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1867

Louisiana. Insane asylum: Board of
administrators.
Biennial report of the board of
administrators of the insane asylum.

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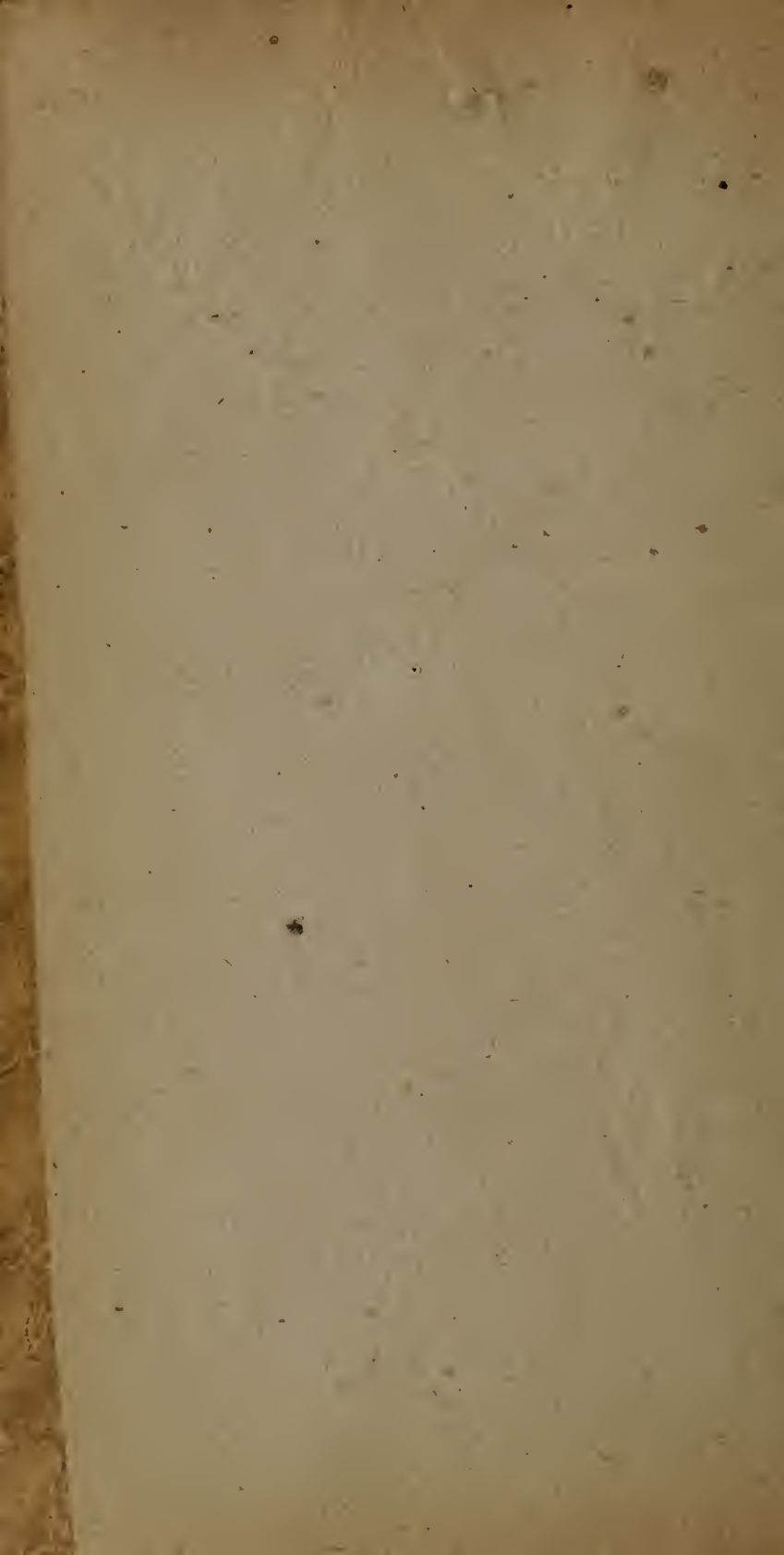


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REPORT

Jan. 1857
C. J. W.

OF THE
BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

OF THE

INSANE ASYLUM

AT JACKSON

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA.

