

78-CFM-JLN
State Inst - Fairbault

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

OF THE

MINNESOTA INSTITUTION

FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE

DEAF AND DUMB, AND THE BLIND,

LOCATED AT FARIBAULT,

TO THE GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30th, 1877.

PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL
SESSION, 1878.

MINNEAPOLIS :
JOHNSON, SMITH & HARRISON.
1878.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Directors:

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor herewith to present to you the fifteenth annual report of the Minnesota Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, and the Blind. There have been present for a longer or shorter time during the year one hundred and one deaf mutes. Of these sixty-six are males, and thirty-five females. In the blind department the whole number has been nineteen. Of these twelve are males and seven females.

HEALTH.

During the year there has been less sickness than usual. No epidemic of any kind has prevailed, and only a few isolated cases of severe illness have occurred, all of which yielded readily under the treatment employed. With devout gratitude to God do we make mention of the blessings of health that have attended the pupils of this institution since its organization fifteen years ago.

DEAF MUTE GRADUATES.

NAME.	TRADE.	RESIDENCE.	COUNTY.
John C. Corrigan.....	Shoemaker.....	Inver Grove.....	Dakota.
Joseph S. Hews.....	Shoemaker.....	Owatonna.....	Steele.
John C. Hutchinson.....	Printer.....	Dundas.....	Rice.
Mary A. Quinlan.....	Seamstress.....	Rochester.....	Olmsted.

Besides these, three others have left, or have failed thus far to return to resume their duties here at school. Their reasons for so doing are best known to themselves. Sometimes a year spent at home

service to a pupil. The experience gives new views of the importance of an education and incites to renewed persistent effort when in school again. As a rule, however, the absence of a year from school is unfavorable to further progress in study. During such absence the mind becomes absorbed in other things; new associations and new acquaintances are formed, less interest is felt in books or education and an unwillingness arises to re-enter school, join a younger class, and leave the old associates; and hence such absence exerts an unfavorable influence both on the pupil and on the school.

ADMISSIONS.

NAME.	AGE.	ADMITTED.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.
Mary Brachtner.....	13	Sept. 25, 1877	Hale.....	McLeod.
Walter C. Brower.....	24	Sept. 12, 1877	Little Sauk.....	Todd.
Elmina Courteau.....	10	Sept. 12, 1877	St. Paul.....	Ramsey.
Chas. H. H. Dodge.....	10	Sept. 12, 1877	Spring Valley....	Fillmore.
Bakim H. Dougherty...	13	Nov. 15, 1877	Bethel.....	Anoka.
Pauline O. Hanson.....	18	Sept. 12, 1877	Morris.....	Stevens.
James B. McKay.....	10	Oct. 3, 1877	St. Paul.....	Ramsey.
John E. Olson.....	12	Sept. 12, 1877	Brush Prairie....	McLeod.
Philip J. Peacha.....	12	Sept. 12, 1877	Stillwater.....	Washington.
Samuel O. Urnes.....	18	Sept. 11, 1877	White Bear Centre	Pope.
Anthony Schroder.....	10	Sept. 12, 1877	St. Paul.....	Ramsey.
Albia R. Smith.....	12	Sept. 12, 1877	Medford.....	Steele.
Laura J. Torbet.....	11	Sept. 12, 1877	Minneapolis.....	Hennepin.
Lucretia Thompson.....	12	Jan. 2, 1877	Mansfield.....	Freeborn.
Michael Ryan.....	16	Sept. 22, 1877	Rochester.....	Olmsted.

Of the fifteen new pupils, ten are males and five are females. Their average age is thirteen years and a half. Three of them are semi-mutes, and hence are proper subjects for the class in articulation. Three out of fifteen is quite a large proportion. These are all very proper subjects for the institution, and possess more natural ability than new pupils will average.

One year ago there were reported to be eighty uneducated deaf and dumb children in the state, nine of these are now in attendance, five more are in school, concerning whom we knew nothing when the last annual report was written. There are seventy-five more now in the state who ought to be reached in some way. Besides these there are from twenty-five to thirty blind children who ought to be now making use of the means for obtaining an education so generously provided by the state. It is no exaggeration to say there are not less than *one hundred deaf and dumb and blind* children in Minnesota who are now growing up without an education, so far

The St. Paul Daily Pioneer-Press, New York Semi-Weekly Tribune, Youth's Companion, Harper's Magazine and Scribner's Magazine, have been taken at somewhat reduced rates.

Through these and other papers pupils have been kept informed of the progress of events in the world.

