may be diverted from its appropriate object as an educational establishment to an asylum for the helpless, some steps should be taken by the Legislature to make provisions for the aged and helpless blind and mutes. An exception might be made in favor of those who design to learn a trade, and to go as soon as they can earn a living for themselves. Nearly all the more populous States have found special legislation on this subject necessary.

Officers of the Institution for 1867.

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS:

DR. T. J. BUFFINGTON, *President.*
COL. J. O. FUQUA.
T. B. R. HATCH, Esq.
F. YOUNG, Esq.
JOHN O'CONNOR, Esq.

C. D. FAVROT *Secretary.*
D. C. MONTAN *Treasurer.*
O. BRATZ, M. D. *Physician.*
A. K. MARTIN *Superintendent.*
REV. R. B. RICKETTS *Steward.*
MRS. M. C. RICKETTS *Matron.*
MRS. MARY DUFROCQ *Assistant Matron.*

TEACHERS IN THE MUTE DEPARTMENT.

PROFESSOR JAMES GOODWIN.
MISS MARTHA M. BRADFORD.

TEACHER IN BLIND DEPARTMENT.

JOSEPH L. HARRIS.

TEACHERS OF MUSIC.

PROFESSOR JOHN BENING.
PROFESSOR AUG. ANDREWS.

A

P. A. KUGLER, IN ACCOUNT

With the Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

Dr.	Cr.
January 24, 1866—Received from J. D. O'Connell	\$4,500 00
January 27, 1866—Received from A. R. Marfin	1,700 00
<hr/>	
Warrant 1—F. Otto, supplies.....	\$53 75
do. 2—R. Williams, servant.....	14 00
do. 3—M. J. Williams, tinner.....	9 95
do. 4—John Dahon, blacksmith.....	3 85
do. 5—R. Maurin, washing.....	17 00
do. 6—H. Y. Babin, medicine.....	112 00
do. 7—P. A. Kugler, salary.....	123 24
do. 8—P. A. Kugler, horse and prov'n.....	141 00
do. 9—F. Otto, provisions.....	508 12
do. 10—Meyer, baker, bread.....	49 00
do. 11—G. W. Brown, teacher.....	12 00
do. 12—M. Detial, servant.....	30 00
do. 13—J. Beal, stationery.....	24 50
do. 14—J. Beal, stationery.....	63 45
do. 15—J. Beal, stationery.....	63 45
do. 16—R. Williams, servant.....	7 00
do. 17—F. Otto, supplies.....	273 45
do. 18—F. Otto, supplies.....	198 37
do. 19—F. Otto, broom corn.....	500 00
do. 20—R. W. Knickerbocker, services.....	213 00
do. 21—T. A. Nephler, rent, gas, stationery.....	50 00
do. 22—R. Noddler, bread.....	36 00
do. 23—J. D. O'Connell, coal.....	95 25
do. 24—D. O'Connell, salary.....	150 00
do. 25—J. D. O'Connell.....	3 80
do. 26—M. Bradford, salary.....	150 00
do. 27—J. Carl, gardener.....	100 00

ACCOUNT—Continued.

Warr't 28—Meyer, bread.....	42 50
do. 29—M. Meyer, bread.....	42 00
do. 30—M. Meyer, bread.....	81 50
do. 31—H. Brown, servant.....	28 00
do. 32—C. Carl, servant.....	40 00
do. 33—Mrs. Gaston, salary.....	24 00
do. 34—A. R. Martin, salary.....	500 00
do. 35—B. Laycock, servant.....	36 00
do. 36—Mrs. Dufrocoq, salary.....	500 00
do. 37—Mrs. Dufrocoq, for servant.....	4 00
do. 38—J. D. O'Connell, attorney and sec'y.	675 00
do. 39—U. S. P. O. stamps.....	40 00
do. 40—F. Otto, supplies.....	30 20
do. 41—F. Otto, supplies.....	27 75
do. 42—F. Otto, supplies.....	850 65
do. 43—.....	289 00
Balance on hand.....	10 77
Total.....	\$6,200 00
Total.....	\$6,200 00

(Not signed.)

A true copy of the original, on record at my office.
C. D. FAVROT, Secretary.

JOHN O'CONNOR, TREASURER,

In Account with the Louisiana Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind,

DR.	CR.
Jan. 13, 1866—To balance on warrants unpaid.....	
\$9,500 00	
<hr/>	
Total	\$9,500 00
	By warrants acknowledged to have been received in cash by former Board, and placed in the hands of P. A. Kugler, Esq. \$4,500 00
	May 12, 1866—By warrants turned over to D. C. Montan, Esq., present Treasurer..... 5,000 00
	Total..... \$9,500 00

(Signed,)

JOHN O'CONNOR, Treasurer.

C. D. FAVROT, Secretary.

A true copy.
Baton Rouge, May 12, 1866.

BATON ROUGE, La., January 1, 1867.