~~~~~  
**January, 1857.**  
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NEW ORLEANS :

JOHN CLAIBORNE, STATE PRINTER.

1857.

Referring to the report of Dr. Gourlay, Physician to the Asylum, of which a transcript in substance is appended, we express our concurrence in his views regarding the need of an Infirmary, and respectfully ask of the Legislature a favorable consideration of the proposition. An estimate has been made of the probable cost of such a building, and the amount will be found amongst our other estimates of expenses for the next fiscal year.

Our central building is not completed yet, but will be in the course of three or four months. The carpenter's work and plastering are expected to be finished within two months from the present time, but the internal painting cannot be executed until after the completion of the other work mentioned.

The edifice in question, so far as designed for the use of patients, is exclusively for those who pay, and it will include apartments and other accommodations graduated to their means and habits of life, from the frugal in mediocre circumstances to the luxurious of ample pecuniary resources; and connected with it is a separate enclosure, of several acres in extent, which it is designed to embellish with walks, shrubbery and other attractive objects.

Our estimates for the next fiscal year are as follows:

For Subsistence.....	\$18,000
For Completion and Furnishing of Central Building, and for enclosures and incidental expenses.....	7,000
For erection of Infirmary.....	8,000
	<hr/>
	\$33,000
	<hr/> <hr/>

Making in all the sum of thirty-three thousand dollars, for which an appropriation is respectfully solicited.

THOS W. SCOTT,
JOHN F. McKNEELY,
THOS F. NOONE,
JOHN A. HARBOUR,
P. FISHBURN,

Administrators.

JACKSON, La., January 5, 1857.

CONDENSED STATEMENT

*Of Receipts and Expenditures of the Insane Asylum of Louisiana, at
Jackson, for and during the year 1856.*

RECEIVED.

From balance on hand, at date of statement for 1855....	\$5,935 88
From State Treasury—	
For Subsistence.....	20,000 00
For Buildings.....	20,000 00
From pay patients.....	1,718 50
From miscellaneous sources.....	125 40
	<hr/>
Total of Receipts.....	\$47,779 78
Expenditures brought over.....	35,654 52
	<hr/>
Balance on hand.....	<u>\$12,125 26</u>

Respectfully submitted,

P. FISHBURN, Treasurer.

Jackson, La., January 5, 1857.

EXPENDED.

For Salaries and Wages.....	\$6,372 89
“ Bacon, Pork and Salted Beef.....	1,279 89
“ Bread.....	2,957 78
“ Flour and Corn Meal.....	395 25
“ Rice, Potatoes, Beans, &c.....	355 29
“ Fresh Beef, Mutton, &c.....	793 44
	<hr/>
“ Sugar and Molasses.....	796 13
“ Coffee and Tea.....	602 19
“ Salt Fish, Salt, Vinegar, Mustard, &c...	116 94
“ Wine and Spirits.....	295 57
“ Tobacco and Snuff.....	101 20
“ Soap and Starch.....	173 33
	<hr/>
	2,085 36
Carried forward.....	<u>\$14,239 90</u>

	Expenditures brought forward.....	14,239 90
For	Lamp Oil and Candles.....	111 20
"	Drugs and Medicines.....	191 95
"	Incidental objects.....	59 50
"	Clothing, Bed Linen, &c.....	1,133 15
"	Shoes and Hats.....	329 70
"	Mattrasses and Blankets	558 50
		<hr/>
		2,384 00
"	Freight and Storage.....	231 69
"	Amount refunded.....	556 75
"	Corn, Hay, &c.....	133 45
"	Repairs of water pipes, utensils, &c....	187 30
		<hr/>
		1,109 19
"	Paints and Paint Oil, &c.....	102 58
"	Hardware, Crockery, &c.....	90 32
"	Mechanic's Bills, (Blacksmiths, &c.)....	209 70
"	do do (hired by month).....	66 00
"	Glass and Glassware.....	35 38
"	Stationery, Postage Stamps, &c.....	57 24
"	Tin Ware, Tubs, Pails, &c, &c.....	48 44
"	One Cart and Harness.....	50 00
"	Miscellaneous objects.....	220 71
"	Commissions.....	135 55
		<hr/>
		1,015 92
		<hr/>
	Total of Expenditures for Subsistence.....	<u><u>\$18,749 01</u></u>

BUILDING EXPENDITURES.