The small number of pupils at present in attendance and the large number of blind known to be in the state, would indicate that some effort should be made to present the advantages of this institution to those for whose benefit they are designed. It would seem hardly necessary to urge upon parents the acceptance of free education and maintenance for their children, but the history of many institutions in our own country and abroad shows that the simple existence of such opportunities has not been sufficient to attract those who are in need of them. The prejudices against such institutions, the prevailing ignorance as to their advantages or even their existence, combined with the reluctance to send children thus afflicted away from home, doubtless goes far toward explaining the fact. An extensive circulation of "The Mutes' Companion" will probably do something toward removing these difficulties, but personal visitation by some officer or graduate of the institution is generally found more effectual than the indirect method of newspaper notices and explanation.

J. J. DOW,
Prin. of Blind Dept.

CO-EDUCATION OF THE SEXES.

As this subject has received the special critical attention of educators and physicians and as our State Board of Health has sought for information bearing on this subject, the following may interest them as well as the parents and friends of our pupils.

An institution like this affords some peculiar facilities for obtaining information upon this subject. The same time, the same medical and hygienic treatment, the same industrial, intellectual and social privileges, the same system of government and discipline under the same officers, make the seven years course of the pupils here not only co-educational, but also identical. To be a little more specific in regard to time, and the duties required. Both sexes take their meals at the same table, in school they sit side by side, learn and recite the same lesson to the same teacher; they meet together often to engage in the same amusements; they have the same hours of the day for labor, exercise, recreation and rest, with this exception—the girls are occupied more hours per day than boys.

It also be born in mind that the pupils of this institution are all juveniles, fit subjects only for a primary class. Those now in attendance vary in age from *ten to thirty-one* years,—the average being fifteen and one half years. They all have the same feelings of pride, ambition, and desire that their more fortunate brothers and sisters possess, hence they cannot be called an exceptional class, so far as co-education is concerned.

Only one death has occurred in this institution since its organization, fifteen years ago, and this was one of the girls. But it should be remembered that her death was the result of an accident, and not of disease. With this single exception the health record of the females in this school does not suffer in comparison with that of the males. The same may also be said of the employes who have labored here during the past ten years.

During the past three years a daily and weekly record have been kept showing the health, deportment, and progress, of each pupil. These two records show a proportion of a little more than *one tenth* in favor of the females.

It is the unanimous opinion of the teachers in this institution, that the segregation of the sexes in separate schools and classes is not wise. That while the boys may excel, to some extent, in mathematics, in all other studies the girls are fully their equals; and while a more rigid discipline may be needed, both sexes together in the same classes exert a highly beneficial influence upon each other, developing strength of character, mutual acts of kindness, courtesy, and good manners, which are liable to be neglected or forgotten, in classes composed of one sex only. It should be added also that experience here has shown that the association of both sexes in the common every day duties of school life tends to relieve the minds of youth of that morbid, sickly, sentimental, idea in regard to the sexes that so often prevail among children and youth educated without this mutual reflex influence of the sexes.

FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

The existence in the state of quite a class of children of weak minds, is a notable fact. The records of this institution show it, and the census returns establish it. As a class they are a burden to their parents, and often to the state or county in which they reside. They are not reached by the public schools or any of the other institutions, unless occasionally they are regarded as deaf and dumb or insane, as they sometimes appear to be, and hence are not sent to these institutions where, as a rule, their condition is soon

determined and then they are returned to their homes, doom to a life of ignorance and imbecility. This ought not so to be. "Not," for schools and institutions of learning are based on the principle that all human beings are capable of improvement, and even the poor imbecile is not an exception to this, and he has a right to the means of improvement; and it is the duty and for the interest of the state to see that the means are provided. Surely the more highly favored will not do to their inferiors the few rights that justly belong to them. The spirit of our civilization, not to say Christianity, will not do this.

It is no novel experiment to train and educate imbeciles. Not more than fifteen hundred children of this class are to-day in training in ten institutions of this kind in the United States. Thirteen children of this class have been on trial in this institution and discharged, not because they were incapable of improvement, but because the laws regulating this institution and the best interests of its inmates would not allow it. The names of others are now upon our records as applicants for admission, and in their behalf and that of their parents, and in behalf of the rights of a common humanity, I trust that something be done for their improvement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The following named persons will please accept the sincere thanks of both the pupils and officers of the institution for favors received during the year. They have contributed in no small degree to the happiness of the pupils, and at the same time greatly aided the officers in making Christmas and the holidays a merry time for these children while away from their homes.

