Monthly Progress Report of the School Department, January, 1953

1. All academic teachers were detailed to attend one day of the three day session on problems of or allied with programming, care, and training of mentally retarded persons. The principal of a panel talked discussing with social workers, parents and nurses the possible activities that might be adapted to community-home usage, particularly with the "trainable". The various teachers dispersed among other panels and talks. One dealt with a comparison and sharing of classroom activities and methods; another was a case conference on a specific typical family of mental defectives (the highest IQ 70 was the father, the mother is now at Faribault, the children at Owatonna). The teacher attending this panel was interested in the viewpoint of the cultural deprivation that could be in some cases extract from already-exist IQ testing panel described commitment procedures and studies.

2. New admissions

This was undoubtedly as valuable as an in-service training feature as is available for institution teachers, and of course was excellent for public education both as to what mental deficiency is and also what various public agencies contribute to programming and planning.

(January 5-7, Center for Continuation Study, University of Minnesota.) Since most of the new admission cases were admitted as emergencies, they

3. Several of the students attended meetings about the "trainable". A total of about 40 students, nurses, and teachers, viewing the problem on a case by case basis, a substitute system was set up to enable the School-principals to maintain an "in-service" as well as continue to substitute system (to-determine, center State Hospital).

4. Teachers have been using independently and with the guidance of the psychology department to determine the progress of individual students. (Teacher) The psychologist has been placed on the steering committee of the Social Services Division, in fact serving the interest of service to the various agencies, service department, and patient placement agent. This study and transfer of patients was still in

5. Each teacher has been involved in each case since they began, discussing with the principal and the school psychologists. The principal, however, indicated eleven months of progress. The data and evaluations were submitted to the school psychologists on a report date, February 27, 1953, and the school psychologists were asked to be September of 1953. It is felt that the panel's recommendations were in the areas of group therapy, and 27-00 to 27-17 for which we will report those in Preadoptive Child.

It is planned to continue the practice of last year in that the program will be developed and continued next school year. The Governor's Advisory Council on Mental Health is felt that such was gained from the

Finally, the psychologist attended in-service meetings in the monthly Department and reviewed the various training institutions.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Boeoe
Principal

Respectfully submitted,

Arnold L. Mellen
Clinical Psychologist
1. As of February 1, 1953, the programs of four patients were modified within the school department; five were referred to Patient Program Services for work and/or handicrafts; four are to be studied further.

2. In addition to our weekly meetings with the psychologist in discussing special cases, we have had two particularly good meetings on recent publications in child development. We have also worked together in developing techniques for teaching ceramics as part of the curriculum for school art periods. These In-Service-Training meetings are held during the noon hour before the lunch period. The librarian attends the meeting as time and interest permit.

3. The principal attended the Institutional Assembly at Anoka on February 26, 1953. It was an interesting experience, and it is hoped that the next assembly on Rehabilitation will be even more profitable.

4. The school principal plans to be available for any meetings necessary to implement the training of experimental groups. These experimental groups would be pilot study groups for practical training of pre-school patients in daily habits, and some degree of self-help. This program suggested by the superintendent at the Department Head meeting February 16, 1953 seems an excellent plan for economical and practical training of this type of patient.

William Roever

William Roever, School Principal
3. The school department was host to the local chapter of the International Council for Exceptional Children. Faculty and staff members of the Owatonna State School, Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School, School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Minnesota School and Colony were present. Chief activities were, and will be, centered around strengthening the organization and renewing the interest of members. Since there is a general feeling that the organization should continue, it would seem worthwhile to develop it as a professional group linking employees of the four state schools in interests. (date, March 16, 1953).

2. The Educational Council met March 11, discussion of mutual problems was the chief order of business. Mrs. Carigren was invited, and attended part of the session. She brought us up to date on general attitudes and plans at the Division of Institutions. She also agreed to act for the council in matters that come up at the state level. She promised that a decision would be sent out to the institutions regarding state fair booths. She also promised to check on whether or not the bill for additional salary range would be reintroduced this session.

3. This has been a fairly routine sort of month, prior to a busy season, preparing to close school, administering tests, and bringing reports up to date. The principal has continued usual duties, including speaking to In-Service Training groups, and participating in public relations guide service as well as conferences concerning program planning and patient training.

William E. Rowe
William E. Rowe, School Principal
Progress Report for the School Department, Month of April 1953

1. Activities of the teaching staff have been confined to classroom teaching, except for an evening dinner-meeting of the Rice County Education Association, Monday, April 13, 1953. Teachers attended on their own time. Mrs. Olive Lynch of our staff was elected vice-president of the group. We are particularly pleased that our institution-school has been recognized by this county-wide group of educators. The principle feels that it is highly desirable that we have a free interchange of ideas and problems with our colleagues in the community.

