

FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD

OF

CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA.

FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 1890.



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especially educational in their purpose and the school for feeble minded being more a charitable than an educational institution; but in practice the inconvenience is not serious.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

The work of this school during the past two years has been satisfactory. Its graduates who have entered the National Deaf Mute College in Washington have invariably taken a high rank; while the practical character of the school work is seen in the fact that the pupils, on their discharge find their way readily into the ranks of self-supporting industry.

The expenses of the school for the deaf for the past year, with an average of 185 pupils have been \$189 per pupil while those of the Illinois school for the deaf with an average of 496 pupils have been \$198 per pupil. In view of the difference in climate as well as numbers, this indicates close economy.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

The school for the blind has also reached the limit of its present capacity but the legislature of 1889 made an appropriation for a hospital and the old broom shop has been fitted up for temporary use as a dormitory. With these two buildings the pupils can be accommodated for another two years.

The pipe organ provided by the last legislature has been set up and will add greatly to the musical advantages of the school.

Repeated personal visitation has convinced us of the efficiency of the work done at the school for the blind. The school instruction is thorough and practical, and the results accomplished in music are surprising in view of the small number of pupils to select from.

THE SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE MINDED.

It is a gratifying fact that Minnesota is making fuller provision for this class of unfortunates in proportion to her population than any other state in the Union.

The following is a statement of state provision for the feeble minded in all of the states which make state provision:

STATE PROVISION FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED

STATE.	Approximate capacity of buildings for feeble minded.		Proportion of inmates to population of state.
Minnesota	320	1 to	4,000
	500	1 to	5,000
Ohio	800	1 to	5,000
	130	1 to	5,400
	330	1 to	5,500
Massachusetts	350	1 to	6,300
	725	1 to	7,500
New York	750	1 to	8,000
Illinois	400	1 to	9,000
Nebraska	110	1 to	10,000
Kentucky	175	1 to	10,000
	120	1 to	10,000
Massachusetts.,	200	1 to	11,000
	100	1 to	15,000
Totals	5,010	1 to	7,000

Notwithstanding this liberal provision there is pressing need of more room. The institution now has more than 300 inmates, with many applications pending. There are doubtless at least 200 children in the state who would be fit subjects for the institution. Room can be made for this increasing number only by discharging inmates; but as the institution grows older the importance of the system of custodial care, to which the state is already committed, becomes more manifest—especially in the case of the older girls. A single feeble-minded woman, through her offspring, may cost the state more than this proposed new building, as has been demonstrated by the statistics of the Juke family in New York, and the "tribe of Ishmael" in Indiana.

If the legislature can command the \$68,000 needed to erect and furnish the building, and the \$25,000 per year needed to support its inmates, we do not doubt the wisdom of the increased provision.

The work of this institution has become three-fold: first, that of a training school for improvable pupils of feeble mind; second, that of an asylum for the custody of adults of feeble minds; third, that of a hospital for epileptics.

These departments shade into each other, for the better class of epileptics go to school and the inmates of the custodial department need some school work to prevent deterioration.

The condition and needs of the custodial class of the feeble-minded, are similar to those of the chronic insane; healthful employment, innocent amusement, wholesome diet, cleanliness and kindly supervision are the essentials. The purchase of additional land has increased the facilities for such care. A small, cheerful dormitory building on the farm under the care of a good farmer and his wife, provides for twenty of the older boys who are delighted with the change from the large building.

This plan suggests what may be done on a similar plan but on a larger scale.

The new laundry and girls' work-building will give needed relief in the main building and allow the more satisfactory employment of the girls.

At every visit we are impressed with the spirit of interest and kindness toward these unfortunate children which pervades the whole institution. We believe that parents can safely trust their helpless little ones to the care which they will find here.

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The school for dependent children, at Owatonna, has handled 247 children during the past year, of whom about 140 have been placed in homes and 97 remained in the school July 31, 1890. There were, at the same time, 230 children in homes under the guardianship of the institution.

The internal administration of the school has our approval. The children are apparently well trained and cared for. The most important work of the school is the selection of homes for the children and their supervision when placed.

In the spring of 1890, our secretary visited and inspected the homes of about thirty children placed out in Steele and Waseca counties. His report showed that, in most cases the homes had been carefully selected and that great pains had been taken to adapt the children to their homes.

The small size of the school is greatly to the credit of the administration. It would be easy to accumulate 500 or 600 children, or even more, as is shown by the experience of California, Ohio, Indiana and New York.

The expense of the school, per capita, is not unreasonable, considering the small number of inmates and considering also the work to be done in fitting the children for homes. For example, the expense of clothing the last year was \$27 per child, which seems excessive; but during the last fiscal year, with an