For Lime and Cement.....	\$ 713 00	
“ Lumber.....	2,206 41	
“ Carpenter’s Work.....	4,285 62	
“ Brick Work.....	1,424 22	
“ Plastering.....	1,055 00	
“ Slating.....	329 50	
“ Paints, Paint Oil and Painting.....	882 14	
“ Copper and Tin.....	315 37	
	<hr/>	11,211 26
“ Copper and Tin Work.....	689 90	
“ Plumbing and Materials.....	2,154 39	
“ Locks, Hinges, Nails, &c.....	302 83	
“ Sash Pulleys and Weights.....	141 36	
“ Laths, Cedar Posts, &c.....	275 82	
“ Marble Mantels.....	82 00	
“ Castings, (Caps and Bases).....	40 00	
“ Constructing Cisterns.....	113 75	
	<hr/>	3,800 05
“ “ Bathing Tubs.....	102 00	
“ Blacksmithing, (Bolts and Screws).....	58 00	
“ Iron.....	89 26	
“ Freight and Storage.....	659 82	
“ Hauling.....	405 33	
“ Labor (negro hire).....	191 60	
“ Lightning Rods and other miscellaneous objects.....	321 70	
“ Commissions.....	66 49	
	<hr/>	1,894 20
Total of expenditures for Building.....		<u><u>\$16,905 51</u></u>

RECAPITULATION.

Expenditures for Subsistence.....	\$18,749 01
“ “ Buildings	16,905 51
	<hr/>
	\$35,654 52
	<hr/> <hr/>

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN.

To the Board of Administrators of the Insane Asylum :

GENTLEMEN,

Permit me to present you the Medical Report for the year, ending December 31st, 1856, which is as follows :

	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Remaining in Asylum, Dec. 31st, 1855.	133	74	59
Admitted in 1856.....	59	37	22
Whole number within the year.....	192	111	81
Discharged, recovered.....	28	18	10
Removed.....	3	1	2
Eloped.....	3	3	0
Died.....	56	40	16
Whole number of deductions.....	90	62	28
Remaining, Dec. 31, 1856.....	102	49	53

CAUSES OF DEATHS, AS ABOVE.

Diarrhœa.....41		Scurvy.....1
Dysentery.....5		Cancerum Ovis.....1
Paralysis.....1		Acute Gastritis.....1
Typhoid Fever.....1		General Debility.....1
Apoplexy.....1		Consumption.....1

STATISTICS OF ASYLUM.

TABLE FIRST.

	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Whole number of patients admitted...	587	347	240
Discharged, recovered.....	132	75	57
Removed.....	38	24	14
Eloped.....	33	33	0
Died.....	282	166	116
Whole number of deductions... . . .	485	298	187
Remaining.....	102	49	53

TABLE SECOND.

Apparent form of Insanity of those now in Asylum.

Dementia.....	43	Monomania.....	12
Hypochondriasis.....	1	Homicidal.....	1
Moral.....	30	Idiocy.....	6
Epilepsy.....	2	Mania.....	2
Periodical.....	1	Manal.....	1
Melancholia.....	2	Senile Dementia.....	2

TABLE THIRD.

Monthly Admissions in 1856.

January	1	July... ..	4
February.....	4	August.....	0
March.....	0	September.....	2
April.....	2	October.....	7
May.....	2	November.....	1
June.....	33	December.....	3

TABLE FOURTH.

Ages of Patients now in the Asylum.

