

FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

State Board of Visitors

FOR

Public Institutions

1909

STADICATE PRINTING CO.,  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

## STATE BOARD OF VISITORS FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

### OFFICE AT THE STATE CAPITOL.

Gov. John A. Johnson, ex-officio.

Samuel G. Smith, St. Paul....., Term expires first Monday in January, 1913  
Jacob T. Schain, Browns Valley... Term expires first Monday in January, 1909  
Dr. David Graban, Duluth..... Term expires first Monday in January, 1909  
Rev. G. Wahlund, North Branch... Term expires first Monday in January, 1911  
Geo. R. O'Reilly, St. Paul. .... Term expires first Monday in January, 1913  
Swan J. Turnblad, Minneapolis. Term expires first Monday in January, 1911

### OFFICERS.

SAMUEL G. SMITH.....President  
JACOB T. SCHAIN.....Vice President  
GEORGE R. O'REILLY.....Secretary

MRS. L. C. GOODENOW.....Clerk

### COMMITTEES.

Penal Institutions—Messrs. O'Reilly, Schain and Turnblad.  
Insane and Sick—Messrs. Graham, Wahlund and Schain.  
Children and Education—Messrs. Wahlund, Schain and O'Reilly.  
Municipal Institutions—Messrs. Turnblad, O'Reilly and Graham.

## FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

# State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 31, 1908.

*To the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:*

SIR: In obedience to the law creating the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions which requires a report to your body of the transactions of the board and the presentation of such recommendations as seem desirable, we have the honor to submit the first biennial report.

The members of the board have visited all the state institutions and a number of the county, municipal and private institutions. The work of the board did not begin until after its organization, June 12, 1907. The fund at the disposal of the board did not permit of organizing an office force sufficient to carry on the work contemplated by the act. Through the assistance given by the contingent fund of Gov. Johnson it was possible to employ a clerk for part time in order to carry on the correspondence. The board has collected a small library composed of the leading reports with respect to charities and correction. A card index of the chief topics has been made, which places this body of information immediately at the disposal of any official requiring such information. In addition to this work of indexing, the board has made special investigations as to the methods and results in the care of the insane in a number of the states of the Union. The board submits a special report with respect to the care of the insane in this state, together with recommendations for a new plan which it respectfully recommends the legislature to enact into a law.

For many years a change in the system has been urged by different persons, notably by various members of the former state

An Act to establish a State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions in the State of Minnesota.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Appointments—Term. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint six persons, not more than three of whom shall be from the same political party, who shall serve, two for two years, two for four years, and two for six years, as indicated by the Governor upon their appointment, and at the expiration of each term the successor shall be appointed in like manner for a term of six years. The Governor shall be ex-officio a member of this board. These persons shall constitute The State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions in the State of Minnesota, and they shall serve without compensation, their traveling expenses alone being paid by the state. They shall appoint such clerical help as they deem necessary, and a room shall be provided for their meetings in the state house; and there is hereby appropriated from any funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars per annum from July 1, 1907, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the expenses of the board. All accounts and expenditures shall be certified as may be provided by the board, and shall be paid by the state treasurer upon an order from the state auditor.

Sec. 2. Meetings—Rules. Regular meetings of the said board shall be held quarterly, or oftener if required. The board shall make such rules and regulations for the transaction of business as they may deem necessary. They shall study the whole subject of the care and management of charitable and correctional institutions, and they shall visit those within the bounds of the state, whether state, county or municipal, and the officer in charge of said institution shall furnish to said board upon its request, such information as it may require. The Governor may at any time in his discretion, order an investigation by the said board of visitors, or by a committee thereof, of any penal or charitable institution in the state, and said board shall have power to send for persons and papers, and to administer oaths and affirmations, and the report of such investigation, with the testimony, shall be submitted to the Governor, and by him transmitted with his recommendations to the legislature.

Sec. 3. The State Board of Visitors shall make a full report to the legislature every two years of its transactions, and one thousand copies of said report shall be printed.

