

80-MSR-GHK
Print to 1920-AMO
state inst - Fairbank

lars for the purpose of furnishing the entire basement, but after having run the gauntlet of the State Board of Public Charities and the committees of each house of the General Assembly, we got only five thousand for the purpose.

This has now almost all been expended, but it will not enable us to occupy any portion of the basement until other appropriations are made.

When the basement is completed it will enable us to have rooms to use exclusively as play- and sitting-rooms, and it will not be necessary to longer use school-rooms for any other than school purposes.

One thousand dollars has enabled us to put in a new well—well-house—and large steam-pump, which assures us an admirable water-supply.

I suppose the cost of our entire outfit of buildings, grounds, and steam-heating apparatus has been about two hundred thousand dollars.

Minnesota.—Dr. George H. Knight reported:

You are already familiar with the fact that at the last session of the Legislature of Minnesota the sum of thirteen thousand dollars was appropriated for the establishment for two years of an experimental school for imbeciles.

Dr. H. M. Knight organized the school last July with fifteen children, all of whom were taken from the insane asylums of this State. Since then we have received five more, making our present number twenty. Their condition when they first entered the school may be imagined when I tell you that they had been confined in the wards with the insane. However, they were a very good class of children, and capable of great improvement, as was shown by an almost complete change in their habits after three months of steady work.

Physically and morally we have been able to do a great deal for them. The house is well adapted to our purpose, the sanitary conditions are good, and there has been a marked improvement in the health of the children.

Mentally our advancement has, of course, been slow, owing largely to the fact that but three of our children were English-speaking when they came. The rest have had to learn a new language, at all times a difficult task, and doubly so for such as these.

Their progress in the school-room is best summed up as follows:

Two (2) have written letters home.

Seven (7) use writing-books.

Three (3) read in the primer.

Six (6) read cards.

Three (3) can add.

Five (5) count over ten.

Two (2) count ten.

Seven (7) sing.

Nine (9) join in light gymnastics.

Three (3) read the dumb-bell charts correctly.

Four (4) simply imitate them.

Eight (8) dance.

Five (5) sew.

Two (2) do worsted work.

Three (3) work outside.

One (1) drums remarkably well, and has learned to play the bones since he came.

Four (4) are mutes.

Two (2) are semi-mutes.

When the school opened one boy could read a very little, the rest were entirely untaught.

Unfortunately for the large number of imbecile children in the State, this school is as yet but an experiment.

The attention of the greater part of the people has not been drawn to the fact that such an institution is *necessary*, but the work has some very warm advocates and is gaining ground.

Next winter a great effort will be made by those who see the extreme need of a training-school for these children to make this experiment a necessity. When this is accomplished, the law which now makes an insane asylum the only door to this school will be abolished, and we shall have to see Minnesota providing as nobly for the imbecile as she already does for the deaf and dumb, blind, and insane.

—O. W. Archibald reported as follows: Our Institution in Iowa is situated in the southwestern portion of the State, beautifully overlooking a romantic little city of Glenwood, some two hundred feet below, and protected behind the numerous natural trees of the forest, which at all seasons of the year presents a superb outlook from our asylum home. For health, grand scenery, richness of soil, and natural beauty, requisite for the permanent establishment of a magnificent and happy home for our unfortunate class, cannot, I presume, be equalled anywhere in the

State it will require plenty of "State funds" to make it what it should be, and what the present needs of our State already demand. As heretofore reported, our Institution is comparatively new, not quite four years established, and the various "aspiring candidates for Congress" that each session fill our legislative halls do not seem to provide for our necessities for fear their constituents might be extravagant and forget to send them to Washington; in con-