Twenty years and under.....	10
From 20 to 30 years.....	20
“ 30 to 40 “.....	32
“ 40 to 50 “.....	26
“ 50 to 60 “.....	11
“ 60 to 70 “.....	2
“ 70 to 90 “.....	1

TABLE FIFTH.

Places of Nativity of Persons now in Asylum.

Ireland	28 ^c	Alabama	1
France	15	Virginia	1
Germany	15	Holland	1
Louisiana	17	Hungary	1
England	5	St. Domingo	1
Tennessee	3	Indiana	1
North Carolina	2	Austria	1
Russia	2	New Jersey	1
Canada	2	West Indies	1
South Carolina	1	Unknown	2
New Hampshire	1		
		Total	102

TABLE SIXTH.

Occupations of Patients now in Asylum.

Farmers	4	Cabinet maker	1
Laborers	20	Type-setter	1
Servants	15	Coopers	2
Hair Dresser	1	Carpenters	2
Teachers	2	Cook	1
Traders	3	Wheelwright	1
Milliners	2	Tailor	1
Sailor	1	Soldier	1
Circus Rider	1	Rabbi	1
Shoemaker	1	Ship Carpenter	1
Bricklayer	1	Gardener	1
Butcher	1	Unknown, or without occupa-	
Clerk	1	tion	35
Clergyman	1		
		Total	102

TABLE SEVENTH.

Parishes from which Patients have been Received.

Orleans	350	Carroll.....	4
Jefferson	19	Madison	1
Terrebonne	7	Jackson	4
Lafourche	10	Caddo	10
St. Mary	13	Tensas	2
East Baton Rouge.....	13	Livingston.....	1
St. Martin.....	7	Morehouse	1
St. Landry.....	14	West Feliciana.....	13
East Feliciana.....	19	Assumption	11
St. Charles.....	1	St. Helena.....	3
Rapides.....	5	Vermillion	3
Natchitoches.....	4	Avoyelles	1
Iberville.....	6	Concordia	2
St. James.....	2	St. Tammany.....	1
Ascension	6	Plaquemine	1
St. John Baptist.....	1	Point Coupé.....	3
De Soto.....	4	Opelousas, (town of).....	1
Franklin	1	Total of patients sent from	
Sabine.....	3	various parts of La....	555
Washita	1	From other States.....	32
Union.....	3		
Claiborne	4	Grand total.....	587

A recurrence to my tabular statement of the various forms of insanity manifested here will show that the amount of Dementia is, relatively, very great. It much exceeds the average in other Insane Asylums, and the fact is probably owing to the presence in this institution of an undue proportion of individuals previously subjected to a career of hardship, sickness and destitution.

A large proportion of the admissions is of persons physically diseased, and the additional disturbing cause of mental aberration both complicates the duties of the professional attendant and detracts from his chances of successful treatment.

Existing arrangements for the attendance and medical treatment of those laboring under bodily disease are not, in my judgment, as good and efficient as they might and ought to be, and I beg leave to suggest a radical change in that respect.

The intermixture of the sick and well is objectionable for many reasons, a leading one being the danger of transmitting disease by infection and contagion from the one class to the other. Another and cogent one is, the difficulty of securing a watchful care of the sick while their nurses may plead the distraction of a divided attention in extenuation of neglect or forgetfulness.

To obviate these and other objections to the present plan, I respectfully suggest the establishment of an Infirmary for the sick, isolated from and independent of the other buildings and their inmates.

Such a structure need not be large or costly. Two rooms, (one for each sex) sufficiently large to contain, in the aggregate, say fifty beds or cots, with apartments for attendants, one for medicines and medical preparations, bath rooms and a kitchen, would suffice.

In view of the fact that our institution is designed as well to prevent and cure bodily as mental disease, the inference follows that all reasonably needful means should be sought out and applied; and as the one above indicated is, in my judgment, of easy acquisition and paramount importance, I make no apology for urging you to give my recommendation a mature consideration.

I must also invite your attention to the statistical exhibit of the causes of insanity. Your rules require that those introducing sub-

jects for treatment shall furnish, so far as known, a history of those so introduced ; but the rule is unattended to in a great many instances.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I tender you my congratulations on the progress hitherto made in organizing and building up the institution under your government, and an expression of my fondest hope that it may ere long challenge comparison with any kindred establishment in the Union.

