

THE SAUK CENTER HOME FOR CHILDREN

November⁷ 1954

Mrs. Smith, Superintendent of the Reformatory, was first visited. She took me to the building known as Villa. There I met Mrs. Jackrow, Nurse Supervisor, who lives upstairs in this building.

This building is of fire resistant construction and houses 30 boys up to 10 or 11 years old. It has three single rooms and 14 double rooms. The children were playing in a dayroom. A ward report was made out.

This mentally defective unit consists of three scattered buildings with a dining room in each building but a kitchen that provides all the food in the Villa building. In the basement is a domestic type of laundry. Oil is used as a heating fuel, and bottled gas is used for cooking.

A doctor visits the group on each Tuesday, and receives \$15.00 per visit. If a child becomes ill he goes to the local hospital. There was one death during the past year.

There is a quota of 43 employees. Mrs. Cass, the Business Manager, states that it costs between \$1700.00 and \$1800.00 per year per patient. It is entirely separate from the reformatory with a separate budget and receives nothing from the reformatory.

The Petit building is some distance away and food has to be carried to it in regular containers (without heat). It houses 30 boys, 3 to 6 years old, in cribs in 15 rooms. This building is fire resistant. The children were all in the day room. No employee lives in this building.

The Van Cleeve building is also some distance from the other two units and is not fire resistant. It also cares for 30 boys up to five years old. No employee lives in this building.

As can be seen 90 small mentally retarded children are cared for here with a force of 43 employees, at a cost of between \$1700.00 and \$1800.00 per year per patient. This is a costly way to care for these unfortunates. While they are un-

doubtedly receiving good care, I saw no toys in the playroom. Since the reformatory is anxious to have this space, I think these children should be removed to one of the schools as soon as space can be prepared for them.

Harlan R. Ranie