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Printed 1920-AMC

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72 STATUS OF THE WORK—MASSACHUSETTS—MINNESOTA.

Navy. We have but five thousand dollars for maintenance; but, as the year is well advanced, it may suffice for the immediate expense of opening. What we most need now is an earnest-minded man, of good professional ability, and a reasonable spirit of self-sacrifice, to take up this work in our State.

*Massachusetts.*—Dr. Walter E. Fernald reported at Orillia, 1888: An estate of ninety acres, situated in the city of Waltham, eight miles from Boston, has been purchased for a new location for the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded. The land is elevated and slightly, is well adapted for farming purposes, and has a convenient water-supply.

The Legislature at its last session appropriated two hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings on this site. We shall build a series of detached buildings of moderate size.

The school and custodial departments will be on different parts of the estate. A farm-house which will accommodate thirty inmates will be built this summer, and our large boys transferred at once from the farm at Medfield.

An asylum building, to accommodate about one hundred cases, will also be begun this summer, and will be completed and occupied early in 1889.

The administrative and school buildings will be begun early next summer.

When the new institution is completed, the farm at Medfield and the buildings in South Boston will be sold, and the proceeds devoted to the erection of new buildings.

At present we have about two hundred inmates, about equally divided between school and asylum cases. Several hundred applicants are now anxiously awaiting admission. We are now greatly hampered by our crowded and badly-arranged buildings. Owing to our limited capacity, as soon as our inmates have passed the school age, many of them have to be provided for elsewhere, in order that younger children may have the advantage of our school training. So we have a large proportion of young children and comparatively few trained cases at any one time, and for this reason, I think, we are able to accomplish less, relatively, in our industrial department than do many of the larger institutions having greater number of older, trained inmates.

*Minnesota.*—Dr. A. C. Rogers reported at Lakeville, 1887:

*On Causation of Idiocy, etc.*—We are still collecting etiological data with every new case received, and supplementing the same by such facts as can be obtained by subsequent personal interviews.

We have not yet collected enough material to justify any public statement as to conclusions.

*On Development and Progress, etc.*—Our board received all it asked from the Legislature last winter, the principal item being an appropriation for a custodial building, for which it is proposed to lay the foundation this fall. A beautiful building site was provided for by the last Legislature. Our main centre is nearly completed. This will provide dining-rooms for nearly three hundred children. A large assembly room with a suite of school-rooms adjacent, offices and public rooms, and a well-arranged hospital nursery are provided in this building.

*On Improvement in School Training, etc.*—Our school and industrial work has been organized and conducted on what we term the co-ordinate plan,—that is, the literary work and the various branches of industry, such as house-work, sewing, brush-making, scroll-sawing, and brass-hammering, are kept in progress simultaneously, the children changing from one occupation to another, but always busy at something during the entire day. The teachers are required to make out definite programmes for their children, giving to each child as much attention as their time will allow. These programmes are then taken by the superintendent, and every child that is not occupied by its teacher during any given hour, or half-hour, is assigned to some other employment during that time. This reduces the number of children under any one instructor at any one time to the minimum. This leaves the school-rooms more nearly free from disturbing noise and confusion, and enables the teacher to concentrate her energies upon a few persons at a time. The children are not kept at any one employment so long as to weary them, each change seeming to bring renewed interest, while the very important result is obtained of keeping the largest possible number of children continuously employed during seven hours of the day. It might be thought this constant changing would create confusion, but we have found that there is but little if any more than is occasioned by class changes, and the children very quickly learn the programmes themselves. My teachers, at first adopting it with many misgivings, are now, I believe, unanimous in approval of it.

We propose to carry out the same plan during another year, when we will have our school and industrial rooms in close proximity, and thus much better adapted to carrying out the system successfully.

Out of the twenty-four epileptics under our care during the year, we have selected cases as we could find time to give them special study and treatment. We have now a half-dozen cases each of which is receiving its distinct treatment, and, while we have no cures to report, we are very free to say that never before have we been able to see such marked results from treatment or been led from *experience* to expect radical cures. The general plan now adopted is the combined plan suggested by Dr. C. H.

