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THE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

The girls' industrial building, referred to in our last report, has been completed and put to its use. Manual training continues to receive special attention, and during the past year the teaching of sloyd has been introduced. Although the industrial department is receiving special attention, it is not at the expense of the school training. The self-supporting character of the deaf of Minnesota is a standing testimony of the value of the training which this institution has afforded.

The risk from fire has been greatly reduced by the introduction of pipes from which streams of water may be thrown upon the great wooden dome.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

Like the school for the deaf, this school advertises, and is on the constant lookout, for pupils, because it is the only provision for a class of pupils who must have this training to become self-supporting citizens. Thus the larger the attendance of those meeting the conditions the better, especially as it is found that the broader their mental growth, the better they get on in life.

Sloyd has been introduced with the same good results which have attended its introduction in other institutions.

At present the school is suffering from overcrowding, which compels the use of the hospital building and the gymnasium for dormitories. It would seem unfortunate for this condition long to continue.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

The school building has been remodeled and enlarged, providing ample and well lighted schoolrooms, as well as a gymnasium and other accessories to the proper administration of an institution of this sort. A suite of rooms devoted to the manufacture of inmates' clothing helps to solve the problem of useful occupation for the healthy feeble-minded women who have come to maturity in the institution. It is decidedly better, however, that they be here, even in idleness, than that they multiply the population of our public and private charitable institutions as in states which fail to provide for their permanent custody.

The school for the feeble-minded, on the whole, is well equipped, and is one of which the state may feel proud. The only serious drawback is that there are now over 200 applications on file for admission. The sooner they are admitted the quicker they can have intelligent care and the nearer they can be brought to a condition of

eelf-support. Society is often obliged to pay dearly for the school's inability to receive these applicants, especially the girls. The distressing condition surrounding the custodial cases awaiting admission should not be forgotten. It is for the legislature to determine if it is either humane or economical not to make adequate provision for this class.

The last legislature generously provided for a hospital, which, in construction and equipment, is the equal of any in a similar institution. Unfortunately, however, the increased cost of material prevented the addition of the second wing. The farm cottage also provided for is under construction, but the increase in number of applicants has exceeded the increased capacity.

Colonies for the separate treatment and care of epileptics have been established in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Ohio, and their establishment is under active consideration in Indiana and other states. This policy meets the entire approval of physicians and philanthropists, able from experience to judge of its merits. We have become convinced that the separate colony is the humane and economical method of caring for epileptics.

Minnesota now has 172 epileptics in the school for the feeble-minded, 145 in the hospitals for the insane, and nearly or quite 800 others, some of whom might advantageously be in an institution instead of being on the outside to multiply wards of the state.

These epileptic inmates are detrimental to the best care of the feeble-minded and the insane, and in those institutions the epileptics themselves cannot have the care best fitted to their peculiar requirements. Their presence is not necessary to the economic administration of the institutions in which they are now cared for, because the hospitals for the insane are all full and the number needing treatment is steadily increasing. The school for the feeble-minded, already a large institution, has on its list of applicants the names of more than enough persons to take the place of the epileptics if they were removed.

The separate care of the epileptics carries out the principle of scientific classification of the state's wards, and such classification has proven most economical.

Probably it is our duty to call the legislature's attention to the request of the board of directors of the institute for defectives, asking for \$180,000 for new buildings and equipment. The granting of this request, or the major part of it, will mean either the permanent amalgamation of the provision for the epileptics with that for the feeble-minded, which, after careful study, we are confident would be prejudicial to the state's interests in the care of both classes, and directly contrary to action being taken by other progressive states, or the granting of this request would mean the care of the epileptics

in a separate colony at Faribault; the advisability of the latter alternative is purely a question for legislative determination.

THE STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The new school building has been completed, and is occupied. The old one has been remodeled for a cottage.

Another agent has been added, and there are now three serving the institution, seeking homes and supervising the care of 1,124 children placed in homes in the state. The economy of this agency is evident when the small cost of this institution is compared with the cost of orphanages in numerous other states. No orphanage within our knowledge is more homelike or more helpful to its little wards, and few equal the state school in these qualities.

THE STATE TRAINING SCHOOL.

The population of the school July 31, 1900, was 383, as compared with 324 July 31, 1898. Growth was to be expected, because of the increased population of the state; also because the state agency had, by the former date, disposed of the placeable children who had accumulated at the institution before the agency was established. The agent's responsibility increases annually with the growing number (now 322) under supervision, and we desire to express our decided approval of this sort of work.

The passage by the last legislature of a law providing that, under certain circumstances, children between the ages of sixteen and seventeen might be admitted to this institution, and that the girls should be subject to the care of the institution until they should become twenty-one years of age, has been another reason for increase of population. There doubtless may be occasions when the operations of such a law will be beneficial, but the demoralizing influence of certain pupils of this age, especially among the girls, leads us to regret the adoption of the law, and to recommend that section 1, chapter 156, of the Laws of 1899 be repealed, and that section 4, chapter 153, of the Laws of 1895 be re-enacted.

Attention has previously been called to the advisability of re-establishing regular military drill, and we believe that the improved discipline and the physical and mental benefit to the boys will warrant the slight additional cost of this training.

The teaching of sloyd and the improved condition of the school to which reference was made two years ago have been continued. Additional rooms have been finished in the girls' building, affording better classification, and their school has been divided into two sections, with more rigid enforcement of discipline.