



ST. PAUL:
PIONEER PRESS COMPANY,
1899.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED,

The new building for epileptic girls, for which appropriation was made by the last legislature, has been completed, and has fifty occupants. This is a neat two-story building, of slow burning construction. It increases the normal capacity of the institution to about 660. The school is now full, and there are other applications on file.

This school accommodates the feeble-minded, and many of the epileptics. Probably there are now in Minnesota nearly 2,000 feeble-minded and 1,100 epileptics. Inadequate as is Minnesota's capacity for their care, there is probably no state which provides for a larger proportion of these two defective classes. In view of the large and growing number of feeble-minded and epileptics, our report to the last legislature said, concerning separate provision for epileptics: "We think that the legislature should now consider distinctly whether they are prepared to enter this field, for the reason that this action will definitely commit the state to a large and important work. If the state is to undertake this great work, we think that it will be the best policy for the state to establish a new and distinct institution. We recommend that the legislature investigate thoroughly the institutions already established in other states before entering upon so large an undertaking."

There is no building at the school for feeble-minded, which would not be in demand if a new institution were to be opened for the epileptics. In fact, another building is greatly needed now, and it would be equally necessary after the epileptics were removed.

The institution needs a hospital and receiving ward of fair capacity. At present some of the hospital patients are in each of the largest buildings. Their removal to a hospital would release room that is now needed. There can be no question as to the improvement in economy and in care of patients which would result from congregating the hospital cases in one isolated building, where fewer nurses would be required and where all patients could be under the direct care of the head nurse. The danger from the spread of disease would be lessened if all new inmates were kept in a detention ward during the period for the development of contagious diseases. During this period each newcomer would be under the direct observation of the assistant physician, and at the proper time he could be assigned to his particular department.

Other buildings for which the last legislature made provision have been constructed, and will contribute to the economy and to the efficiency of the institution. The new cattle barn, though one of

the least expensive of the buildings, is important, because it developed the avenues for usefulness which the farm affords. The experience of other institutions for feeble-minded and those for epileptics indorse the value which Superintendent Rogers ascribes to the farm in the treatment of these two classes.

THE STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The state public school is, in our judgment, doing a most beneficent work. We are gratified to note that the state agent has again an assistant. Naturally, the number of pupils increased while there was no assistant. Nov. 30, 1898, the school had under its care 1,049 children in homes outside the institution, besides the 240 in the school.

While the school has arrived at the age at which some of its earlier wards are attaining their majority, the maximum number under the care of the school will not be reached for some years. The agents find full employment in maintaining a proper oversight over the large number of children who are still wards of the state, in advising with those who are reaching their majority, and in investigating the applications of those who are willing to offer homes to the children. The force is yet inadequate to the latter task, and unless the agency appropriation is increased by \$1,500, in addition to the amount now received, it will be necessary to increase the current expense appropriation to provide for at least forty more children.

The new eight-room schoolhouse is under cover, awaiting an appropriation for its completion. When it is finished the present schoolhouse is to be remodeled for a cottage, which will relieve the overcrowding.

It is earnestly hoped that the school has now reached the climax of its population, and that it will never again be necessary to increase its capacity.

THE STATE TRAINING SCHOOL.

The new schoolhouse, for which appropriation was made by the last legislature, presents an appearance in keeping with the buildings among which it is placed. This building, used exclusively for school purposes, has afforded the needed opportunity for grading and supervising the school work and has transformed it from the level of a district school to that of a well regulated and properly graded six-room village school. The west wing of the shop building, for which an appropriation was made by the last legislature, has been completed, and affords room for industrial training, which