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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
OF
MINNESOTA.

JANUARY, 1874.



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STATE OF MINNESOTA,
OFFICE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, }
January, 1874.

To His Excellency, Horace Austin, Governor :

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit the second
annual report of the State Board of Health.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES N. HEWITT,
Secretary State Board of Health.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

D. W. HAND, St. Paul, *President.*

N. B. HILL, Minneapolis.

V. SMITH, Duluth.

G. D. WINCH, Blue Earth City.

CHAS. N. HEWITT, Red Wing, *Secretary.*

FRANKLIN STAPLES, Winona.

A. E. SENKLER, St. Cloud.

GENERAL REPORT.

The State Board of Health and Vital Statistics respectfully present their Second Annual Report.

The year 1873 was marked by a higher average of public health than 1872, not only in Minnesota but throughout the Union. The epidemic of small pox of last year has not been followed by any other infectious or contagious disease to the same extent, though early in the year cerebro-spinal meningitis was endemic in some of the river towns. In a few cities and towns of the lower Mississippi Valley cholera and yellow fever were epidemic and very fatal, in the summer and fall. At one time cholera threatened to invade our State. This Board kept thoroughly informed of its progress, and issued a circular on the means of preventing its occurrence, calling the attention of local authorities to the subject. Steps were taken to watch the great lines of travel, and to deal promptly with any cases coming in that way. It came in but a single instance, and in the persons of a family of immigrants from New York via Chicago, into Kandiyohi county. Dr. Frost, Health Officer of Willmar, acting for and by order of this Board, took charge of the sufferers, and the disease was confined to the house and family in which it occurred. His statement will be found in the Health of Towns Reports.

Local Health Boards.—A striking proof of the necessity for the active operation of these boards as provided for in the law of last winter, will be found in the vital statistics of 1872. There occurred during that year about 1,000 cases of small

pox with about 250 deaths. At that time there were but two active local Health Boards in the State,—in St. Paul and Minneapolis,—and this Board was entirely dependent upon accidental correspondence, the newspapers, and applications for advice, for its knowledge of the facts of disease prevalence. So far as we have been able to trace the disease, it occurred in endemic form, the virus being carried from place to place in the clothing or persons of sufferers, till hardly an inhabited county of the State escaped. The Secretary of the Board was informed of its existence in the town of New Trier, Dakota county. He found that the disease was probably brought into that German settlement by a hunter who came from an infected locality. It spread rapidly. The Roman Catholic priest and his sister died of it, *unvaccinated*. His successor was a believer in vaccination, and insisted on its use. He distributed the circulars of this Board on the subject, and did all in his power to stop the disease. *He worked alone*. The *nominal* local Health Board—*i. e.*, the supervisors of the town—did nothing. The town clerk himself and his family suffered severely and one or more of them died. The total mortality was 27; sick about 75.

But this was not all. A farmer from this town carried the disease in his clothing to a Hastings wheat buyer, and from that source several cases, and at least two deaths, occurred. The disease was carried, in the same way, to Farmington, resulting in one death, and spread also in other directions, of which we have not accurate knowledge. In the spring of 1873, when the Secretary of the Board visited the town, he found that the supervisors had, as yet, done nothing, but that the clergyman above mentioned had made arrangements for a general vaccination to prevent a recurrence of the disease in his congregation. We quote this instance at length, as a convincing evidence of the uselessness of the old Health Board organization; of the necessity for an active Board, even in a purely agricultural township, and of an active supervision by the State Board in the interest of adjoining towns, who without such authority of the State Board would be helpless against

the importation of epidemic disease. It was with the knowledge of this, and similar facts, that this board asked of the Legislature last winter the present Local Health Board Law. The result is already apparent. Nine health officers representing about 100,000 of our population, are reporting monthly to the State Board, and the number is constantly increasing. There is greater activity in local sanitary reform, and in the larger centres of population a reduction in the death rate. The neglect to comply more generally with the requirements of this law is due, we believe, to a misapprehension of the objects and work of the local health board. It is the popular belief that it has nothing to do except in the presence of some great epidemic, as small pox or cholera. There is no excuse for this opinion, or for the ignorance or carelessness which it induces.