Hughes, of St. Louis,—viz., the use of the bromides with arsenic, hypophosphites of the alkaline earths, cephalic galvanization, and selected diet. By following up this treatment we have witnessed the convulsions steadily decrease in frequency and severity.

By the tabulated study of the convulsions of all the cases under observation, we found one case in which for a year the convulsions occurred periodically three times a month. By a glance at the schedule we can predict within a day or so when they will occur. This has furnished an important suggestion for treatment.

Dr. A. C. Rogers reported at Orillia, 1888: Minnesota's School for Feeble-Minded has experienced a prosperous year since the last meeting of the Association.

Our school-term began in September, 1887, with one hundred and forty-two persons enrolled. It just closed (June 15th, 1888) with one hundred and seventy-seven, one hundred and eighty being the highest enrolment reached.

Our institution, as you all know, admits all classes of feeble-minded and some epileptics. Our custodial department is about equal to our school department in size.

Our people believe thoroughly in the colony idea, but for temporary purposes the south wing of the school building, which is now being rapidly built, will serve for custodial and hospital purposes.

This south wing completes the symmetry of our present buildings, and after erecting shop, laundry, and additional room for the schools proper, for which our board intend asking appropriations this winter, our school and training plant will be very complete, and will have a capacity for about three hundred children.

We are providing separate kitchen and dining-rooms for the custodial classes in the south wing, and the isolation of these classes from the school-children proper will be quite complete. It is expected that the next move will be to place these classes in a colony building. All of our new construction is semi-fireproof, brick partitions, wire lath, and iron and brick staircases being used all through.

We believe that our work is looked upon with favor by the people of the State generally. Our Board of Directors are conservative business men, and nearly all of them have served in their present capacity for a number of years, so that the public have learned to have confidence in their management of public expenditures. Our general organization is peculiar to Minnesota, and may not be understood by all of you. The Minnesota School for Deaf, organized at Faribault twenty-five years ago, formed the nucleus from which, or in connection with which, the Board

of Directors have since organized the School for Blind and School for Feeble-Minded. The last Legislature placed the three schools upon the same legal basis, and for simplicity termed the aggregation, *The Minnesota Institute for Defectives*, with the three departments,—School for Deaf, School for Blind, and School for Feeble-Minded. Each has its own buildings and organization. One steward acts for the three schools, buying upon the requisitions of the superintendents. The steward is also superintendent of building construction, and, as we are fortunate in having a steward of ability and long experience, the superintendents are relieved of much responsibility.

On the 5th of this June the board celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the School for Deaf, and laid the corner-stone of the building which is to be temporarily used for custodial purposes at the School for Feeble-Minded.

We are pleased to report progress in collecting data for the study of causation. We have the preliminary histories of nearly all of our inmates now that have friends or relatives known to us.

Under the subject of "*Improvements in School-Training*," I wish to call your attention to what we are terming the "co-ordinate method." This is essentially mingling of the ordinary school-room work with manual training, both occupying the same time and the two in rooms adjacent.

The programme is prepared in this way. All of the teachers (having their classes assigned as is usually done elsewhere) prepare their own programmes of school work, which, when approved by the superintendent, are consolidated by the clerk. By selecting and classifying otherwise unoccupied children throughout the day from the school-rooms, we have been able to keep an average of about forty children employed in brass-hammering, scroll-sawing, brush-making, pattern-work, sewing, fancy needle-work, and general house-work.

All of our industrial work this year has been accomplished in this way, and while we have no great display or showing to boast of, we feel a little pardonable pride in what we believe is a good foundation for future industries.

Experience has demonstrated the following advantages from this method:

1. Relief to the teachers by removing noisy, restless children, thereby permitting them (the teachers) to give their whole attention to the children under immediate instruction.
2. Meeting the first indication of childhood nature,—emphatically required among feeble-minded generally,—viz., short times of occupation at one thing and a variety of occupations.

