

AFTERNOON.

Discussion of the papers was continued.

The Chairman appointed a committee, consisting of Superintendents Tate, Merrill and Dow, to draw up resolutions deploring the passing by death of Dr. A. C. Rogers, late superintendent of the School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics, same to be spread upon the minutes of the quarterly conference, and a copy thereof to be presented to the widow.
*Resolution.

It was voted to hold the next meeting of the Conference at the School for the Deaf, Faribault.

Adjourned.

*The undersigned committee of the Conference of the Board of Control and Superintendents of the State Institutions of Minnesota begs leave to submit the following memorial to the late Superintendent, Dr. A. C. Rogers.

Life is a mystery. Existence is a mystery. Death is a mystery. The one thing we know of life and existence is that the Creator is generous even to prodigality in bestowing his gifts and that he is merciful in withdrawing them. This abundance is seen not only in the human race but in all Creation.

Whether it is in giving, or promoting or in taking life, we do cheerfully recognize the kindly hand of Providence that cannot err.

As some men are more richly endowed than others; so in their passing the void is correspondingly greater. Dr. A. C. Rogers was richly endowed, in heart, in mind and in body. In his activities he touched vitally a wide range. Consequently he will be missed. The whole trend of his life was toward helpfulness. The class of his fellow men to which he devoted his life perhaps fostered this tendency. He was intelligent, sympathetic and charged with a dynamic force that was rare. Dr. Rogers was essentially a leader. He was usually made the head of any organization with which he was associated. He possessed a most winning personality. His stamp is left upon his generation.

Be it therefore resolved that in the passing of Dr. Rogers the cause of the afflicted has suffered a loss that is well nigh irreparable; that those who were intimately associated with him in his work mourn his loss; that the Board of Control and the heads of the State Institutions of Minnesota extend to his family their warmest sympathy.

J. N. TATE,
G. A. MERRILL,
J. J. DOW,

Committee.

The Chairman: We are very sorry that we have so few with us today. It proves conclusively that we have a better audience when we meet at the institutions than when we meet at the Board's office. Of course there are several reasons for that.

Today we are very fortunate to have with us a gentleman who has had a great deal of experience and who will no doubt give us some very valu-

able information relative to the institutions of the great state of Illinois. The speaker has had occasion to observe the work of the institutions of that state, and we have read quite a good deal about what the State of Illinois has done the last two years, especially with reference to taking care of its insane. No doubt we shall learn a great deal from the speaker today. He is so well known that I do not need to say anything more. I have the honor of introducing to you Mr. A. L. Bowen.

THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS OF ILLINOIS.

By A. L. Bowen, Executive Secretary State Charities Commission,
Springfield, Ill.

I come to you today with no message from an institutional millenium. No word of mine is to be construed as a criticism of any other state. I reserve the right to criticize our own service as freely here as I do at home; yet I would not have you believe that we in Illinois are not loyal or proud of our achievements as a humane commonwealth. One of our merits, if we have any merits at all, is our frank attitude towards our problems and our institutions. I shall not attempt to deceive you by self-praise. I shall not endeavor to make you believe we have the best and only system of public charities, or that, by the simple enactment of laws or the waving of an administrative wand, we have banished institutional evils, or by magic dissolved into thin air the perplexities and complexities which every service, at heart, knows are ever present.

I am not a bugler announcing discoveries or achievements. I am going to talk as one member of a great public charity service to the members of another great public charity service—just plain, every-day, practical discussion of the results we have gotten from experiments, some of which, perhaps all of which, more than one state has tried.

Our first state charitable institution was established in 1846. It was an asylum for insane, now known as the Jacksonville State Hospital. The state schools for the blind and the deaf soon followed, then the state asylum for feeble-minded children.

The first step in unification of state charitable institutions was taken in 1870, when the State Board of Charities was created with advisory powers.

During forty years no changes were made in the basic laws affecting control and administration of our state charitable institutions. We had the local board system in its purity of form and inefficiency of conduct.

Institutions increased in number, expanded in function and gained in population. Our prisons and reformatories were left out of the group that submitted to supervision by the State Board of Charities, and went it alone under paid local boards of managers.

In these forty years there were many scandals in the management of these institutions. The opinion of the Board of Charities exercised little influence, though it was progressive and advocated, many years ago, some