Sec. 4. No member of the Board of Visitors, or employee, shall be an employee of, or interested directly or indirectly in, any contract for the building or maintenance of any institution which the board is authorized to visit.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 25, 1907.

board of charities and correction, but this is the first time in the history of the state that a plan, in definite form and in harmony with existing conditions and institutions, has ever been worked out and presented to the public.

At the request of Gov. Johnson an investigation was undertaken of the Soldiers' Home, an account of which will be found in the body of this work.

The board desires to express in as strong a way as possible its appreciation of the high standard which is maintained in the various charitable and correctional institutions of this state. This standard of efficiency has been reached largely by the permanence in office of the men who are superintendents of the various institutions. The heads of the institutions, chosen with care, represent the best obtainable talent for the work for which they are engaged. It is probable that no state in the Union is so free from partisan politics in the management of its state institutions. In many states a change in political parties, or even a change in administration, is a signal for turmoil, confusion and decapitation, in all the charitable institutions. Nothing of that kind occurs in the state of Minnesota. This result has been reached by a steady elevation in the general public sentiment of the state, which demands the best things for the wards of the state, and it has been confirmed by the intelligence and patriotism of the men who have been called to the governor's chair. The superintendents of the various institutions have organized their work with a view to efficiency, and, on the whole, have used the funds at their disposal to the best advantage. If the people of the state at large had the means for comparison between the work that has been done here and that in many other states they would have an increased civic pride in the noble achievements of the men of Minnesota.

The State Board of Visitors has received from all the public officials with whom they have had dealings the utmost courtesy and consideration, and every information required by us has been promptly furnished.

While the board has done such work as it could with the means at its disposal, it has only been by the contribution of clerical service of members of the board in a degree which ought not to be required in justice to their duties as defined by law, and in view of the fact that their services to the state are without remuneration. We are opposed to the view presented in some quarters that a salary should be attached to the office of the State Board of Vis-

itors, but it is very important that sufficient office force be secured to place the work upon a substantial and permanent basis, and we therefore request that the legislature increase the appropriation of this board to five thousand dollars per annum.

There are a number of subjects upon which the board could agree in asking new legislation with respect to the care of the wards of the state, but regarding as we do the question of the care of the insane as a subject of outstanding importance, and one which should receive thorough consideration and efficient action from your body, we submit the following special report upon that subject.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL G. SMITH,  
JACOB T. SCHAIN,  
GEORGE R. O'REILLY,  
DAVID GRAHAM,  
SWAN J. TURNBLAD,  
G. WAHLUND.

## SPECIAL REPORT UPON THE CARE OF THE CHRONIC INSANE.

The State Board of Visitors has made a special study of the methods used for the caring for the insane in several states of the Union, including New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, California and Wisconsin. Reports from other states have been examined in order to find out what conditions prevail in the most enlightened communities.

Students of charitable and correctional problems are generally agreed that the proper care of the insane is at once the most absorbing and the most difficult of present-day problems. On the humanitarian side, there is the strongest appeal that the state shall in some way use its utmost power to care for these unfortunates in institutions of the highest efficiency. On the other hand, economic argument in the interests of the taxpayer is so strong that in almost every state of the Union there are large numbers of the insane for whom no adequate care is provided. Particularly in those states where the entire cost is charged to the county, large numbers of the insane are found in jails and almshouses and often in a very deplorable condition. The so-called "county system" for the care of the insane has been almost unanimously condemned by all who have studied the question. On the other hand, it should be said that in a number of European countries the parish or local administrative unit is financially responsible, while the care is under the supervision of the state.

The problem of the care of the insane can be better solved by those who remember that there are two distinct classes of the insane—those who require hospital care and those who require custodial care.

Hospital care is indicated for those who are in such a condition that skillful treatment may aid in the recovery of the normal use of the mind. The chances are regarded to be, at least, even, for the recovery of every person who becomes insane if the case is taken in time and if the patient has proper care. After persons have been insane one or two years, they fall out of the hopeful class; they may still recover, but it will not be on account of any special treatment.