In 1872 there were no deaths from cholera, and, though epidemic, small pox occasioned less than 5 per cent. of total mortality. More than 70 per cent. of deaths were caused by

1st, *Fevers*—Typhoid, Remittent, Scarlet Fever and Measles. 2d, *Infantile Diseases*—Cholera Infantum, etc. 3d, *Scrofulous Disease*—Consumption, etc. Nearly one-half of all who died were children under five years of age.

It will be seen that these diseases are the ones popularly supposed to be inevitable and unavoidable; that some or all of them are always present in every community, and that they are active, and, at times, fearfully fatal. The sanitary researches and work of the past twenty-five years have proven, beyond a doubt, that the popular notion of them is not only an error, but that the neglect, almost fatalism, which it has induced, is working grievous loss to individuals, families, and the State. Every one of these diseases is preventible, that is, the causes of some of them can be entirely abolished and the influence of them all can be greatly diminished by the operation of local boards of health. So that it is probable that as much as one-fifth of our annual mortality and a greater proportion of sickness can in this way be prevented. Another popular error is that disease-causes are local and personal, to

such an extent that more depends on individual care than on public supervision and enforcement of sanitary measures.

The causes of disease reach their victims chiefly in the air they breathe, next in the water they drink, then in their food, clothing, habitation, or by personal contact. Two things are necessary to the induction of disease. 1st, The specific poison. 2d, The person of the patient must be prepared for it. Disease germs, as kernels of wheat, must not only be active themselves, but they must find a soil suited to their development, or they die. We deal with disease, therefore, in two ways. 1st, By searching out and destroying the germ. 2d, By preventing the human body, habitations, etc., from becoming a fit soil for the growth of the germ should it elude our vigilance, and effect a lodgement there. It is not in the power of individuals or families, and often of towns to protect themselves against so insidious foes. These established facts are the foundation of and justification for, State and municipal legislation in matters of health. It is found unsafe and unwise to trust to individual convictions and action in so important matters. There would be a certainty of the neglect or carelessness of the interests of others. For these reasons local Boards of Health are an imperative necessity of our time. Their duty is to preserve the purity of the common air and water supply, to prevent adulteration of food or drink, to restrain offensive trades, to remove nuisances, to detect and prevent disease or other causes injurious to public health, etc. It is further evident that the active executive officers of such boards should be educated and experienced physicians.

An objection to Health Boards, which we most frequently hear is that they involve an increase in the number of salaried officers of towns, and their work an increase of local taxation. We refer to this objection because its answer brings into strong relief a great incidental benefit of Health Boards.

Every city and town in the State employs, constantly, or occasionally, a physician to care for sick poor. It is among the poor that disease causes find their most congenial soil, and inflict the most suffering and loss. The town physician is,

therefore, by his duties, best fitted for the work of the health officer, the one duty is a guide and aid to the other, and both are necessary to enable the physician to do the greatest good. There need therefore be no increase in paid officials by the appointment of a health officer. The true course is to give to the physician for the poor greater power to *prevent* disease than the most perfect professional training can give him for its *cure*. His compensation should be graduated by the time, skill and labor which his responsible duties involve. As to the increase of local taxes by necessary sanitary reform, we reply—that, aside from the duty to prevent disease, suffering and death, *as obligatory upon communities of civilized men as upon individuals*, the statement is not true, taking the most matter of fact and practical business view of the matter.

Sickness is most prevalent, constant and fatal, among the very poor. It is, with the consequent ill health, the occasion of a feeble population, and of more misery, poverty, mental and physical suffering, degradation and crime than any other cause. It disables the laborer both in person and family. It diminishes the productive capacity of individuals and communities, and affects the success of business and trades. It occasions distress and discouragement, increases the temptations to shiftless idleness, drunkenness, disorder and crime. It fills our poor houses with paupers, our asylums with the deaf mute, the blind and insane; it increases the population of our jails, reform school, and prison; it demands constantly and increasingly the dole of private and public charity, and so creates in every community a ceaseless draft on public and private funds. Now it is possible to prove that an active and intelligent Health Board, organized as this law requires, can do these things.

1st. It can prevent the occurrence and spread of epidemics as a rule.

2d. It can diminish the average sick rate as much as one-fourth, and the average death probably one-fifth, in amount.

3rd. Among the very poor, living in crowded tenement houses, and unable to choose or regulate their sanitary surroundings, it can do even more than this.