Yours, very respectfully,

J. E. T. GOURLAY,

Physician.

JACKSON, La., January 5, 1857.

NOTE BY THE BOARD.

The matter to which Dr. Geurlay refers, in the last clause but one of his report, is a Rule of the Asylum requiring from those who introduce patients a statement of the *age, place of nativity, cause of his or her insanity*, and generally all such information regarding the patient introduced as may be deemed of interest to the Physician and others in charge of the Asylum.

Such information is usually withheld thoughtlessly rather than designedly, and as it is frequently of importance in the treatment of cases, and is also necessary to the statistics of the institution, this note is appended for the purpose of reminding parties interested of what is expected from them.

Report of the University of Louisiana.



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, *January, 1857.*

*To his Excellency, Robert C. Wickliffe,
Governor of the State of Louisiana:*

SIR:—The Board of Administrators of the University of Louisiana have the honor to report that during the past year they have filled vacancies in their own body, by the selection of Messrs. Newton Richards, J. S. Copes, and Albert G. Blanchard, in lieu of Messrs. George Eustis, Pierre Soulé, and Edward Briggs, resigned.

They enclose to your Excellency a Report for the action of the Legislature, which they beg you to lay before the two Houses on their assembling. Very respectfully, etc.,

W. NEWTON MERCER, *President.*

ALBERT G. BLANCHARD, *Secretary.*



Report of the University of Louisiana.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened:

THE Board of Administrators of the University of Louisiana beg most respectfully to report concerning the condition and progress of the Institution committed to their supervision,

That the Faculty of Law has commenced the Session of 1856-'57, with C. Roselius, Esq., Dean, and the Hon. Theo. H. McCaleb, Randall Hunt, and Alfred Hennen, Esquires, as professors, and a class of thirty-two students.

During the eight years that have elapsed since its organization, the number of its graduates amounts to two hundred and forty-three, or rather over an average of thirty per annum.

The Medical Department with a full Faculty, consisting of Doctors Jones, Stone, Riddell, Cenas, Nott, Wederstrandt and Hunt, show on their Register of Matriculants more than twenty-three hundred names, and the present class is two hundred and forty.

The Faculties of Arts and Sciences, and of the Collegiate Proper, although contemplated by the charter of the University, have never received the aid or encouragement of the State. Some gentlemen of high standing have been appointed to professorships in each of these faculties; but, partly owing to the fact that the students attending these courses are younger, and there is no accommodation for their lodging on the University Grounds, or under the protecting supervision of their respective faculties, and partly because some of the professorships would occupy the entire attention of the gentlemen filling them, without at first affording them an adequate recompense, these departments are not in a prosperous or satisfactory condition.

To them would the Board of Administrators desire to call your particular attention.

It is not, at this period of the world's history, nor to a Louisiana Legislature, necessary to point out the importance of creating within our own limits an institution where all the knowledge and science of the age shall be attainable without the humiliating necessity of sending our young men to other, often hostile States, for that education which will enable them to compete successfully with Northern and foreign immigrants.

That the Legislatures of this State have been fully alive to the importance of this subject, is more than proved, when we see that up to 1855 there has been appropriated and expended more than three millions of dollars for educational purposes.

That this munificent provision should have produced so little fruit, must be a subject of deep regret to all well-wishers of our State. For the almost total loss of that portion of it devoted to the building up of colleges, or places of learning ranking with colleges, amounting to about one million, it is probable that such reasons may be assigned as will prevent a like result for the future

Nearly the whole of this sum has been spent in endeavoring to create colleges in parts of the State distant alike from the homes of the teachers and the taught—in places where it has only been by continual expenditure that professors have been collected, and their pupils retained out of the only city whose population is large enough to justify the expectation that it could support a large institution.