1. To Mr. James Wishart, of Minneapolis, for a box of sweets for Christmas.
2. To Mrs. Hudson Wilson, of Faribault, for a nice assortment of Christmas presents for the pupils.
3. To F. A. Theopold, Esq., of Faribault, for Christmas gifts for the pupils.
4. To J. C. N. Cottrell, Esq., of Faribault, for Christmas presents.
5. To George E. Skinner, Esq., of Faribault, for a generous supply of choice candies for the pupils at Christmas.
6. To J. B. Wheeler, Esq., of Faribault, for Christmas presents for the pupils.

- To Andrew, Parshall & Hutchinson, of Faribault, for Christmas presents for pupils.
- To Hon. W. D. Washburn, of Minneapolis, for a barrel of presents for the pupils.
- To Mrs. W. D. Washburn, of Minneapolis, for the generous gift of \$100, to purchase a stereopticon for the use of the institution. This instrument has arrived and it gives promise of being a source of much pleasure and profit to the pupils.
- To Rev. N. W. Cary, of St. Paul, for a donation of books to the Institution Library, two unbound volumes, besides pamphlets and reports of special interest and use to the deaf and dumb. They were once the property of his honored father when Principal of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.
- To Prof. G. O. Fay, Supt. of the Ohio Inst. for the Deaf and Dumb, for books for the Institution Library. These were presented through the librarian, D. H. Carroll, of this institution.
- To H. Deardurff, Esq., through Miss Jennie C. Cramer, for specimens of iron pyrites for Institution Cabinet.
- Also to same for samples of gold dust from the Black Hills.
- To S. S. Merrill, Esq., General Manager of Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, for aid in passing indigent pupils of this institution over said road.
- Also to the managers of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, and of the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad for similar favors during the year.
- Dec. 5th, to Mrs. W. D. Washburn of Minneapolis, for \$10 worth of Christmas presents for the pupils.
- To the editors and publishers of newspapers and magazines who have so kindly furnished copies gratis for the pupils of the institution. A list of those received regularly will be found on another page of this report.
- To the Perkins Institution for the Blind of Boston, for two copies of the Memorial of Dr. S. G. Howe, in raised letters.

CONCLUSION.

Another year in the history of this institution, with its round of successes, cares, pleasures, and achievements has passed away, and in looking back upon it, nothing of unusual interest has occurred in the school to mark the year in comparison with those that have preceded it. The special work of the class room and the shop has gone steadily forward, and the results have been quite satisfactory. The general deportment and application of the pupils have been of

a high order. The interest taken by both officers in their respective duties is worthy of special commendation. The continued and renewed evidence of interest in and support of the institution manifested by the public and in so many instances during the year, is a source of encouragement to all connected with it and excites diligence and fidelity in the management and in executing its benevolent designs.

The successful erection of the main building the past year, that without accident or injury to any one, either pupil or man, is a fact that commands both our gratitude and our admiration.

Provided your plans for the completion of the main building this summer are successful, I recommend that an earnest effort be made to induce the one hundred uneducated deaf and dumb children, in the State to enter school next fall. Without the completion of the main building such an effort need not be made, as the deaf and dumb are concerned.

Hoping this State institution in future will be even more successful for its growth and prosperity than in the past, relying ever upon your counsel and aid in directing its affairs, and with the heavenly guidance for myself and my associates, I enter upon the duties of another year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. NOYES, Supervisor.

Faribault, Dec. 1st, 1877.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

Honorable Board of Directors:

With gratitude to the Great Preserver of life that I can give my *fifteenth annual report*, so pleasing an account of the condition of the institution. During the year past the health of the pupils has been remarkably good. I have to report no accident, no epidemic, and no death. One of the blind was somewhat injured by the upsetting of the wagon while on the way to town, and in consequence was kept out of school for several weeks.

The pupils have been vaccinated during the year with pure attenuated virus with *satisfactory results*.

It is a fact worthy of note that some of the pupils come to the institution with a chronic ailment clinging to them, besides the ailment that brings them here to school. Hence watchful care and more or less medical treatment are necessary in order to improve their general condition. One such case has been under treatment during the year, and with gratifying results.

As other institutions have been visited by epidemics, we have been kept on our guard. Let every precaution be taken, and every exciting cause removed to keep far distant the day when an epidemic prevails in this State Institution under your care.

Respectfully submitted,

Z. B. NICHOLS, M. D.,

Physician.