4th. In greater proportion than the reduction of the sick and death rate will be the gain in health and productive capacity, and therefore the increase in pecuniary and social independence among the classes who now make the greatest demand on the public funds.

5th. It can reduce the infant mortality, now nearly one-half of the total, and in so doing increase the health and vigor of offspring, and diminish the number of weakly imbeciles who are now adding largely to the charitable outlays of the State.

6th. The local Health Board may be easily made the centre and source of sanitary knowledge for the population among and for whom it labors, and should, in the school, in society, among all classes of the population, in the press, as in the town council, be a mentor and instructor in the art of private and public health. There is no town in the State so small, in which such a board is not necessary to secure for the people the same care in *preventing* disease as they now demand for its *cure*.

The work of sanitaay reform is the most practical and beneficent which the science of the century has produced. The expense which it involves will not equal the expense which its neglect occasions. It may be paid out of the public and private funds which now go to the *temporary* relief of poverty; for the cure of constantly recurring sickness; for the support of poor houses; the conviction and punishment of criminals; the care of feeble poor and the burial of pauper dead. It diminishes taxes by substituting *prevention* for clumsy methods of palliation, and the perpetual attempt at cure. It deals with *causes* themselves—not with their effects alone. It vindicates the truth of Franklin's adage: "Public Health is Public Wealth."

It has been further objected to the present law that in many townships of the State a physician is not to be found, and none is available as health officer. In such a case the town-clerk is the proper person for the officer. There is not an inhabited county of the State without a physician, nor a town

in which, when medical services are required, one is not to be obtained. These physicians are the men of all others to serve as health officers for the towns included in their rides, and will gladly serve in that capacity if their services are required.

VITAL STATISTICS.—We respectfully call the attention of the Legislature to the serious defects in the provisions and operation of the present law providing for the collection and publication of the returns of births and deaths. The object of these returns is

1st. Legal evidence of the date and cause of death, the date and legitimacy of births, etc.

2nd. Statistical evidence of the number and per centage of births and deaths to population. Parent nativity, sex, age, season, etc.

3rd. The character and influence of specific diseases in the death rate, the presence and operation of epidemic and endemic disease.

4th. These statistics indicate the necessity and direction of preventive and precautionary measures, and their influence on mortality. For the State and local Health Boards they are the only reliable index of the great facts of birth, disease and death with which they have directly to deal.

It is evident therefore that their value depends entirely upon the *accuracy, completeness* and *frequency* with which they can be collected, arranged, and published for study and reference. Under the present system there is no guarantee of any of these essential conditions. The present law has had thorough trial for three years. Mr. Solberg, the present Commissioner of Statistics, has been aided by this Board in every possible way. Our Secretary has suggested the forms of tables to be used, assisted in their construction, and edited the vital statistics for two years. The defects are in the law, and in the methods used for the collection of the town returns, and they are practically beyond the control of the Commissioner or this Board.

The law makes the original certificates of parents, householders, next of kin, and of physicians *when requested*, the basis

of the town returns. But no blanks for such certificates have been furnished, and, so far as we know, no certificates of any kind have been called for or used. The only exceptions to this statement are in the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, where the returns of death are copies of the register of the health officers, for which the health officers do the work, and the city clerks receive the pay. The method of collecting the facts of births and deaths in universal use, is to defer the work till the first of January of the succeeding year, and then to send a man on a house to house visitation, who writes down on a clerk's blank, such facts as he may obtain. This memorandum, of the accuracy of which no evidence is given, and of the incompleteness of which the returns are themselves the proof, is copied and constitutes the town clerk's returns to the clerk of the District Court. For the returns so made the counties paid over \$5,000 in 1872. The clerks of the District Courts copy these returns, as a rule, not separating the different town returns from each other, and send this copy to the Commissioner, for which in 1872 they received over \$2,000. The result is that the correction of errors or completeness of the record by the Commissioner, or this Board, is prevented as the correspondence has to be done through the District Court clerks which has proven a failure. The returns are not received at the Commissioners office at the time specified in the law, and require so much time and labor for their classification and arrangement, that they are not published till nearly another year has passed—*e. g.*: The statistics for 1872 are not at this date (Jan. 10th, 1874,) in print and accessible, so that though two years has passed since their collection, by the express terms of the law, should have begun, and nearly a year since they should have been received at the Commissioners office, they are not published yet.