It seems plain, therefore, that the acute insane should receive as early treatment as possible, and that every means known to science should be used in their behalf. This is humanity to the patient and also, in the long run, economy for the state.

The care of the acute insane in Minnesota is expensive, but not too expensive. It is probable that better results would be obtained if more money were spent upon the acute insane rather than less.

On the other hand, those who require custodial care, and whose recovery is not an object of science, should be made comfortable and the misfortune of their lot be rendered as light as possible.

The state of Minnesota has undertaken to provide for all its insane in state institutions at the expense of the state. As to the wisdom of this financial plan, your board has at this time no opinion to give, and the pro-

posals that are being made in this report are entirely independent of any suggested changes that may be offered at this time or in the future. The plan proposed will not be prejudicial either to the continuance of the financial system or to any change that may be regarded as desirable in the future.

But the outstanding fact is that for many years the state of Minnesota, while claiming to make provision for its insane, has really never done so. In the three hospitals at St. Peter, Fergus Falls and Rochester, there are about six hundred patients in excess of the accommodations. If this meant only that six hundred patients were not properly housed and cared for it would be bad enough, but it means far more. It means that no one of the hospitals is as efficient in caring for any of its inmates as it certainly would be if only the normal capacity of the institution were used, but where an institution should have, say a thousand patients, and the officers are compelled to take care of twelve hundred patients, it means that not only the two hundred are not properly cared for, but that the other thousand must suffer also. In the interest of hospital work, in the interest of the acute insane, in the interest of that humanity which asks for as many recoveries as are possible and in the interest of the final economy for the state, it is imperative that some adequate provision be made for all the insane.

The economic consideration rests upon the obvious fact that the more recoveries that can be secured, the shorter the average term for which the state must provide. It is certain that the best hospital facilities, more and better nurses, more and better equipment, will increase the number of recoveries unless medical science is an entire failure.

In addition to the fact that six hundred patients in excess of the accommodations are already in the hospitals, is the other fact that the number of insane is steadily increasing year by year. To adequately provide for the care of all the insane in the state of Minnesota on the present plan a sum not less than one million dollars must be spent in providing buildings and equipment in the next five years, and when that is done, an ever-increasing number of insane will confront the state government five years hence and the whole thing must be repeated.

The people of Minnesota would, no doubt, be willing to spend successive millions in building institutions for the care of the insane if that is the only way.

There are institutions for the care of the chronic insane in this state at Anoka and at Hastings. These have reached a capacity of about 423 each. It is proposed to build cottages at each of these institutions in the next two years to provide increased facilities for caring for the insane, and this plan indicates a sure tendency. Under the present system we shall add building to building at both of these asylums until they become very large institutions, correspondingly expensive in every way, and with such a herding together of patients as to make individual treatment and care impossible. The larger the institution, the more difficult is it to find proper work for the patient, and to secure any adequate variety in their lives.

We respectfully urge upon the attention of the Governor and the Legislature of Minnesota such a modification of the present system of care for the insane in this state as shall emphasize the importance of care for the acute insane. It is of the highest importance to the state, to the patient

and to his family and friends, that every effort should be made to secure recovery of those who are mentally sick. It is estimated that every patient who recovers is an asset to the state of about \$3,000 in what is saved from his further institutional care and in what he may be able to earn when discharged. The value to himself and to his friends of such a recovery is not to be estimated in any financial statement.

We recommend, therefore, that the hospitals for the insane in this state be put in the very best condition for the treatment of acute cases; that the number of attendants be considerably increased for those patients who are in the early stages of the disease, and that for these, every adequate medical appliance be secured. For the care of the chronic insane, an adaptation to our system of some of the features of the so-called "Wisconsin plan" is recommended. It is very fortunate that the methods that have been employed in our sister state are near enough for examination and are under the same economic conditions so that what has been done there we may safely predict can be repeated here. It is necessary to give some outline of the Wisconsin plan as follows:

1. The Wisconsin plan provides for the establishment of new asylums as fast as needed without additional legislation. The law permits any county, with the consent and approval of the State Board of Control, to issue bonds and to build county asylums. There has usually been a waiting list of counties wishing to build and the state board has consented to the building of new asylums in advance of the prospective need.