We cannot, for some years at least, hope to draw many students from the surrounding States. We have to rely upon our home population for the support of our University; and it is for these benefits that we desire to establish them. Out of the 68,000 educable youths of the State, 23,000 centre in New Orleans—one-third of the whole. In this city there is to be found the basis on which to build. In fact, it is a part of history, that all large schools, from those of Athens and Alexandria, to those of Paris and Berlin, London and Edinburgh, and in our own country, Cambridge, Yale, New York, and Philadelphia, have existed in the midst of a dense population.

It has, therefore, been an erroneous policy, necessarily resulting in failure, that has expended \$240,000 on Louisiana College, \$223,000 on Jefferson College, \$61,000 on Franklin College, and various sums,

not so large; but still considerable, on other institutions scattered through the State; for in the country not only have both pupils and teachers to be brought from distant parts, not only have accommodations and supplies to be provided for the whole number of students and professors, but every professor has to be entirely supported by the institution, to which, possibly, only a very small portion of his time can be profitably devoted.

In the city, as is directly proved by the present condition of the University, gentlemen of high rank and large practice in their several professions of law and medicine, are found willing to give a portion of their time to the instruction of youth, and sustaining of an Educational Establishment of a high grade.

While, in the country the expenditure of very large sums has resulted in absolutely nothing, all that has been bestowed upon the city for this purpose has and does fully repay the State, and justifies us in asking, and the Legislature in granting, an additional endowment, in the firm belief that by that the cause of Education will be permanently advanced.

As far as we can ascertain, the appropriations for the University have been, in 1847, \$25,000; in 1848, \$35,000; in 1855, \$13,000—a total of \$73,000; for which the three fine buildings now in daily use, and more than fully occupied, have been erected; and an appropriation, in 1850-'53, of \$31,000, for the purchase of the fine medical museum and chemical apparatus used in the instruction of the present classes.

The Board of Administrators would recommend to the Legislature an appropriation of \$2000 for the fitting up and procuring the nucleus of a Law Library; which, when once started, will increase with great rapidity, from the voluntary contributions of the Alumni and others interested, besides the Acts, Reports, etc., of the States and Federal Government, which are furnished gratuitously.

The Board of Administrators consider that very great assistance would be rendered to the cause of education throughout the whole State, by an appropriation of \$30,000 for the erection of a Commons Hall, whereat students from the country, whose circumstances do not justify a large expenditure, would be enabled to board and lodge at a moderate rate, and where those who had not reached years of discretion could be placed by their guardians somewhat under the eye of the faculty to which they belong. Such a building would also

partake to a certain extent of the nature of a permanent endowment, since the rent of the rooms, even at a moderate rate, which it would be advisable to place them at, would create a fund sufficient at least for the annual repairs of the various college buildings.

At the commencement, and until something of a name and reputation has been built up for the University, the Board of Administrators consider themselves as doing their duty by recommending an endowment of not less than \$10,000 per annum to sustain, 1st, a President of the University, who shall be able to devote his whole time and attention to the governance of the entire University, and who should be, *ex officio*, a member of each faculty; who could form and carry out a regular plan and system; who should be the medium of communication between the Board and the Faculties and the Chief Executive. 2d, Towards assisting and partially sustaining such professors in the faculties of "Arts and Sciences," and "College Proper" as, from the nature of their duties requiring the whole of their time, are precluded from other outside employment. Such as the Professorship of Mathematics and Ancient Languages, in which the instruction to be given cannot be conveyed by lectures alone, but requires the greater part of the day.

Finally, we would respectfully request you to appoint, in accordance with the Sixteenth Section of the Charter of the University, a Committee of your Honorable Bodies to take these matters into consideration; and examine into the present state and future prospects of the University.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. NEWTON MERCER, *Chairman of Board of Administrators.*

Governor of Louisiana, ex officio Administrator.