We submit that the present system does not fulfil the conditions upon which its value depends, and that the statistics so obtained are not what the law contemplates, what their expense should mean, or what the use they subserv requires.

The law organizing this Board requires us to devise some scheme whereby medical and vital statistics of sanitary value may be obtained. We have considered a variety of plans by which the defects above pointed out may be remedied, having in view the greatest efficiency, simplicity and economy. Experience here, as in other States, has shown that medical supervision is as necessary to insure the accuracy of the town returns as it is in their classification and arrangement in the general annual report. The simple reason is, that the facts of birth, disease and death, and their relation to the health of the population, are subjects for study for which the education and experience of the physician are essential qualifications. By law, there already exist local Boards of Health having physicians as health officers, and representing about 200,000 of our population. The number is constantly increasing. These health officers are directly interested in the vital statistics of their respective towns as indices of their actual sanitary condition. For the reasons above given we propose such a change in the present law as shall

1st. Transfer the duty of collecting and publishing the vital statistics of the State from the Commissioner of Statistics to the State Board of Health, and Vital Statistics.

2d. Require the original certificate of births from physician, midwife or other person specified, to be given within five days, and of death within thirty-six hours. Retain the penalties of the present law and provide for their collection before a Justice of the Peace on complaint of health officer or city clerk. A copy of the original certificate of death should be a part of the record of the cemetery in which interment takes place.

3rd. In all towns and cities where local health boards exist transfer the duty of collecting and returning births and deaths to the health officer.

4th. The local health officer, or if none, then the town clerk to keep the Register of Births and Deaths, which shall be a copy of the original certificates as above provided, said certificates to be kept on file as vouchers, and on the 6th of

each month to make a summary of births and deaths in a blank to be provided, and forward the same directly to the State Board of Health, as also an annual report on the 6th day of January.

5th. That the State Board publish monthly an abstract of births and deaths, meteorological and sanitary notes for the whole State, and include the yearly report of the same in their annual report.

We are fully aware of the difficulty which must always attend the collection of these statistics, and should be glad to avoid the labor involved in the charge of it. We are confident that the above plan is in full accord with the latest experience, and that it will secure a constantly increasing accuracy, completeness and economy. The plan of monthly reports involves no increase of labor even under the present law. The blanks required by this plan, and the expense of this arrangement at the central office, will be less than at present, and by doing away with the returns of clerks of district courts (which have not added anything to the value of the returns,) a saving of at least \$3,000 will be effected in 1874. The clerks of district courts receive 10 cents a description and 15 cents a folio for copying.

THE INSPECTION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

We call attention to this paper and its recommendations. It is very evident that the present site of the State Prison is such as to make it unadvisable to increase its size beyond its present proportions. If more room is needed, a new site should be selected, in a location better adapted to the wants of the Prison. The present methods of convict labor stand in the way of convict reform.

The Insane Asylum is crowded to its extreme limits. More room is imperatively required to accommodate those who are yet unprovided for. It is the policy of humanity, wisdom and economy for the Legislature to provide it as speedily as possi-

ble. The Reform School is doing a good work well. The suggestions of the report ought to be attended to at once.

No inspection has been made of the Deaf Mute and Blind Asylum since our last report. The old building of the State University is entirely inadequate to its needs. The changes in prospect will improve it very much. The present chemical laboratory, when work is in progress, is almost uninhabitable, and the arrangements for warming and ventilating the whole building are very imperfect and inadequate. The new building of the St. Cloud Normal School is so constructed as to make ample provision for assisting warming and ventilation by open fire-places. It is, we are informed, the intention to use the same method in the University building. This is easily and inexpensively done in the original construction of buildings, but very difficult after they are completed. The use of open fire-places both for heat and ventilation, in addition to any and all other methods, is the result of experience and observation, and should be the *rule* in all buildings intended for human habitation.

“Special Investigation as to the Influence of the Climate of Minnesota upon Diseases of the Lungs and Air Passages.”—This circular by the chairman of the committee, Dr. Franklin Staples, indicates one of the methods adopted by the Board to get at the facts upon which an answer to this important question may be founded. Its necessity is recognized by every one who is called upon to advise the numerous sufferers from these diseases looking to residence in our State for relief. The article in relation to the same subject by Rev. Dr. Paterson of St. Paul was asked for by the Board. Coming from one who has for years been a recognized authority in the meteorology of the capital city, it is of great value. The Board hopes for more detailed statement of his studies for future reports.