2. This plan has relieved the pressure upon the state hospitals for the insane so that for many years they have been free from over-crowding, enabling them to do more efficient hospital work than was possible under the old plan.

3. The plans for the county asylums must be approved in advance by the State Board of Control.

4. The size of the county asylums is limited by the State Board of Control. Thus far only one county asylum has been built with a capacity of more than 200 patients.

5. The State Board of Control is authorized to make regulations for the management of the county asylums. The board has two means of enforcing its established regulations: (a) The board controls the purse strings of the county asylums. Counties in Wisconsin are required to pay \$1.50 per week for each person kept in a state hospital. Counties which maintain their own asylums receive \$1.50 per week from the state for the care of each of their own patients, making a total of \$3 per week. The patients are maintained at an actual cost of \$2.32 per week, so that the counties actually save on an average 68 cents a week for each patient maintained in a county asylum. The bills of the county against the state for the \$1.50 per week allowed by law are audited by the State Board of Control, and they can withhold payment if the management of the asylum is unsatisfactory. (b) The State Board of Control has absolute right of transfer from any county asylum. If the administration of any county asylum is not satisfactory the board may remove, or threaten to remove, every patient from the asylum, transferring them to other asylums. This would, of course, cut off the revenue of the county from the state. Not only that, but the removal of a

patient under these conditions would put a stigma upon the county which the county board is very unwilling to incur. The result is that the right of transfer has been found to be the most effective means for maintaining the standard of the county asylums.

6. Before being sent to the county asylum, patients receive a course of treatment at a state hospital and, as a rule, they are not sent to the county asylum until the superintendent of the state hospital certifies that in his judgment they can no longer be benefited by the special medical treatment of the hospital. Treatment for ordinary ailments is furnished in the county asylums by a neighboring physician who is paid a stated salary for his work, and who visits the asylum twice weekly and oftener if necessary. If at any time a patient develops symptoms that lead to the belief that he might be benefited by hospital treatment, he is transferred to the state hospital. A considerable number of patients have recovered in county asylums after a number of years of insanity.

7. A large farm is connected with each county asylum, usually 300 acres or more. The farm, garden and live stock afford congenial and healthful employment for a large proportion of the patients. The women find employment in the kitchen, laundry, dairy, poultry yard, etc. The records of the county asylums for 1906 show that out of 4,150 patients, 1,181 worked all day, 822 worked one-half day or more each day, 804 worked less than one-half day and 1,036, or 25 per cent, did no work at all.

8. The patients are always glad to go to the asylums rather than remain in the large hospitals. Conversations with patients in county asylums by members of this board and by visitors from other states are quite unanimous in the testimony that more freedom of action is possible to the patients in the smaller institutions; more opportunity for work is afforded; it is easier to receive visitors, and altogether, the sad life of the mentally disturbed is relieved as far as possible from the evils which accompany it.

It ought to be noted that a reasonable amount of work is not alone a source of gratification to the patients but of the very greatest therapeutic value. More and more those in charge of the insane are studying the question of furnishing occupation. The small asylum upon a large farm under the care of a competent superintendent will afford just what is required. Under this flexible system every insane patient has been provided for in the state of Wisconsin, and the number of county asylums has been increased until there are now thirty-two in the state.

At first sight, it may seem that it is an indictment of the management of our present system to declare that a state may save millions of dollars by a new method and yet the patients receive better care than they have at present, but it is no indictment of the management of the present system, but of the system itself. In the first place, an institution with a capacity for about two hundred patients is probably the size which reaches the best conditions for custodial care, but the reason for the greater cheapness in the care of the chronic insane in small asylums rests in the lower salary list of the employees. About \$25 per patient for wages and salaries is sufficient in the county asylums which require no expensive organization of administration, no special medical staff and an average of about one attendant for every twenty-five patients. On the other hand, in a well organized large

hospital the expense might to reach from \$60 to \$100 per year for wages and salaries, per patient. This single item of administration indicates the line of cleavage. In order to spend as much money as we ought in caring for the acute insane, we must spend less money upon the chronic insane. Anyone familiar with the present population of our state hospitals is aware of the fact that there are hundreds of men and women in each one of these institutions who receive no special treatment for insanity; who would not be benefited by such treatment, and who would be very much better off in some other type of an institution.

