

EVENING

Dinner, 6:30 o'clock, Blanche L. La Du presiding.

Dean Kirchwey spoke on the subject "The Criminal and Society."

Adjourned.

Blanche L. La Du, Chairman State Board of Control: I regret that we have had to keep you waiting, but I think there has been a slight misunderstanding with regard to the place and the time of this meeting. I have sent word to the other building, as I presume some of the speakers are there.

The program this morning deals with the "Paths of the Handicapped." We arranged this program at the suggestion of the executive board of the State Conference of Social Work. At one of the first meetings relative to the program for this year, I asked them what they would like to have us give as our part of the program that might be interesting to the members of the State Conference, and they suggested that we explain just how the wards of the state get into state institutions; that is, whether or not they get in by court commitment, and, if so, by what process they are committed; or if by voluntary commitment. We are not going to tell you how they are cared for, treated, and trained in the various institutions. In short, we are going to tell you how the wards of the state get in and how they get out of the state institutions. We have called the whole subject "The Paths of the Handicapped."

We shall have to change the order of our program somewhat. I feel sure that the superintendents who are to take part are going to be here because they have not notified me otherwise.

One of the features of this program that I think will be very interesting to you is the opportunity you will have to meet the superintendents of our state institutions, the official members of our family. We are very glad to have them here to meet you this morning and to tell you about their work.

I am going to introduce first Miss Elizabeth McGregor, superintendent of the Gillette State Hospital for Crippled Children. She is going to tell us how an indigent crippled child of the state of Minnesota gets into the Hospital for Crippled Children at Phalen Park, St. Paul.

Elizabeth McGregor, Superintendent, Gillette State Hospital: In considering the path to the Gillette State Hospital for Crippled Children located near Phalen Park, Saint Paul, we will first give the credentials necessary for anyone seeking admission through the first gate.

1. Age is from birth to majority.
2. The parents are residents of Minnesota for one year.
3. The parents are too poor to provide for proper care and treatment in a hospital.
4. The child has an orthopedic condition that can be helped by hospital treatment.

With these conditions checked off, you will find the admission procedure probably the easiest of any to the state institutions. No court

procedure is necessary. The only difficulty there is is to find a bed available when you get there.

If you are a parent and want your child to enter, your first step is to see your family doctor and tell him your financial difficulty. He will get you an application blank if it is an orthopedic case, and will fill out his part of it, which tells about the physical condition of the child. He will give you the Parent's Affidavit, which you are to fill out completely and tell all about your family and financial condition. You are to take this to your clergyman who fills in the Clergyman's Certificate and thereby indicates your church affiliation.

When this is done, and both blanks are filled in completely, signed properly, and the Parent's Affidavit sworn to before a notary public, they are to be sent to the hospital where the staff doctors will pass upon the physical condition of the patient as given in the Physician's Blank; and the Parent's Affidavit with the doctor's recommendation is sent to the State Board of Control, which approves or disapproves. The State Board of Control notifies the parent, the family physician and the hospital of its approval, or, if the application is denied, informs why it has been denied.

If the case is an emergency needing to come in at once, the family physician or the parent notifies the superintendent, and arrangements will be made to admit if it is at all possible. If it is not an emergency, the parent and the family doctor will be notified when there is a bed available.

Patients are to be brought in on Thursday morning at nine o'clock. The staff doctors are at the hospital to examine new patients at that time regularly, and for this reason all routine admissions are made on Thursday morning. The superintendent does not admit patients, and it is therefore necessary to come when the staff is there.

Approved applications are necessary for examination whether the patient is to remain or wishes treatment.

If you are a legal guardian, you proceed in exactly the same way. If you are a social worker and wish to get a child into the hospital for treatment, you proceed the same way from the parent or legal guardian through the family doctor or clinic or dispensary.

If a social worker brings the child to the hospital, if it is at all possible, bring the mother or father with you. It is necessary for the parent to sign permission for treatment and operation if operation is necessary. If the parent does not come, this should be signed before the child is brought, as we do not treat patients without signed permission.

After admission the child may stay as long as he needs hospital treatment. He is then discharged by the doctor and the parents come for him. They are given instructions for home treatment, diet, rest, exercises, and the amount of work he should do, and his school record is sent to his home school. The family doctor is written and any interested organization is given the report of his case if they request it. He is told when to report again, and to report on any Thursday morning if he is having trouble. This is the ordinary form of exit. There are two other ways. One, the patient may die, which they seldom do, and the parents may remove the patient at any time if they wish to.

A few helpful hints are offered. These may be considered signposts. Do not bring a patient to the hospital who has been exposed to contagious diseases.

