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MINNESOTA
School for Feeble Minded
AND
Colony for Epileptics

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

TO THE

State Board of Control

Biennial Period Ended June 30, 1924

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SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, FARIBAULT

G. C. Hanna.....	Superintendent
D. E. McBroom, M. D.....	Senior Physician
Ethel R. Beede, M. D.....	Junior Physician
A. L. Haynes, M. D.....	Junior Physician
Chris Barnholdt.....	Steward

Institution opened in 1879

As a separate institution in 1882

Capacity of institution.....	1,900
Area of grounds, acres.....	1,145
Acreage under cultivation.....	603
Value of lands and buildings.....	\$1,758,705.76
Value of personal property.....	\$377,137.06

Expenditures for year ended June 30, 1924:

Current expense.....	\$434,321.14
Repairs and replacements.....	\$45,551.15
Permanent improvements.....	\$123,245.08
Miscellaneous	\$274.50
Gross per capita cost, current expense.....	\$233.25
Net per capita cost, current expense.....	\$188.39
Number of officers and employes.....	306

To the State Board of Control:

I submit herewith the report of the Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics for the biennial period ended June 30, 1924.

POPULATION

The population has continued at 1,900 and above throughout the biennial period and has kept the institution crowded to its utmost capacity. With the erection of the first unit of the new institution at Cambridge and the removal of 60 epileptic patients to the new institution, additional room will be made for feeble-minded persons now on the waiting list. As other units are erected at Cambridge, all the epileptics will be transferred to that place, and the space vacated made available for the feeble-minded. At the present time there are nearly 300 epileptics in the population.

MEDICAL SERVICE

The institution maintains a hundred-bed hospital for the sick and nurses' training school affiliated with the Minneapolis General Hospital. Two years of the work are done at the institution hospital and the remaining year at Minneapolis. Completion of the course renders the graduate eligible for registration. Three physicians constitute the resident medical staff. A specialist in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat also belongs to the staff and does all surgery coming within his field. The hospital has a well-equipped dental room where all necessary dental work is done.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

A school department in charge of a principal and 26 teachers is maintained for teachable children under the age of 16 years. The following subjects are taught in the literary rooms: Reading, writing, spelling, simple arithmetic, elementary geography, elementary history, drawing, and music. In the industrial rooms are taught basketry, weaving, sewing, cooking, lace-making, net-making, manual training, brush-making, and various simple tasks for children who have not the capacity to work on the more complicated problems. Out of the population of 1,900 about 400 children are enrolled in the school department. Half of these are in the kindergarten, sense training, and primary classes (not above second grade). One hundred and twenty more attempt work ranging from the second to the sixth grade, and the remainder are enrolled in hand and industrial work only. No work is offered above the sixth grade, as children who can do higher work than this are not classed as feeble-minded. The school includes in its staff a teacher skilled in mental diagnosis. All children are tested on admission, and routine examinations of the whole population are made at intervals of from two to three years. Terman's Revision of the Binet-Simon Tests is used. According to these examinations, the population classifies as follows: Males—332 idiots, 396 imbeciles, 301 morons, 37 borderline cases; Females—241 idiots, 382 imbeciles, 301 morons, 25 borderline cases. Most of the morons and borderline cases are children under 16 years of age.

With an appropriation from the legislature to cover, the inmates' library has been increased and improved, and a new library for employes established. Employes have shown much appreciation for their library. Miss Miriam E. Carey, librarian for the State Board of Con-

trol, supervised the equipment of the new library and purchased the books for both libraries. The institution is indebted to her for this valuable service.

REPRODUCTION AMONG THE FEEBLE-MINDED

Sexual promiscuity among feeble-minded males can be disregarded for reasons that are obvious. Procreation among feeble-minded males is largely confined, therefore, to the married state and is as extensive as the marriages of this class. With the feeble-minded females the situation is very different. During the whole time that a feeble-minded female is of childbearing age she is an easy victim of the vicious. This has led many to suppose that she is so highly sexed that she seeks the company of men. This does not seem to be the case except occasionally. Rather, she is subject to pressure from without. She may like the society of men, and especially their attentions, and wish to be "agreeable." Maternity regularly results. This may happen as well towards the end of her childbearing period as in her earlier years. In fact, it very often happens that a feeble-minded girl is protected by the supervision of her parents until she is 25 to 30 years and more of age. As her natural guardians die or are enfeebled by advancing years, she falls more and more into the hands of those without regard for her interests. Additional years bring no wisdom to the feeble-minded and many give birth to their first child after they are 40 years of age.

