



Madison County Genealogical Society



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Norfolk Hospital for the Insane

Christmas for Insane

First Dance Since New Hospital Was Built

A treat in Early Morning

A Christmas tree for the poor unfortunates in the State Hospital for the Insane in Norfolk brings thoughts of Home too vividly.

Patients in the Norfolk hospital for the insane will enjoy just as merry a Christmas day as it is possible to give them, without so overdoing the festivities of the occasion as to cause gloom and pathetic thoughts of home. Dr. G. A. Young, superintendent, announces that on Christmas eve the first dance that has been given at the institution since the old hospital burned, will be held in the chapel. This has become possible by reason of the fact that patients have been transferred into the new west wing, releasing the chapel from its dormitory capacity.

In remodeling, the preparing of the building for a chapel again, a new finish will be put on the floor and new decorations on the walls. The carpenters will be stopped long enough in their work, however, to allow the patients to enjoy a dance on Christmas eve, with a dance following for the employees. A four-piece orchestra, consisting of a clarinet, cornet, violin and piano now makes good music.

Treats for Patients

Dr. Young says that, while it has been found that a Christmas tree does not pay in the hospital because it hurts the feelings of inmates in bringing back to their minds thoughts of their own homes that they have left, each patient will be given a treat on Christmas morning. Fruit, nuts and candies have been ordered and on Christmas morning, when the rest of the world is joyous in the Santa Claus spirit, the unfortunates in the hospital will receive, each one, a package of these good things to help make them happy and light hearted.

At dinner there will be turkey and other delicacies in keeping with the occasion.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Saturday, December 22, 1906, page 7.