The class of his fellow men to which he devoted
were intimately associated with him in his work mourn his loss; that the
afflicted has suffered a loss that is well nigh irreparable; that those who
ing the void is correspondingly greater. Dr. A. C. Rogers was richly en­
fully recognize the kindly hand of Providence that cannot err.

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 Crea­
tion.

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

As some men are more richly endowed than others; so in their pass­
void is correspondingly greater. Dr. A. C. Rogers was richly en­
dowed, 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 essen­
tially a leader. He was usually made the of 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 ex­
tend 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 arc 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 criticise 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 dis­
cussion of the results we have gotten from experiments, some of which, per­
haps 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 asy­
num 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