3. Increased interest and ambition on the part of the children. This has been really wonderful and beyond expectation.

4. Less idleness,—hence less mischief and annoyance.

5. Better work in the school-rooms as a result of the physiological activities, better nutrition, better blood.

We do not here consider the financial aspect of the system, but can say incidentally that our children's work in the manual training department sells for enough to more than pay for the material used.

There are two objections that might be urged against this plan,—

(1) Complexity of programme, and (2) overwork and excitement of certain cases.

The first objection is not of sufficient importance to merit attention in a school the size of ours, and I think the half-day play will prevail for the older children as the school grows.

The second objection is a valid one, and can only be avoided by the interference of the medical officer. There are children in all of our institutions that must not be stimulated, as insanity will result, but the proper prescription must be applied to the proper case.

The "co-ordinate method" may not be the thing for any of the schools under your care; we simply report from our own experience and for what it is worth.

The experiment will be continued in Minnesota, and we hope to be able to report as favorably in the future.

Hon. R. A. Mott, a veteran in legislation for the defective classes in Minnesota, sends the following contribution to the Proceedings at Orillia. His reference is to a State provision for all classes and conditions of the feeble-minded:

"Heretofore the work had been confined to teachable imbeciles, who were dismissed at a prescribed age; and such of the custodial classes as had not been turned over to the tender mercies of ignorant and untrained keepers of almshouses still blighted many a home in our land, where you might find a helpless, hopeless, shameless idiot or a confirmed epileptic, enslaving the mother and demoralizing the family and neighborhood. Our sister States are rapidly following our lead, and many a gifted mother is already enfranchised to be a crown of glory to her household and an ornament to society, conscious that her unfortunate child has much better care than ever before under the constant presence of attendants trained to their task.

"One step farther we propose, which by our new act of 1887 is contemplated,—*To keep those whom we cannot cure and equip for life in custody until they are past the reproducing age, and stamp out hereditary*

imbecility and epilepsy right here and now. But to render this practical I think two conditions must conjoin: First, in the constant movement of our population all the States must act together; and, second, this republic must not remain the dumping-ground of all nations. We shall ever welcome the vitality and nobility of the best Celtic, Saxon, Germanic, and Scandinavian blood of Europe, but if the sewage of vice and crime and physical weakness is to pour in upon us from the east, and more nameless abominations to come in a like flood from the west, we are helpless. We cannot build prisons, reformatories, insane retreats, and idiotic asylums fast enough and large enough for our needs. Why not stop this our folly? I would protect the future of this republic from outside mental, moral, and physical rotteness by a tariff on impure blood higher than Horace Greeley or Whitelaw Reid ever dreamed of."

*Nebraska.*—No report.

*New Jersey.*—Dr. Kerlin reported at Orillia, 1888: Under the enthusiastic movement of two ministers, S. O. and C. F. Garrison, two institutions have been founded at Vineland, N. J.,—"The New Jersey Home for the Feeble-Minded" and the "Home for the Care and Training of Feeble-Minded Women." The former is under the direction of a private corporation which seeks State aid; the latter is strictly a State institution, the trustees being appointed by the governor. About forty inmates have been entered, and the promoters report that "their success has been phenomenal, and possibly never equalled by that of any similar institution in the country."

*New York.*—Dr. J. C. Carson reported at Lakeville, 1887: Within the past two years appropriations aggregating about fifty-six thousand dollars have been granted to the New York State Asylum for Idiots, at Syracuse, for the following purposes: The erection of a building to provide additional school-rooms, and a hall for the general assemblage of pupils at dancing, for gymnastic exercises, and at entertainments; for the erection of four detached closets and bath-rooms in connection with the male departments; for rebuilding and reconstructing the old laundry building into dormitories and day-rooms for a class of unteachable children; and for the erection of a residence upon the grounds of the asylum for the superintendent and his family. The school-room building and entertainment-hall is now nearly completed. This building will be an important and useful addition, and will supply a long-felt want. The hall is a large room on the second floor, eighty-seven by forty feet, and accessible at each end by the boys and girls respectively. The other buildings mentioned are in progress, but will not be altogether completed for a year or more hence.