

The character of our custodial wards has been satisfactorily changed by the introduction of a teacher and systematic work and drill for them.

*Minnesota.*—Dr. Rogers reported at Syracuse, 1886: In the study of *Causation* necessary but preliminary work has been done. The applications received since the organization of the institution have been arranged and recorded in the order received. Blank forms have been introduced during the year for the purpose of obtaining etiological data in all cases making application, and we have already begun collecting data in a few of the older ones.

The first twenty-five children admitted were those transferred from the hospitals for the insane, some of them paupers with few or no persons living acquainted with their antecedents, so that little will probably ever be known concerning them in the way of causation. The information obtained by means of the set questions on the blanks is always supplemented by that obtained from parents and acquaintances of the applicant verbally as opportunity offers.

As to the *Status of our Work, etc.*, we believe it generally popular throughout the State, and our Board of Directors will go before the Legislature with a reasonable assurance of obtaining a substantial appropriation for the school. We have a Board of Charities, composed of representative men of the State, that take a lively and intelligent interest in our institution and will, we think, heartily second the effort of our board to obtain an appropriation for additional buildings this winter.

Our *Development and Progress* has been marked by the erection of a central building attached to the school department. We recognize the distinction, maintained by Dr. Knight, between the educable and custodial classes of children, and it is expected that the completion of the central structure, intended eventually for administrative purposes, dining-rooms, public hall, and work connected directly with the school, will not only permit the admission of a larger number than at present, but will afford a much better classification. Our present number is ninety-five, all that our room will permit.

The next step to be urged, and one which has already been ably advocated by my predecessor, is the establishment of a department for the custodials separate from the school grade. The time has fully come for it, as we believe, and we now anticipate no serious difficulty in securing the necessary funds.

As to *School and Hospital Methods Introduced*, there is nothing to present for the year just passed, but I wish to call your attention to the specimens of hammered brass here on exhibition, the work of some of our children. This work as a means of school training was introduced by Dr.

George Knight, or more specifically by Miss Powers, one of his teachers, a lady of high culture, who honored the Minnesota institution by laboring in its school-rooms for three years with self-sacrificing devotion to the welfare of its inmates.

We are making the industrial feature a very important one, and have the foundation laid for a greater variety of occupations. We have a gymnastic teacher employed for the year just commencing, and intend establishing a kindergarten room this winter as a regular feature.

*Nebraska.*—Dr. J. T. Armstrong reported at Syracuse, 1886: The buildings provided for by the last Legislature will be completed the 1st of December, but owing to there being no appropriation for maintenance the institution will not be opened until April 1, 1887, after the appropriations made by the next Legislature are available. If our State provides for those desiring admission, one or two buildings will need be erected during the next biennial period. The indications are now that there will be more applicants than can be accommodated at the opening of the school. I was appointed as superintendent in August, and I have already received the names of over four hundred feeble-minded persons in the State. As blank applications for admission have not yet been provided, we have no formal applications.

The people of Nebraska have taken much interest in the institution, and I have received several very encouraging letters from our citizens. I have no doubt the next Legislature will make "ample provision."

*New York.*—Dr. J. C. Carson reported at Syracuse, 1886: The New York Asylum is now about closing the thirty-sixth year of its existence, the law creating it having passed the Legislature of 1851. Its location at first was near the city of Albany, but during the fifth year of its management it was removed to its present site in the city of Syracuse. It was organized as an educational institution, and that purpose continues to be its main feature, the by-laws restricting admissions to idiotic and imbecile children between seven and fourteen years of age who may be considered educable. These requirements have, however, not been closely adhered to in all instances, the admission of others being permissible.

At the close of the fifth year of its operation there were 85 pupils present; at the close of the tenth year, 118; the fifteenth year, 144; the twentieth year, 147; the twenty-fifth, 210; the thirtieth, 307; the thirty-fifth, or last year, 373; and this year, 410.

It will be observed from the figures given that there has been a steady increase in numbers during each of the seven quinquennial periods, but this is more especially marked during the last two, the increase in this decade being about equivalent to the whole number present at the end of