Report on Typhoid Fever—By the President of the Board. This paper condenses into a popular form much information which has hitherto been the exclusive possession of the medical profession. The disease to which it relates is the cause of a large per cent. of our annual mortality, and therefore the

means of recognizing and preventing its occurrence are matters of popular interest.

The Report on American Inebriate Asylums, by the Secretary, was made by order of Governor Austin. The Board endorse the conclusions reached, and respectfully urge that steps be taken at this session of the Legislature to make the State Inebriate Asylum an accomplished fact. Whatever legislation may be necessary as respects the sale of intoxicants, the fact remains that there are in our population an increasing number of victims of the habit of drink, for whom the Asylum affords the only means of reformation and cure.

The Report on "The operation of the laws relating to the sale and use of alcoholic liquors in Minnesota" is founded upon replies received to a circular letter, addressed to Justices of the Peace, Chiefs of Police, etc., by order of the Governor.

The commission proposed we believe to be a practicable way of dealing with the subject. This course has been taken in England recently, and is probable in some of the other of the United States. The great need now is *more facts*, derived from calm and impartial investigation, and fewer *experiments* in legislation, until the defects of *existing* laws have been carefully ascertained.

Dangerous Illuminating Agents.—We call attention to the fact that the reduction in the price of kerosene and the attempts to manufacture compounds for ordinary illuminating purposes has already resulted in the offering for sale oils which are really dangerous.

The subjoined letter explains itself.

The Michigan State Board of Health have been making some investigations on this subject, and find that of 75 samples of kerosene examined but three came up to the standard. Most of the oil used there is manufactured in Cleveland, Ohio. Most of the oil used in Minnesota comes from the same city. We suggest that some legislation is necessary and will submit copies of all the laws which we have been able to get together to the committee of the Legislature to whom the matter may be referred.

WINONA, Jan. 15, 1874.

Dr. Charles N. Hewitt, Secretary Minnesota Board of Health :

MY DEAR SIR:—In accordance with your request I have examined specimens of the so-called "Pearl Oil," manufactured and sold for illuminating purposes in this city.

I find the same to be a fluid, nearly white, and of a specific gravity of only 723, water being 1,000. I find it to be composed almost wholly of carbo-hydrogens, undoubtedly in the shape of the common commercial coal naphtha or the lighter and more explosive substance, a grade of the same substance called gasoline. I find in combination with this a little oleine, probably in the form of the common lard oil.

In the specimens which I examined, the proportion of the latter ingredient was very small, not more than one part in fifteen. I find the fluid to be exceedingly inflammable, and that it emits a gas highly explosive not only at the ordinary temperature, but at a very low temperature. I found an explosive gas escaping from it when the temperature was reduced as low as 28 deg. Fahrenheit.

In this examination I had the assistance of Dr. J. B. McCaughey and Dr. J. M. Cole.

We regard the article as wholly unsafe for illuminating purposes, and especially for domestic use, even with any possible modification of lamp as means of burning.

Two accidents from its use have recently occurred in this city, one resulting in the death of two individuals and the other badly burning a young girl. Both these accidents resulted from attempts to kindle fires in stoves with the fluid. I am informed, however, several minor explosions have occurred from its use in lamps.

Respectfully yours,
FRANKLIN STAPLES.

The number and importance of the questions relating to public health which demand investigation are constantly increasing. Other Western States, recognizing these facts, are moving toward their solution. During the last year Michigan has organized a State Board of Health, and it is believed that Illinois and Wisconsin will organize boards during the present session of their legislatures.

The popular interest in hygiene is a remarkable fact of our time. Never before has that interest been so general. The success of sanitary reforms in Europe and the Eastern States,

and the assistance which they bring to the solution of many social problems, explains and justifies the popular feeling. Our efforts in Minnesota have but just begun. This Board, for the past year, have been compelled to borrow money to carry on its necessary work. The appropriation of last year has not been paid. We respectfully ask that it be paid, and that such provision be made for the future by the Legislature, as will put at our disposal means sufficient to enable us to do, without financial embarrassment, the important work which we were appointed to do.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. HAND,
N. B. HILL,
V. SMITH,
CHAS. N. HEWITT,
G. D. WINCH,
FRANKLIN STAPLES,
A. E. SENKLER.

bracing air. When the loss of flesh has been stayed, the good work has commenced, and when there is a positive gain of flesh the prospect is most hopeful. And this is a work which can only be effected by a healthy appetite.