Whenever possible, bring the father and the mother.

Have the permission for treatment signed before bringing the patient, if the parents cannot come.

Come on Thursday morning at nine o'clock.

Read your application blanks over before having them made out and after they are completed before sending to the hospital. The procedure is so simple that few except the parents get the application made out right the first time. Returns cause delay.

Remember that children are not admitted to attend school if they do not need treatment.

Patients are to report back as directed for further observation, and if they are having trouble, on any Thursday morning.

There is a follow-up service on their educational and vocational work consisting mostly of advice.

The care of the patient is free except the expense of bringing him to the hospital, taking him home when discharged, and providing his clothing while there. We admit no pay patients.

The age for admission is from birth during minority.

The time limit in the hospital is determined by need for treatment.

Mrs. La Du: I now wish to introduce Mr. G. A. Merrill, superintendent of the State Public School for Children, at Owatonna. Mr. Merrill is going to tell you how the dependent and neglected children of the state get into his school and how they get out. Mr. Merrill.

Galen A. Merrill, Superintendent, State Public School: While the system of state care of children in Minnesota includes in its scope every field of child-welfare service, the State Public School at Owatonna is the one and only institution for dependent and neglected normal children maintained and administered by the state.

The name "State Public School" was chosen to avoid giving the impression of an orphan asylum or reform school. It is a temporary home and school and placing-out agency through which the state cares for dependent and neglected normal children. The path to its door leads through the juvenile court which must legally determine that a child is dependent or neglected and give him a passport in the form of an order of admission.

The term "dependent child" is defined by law, Sec. 8636, General Statutes of Minnesota for 1923, as meaning a "child who is illegitimate; or whose parents, for good cause, desire to be relieved of his care and custody; or who is without a parent or lawful guardian able adequately to provide for his support, training and education, and is unable to maintain himself by lawful employment." The term "neglected child" is defined as meaning "a child who is abandoned by both parents, or, if one parent is dead, by the survivor, or by his guardian; or who is found living with vicious or disreputable persons, or whose home, by reason of improvidence, neglect, cruelty, or depravity on the part of the parents, guardian or other person in whose care he may be, is an unfit place for

such child; or whose parents or guardian neglect and refuse, when able to do so, to provide medical, surgical or other remedial care necessary for his health or well-being; or who, being under the age of twelve years, is found begging, peddling or selling any articles or singing or playing any musical instrument upon the street, or giving any public entertainment, or who accompanies or is used in aid of any person so doing."

Such children who are under fifteen years of age, of sound mind and free from disease, both boys and girls, may be admitted to the school upon the order of a juvenile court adjudging them dependent or neglected.

Proceedings are begun by the filing of a petition for a court hearing in the county in which the child may be. As the legality of the commitment depends upon the validity of the petition upon which the proceeding is instituted, it is essential that the petition be sufficient; that it state facts constituting the child dependent or neglected.

In a ruling recently handed down by the district court of Steele county in habeas corpus proceedings instituted by parents to secure the return of children previously committed to the school, the court held that "the juvenile court obtains jurisdiction over the children and the subject matter through the filing of the petition" and that "the petition must be sufficient and must comply with all statutory requirements."

The statutory requirements are found in Sec. 8642, General Statutes of Minnesota for 1923, and are as follows: "Any reputable person resident in the county having knowledge of a child in the county who appears to be dependent, neglected or delinquent and any agent of the state board of control or the state department of labor and industries may file with the judge or clerk of the court having jurisdiction in the matter a petition in writing, setting forth the facts and verified by affidavit. The petition shall set forth the name and residence of each parent, if known, and if both are dead or the residence unknown, then the name and residence of the legal guardian, or if there be none, or if his residence is unknown, then the name and residence of some near relative, if there be one, and his residence is known. It shall be sufficient if the affidavit is upon information and belief."

The right of every child to such education and training as will fit him for the duties of citizenship, and that the obligation to supply such education and training rests in the first instance with the parents, are recognized. Evidently the procedure prescribed is intended to guard against the unnecessary separation of children from parents or other relatives who can be helped or required to meet such obligation.

While any reputable person resident in the county may file the petition, it is generally the county child welfare board or some representative of it that takes the initiative in such proceedings.

It is only after parents have been found unfit or incapable of meeting their obligations as parents and by judicial approval and direction that they are relieved of such duties and the guardianship of their children transferred to the state. The procedure offers no inducement to parents to give up their children, but rather deters them from doing so as it annuls parental rights. Nor does it work unnecessary hardship as a rule