2. The teaching staff, librarian and principal have been meeting regularly with a staff psychologist to discuss child development, and educational philosophies and practices.

3. The Institutional Assembly at St. Cloud was a superior experience, and I would like to add my appreciation for the work and planning involved. The speakers were both inspirational and practical, and should have made a good general feeling toward rehabilitation. It would seem to be desirable that copies or excerpts be made available to all employees, if possible.

4. We were invited to attend the N.E. day at the Faribault schools, but since most of the staff is familiar with the system, we felt we might pass it by this time. We are aware that many fine opportunities for professional growth are becoming available, but we can only take advantage of a limited number of them.

5. The principal was the guest of the Southern Minnesota Education Association Principal's workshop Saturday, April 18. Administrative problems were discussed, and a panel of parents and laymen discussed what they expect the product of schools to be. I felt, again the satisfaction of institutional work, where the total program is more consistent, and more complete facilities are available.

6. Some pieces of Ceramic work done by a school class were included at an exhibit of the Minnesota Art Education Association at Northfield, Saturday, April 25. The patients' work was well received and compared favorably with the general level of Junior High pupils.

William E. Roever
School Principal
PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, Month of June 1953

1. The Academic Department was closed Saturday June 13, 1953 for the summer months. Teachers are on 10 month employment, including annual leave time.

2. Before teachers left, they were required to complete individual progress reports, referrals for study by psychologist, doctor, or others, to make recommendations for change of program or placement, and to administer and score achievement tests in cases indicated by principal.

3. Recommendations of the teachers were discussed by teachers and the training and program committee. Sixteen pupils were discussed rather extensively and change in program was recommended. These changes involve other departments, and will be continued for study, pending the appointment of a new Patient Program Supervisor.

4. All teachers stated they plan to return next year, with the possible exception of Miss Arlene Weber, Teacher of the Deaf. Another offer has been made her, but she felt she'd like to stay at least one more year, unless an additional consideration arose to modify her plans.

5. Mrs. Olive Lynch plans to complete her Bachelors Degree in Education this summer at the University. Miss Winnifred Gallagher plans to attend an extension course at the local high school (by Mankato Teachers College).

William E. Roever
Principal
School Department
Progress Report for the School Department for the months of July and August, 1953.

1. Teachers are off duty for the summer, being on ten month basis.

2. Principal substituted as temporary co-ordinator of activities because of two vacancies and one sick leave in the key positions of that department. The work of the principal may be inferred from the Patient Activities reports for those months.

3. The School Department is under a temporary handicap, because the study of cases and plans for school groups and programming as well as curriculum were not given sufficient attention during the summer months. However, urgent matters were properly considered and it is felt that the deficiencies are primarily in areas where we would personally be most aware or concerned. For example, we have not in two years had opportunity to record terminal evaluations in patient folders. We have not had opportunity to summarize and prepare in-service training materials to raise the professional level of the staff to the point at which it can and should function. These areas have been covered informally or on an emergency basis from time to time, but should be organized on a formal professional basis. There was not an adequate filing system within the department, and there is still much to be desired in this area. We plan to work intensively on these and similar tasks and have delegated the teachers to assist as their limited time permits.

4. An important phase of future planning must include curriculum and special techniques that can be standardized to some extent to meet the special needs of children whose problems and deficiencies are recurrent in other generations or in year to year planning for new admissions or newly-matured patients.

William E. Brewe
William E. Brewe,
School Principal.
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Progress Report for month of September 1953.

1. All academic teachers returned to duty September 1, 1953. September 1st and 2nd were devoted to in-service training. September 3rd was Local Business, Industry and Education Day at which the teachers were honored by Farmholt businessmen and were given hours and orientation on which they might base the pre-vocational aspects of their curricula.

2. Classes for patients began September 5th. Total enrollment in the patient groups was 28.6 pupils per teacher. An average of 12.4 pupils is in each class group, two and one half hours daily five days per week (Mondays through Fridays). Classes of five teachers teach two groups daily, making a five hour daily teaching load in addition to mental health, group therapy and special planning and maintenance of complete records. The forty hour week is evident on the schedule.

3. The school principal had the interesting experience of guiding visitors from related institutions to the separate sections and found a personal expression of good results. It is felt that the students were favorably impressed by our work and educational programs and we feel that they are on the verge of fine accomplishments in their programs.

