

"THE WORLD" THEIR SAVIOR.**HOW NELLIE BLY'S WORK WILL HELP THE CITY'S INSANE.**

Her Stories of the Treatment of Patients on Blackwell's Island Induce the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to Grant More Money to the Charity Commissioners—The Mayor Warns Dr. MacDonald.

The stories written by Nellie Bly and recently published in THE WORLD, picturing the manner in which patients are treated in the hospitals for the insane on Blackwell's Island, gave Dr. MacDonald and President Simmons, of the Board of Charities and Correction, no small amount of courage when they appeared yesterday before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. The city paid \$1,493,300 last year for the maintenance of paupers and the insane. If the abuses among the insane were to be remedied, President Simmons said, the appropriation for the coming year must be \$2,121,162. The Mayor and other members of the Board appeared to believe that the outrages, so graphically described in THE WORLD, were the result of a scanty supply of funds. Almost the entire amount asked for was allowed provisionally. Within a few days the Board will visit the institution, and, after having ascertained their real needs, will finally pass upon the appropriation for their maintenance.

The Mayor asked why the Commissioners who, during the present year, had spent \$75,000 in support of the Almshouse, needed \$79,868 for the coming year? President Simmons replied that the increase would be expended in furnishing the patients with two ounces more of meat daily.

The Commissioners thought \$100,000 was too little for the support of the Asylum for the Insane on Blackwell's Island. \$100,000 was necessary. The extra allowance, they said, would be used to furnish better food to the patients. They also wanted \$301,387 for the City Asylum for the insane.

"Complaints have been made," said the Mayor, "that the inmates of this institution suffer from improper diet. The cooking, apparently, is extremely poor. This is not right. I would never touch the food served at this asylum, unless I were a lunatic, if all the stories about concerning its poor quality are true. A reporter has told us that the patients have been without salt for periods of eight days or more at a time. Disease, under such circumstances, must increase at an alarming rate.

Dr. MacDonald admitted that the contractors frequently provided an impure quality of salt, and that at any particular time there might not have been a particle in the storehouse.

"Then I would advise the Commissioners to buy all the salt they can and charge the cost to the contractors," responded the Mayor warmly. "These poor creatures should not be treated so abominably. I trust that hereafter, doctor, you will see to it that your patients are properly provided for. If you fail to do this the people will certainly rise in their indignation and remove you from your office."

Dr. MacDonald replied: "I have for the past seventeen years endeavored to secure sufficient appropriations to care for our patients. This year I hope my appeals will be heard. If they are, there will be no occasion for exposures in newspapers of alleged cruelties practised in our charitable institutions."

"I am in favor of allowing every cent asked for," said the Mayor, and the full amount was appropriated.

Dr. MacDonald exhibited a statement, asking that more attendants and better paid physicians should be provided. He declared that one attendant for every ten patients was absolutely necessary. The doctor also complained that the salaries of the physicians were so small that really competent practitioners would not remain at the institution. Some received as little as \$600. The Board decided to raise the salaries of several of the physicians and also to increase the number of attendants.

Other allowances made were: City Prison, \$30,550; Bellevue Hospital and the three reception hospitals, \$188,086; Penitentiary, \$63,794; Hospital for Incurables, \$5,683; Workhouse, \$70,535; Homoeopathic Hospital, \$30,000; City Asylum for the Insane, \$300,000; Randall's Island Hospital, \$30,000; Brandon Lunatic Asylum, \$30,000.

Sheriff Grant asked the Board for \$87,800 with which to run his office another year. He declared that he paid \$1.23 for each prisoner he removed, while he received but \$1.25. He thought \$1.50 ought to be allowed. The sheriff also asked 75 instead of 60 cents per day for persons confined in the County Jail. The Mayor thought 70 cents sufficient and so did the other members of the Board. In other respects the sheriff's estimate was so cut down that the final figure barely reached \$59,800, or \$28,000 less than asked.

County Clerk Frack wanted \$176,850 for his office and got it. The Mayor spoke in the highest terms of the County Clerk's office, and Messrs. Frack and Clitroy acknowledged the compliment, when Mr. Hewitt remarked: "Yours is about the only office concerning which I have not received complaints."

The Mayor objected to an item in the budget appropriating \$500 for Grand Army expenses on Decoration Day.

The Civil-Service Commission was allowed \$25,000 for expenses.