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TWELFTH BIENNIAL REPORT

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1901/02

OF THE

Superintendent of Public Instruction

STATE OF MINNESOTA

FOR THE

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School Years Ending July 31, 1901 and 1902.

THIRTY-FIRST REPORT IN THE SERIES.

J. W. OLSEN, Superintendent.

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SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Hon. John W. Olsen, State Superintendent of Public Instruction,

Dear Sir: The movement of population at the School for Feeble-Minded from July 31, 1900, to Aug. 1, 1902, was as follows:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Present Aug. 1, 1900.....	309	302	611
Absent for the time (summer vacation).....	115	71	186
Admitted during the two years.....	155	66	221
Readmitted during the two years.....	7	8	15
Totals	586	447	1,033
Discharged	1	8	9
Dropped	49	25	74
Died	36	27	63
Absent for the time (summer vacation).....	118	83	201
Present July 31, 1902.....	382	304	686
Totals	586	447	1,033

	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
The total attendance was.....	823	912
The average attendance was.....	728	769

"THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT."

In the school the children are graded according to their mental ability. The foundation of all the work is in the Kindergarten. Here we have forty boys and girls under the direction of two teachers. The work done is similar in purpose and method to that of kindergartens in general. The play and work are planned to enable the child

- (1) To recognize numbers and make simple combinations;
- (2) To recognize form and produce it with clay or crayon;
- (3) To recognize color, naming those colors most common; in fact to notice resemblances and differences in all things.

The occupation work, which is that found in all kindergartens, trains the hand to work with the head, while the song, story and game appeal to the heart.

The Primary Class consists of 24 boys and girls, who are graduates of the Kindergarten. They are in school five hours each day. A few of the girls are trained in sewing for three-quarters of an hour each day, and several of the boys take the elementary Sloyd work for the same length of time. All have vocal music and calisthenics under the direction of a special teacher. In the Primary class the children begin to read, to write, and to have work in numbers. They have work in nature study, free hand drawing, clay modeling, paper cutting, etc. Special attention is given to articulation and phonics.

Class "D" is composed of 20 boys and girls—the lowest grade in the school department. These children have the simplest forms of occupation work, introducing one, two, and three different colors or forms, never more. They have simple action songs, games, and much free play and marching. Are taught to brush hair and teeth and button shoes, and how to dress themselves.

Class "C," composed of 20 boys and girls. The kindergarten occupations, songs and games are continued with these children. In addition, they have chart and primer classes and drill in numbers.

Class "B," composed of three sections of 24 boys and girls each. These children are larger and older, and have industrial work in connection with their literary work. The girls alternate school with the sewing and lace, ironing and domestic work, while the boys are in Sloyd, net, mat weaving and brush making when not in school.

They use First and Second readers, write, count money, tell time, dictate letters and have much drill in simple number work.

Class "A" consists of 40 of the most advanced children in the school. There are two divisions, the older boys and girls being in school $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and the younger ones $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day. As in Class "B" these children are all in some industrial classes when not in school.

Number work consists of much drill in multiplication tables, and practical examples involving a knowledge of the four processes and of weights and measures. First, Second and Third readers are used. They study local geography of the city, county and state. Biographies of prominent men and women and history lessons are given orally. In letter writing pupils are expected to

be almost independent. They, as well as some of the pupils in Class "B" and former graduates of these classes, draw books and magazines from our library and greatly enjoy the reading of them. The library is a very great help in character building with our brighter children. No one is allowed to continue using books and magazines who is careless and destructive with them, and the pleasure obtained from them is so great that some of the most destructive children have learned to handle them with the greatest care.

In all class rooms music and free gymnastics are given under the direction of a special teacher. The work with heavy apparatus is done in the gymnasium. Lessons in manners and morals are given in school work daily.

