

To: Hon. John Lind, Governor;

Hon. John Obrien, president;

And the other members of the Board for Minnesota Institute for Defectives.

In accordance with a resolution heretofore passed by this Board, in company with Dr. A. C. Rogers, I made a visit to the Craig Colony for epileptics, located at Sonyea, N. E., and the State Institute for feeble minded at Polk, Penn. On account of the limited time, my report thereon, at this time, will be necessarily short; but the information I obtained, I hope will prove of some benefit from time to time as different matters arise, in regard to the care of the unfortunates under our charge.

The Craig Colony so called, is, in the construction of its buildings, and in the general method of dealing with its patients, patterned after the great Epileptic Charity located at Bielefeld, in Westphalia. The patients are housed in small detached cottages scattered over a large farm. The best authorities figure that there should not exceed in population, one epileptic to an acre of land. The epileptics living in a cottage are known as a family, which usually runs from sixteen to thirty in number. Each family is given into the charge of ~~by~~ a competent man or woman, who resides in the cottage with his or her family, so called, and is held directly responsible for everything. The attendant having such charge, must be a most competent person, whose ~~education~~ has made him or her especially adapted for such work. The attendants' duties are important, varying and many, having direct supervision of the household, as well as being required to be a good nurse and cook.

The cottages built specially for the benefit of those poor unfortunates, are constructed somewhat differently than those for ordinary use; such, as, building the stairs, so as to have three different turns or two landings; rooms for shower baths in lieu of tubs; and other things which might be mentioned.

The success attained in the treatment and care of its patients can be attributed to the following:-

First. By the stimulation of scientific work in the Colony to the end that the cause of epilepsy may be learned, and better methods of treatment and cure, discovered.

Second. Special attention given to diet.

Third. Using every endeavor to make life to them as much like home as possible.

Fourth. Constant outdoor exercises.

Fifth. Duties that constantly employ their time, and thus diverting their minds from thoughts of sickness.

The statistics of Craig Colony show that the number of attacks of its patients are lessened 75 per cent. A small per cent. are entirely cured. Many individual cases might be cited, but I will refer to but one. Arthur Berry, who is at the head of the printing department, has not had an attack for a year. At the time he entered the colony, he had on an average of five a day.

A physician for about every one hundred patients is upon the pay-roll. Many times an epileptic can tell from five to thirty minutes in advance, when he is to have a seizure, and by his going immediately to the doctor having his care, the number and force of the attacks can many times be reduced.

The colony is converting many burdensome patients to self-supporting citizens. By its policy of constantly employing as large a force as possible upon its large farm, the expense of running the colony is greatly reduced. It is becoming more self-sustaining each year.

I come back to our own institution more in the belief than ever, that the epileptics under our charge, especially the adults, should not be housed up in one end of a big building as at present; but for their own benefit, and also for the good of the high grade feeble, with whom they come in contact more or less, the legislature should provide means to allow them to be transferred to cottages specially constructed for them, separate and apart from the buildings of our feeble minded institution.

The Craig Colony system represents forty years of investigation and experiment, and the success attained, shows that our state

could not do better than to follow in its footsteps, in the care and treatment of the epileptics

I would not advise spending the \$18,000 available August 1st, in starting a colony for epileptics on the Sogvea, N. V. plan, as it is not enough to assure a success of the scheme, and if the same is used by the Board in putting up an additional building at the farm, to which a portion of our epileptics are to be transferred, it should be with the distinct understanding that it is to be used as temporary quarters for them, and be delivered over to house the constantly growing number of feeble minded, when suitable homes are provided, by the legislature, for the unfortunate epileptic class.

At this time, I make no report on my visit to the feeble minded institution at Palk, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated June 12-1900

M. W. Stocker Jr