There are two things which ought to be made known to patients at once. First, that what is gained in Minnesota must be used here. If health be restored, the penalty and payment therefor, is permanent residence. A return to the eastern climate is almost certain to prove fatal. Next, and it seems a small matter, but there is much in it, as they who have tried know—invalids should accustom themselves to breathe thro' the nostrils. The air is thereby warmed before reaching the lungs, and the effort to do so tends to expand the lungs. A little effort and determination will secure the formation of the habit.

INSPECTION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

STATE PRISON.

The improvement in the sanitary condition of this prison since the last report has been very great. The serious defects pointed out in that report have been partially met by the system of drains. There is still some cause of dampness under the cells and inside the foundations of the walls of the cell room. A more unfortunate site in a sanitary point of view it would have been difficult to select. The Legislature should understand that with the very best arrangements possible this location can never be made and kept healthful except at an

expense which a better site would not require. From the standpoint of health and economy, it is not advisable to provide, in this prison, for a larger number of inmates than can be at present cared for. The site is a contracted one, and the enclosure is already becoming crowded by the buildings erected or to be erected.

The ventilation of the cells is so irregular that it is difficult to estimate or rely on it. The arrangement is such that the prisoners often prevent it altogether, by stuffing up the openings. The bucket system, *i. e.* wooden pails in little closets, for night use, would be greatly improved by the adoption of dry earth as a disinfectant and deodorizer. The out-houses for day use are very imperfect and foul, and in cold weather they are frozen up. The dry earth system, available in winter as in summer, would remedy the whole evil at trifling expense, with greatly increased comfort and cleanliness. The food, as last year, is abundant in quantity and is of good quality and considerable variety. The meals are eaten in the cells, where the convicts spend half their time. Whatever the gain in discipline, the practice is very objectionable on sanitary grounds, as with the most scrupulous care and the removal of all possible cause of foul odor, it is very difficult to keep the cells sweet and clean.

The health of the prisoners is on the average good. The surgeon is attentive and faithful in the performance of his duties.

The health of men in prison, as elsewhere, is greatly affected by their occupation and mental condition. We find that there are in the prison nine convicts from 15 to 20 years of age, and that a very large proportion of the prisoners are there for first offenses, yet that there is no classification to separate murderers and hardened convicts from the rest. The contract system of labor takes from the authorities all power to arrange the prisoners with reference to association, criminality or capacity, and thus practically prevents the chief object of punishment—reformation. At present the younger convicts are associated as freely with the worst as with the best. The in-

fluence cannot but be very bad, not only on discipline, but on their future conduct. Such change as will make the prison not merely a punitive, but a reformatory institution is absolutely required. These men are justly punished for crime, but most of them are to go back into the world again, and it is very important that they should not go back worse than they came. To avoid this the authorities should have absolute control of the time and occupation of the convict. We earnestly call the attention of the Legislature to this subject, and to the propriety of so changing the law, that no person under eighteen years of age, except for very grave crime, be sent to the State Prison, until an effort has been made to deal with him at the Reform School.

We also advise that some arrangement be made, as is so successfully done in New York, to provide occupation for discharged convicts who manifest a desire to reform.

REFORM SCHOOL.

Considerable addition has been made to the facilities here by additional buildings for residence and work shops.

The water supply, heating and ventilating arrangements of the new buildings we will consider when they are in operation. The water works in the old building are still not in use for want of repair. The other defects noticed in last report remain as then, except that a trap has been arranged for the sewer leading to the cess-pool. The out-house for day-use is in wretched condition, and there is every reason why the dry earth system should be used here as at the State Prison.

The advantage to the criminal of the control of his time and occupation by the authorities is very clearly demonstrated in the management of the Reform School. Each boy and girl is made a subject of study, and every facility and inducement is offered to enable them to gain most advantage. The whole plan seems to be to give them common school education, and the trade or occupation for which natural capacity and inclination seems to adapt them. The Superintendent informed

us that care is taken to assist each boy and girl on discharge in finding suitable employment.

