



New York State Archives

**New York State Commission in Lunacy Annual Reports
B1432**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series consists of published copies of selected annual reports prepared by the commission to summarize its work and make recommendations. Typically the reports include general information on the state system, and certain early reports address the licensed private institution systems and the general hospital system. Reports also give a summary of recommendations, general statistics, and the annual reports submitted to the commission by the boards of managers of the various state hospitals.
Creator:	New York (State). State Commission in Lunacy
Title:	Commission in Lunacy annual reports
Quantity:	2.25 cubic feet
Quantity:	13 volumes
Inclusive Date:	1892-1908, 1912
Series:	B1432

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Scope and Content Note

The series consists of published copies of selected annual reports prepared by the commission to summarize its work and make recommendations. Chapter 545 of the Laws of 1896 (the "Insanity Law") required the commission to annually report its acts and proceedings for the preceding year to the legislature.

Typically the reports include general information on the state system, and early reports may include the licensed private institution systems, and the general hospital system. Reports also give a summary of recommendations, general statistics, and the annual reports made by the board of managers of each of the state hospitals to the commission. Information is both narrative and statistical.

Summaries on the state system may include remarks on general operations (numbers of committed insane, receipts/expenditures for the support of state hospitals, average number of patients held and discharged, and percentages of recoveries and deaths); appropriations; maintenance costs (for patient care and treatment as well as supply purchases); salary and

wages of officials and employees; patient diet; costs for alien and non-resident patients; results of treatment of the insane; and recommended legislation.

Of special note is information on the Pathological Institute of New York State, which was created to acquire knowledge on the nature of insanity. At least one annual report of the institute is appended to a commission annual report.

B1432-07: This accretion contains an appraisal of State Hospitals for the Insane completed by the State Commission in Lunacy on January 1, 1912.

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Related Information

Related Material

A0283Series A0283, Monthly Reports and Minutes of Board of Managers of State Institutions, contains copies of reports submitted to the governor by boards of managers as required by the Insanity and State Charities laws of 1896.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

These volumes originated from the library of the Willard Psychiatric Center. They were transferred to the State Archives when the center closed in 1995.

B1432-07: This accretion resulted from a project by Archives staff in 2007 to accession or integrate estrayed or unidentified records.

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Access Terms

- Psychology, Pathological
- Institutional care
- Mentally ill--Commitment and detention
- Reports
- Mentally ill--Care--New York (State)
- Psychiatric hospital patients
- Government accountability
- Monitoring state government institutions
- New York (State)
- Public welfare
- Annual reports