E. T. MERRICK, *Chief Justice of Louisiana, ex officio Administrator.*

CHAS. M. WATERMAN, *Mayor of New Orleans, ex officio Administrator.*

EDMOND J. FORSTALL, *Administrator.*

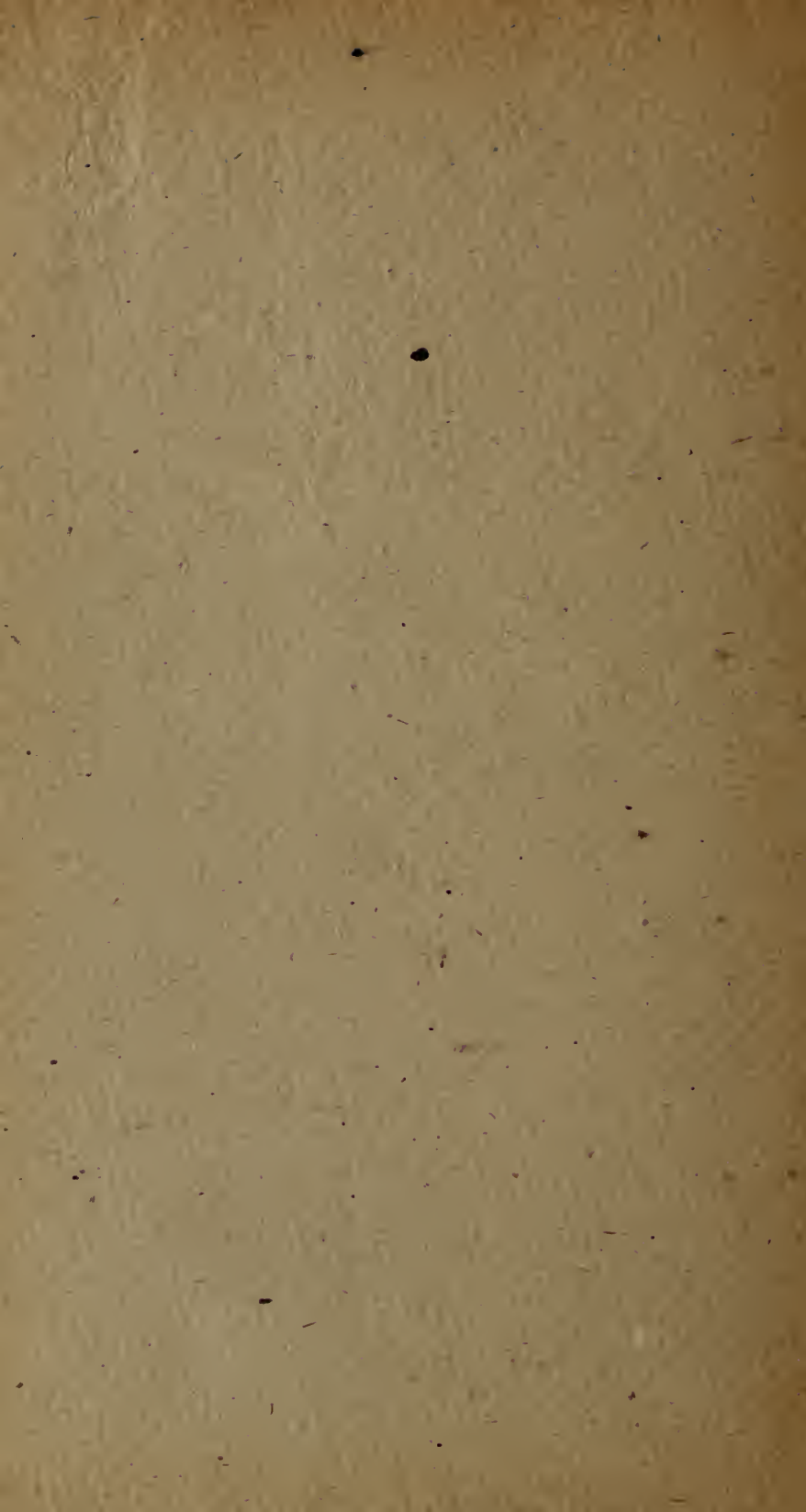
P. E. BONFORD, *Administrator.*

JRE. LABATUT, D. M., *Administrator.*

(A true copy.)

ALBERT G. BLANCHARD,
Secretary.





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