Giving up that part of the Wisconsin system which refers to the method of adjusting the financial burden between the county and the state, we recommend the adoption of the following system:

1. Preserve the three hospitals for the insane in the state of Minnesota as they are at present, but reduce their population to the normal capacity and thereby increase their efficiency, giving to the splendid management of these institutions an adequate opportunity for the best work and the best results.
2. Maintain the asylums at Anoka and Hastings at their present capacity and for such care of the chronic insane as further experience may indicate.
3. For the care of the present surplus of the insane and to provide for the future, permit such counties as may be selected by the Board of Control to purchase land and erect buildings for the care of the chronic insane and authorize any county having such permission from the Board of Control to raise money for this purpose by the issue of bonds, where necessary.
4. Permit the use of a county asylum by adjacent counties upon the authorization of the Board of Control.
5. For each patient taken care of by the county asylum the state shall pay \$1 per week to the county authorities.

It is found by experience that the actual cost for the maintenance in such institutions is about \$1.75 per week. The remaining \$1.25 should be put into a sinking fund which will pay off the bonds as they mature, and will take care of the entire cost of the land and buildings. The experience in Wisconsin is that the counties have been able to pay for their buildings and grounds in ten or twelve years, leaving a surplus besides to the credit of the county. The average per capita in Minnesota at the present time is, in the hospitals, over \$3 per week for maintenance, and in the asylums more than \$2.50 per week, without taking into account the cost of repairs and permanent improvements.

6. The location of the asylums and the plans for the buildings must be approved by the Board of Control and the Board of Control must authorize the payment of the per capita allowance and may refuse such authorization to any asylum that does not reach the prescribed standard, not alone in buildings, but in maintenance and care. By this provision the state will always have entire control of the management of its wards.

This plan is flexible and would provide an elastic system which would expand to meet the needs of the problem. It would save the state in the course of years millions of dollars, and it would provide better care for both classes of the insane than is now possible.

SAMUEL G. SMITH.

Complaints having been made to the Governor of the state by the Minneapolis Humane Society with respect to conditions in the Minnesota Soldiers' Home, the Governor addressed a communication on August 4, 1908, to the state board of visitors. The board was requested to examine the institution in the light of the complaints made, and "to make this investigation thoroughly and impartially, and in the hope if conditions are as stated remedies will be pointed out."

Accordingly, on August 12th and again upon the 20th, the board visited the Soldiers' Home, thoroughly examined the institution in every particular, investigated the specific charges that had been made, and agreed upon the following report.

St. Paul, August 21, 1908.

Hon. John A. Johnson, Governor, St. Paul, Minn.:

Dear Sir: As directed by you in a communication of your secretary under date of the 4th inst., the state board of visitors beg to report that on the 12th and 20th of this month our board visited the Soldiers' Home and made a thorough inspection of that institution, and an investigation of the charges contained in the enclosed communication of the Minneapolis Humane Society. We found the charges made by Mr. Booth to be unfounded. We interviewed the old soldier, Jim McDunna, and he informed us that he had never been placed in the basement of the hospital, but had been furnished with temporary sleeping quarters on the ground floor of the hospital and in the hallway where he could have abundant air and light. Mr. McDunna is suffering from tuberculosis, and is in a very low and emaciated condition, but appears to be perfectly rational. The physician in charge was not present during our visit upon either occasion, but the assistant physician as well as others informed us that McDunna had never been placed in the basement of the hospital. McDunna appeared well satisfied at the treatment he was receiving and informed us that he had no complaint to make.