A complete survey of the female inmates of the Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics to ascertain the extent of maternity among them has been completed. As many of them are too low grade mentally to know whether they have been mothers, little dependence could be put in any evidence the inmates themselves might give. This information had to be obtained from the records that were available at the institution and from correspondence with relatives and other persons having knowledge of the facts. One hundred and forty-two were found who had been mothers one or more times. Five of these women brought into the world 45 children. The total number of children born to the group of 142 was 294, as follows: Eighty-six mothers bore one child each; 20, two each; 13, three each; nine, four each; six, five each; three, six each; and the remaining five mothers bore seven, eight, nine, ten and 11 children respectively.

With two exceptions, these women could be considered as adults at the time of their admission. The youngest was 12 years. She gave birth to a child at the age of 20 years, after a residence of eight years

at the institution. She was taken home by her father for a Christmas vacation of two weeks and came back pregnant. She accused her father and two other men having relations with her while she was at home. As the girl was not in the institution by court commitment, her father's demand to take her home could not be refused. Another child was received at the age of 13 and was then a mother. The age of these inmates at the time of admission was as follows:

12 years..... 1	21 years..... 12	30 years..... 2	41 years..... 2
13 years..... 1	22 years..... 7	31 years..... 4	42 years..... 2
14 years..... 2	23 years..... 8	33 years..... 2	44 years..... 1
15 years..... 3	24 years..... 6	34 years..... 1	45 years..... 1
16 years..... 4	25 years..... 8	35 years..... 3	46 years..... 2
17 years..... 4	26 years..... 10	36 years..... 2	47 years..... 1
18 years..... 11	27 years..... 4	38 years..... 2	50 years..... 1
19 years..... 9	28 years..... 6	39 years..... 2	51 years..... 1
20 years..... 8	29 years..... 5	40 years..... 2	52 years..... 1
			55 years..... 1

Mental examinations were made at the time of the admission of the inmates. With the two exceptions, aged 12 and 13 respectively, mentioned above, the results of the examinations on entrance could be regarded as a permanent index to the intelligence of those examined. The mental ages of these inmates follow:

1½ years..... 1	5 years..... 8	7 years..... 22	9 years..... 18
2 years..... 1	5½ years..... 1	7½ years..... 7	10 years..... 11
3 years..... 2	6 years..... 14	8 years..... 26	10½ years..... 2
4 years..... 6	6½ years..... 3	8½ years..... 8	11 years..... 2
			12 years..... 2

In the list of 142 women there were five pairs of sisters. Five more of the list had sisters in the institution who had not been mothers, as follows: three, two sisters each; two, one sister each. Of the 294 children of these mothers 36 are now in the institution. Some of the women were pregnant on admission and their children were born in the institution. Others came with their mothers, as babies. Some were admitted later.

An investigation was made of the place of birth of the women and 18 of the 142 were found to be foreign-born. The places of birth follow: Eighty-seven inmates were born in Minnesota; eight, in Iowa; three, in North Dakota; seven in Wisconsin; three in South Dakota; one, in New York; one, in Illinois; one, in Kansas; one, in Pennsylvania; one, in Ohio; one, in Missouri; one, in Michigan; and three, in the United States (state not known).

Six inmates were born in Germany; four, in Sweden; three, in Norway; one, in Poland; two, in Austria Hungary; one, in Europe (country not known); and one, in Canada. The birthplace of six inmates is unknown.

All persons entering the institution are given a complete physical examination on admission. In the case of this group of women, laboratory blood tests and examination of smears were made in every case. Active gonorrhoea was found in 21 cases, syphilis in seven, and both diseases in three.