Sloyd.—There are 45 boys and girls in these classes, and this furnishes some of the most valuable training which can be given to our children. They learn to use such tools as jack plane, smoothing plane, saws, marking gauge, try square, chisel, files, auger and center bits, and to know many kinds of woods. The regular course consists of some forty models, some of which are paper knife, spoon, scoop, foot stool, box with cover, tray, book shelf and small table. All models are carefully finished with sand paper and either polished or stained. Wood carving is taught to the most advanced pupils in the Sloyd class.

Manual Training.—The manual employment in the shop, as heretofore, consists of rope and mat making, wood turning and brush making. Two or three of the most advanced do some cabinet work, and assist the carpenter with repairing and construction work outside.

Sewing.—There are sixty girls who are taught to sew and to make torchon lace. They are first taught to do all kinds of plain sewing by hand, and then machine work is begun. A girl who is proficient in sewing and who has graduated from the literary department, is placed in the tailor and dressmaking department where she is taught to make garments. In the tailor shop there are fourteen girls who make most of the garments used by the children in the institution.

The lace making is a remunerative occupation, besides being excellent training. This occupation, which was introduced by Miss Hjorth, a teacher of feeble-minded children, of Christiania, Norway, in 1891, has become an established and very satisfactory occupation, exceedingly fascinating to the girls. From this school it has spread into several of the other state institutions.

The Ironing Class receives girls from every department who are taught to iron from one to two hours each day. They are taught to do all kinds of ironing from plain, unstarched garments to the most difficult pieces. Ten girls are capable of running the body ironer; twenty-five of working on the mangle; three of starching all kinds of garments. Six boys are employed in the laundry on the wringers and washers. One boy has charge of the elevator.

Net Class.—The lower grade boys and girls are taught the net work—the making of hammocks, laundry bags, shopping bags, tennis nets, fly nets, fish nets, basket ball baskets, etc.

Printing Office.—Four of the graduates of the school department are engaged in the printing office, and they turn out some good work. Most of the printing needed at the institution is done by the boys. The "North Star," a paper published for the children, furnishes a variety of reading matter, and, in addition, the "Journal of Psycho-Asthenics," a magazine devoted to the interests of defectives, is printed here.

Music.—A vocal teacher, who also has charge of all the gymnastic work, gives instruction in solo and chorus work. A chorus class meets for daily drill one-half hour each afternoon and all the children meet for song service four evenings each week.

The band and orchestra have done much good work and the music furnished by them is an inspiration to all. The pupils of the music teachers give many delightful entertainments and concerts during the year.

Sunday Exercises.—On Sunday morning all assemble for Sunday School, where simple exercises are conducted consisting of praise songs, psalms and responsive readings. Classes are then formed and the teachers conduct such exercises in the line of developing ideas and habits of upright conduct as the particular classes and individuals require. The International Sunday School lessons are followed by the Bible class.

One-half hour is also spent by the children in the evening service which is conducted by the Chaplain, who presents lessons within the comprehension of all. The vocal and instrumental music given by the children at these services is something of a very high order.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Tuesday evening the weekly dance is held which is attended by the children from all the departments. It is truly a festive occasion, eagerly anticipated and heartily enjoyed by all.

Monday, Thursday and Saturday nights a song service is held at which new songs for chapel use are learned; Friday night is devoted to games, learning new dances, and various forms of entertainment, etc.

CUSTODIAL CASES.

The work above outlined refers to that done in the Center or Training Department proper of the institution. In addition to this, in each of the custodial homes the attendants are required to do all in their power to train the little helpless ones under their care, and one teacher gives her entire time to sense training, elementary school work and simple manual exercises with these children.

PERMANENT CUSTODY.

Continued experience with certain classes of feeble-minded persons increases my conviction that there should be some means of placing them under legal permanent restraint. I refer to those individuals of both sexes possessing a weak power of self control and an exaggerated estimate of their own importance, who are always a source of anxiety to their real friends, of perplexity to the authorities, and a disturbance in the community when at large. In my judgment there should be legislation that would enable the courts to take cognizance of such cases when presented to them, and authority for them to require and provide for their permanent guardianship through the management of the institution.

Respectfully submitted,

A. C. ROGERS,

Superintendent.