Our investigation showed us, however, that the building occupied as a hospital is not sufficiently large to accommodate the number of patients. The assistant physician informed us that there were some 75 or 76 patients in the hospital and that this number would be increased during the winter months. Seven or eight of these patients, he informed us, were insane, and a number of others in such a weak and enfeebled condition that they were totally unable to assist themselves in any way whatever.

It appears that there is no separate apartment or ward for these insane patients, and it is necessary therefore that they be kept with the other inmates of the hospital. In the basement of the hospital we found four or five cots, and the assistant physician informed us that three of the patients slept there.

The ventilation in the basement is very poor and no facilities whatever exist for the comfort of the patients. It was apparent to the board that some arrangement should be made for enlarging the present hospital and furnishing additional help for the care and treatment of the patients in the hospital, and especially that some arrangement should be made by which the insane patients could be cared for at some of the hospitals for the insane throughout the state.

The toilet rooms in the hospital have no proper ventilation and present an unclean and unsanitary appearance.

It further appears that there is no provision for the separate care of patients suffering from contagious diseases, and it seems imperative, in a large institution of that character, that a separate building should be erected and maintained for the care of patients suffering from infectious diseases.



In short, this institution in all other respects appears to be a model one, and the comfort and care of the inmates carefully looked after. The board deemed it its duty, however, to report particularly the condition existing in the hospital at the Soldiers' Home, as it appeared that prompt action should be taken looking to improvement of existing conditions there.

I beg to return herewith the communication of the Minneapolis Humane Society.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE R. O'REILLY,

Secretary, State Board of Visitors.

#### REPORT OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF VISITORS FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

State Capitol, June 12, 1907.

The board met in the Governor's office at 2 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of organization. Members present: Messrs. Smith, Lawler, Graham, Schain and Wahlund. The board organized by the election of the following officers: President, Samuel G. Smith; vice president, Jacob T. Schain; Secretary, Daniel W. Lawler. It was agreed that standing committees be appointed as follows: Penal Institutions, Messrs. Lawler, Schain and Turnblad; Insane and Sick, Messrs. Graham, Wahlund and Schain; Children and Education, Messrs. Wahlund, Schain and Lawler; Municipal Institutions, Messrs. Turnblad, Lawler and Graham.

The secretary was appointed auditing committee of the board. It was voted that quarterly meetings be held on the second Wednesday of September, December, March and June. Messrs. Lawler and Wahlund were appointed a committee to procure office quarters. A discussion of the financial affairs of the board followed. It was ordered that the Governor be asked to grant \$400 from the contingent fund for clerical services. The board had an extended conference upon the policy to be pursued in carrying out the work imposed upon it by the law. It was agreed that where complaints were to be made they should be made to the heads of institutions wherever practicable, to the Governor whenever thought necessary, or to the Board of Control if the matter related to their specific duties, but that in no case should complaints be made public until every effort had been made to adjust difficulties with the parties directly concerned. In case, however, it was necessary to safeguard the rights or interests of the public open communication to them might be made. The board accepted the suggestion that they were to be the medium of communication between the Governor and the institutions on the one hand, and the people of the state and the public institutions on the other.

State Capitol, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1908.

The State Board of Visitors met in the State Capitol. Present: Governor Johnson, Messrs. Smith, Schain and Graham. Governor Johnson agreed to authorize payment from the contingent fund for the services of

a clerk and Mrs. J. C. Goodenow was thereupon elected as such clerk. Messrs. Schain and Graham were appointed delegates to the Prison Congress in Chicago. The President and Secretary were instructed to organize the office and to decide what information should be collected. It was voted to have the law creating the board published in order to send a copy of it to each superintendent of state institutions with an explanatory letter concerning the purposes of the board.

State Capitol, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1908.