The female department we believe to be a very important branch of the work of the Reform School, the end being to save the inmates from ruin, and to train them so that they may be able to earn an honest living after their discharge.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

There are still 105 patients in the "Temporary Hospital." These old buildings are crowded to excess. The greatest care is necessary, and is used, to render them habitable. The out-houses are in bad condition, especially of the old hotel building. Occupation as far as possible, is given to the patients, but they seem to suffer for want of exercise.

The food is excellent. At the permanent hospital despite the occupancy of the completed wing, the building is crowded. Most of the single rooms have two beds and all the dormitories have more occupants than their air space justifies, and still beds have to be made up on the floors of the halls. Scrupulous cleanliness is apparent everywhere. The water closets seem to work well but the urinals are defective, giving rise to an appreciable amount of ammoniacal odor. The beds are neat and comfortable, ventilation excellent throughout the building. A large fan has recently been put in the basement, which will be of use when the usual methods are at fault, or when increased sickness renders more fresh air necessary. The heating apparatus works well. The facilities for cooking and serving the food are very good, as also for washing, drying, and ironing the clothing. The upper sashes in the windows of the older wing are still fixed. It is proposed to make them moveable with unglazed iron sash on the outside. There still remains a large number of insane not provided for, and even for those who are at present in the Asylum there is not room enough. There is not that classification of the inmates which is absolutely necessary to successful treatment, nor is it possible till more room is provided.

A piano and melodion are at the disposal of the female patients, and one was playing on the piano in a very creditable manner at the time of inspection. Many were busy sewing, ironing, &c., and a party of men were found employed in making mattresses of corn husks. It would be a most worthy object for the charity of the rich of the State to give to a fund to be used in procuring amusement for these unfortunates. Four deer in a little park, afford amusement to those who are able to go and see them. The contrivance for supplying water is good, and the new wind-mill process economical. If the reservoir in the hill behind the building were larger, it would be better, a supply could be kept, not against a rainy day, but against a calm one.

As in the last year's report, we urge the abandonment of the old buildings as soon as possible. The only course open is to build the south wing immediately, and thus provide accommodations for 450 patients. If this is done immediately, the building will be full as soon as completed.

ST. CLOUD NORMAL SCHOOL.

The new St. Cloud Normal School building is erected upon the right bank of the Mississippi, commanding, from the altitude of the ground, a handsome view up and down the river, particularly the latter, and of the country on the east side. The walls and roof are now completed, the flooring very nearly so.

The basement is a very solid piece of granite masonry; the superstructure is of cream colored brick, with a mansard roof, tinned, and a wooden tower. The height of the tower is nearly ninety feet from the ground, and affords from the top a view of the surrounding country, of many miles in extent.

The basement will be floored about on a level with the ground, and by large openings in the wall will have free circulation of air under it; the ceiling will be twelve feet in the clear. This space will be occupied by Janitor's room, fuel room, (to hold a year's supply, if necessary,) and two larg

pairs of rooms, each pair connected by a wide arch in the masonry, to be fitted up as gymnasia and playrooms for the pupils of the model department.

The first story, fourteen feet in the clear, is divided up for the model school, and cloak rooms for both departments. Two doors open from the main corridor into short passages, which cross a veranda, to be built at the rear of the building, and lead to the privies, which are to be constructed at a distance of some yards.

The second story, sixteen feet in the clear, is to be for the Normal department. The large hall is in the centre of the building, and extends from front to rear, being well lighted at both ends. Two rows of iron pillars support the floor and roof above.

Under the roof is a story twelve feet in the clear, which will not be finished nor divided into rooms at present.

Every room in the two principal stories has a fire place, in which a coal grate will be placed, and a ventilating shaft pierced above and below.

The large hall will have three grates and two ventilating shafts.

In addition to the coal fires a steam apparatus will be employed over the entire building, and hot air will be carried from a chamber in the engine room to the large hall in the second story.

WINONA NORMAL SCHOOL.

The defects in the ventilation of the basement referred to in the last report has been partially remedied. The care of the building is as marked as heretofore noted.

The Reynolds wrought-iron furnaces put in last year have proved a success. The building is reported more crowded than last year, but the health of the students is better than at any time heretofore.