January 1st, 1854.

To the Board of Trustees

of the Baltimore City and County Alms House:

GENTLEMEN:

We herewith annex a tabular statement of the Medical and Surgical diseases admitted into the Baltimore city and county Alms House, during the period that we have had charge of the Medical department, from April 1st to December 31st, 1853. We are unable to give a statement of the cases admitted during the first three months of the year, no record having been kept during those months.

We would congratulate the board upon the fact, that during this period of nine months we have suffered from no epidemic, and that we have had no diseases having their origin in endemic causes within the Institution.

By the prompt removal of the cases of small pox and of typhus fever, which, although contracted elsewhere, have occurred in the house, to the out-building erected for that purpose, the spread of those diseases has been prevented.

We feel constrained to allude to the disadvantages we labor under in the treatment of the insane paupers. Their apartments, which consist of a few narrow and confined cells partly under ground, are utterly unfit and inadequate for their reception. Several patients are crowded into each cell. They have appropriated to them only a very small yard in which they are entirely exposed, and from which, unless their hands are confined, they can easily escape. Their nurses, who are paupers, are necessarily changed very frequently, and having no interest whatever in ameliorating the condition of their patients, are but too prone to resort to coercise treatment. Under