The regular meeting of the State Board of Visitors was held in the room of the board at the Capitol on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 10 o'clock a.m. Present: Messrs. Smith, Schain, Graham, Turnblad and Wahlund. Messrs. Schain and Graham reported their visit to the state prison at Stillwater. Dr. Smith gave a full account of his visit to the Fergus Falls Hospital, where he stayed for two days and made a thorough inspection. There were some 1,500 patients in an institution built for 1,200. In the receiving ward there were 116 new cases, with only eight nurses to care for them. The subject of insanity was fully discussed by the members of the board, and it was agreed that a study of the question should be made during the ensuing year with a desire to reach some definite plan to present to the next legislature. Either a new institution must be built or some other method adopted for taking care of the surplus insane, in order that the present hospitals might properly do their work. A discussion was had with respect to the municipal institutions, particularly of St. Paul and Minneapolis. It was decided to send a letter to the heads of municipal institutions in the three chief cities of the state, making them acquainted with the duties of the board and the relation of the law to the inspection of said institutions. The president was authorized to send out such a letter.

State Capitol, Wednesday, March 11, 1909.

The Board of Visitors held its regular meeting at the room of the board. Present: Messrs. Schain, Graham and Wahlund. It was agreed that a trip of inspection to Fergus Falls be undertaken by Dr. Graham and Mr. Schain.

State Capitol, Wednesday, June 3, 1909.

The regular meeting of the State Board of Visitors was held in the room of the board. Present: Messrs. Schain, Wahlund and Turnblad. Mr. George R. O'Reilly took his seat as a member of the board in place of Hon. D. W. Lawler, resigned. Mr. O'Reilly was elected secretary in place of Mr. Lawler. Plans were made for a tour of visitation of the state institutions at some time in the near future.

Minneapolis, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1909.

The regular meeting of the State Board of Visitors for September was held by arrangement in the office of Mr. Swan J. Turnblad, in Minneapolis. Present: Messrs. Schain, O'Reilly, Turnblad and Wahlund. An arrangement was made for an immediate visit to Anoka, Hastings, Owatonna, Red Wing, Rochester and Faribault. The board made a visit in the afternoon to the Minneapolis workhouse and the Hennepin County Poor Farm.

State Capitol, December 2, 1909.

The regular meeting of the State Board of Visitors was held at the office of the board. Present: Messrs. Smith, Schain, Wahlund and O'Reilly. The report of the Public Examiner was taken up and it was stated that an arrangement had been made with him as to the form of bills for traveling expenses to be presented to the auditor. It was voted to ask the legislature for an appropriation of \$5,000 per annum with which to carry on the work of the board. A report was made of the special tour of inspection by Messrs. O'Reilly, Schain, Turnblad and Wahlund. The various institutions



visited by them were stated to be on the whole in excellent condition, though some criticism was passed upon the hospital for the insane at Hastings. The training school at Red Wing was found to be over-crowded, but this condition will be relieved when the new school for girls is constructed. The hospital for the insane at Rochester was also found to be so crowded a condition that it was impossible for the best results to be obtained, though the conduct of the hospital and its general appearance were very satisfactory. The report of the board to the legislature was referred to Dr. Smith and Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Schain and Mr. Wahlund, special committee from the board to visit the county asylums of Wisconsin, made a report of a visit to the one at Eau Claire. They reported the condition and administration of that institution as above criticism. A full discussion was had with respect to the condition of the insane in the state of Minnesota. It was voted to recommend to the legislature for adoption a county system for the care of the chronic insane in the state of Minnesota. Dr. Smith was appointed to draw the report on the subject. Arrangements were made for an immediate visit to the hospital at St. Peter by Messrs. Schain and Wahlund.

#### SUMMARY OF EXPENSES.

	1907-8	1908-9
Office expense .. . . .	\$75.21	\$15.15
Clerk .. . . .	80.00	40.00
J. T. Schain .. . . .	209.59	91.70
G. Wahlund .. . . .	94.90	119.25
S. J. Turnblad .. . . .	6.12	81.25
David Graham .. . . .	124.50	.....
George R. O'Reilly .. . . .	.....	52.25
Samuel G. Smith .. . . .	123.12	1.72
Furniture .. . . .	175.00	.....
Typewriter .. . . .	90.00	.....
	<hr/>	
	\$979.44	
Balance .. . . .	21.56	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,000.00	