A physical therapy clinic has been started during the past month. Both the daily and weekly classes for the blind and the physical therapy class proved to be a great success.

New slides were introduced during the month of September for auditory and visual learners.

William E. Renner
School Principal

Two special programs were presented to our institution in the past month. The first was Mr. Bloor and his band, who was brought here by Mr. Bush of the Minneapolis Tradesman Union. The second program was an accordion band, brought here through the efforts of Mr. Kerlin. The students enjoyed both programs very much and are looking forward to more of the same type entertainment.

The entire staff are now in the midst of planning the many Halloween parties that will be held over next month.
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Progress Report for month of October 1953

1. October 5 - We held a surprise fire drill in the school department. Both floors (including handicraft groups as well as academics) were vacated in less than four minutes. With practice, this time could be cut down a little more.

2. October 9, 10, 11 - Mrs. Olive Lynch, Academic Teacher, was detailed to the regional conference of the American Association on Mental Deficiency in Omaha, Nebraska. She felt that the program was not particularly well prepared, nor the material presented at a high enough level professionally. However, she is rather well trained and the presentation may have been satisfactory for many persons attending who may have simpler professional needs. She indicated that next year's program may be better because of the planning-personnel and suggested that it be tried at least one more year before definitely deciding whether or not it is a worthwhile in-service-training feature for the state to patronize. She did find benefit from personal get-togethers with people from other states, as one often does at these meetings.

3. October 16 - Mrs. Lynch represented the Rice County Education Association, as well as our school, as a platform guest at the Southern Minnesota Conference of N.E.A.

4. October 29, 30 - The academic teachers attended the St. Paul meeting of N.E.A. They were particularly impressed with talks and meetings by Dr. Frances Horwich, Ph.D., who is a nursery-kindergarten specialist and who has done much with her television program "Ding-Dong Schoolhouse" to promote modern educational and child development practices both in homes and schools. The actual N.E.A. Convention Program was also excellent. Mental Health, Prevention of Mental Illness and development of healthy attitudes dominated the convention. The following were particularly liked by more than one teacher:

   Challenge of a Changing World by Robert A. Kasmayer
   A Teacher's Mental Health by Dr. Ralph Ojemann
   What to Do While Waiting for the Psychiatrist by Dr. Murray Banks

5. The Teacher of the Deaf-retarded, Miss Arlene Weber, spent one day in observation and conference with the staff of the Minnesota School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Because of her deafness it was felt that both she and the school would derive more benefit from such a visit than from attending N.E.A.

6. October 20 - Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Reever attended the Rice County Education Association's Executive Board Meeting, the latter representing our school, the former as vice-president of the county association. This activity is conducted on personal time as are the principal's duties as program chairman for this year, for this group.
7. The School Department participated in the local International Council Exceptional Children's meeting October 27, 1953, 8:30 P.M. Our institution played host to about 150 employees of the four state institutions nearby and from several colleges, private schools, and public school systems. The school principal was on a panel, presenting with Dr. Bruhl and Mr. Throne two particular challenging cases and discussing the three aspects of programming, medical, psycho and general adjustment and educational. There was overlap into the areas of care and activities. It was well received and we felt that definitely some consideration of child development and mental hygiene were advanced by these cases and the ensuing philosophy.

8. All teachers participated in the local hobbycraft fair Saturday, October 10th, at their own expense, except Mrs. McCoub who was detailed on duty for purpose of supervising patient-demonstrators. It was interesting to see how well our patients fit into the general population at this type of activity. In particular attention was called to those present, although staff members enthusiastically handled questions or comments. It was interesting too that the crafts and hobbies they demonstrated were of greatest interest to the spectators and ranked high in quality and workmanship. About a dozen of our patients attended from various departments and about 50 local people were interested. About 300 persons viewed the exhibit. From noon to early evening, not the slightest incident occurred. This might open the way to consideration of further similar types of experience in communities for our patients, provided the persons chosen were carefully screened and supervised.
There is no particular progress item to report except a rather time consuming research project, which occupied most of the faculties non-teaching time for the month. In addition to giving ourselves and our public relations personnel a good overview, the details of the individual cases helped the teachers re-evaluate their thinking in several cases.

This survey includes only those children enrolled in school classes as of November 1, 1953. Statistical material was all brought up to date as of November 30th because of the anticipated time the project was to take. Total enrollment is one hundred forty-eight. The survey will be filed in the School Department for future reference.

William Roever
School Principal