In order to get at the frequency with which maternity was likely to occur among the feeble-minded, it was necessary to make a survey of the entire female part of the population as to age at time of admission. The information is placed below in tabular form:

Under 1 year..	5	14 years.....	51	28 years.....	15	42 years.....	3
1 year.....	7	15 years.....	50	29 years.....	9	43 years.....	1
2 years.....	8	16 years.....	50	30 years.....	11	44 years.....	3
3 years.....	9	17 years.....	52	31 years.....	6	45 years.....	3
4 years.....	18	18 years.....	33	32 years.....	14	46 years.....	2
5 years.....	24	19 years.....	33	33 years.....	6	47 years.....	3
6 years.....	28	20 years.....	21	34 years.....	11	48 years.....	4
7 years.....	33	21 years.....	25	35 years.....	7	49 years.....	2
8 years.....	42	22 years.....	17	36 years.....	7	50 years.....	3
9 years.....	44	23 years.....	20	37 years.....	5	51 years.....	2
10 years.....	50	24 years.....	20	38 years.....	3	52 years.....	1
11 years.....	54	25 years.....	12	39 years.....	5	54 years.....	1
12 years.....	43	26 years.....	18	40 years.....	5	55 years.....	3
13 years.....	49	27 years.....	4	41 years.....	3	61 years.....	2
						64 years.....	1

From the above table it will be seen that 465 up to the age 14 may be excluded as below the time at which childbearing ordinarily begins. This leaves 485 over 14 years of age. Two hundred and thirty-nine more had been admitted to the institution by the time they were 20 years of age. Assuming that these women would remain in the institution, their childbearing hazard, covering a period of more than 25 years after they were admitted, would be removed through the shelter of the institution. It can not be said, therefore, that 142 out of 485 feeble-minded women will become mothers. Without the protection afforded by the institution, there would be little to hinder the remaining 343 from having the same experience. It is fair to assume that most of them would have sex experience if left in normal society without the strictest of supervision. Every community has feeble-minded women in it, and as a rule only those under constant supervision have escaped maternity.

It has frequently happened that feeble-minded girls have been taken out of the institution by relatives over the protest of the institution authorities. In nearly every case this has resulted in disaster. A few typical cases, in addition to the one mentioned heretofore, are given below:

A— G— was admitted to the institution in 1913. She was then ten years of age and tested $6\frac{1}{2}$ mentally. She was taken out in 1920 by her father, who established pregnancy in her within five days afterwards. She was not returned to the institution until some time after the child was born. She came back with syphilis. During the seven years this girl was in the institution, from the age of ten to 17, she was sweet, clean, well-mannered, and fairly industrious. At the age of 19 she was back in the institution with an awful disease and with experience including maternity and relations with her father and many others. She resented giving up the life she had entered on and her forced return to the institution. Her disposition had changed to sullenness and coarseness, and she exhibited a nature generally depraved.

J— E— was received from the State Public School at Owatonna in 1915, at the age of 15 years. She had been placed in the state school when very young on account of the wretched surroundings at home. In 1920 a married sister began persistent efforts to get the girl out of the institution, flatly stating that J— was no more feebleminded than she was. This may have been true, but J— tested only about eight years mentally. Through the intercession of an attorney who was "interested in humanity" and wanted to give to a girl who was "not feebleminded" the freedom to which she was entitled as a birthright from on High, the sister's efforts were successful and J— was released to her and taken to the northern part of the state. She was soon out of her sister's hands and staying out all night with men. She was returned to the institution pregnant and gave birth to a child within a few months after her readmission. This girl had led a happy, contented life at the institution, but being returned against her will and thinking of past experiences, she will never again be satisfied to be shut off from the world.

E— S— was admitted in 1918 at the age of 16 years. She tested about nine years mentally. In 1920 this girl's mother, who had moved to another state, was very desirous of taking her daughter to her new home. She was "perfectly sure" that nothing would happen to E— under the strict supervision that she intended to exercise. Not long afterwards the girl was found living in a shack with a man on a farm. The authorities caused her to be returned to the institution. She came back pregnant and with her disposition changed as noticed in the cases mentioned above.

One hundred and sixty-four of the 294 children included in this survey were known to be illegitimate. One hundred and thirty were born to married women. This does not mean, however, that the children were in all cases legitimate. The children of feeble-minded women may be feeble-minded, epileptic, or if normal mentally in their early years may become insane later. Even those who escape any of these conditions run a great risk of having mentally defective offspring. Certainly there is a great hazard in the grandchildren of a feeble-minded person. In many cases all the children of a feeble-minded woman are feeble-minded. There are several instances where a mother and her entire family of children have been committed to the institution.

BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The last legislature appropriated \$205,000.00 for three new cottages for inmates. One of these, a cottage for girls, with a capacity of 60, was completed and occupied June 1, 1924. It is a strictly fireproof structure of brick and concrete with terrazzo floors. Another cottage, similar in type, for boys, is under construction. These two cottages cost about \$150,000.00. The remainder of the appropriation will be used to erect a smaller cottage, with a capacity of 40, as an addition to Skinner Hall Annex Number One. The plans are now being made for this building, and a contract will be let within the next few weeks.

A paint force of six men has been employed throughout the period. The outside work on all buildings, 75 in number, has now been covered and the interiors have been painted at least once. Carpenters, plasterers, and tanners preceded the painters, and all buildings are in good physical condition. The wooden floors have been torn out of several bathrooms for inmates and replaced with concrete and terrazzo. New fixtures were installed in these rooms.

The porches on the custodial buildings, when not screened, were of little use during the summer months when they were needed most. Nearly all of these have been screened now. The last to be included were the long porches at Annex Two, Boys' Custodial Division.

The fire hazard throughout the institution has been reduced to a minimum under present conditions. Every recommendation of the inspectors from the State Industrial Commission and Fire Marshal's department has been acted on. Fire escapes and additional exits have been provided for many of the buildings. The inmates formerly housed on the fourth floor of the main building have all been removed

to other quarters, and this floor abandoned as a home for inmates. This step was made possible by the building program provided by the last legislature.

Ventilating fans have been placed in the kitchen and laundry and in some of the custodial buildings.

The sewer system of the institution is being extended. The main sewers are laid in sand rock tunnels 60 feet underground.

Several improvements have been made at the power plant, including the installation of a new 250 k. w. generating unit and the complete rebuilding of the coal bunkers and machinery connected therewith. The latter improvement was covered by the repair fund.

Much new equipment has been added to the kitchen, including a bread-molding machine. Other equipment and furniture that had worn out have been replaced there and throughout the institution.

Extensive improvements have been carried on in beautifying the grounds. Trees and shrubs have been planted, cement walks built and old ones replaced, driveways graded and graveled, and several areas adjacent to buildings covered with concrete.

NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTION

Appropriations are needed for grounds and fencing, \$5,000.00; addition and alterations to kitchen, \$33,500.00; finishing basements of new buildings, \$3,600.00; garage, \$2,000.00; machinery shed, \$1,000.00; coal storage and conveyor, \$7,500.00; extension of tunnel to paint shop \$1,500.00; cable to pump house, \$2,000.00; covering steam mains, \$2,000.00; household, library, school, musical, farm, dairy, laundry, shop, industrial, fire protection and X-ray equipment, \$40,000.00; and repairs and betterments, \$109,000.00.

CONCLUSION

The success of any enterprise as large as that of managing a great state institution is not due to the work of any one person. Whatever measure of success, therefore, has been attained in the judgment of the Board, may be ascribed to the efforts of the medical staff, the heads of departments, to all employes, and to the co-operation and generous treatment accorded by the Board of Control.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. HANNA,
Superintendent.

SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS

Classification	Year Ended June 30, 1924			Year Ended June 30, 1923		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
POPULATION						
In institution at beginning of year	913	937	1,850	923	937	1,860
Admitted:						
First admissions	77	66	143	72	53	125
Readmissions	17	6	23	13	3	16
Returned:						
From summer vacation.....	142	78	220	115	74	189
From escape	13	.....	13	24	6	30
Total under care.....	1,162	1,087	2,249	1,147	1,073	2,220
Discharged:						
As normal	4	15	19	.....	3	3
As unimproved	16	10	26	8	10	18
As insane	2	2	4	1	4	5
Died	37	26	63	52	31	83
Paroled for summer vacation.....	170	89	259	131	83	214
Escaped	28	1	29	42	3	45
Transferred to other institutions.	8	21	29	.....	2	2
In institution at end of year.....	897	923	1,820	913	937	1,850
Average population	919	943	1,862	922	949	1,871
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AT END OF SCHOOL YEAR						
Feeble-minded:						
School	161	255	416	213	304	517
Custodial	522	565	1,087	498	518	1,016
Farm colonies	90	.....	90	93	.....	93
Epileptic:						
Custodial	91	57	148	69	69	138
Others	67	83	130	64	61	125
Incurable .....	.....	2	2	.....	2	2
Totals	931	942	1,873	937	954	1,891
AGE GROUP						
Under 5 years.....	11	6	17	9	7	16
5 to 9 years.....	22	13	35	13	7	20
10 to 14 years.....	29	15	44	32	12	44
15 to 19 years.....	16	12	28	21	14	35
20 to 24 years.....	6	8	14	7	8	15
25 to 29 years.....	3	8	11	.....	2	2
30 to 34 years.....	4	7	11	1	2	3
35 to 39 years.....	1	2	3	.....	2	2
40 to 44 years.....	1	.....	1	.....	1	1
45 to 49 years.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
50 to 54 years.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
55 to 59 years.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
60 years and over.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Age unknown .....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Total admissions	94	72	166	85	56	141
MARITAL CONDITION						
Single	93	66	159	83	46	129
Married .....	.....	6	6	1	10	11
Unascertained	1	.....	1	1	.....	1
Total admissions	94	72	166	85	56	141
NATIVITY						
United States	85	68	153	79	49	128
Austria .....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Canada (Includes Newfoundland) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
Denmark .....	.....	2	2	2	.....	2
Finland .....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Germany .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1

SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS—
Concluded

Classification	Year Ended June 30, 1924			Year Ended June 30, 1923		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Russia				1		1
Scotland	1		1			
Unascertained	8	1	9	2	4	6
Total admissions	94	72	166	85	56	141
PARENTAGE						
Native parentage	38	33	71	39	25	64
Mixed parentage	19	11	30	13	9	22
Foreign parentage	24	23	47	22	13	35
Parentage unknown	13	5	18	11	9	20
Total admissions	94	72	166	85	56	141
PHYSICAL DEFECTS						
Physically defective:						
Blind	1	1	2	2		2
Deaf						
Dumb	8		11	1	3	4
Crippled, maimed or deformed	3	3	6	4	7	11
Paralytic	4	6	9	9	3	12
Epileptic	4	4	8	2		2
Two or more defects	23	13	36	9	5	14
Not physically defective	10	4	14	4	6	10
	45	41	86	54	32	86
Total admissions	94	72	166	85	56	141
DISPOSITION OF INMATES DISCHARGED						
To custody of parents	10	9	19	5	3	8
To custody of other relatives	4	5	9	2	6	8
To custody of self		7	7	1		1
To custody of others	8	6	14	1	8	9
Totals	22	27	49	9	17	26
AGE AT DEATH						
Under 5 years	6	2	8	5	4	9
5 to 9 years	4	5	9	14	3	17
10 to 14 years	4		4	8	3	11
15 to 19 years	3	6	9	8	2	10
20 to 24 years	3	2	5	3	3	6
25 to 29 years	4	1	5	3	1	4
30 to 34 years	3	3	6	1	1	2
35 to 39 years	1		1	1		1
40 to 44 years	3	2	5	1	3	4
45 to 49 years	1	3	4		2	2
50 to 54 years	1		1		3	3
55 to 59 years	1		1	1		1
60 years and over	3	2	5	5	3	8
Totals	37	26	63	52	31	83
CAUSE OF DEATH						
Tuberculosis of the lungs	7	3	10	3	5	8
Other forms of tuberculosis	2		2	1	1	2
Cancer and other malignant tumors					2	2
Cerebral hemorrhage and softening	2	3	5			
Epilepsy	7	8	15	7	7	14
Organic diseases of the heart	4	3	7	8	2	10
Diseases of the arteries				2	2	4
Pneumonia	4	3	7	13	4	17
Diarrhea and enteritis	1	1	2	2	3	5
Nephritis and Bright's disease	1	1	2	2	2	4
All other causes	9	4	13	14	3	17
Totals	37	26	63	52	31	83

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