To the Honorable the President and Board of Directors of the Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb and the Blind of the State of Louisiana, at Baton Rouge:

GENTS:—Since my appointment to the office of Treasurer, April 13, 1866, I have received and placed to the credit of the Asylum the following amounts:

Balance of old appropriation yet undrawn at that date.....	\$ 4,000 00
Received from P. A. Kugler, Treasurer of the previous Board..	10 77
Amount collected on warrants for old appropriation, which were delivered to me by John O'Connor, former Treasurer of the previous Board.....	5,000 00
Amount of warrant for first quarter of appropriation for 1866..	2,500 00
Amount of warrant for second quarter of appropriation for '66.	2,500 00
Amount of warrant for third quarter of appropriation for 1866.	2,500 00
Received from Finance Committee unexpended balance of an appropriation made by the Board.....	39 00
Received of A. K. Martin amount paid by the State of Mississippi.....	1,482 39
Amount advanced by Hart & Hebert on warrant for fourth quarter, due January 1st, 1867.....	2,000 00

Making the total amount received by me..... \$20,032 16

I have paid the following amounts by order of the Board:

Fifty-eight warrants of the President, amounting to.....	9,858 45
Thirty-seven warrants of the President, amounting to.....	6,024 14
Thirty-five warrants of the President, amounting to.....	3,495 93
Discount paid Pike, Lapeyre & Brother on the amount paid by the State in State issue and City notes of the warrant for the second quarter.....	121 87
Discount paid Pike, Lapeyre & Brother to reduce the amount paid by the State in State issue of the warrant for the third quarter to current money.....	181 25
Amount paid Hart & Hebert for advance of two thousand dollars on warrant for fourth quarter, twenty-three days before it was due.....	14 60
Total amount paid out.....	19,696 24
Amount cash on hand to balance.....	335 82

\$20,032 16

There yet remains unpaid by the State the warrant for the fourth quarter, due January 1st, 1867, of which five hundred dollars is due the Asylum; the balance of two thousand dollars will be due Messrs. Hart & Hebert, who have advanced that amount upon it.

The warrants paid were numbered from 1 to 131, No. 40 of which was canceled by the Auditor and never presented.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed)

D. C. MONTAN, *Treasurer.*

A true copy of original filed in my office.

C. D. FAVROT, *Secretary.*

To the Honorable the Members of the Board of Administrators of the Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind :

GENTS—Since my appointment as Secretary, on the 13th of April, 1866, I have drawn 131 warrants on the Treasurer, amounting to \$19,378 46, of which the sum of \$2,867 17 was to defray expenses incurred previous to May 1st, 1866—the balance to defray expenses incurred since that period.

The amount of indebtedness of the institution for current expenses, as far as we can judge by the accounts that have been presented for payment, is \$1,619 98, of which \$284 00 have been ordered to be paid. The outstanding old indebtedness amounts to \$2,725, viz: \$2,100 to A. R. Martin, \$550 to Mrs. Dufrocq, and a claim of \$75 to Dr. Enders.

Respectfully,

C. D. FAVROT, *Secretary.*

CATALOGUE

Of Pupils in the Institution during the past year.

Names of Pupils.	Place of Residence.	Date of Admission
Amelia Anselm	St. Landry.	1852
Chas. P. Himes	East Baton Rouge.	1852
Joseph Lobrano	Orleans.	1853
John R. Newell	Ascension.	1833
Catharine Jaquess	Orleans.	1853
Albert Roth	Iberville.	1854
Elvira C. Clark	Pointe Coupee.	1854
Marcel Landry	Assumption.	1855
Terrence McVay	East Baton Rouge.	1855
Felicié LeBlanc	Assumption.	1857
Weston Clark	Pointe Coupee.	1857
Samuel Ford	Rapides.	1858
Arthur Martin	Plaquemines.	1858
Sarah W. Easterly	East Baton Rouge.	1858
Lycurgus Wooten	Caldwell.	1858
Uranie Landry	Assumption.	1858
Lorena Morris	Washington.	1859
L. H. Morris	"	1859
Joseph A. Roth	Iberville.	1859
Leontine Cupel	Assumption.	1859
Fannie Tottenham	Orleans.	1859
James Meham	"	1859
Susan Deville	Catahoula.	1859
Johnnot Rutherford	Rapides.	1860
James Molaum	Lafourche.	1860
Hunter Clark	Pointe Coupee.	1860
Oscar Bondieaux	Lafourche.	1861
Amelia Leroy	West Baton Rouge.	1861
Annie Coupel	Lafourche.	1861
Annie Terrace	Orleans.	1861
Thomas Hoggarth	"	1861
Ellen Morbley	"	1861
Fannie Molaum	Lafourche.	1866
William Hanlen	Orleans.	1866
Jean Dugas	Assumption.	1866
Emile Betol	Orleans.	1866
Duncan Clark	Pointe Coupee.	1866



CATALOGUE OF PUPILS—CONTINUED.

FROM MISSISSIPPI.

Names of Pupils.	Place of Residence.	Date of Admission
William Cabaniss	Jackson.	1865
Brookee Cockran	"	1865
Charles Willis	Grenada.	1865
L. W. Saunders	Jackson.	1865
James W. Delbridge	Oxford.	1865
Walter B. Delbridge	"	1865
Mattie Slate	"	1865
Flora Slate	"	1865
James Blaker	Paris.	1865
Andrew Gilbert	Newton.	1865
Mary Matthews	Lafayette.	1865
M. S. Harry	Holmesville.	1865
James M. Alexander	Holly Springs.	1865
Hamilton Jones	Lexington.	1866
Amie McFarland	Georgetown.	1866
Ellen Burke	Jackson.	1866
Bucna V. Allen	Canton.	1866

BLIND PUPILS.

E. F. Spann	Mississippi.	1866
James McGary	Orleans Parish.	1859
John Dempsey	"	1858
Robert E. Harris	Bienville.	1856
Robert Kelly	Orleans.	1858
Samuel Huntley	D. and D. Institute.	1855
James Riley	" "	1861
Tobias E. Totman	St. Landry.	1860
John Morrow	Orleans.	1866
Peter Cosgrove	"	1866
Aramintha Gaston	D. and D. Institute.	1857
Harriet Elliott	Orleans.	1859
Lena Oakley	"	1859
Bridget Danny	"	1861
Alice Barville	Baton Rouge.	1866

A. K. MARTIN,
General Superintendent.