

Second Biennial Report
OF THE
Minnesota State Board of
Visitors for Public
Institutions

1909-1910

ST. PAUL, MINN., December 1, 1910.

TO THE HON. A. O. ENGBART, GOVERNOR, AND THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA.

The State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions herewith submits its
second biennial report, as required by law.

Respectfully,

J. T. SCHAIK, President.
SWAN J. TURNBLAD, Vice president.
GEORGE R. O'REILLY, Secretary.
L. R. S. FERGUSON.
G. WAHLUND.
THOS. H. HINELINE.

J. C. MATCHITT, Executive Secretary.

JESSIE V. RHODES, Clerk and Librarian.

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IN EXPLANATION.

The act establishing the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions provides that the board "—shall study the whole subject of the care and management of charitable and correctional institutions.—" The intent, if not the letter of the law, is that the investigations of this board shall be with a special view to the humanitarian side of such public work. In visiting the various institutions the Board members have accordingly had this in mind as their primary duty. The financial questions have been given some attention, with special consideration of their humanitarian application. The Board of Visitors believes the financial side of state institutional work is fully cared for by the State Board of Control, for which purpose primarily the Board of Control was created. This report is accordingly written, leaving matters financial to the Board of Control, which always deals with them in its report in lengthy explanatory detail.

Such criticisms as the Board of Visitors has felt compelled to make have been solely with a view to bettering conditions believed to have been more or less below the average of what they should have been; not with an aim to criticize any institutional management, but to advance the welfare of institutional inmates.

During the past year, special investigations following complaints have been conducted by the Board of Visitors at the State School for Blind, Faribault; the State Hospital for Insane at Rochester; the State Training School for Girls at Red Wing; the State Public School at Owatonna; in addition to several special reports filed with the governor. These are explained in more detail under the respective institutional sections of this report. Space prohibits the publishing of the evidence taken. This evidence is on file in the office of the Board of Visitors.

The Board of Visitors is at present composed of the following members:—

Hon. J. T. Schain, Brown's Valley, President.—Term expires first Monday in January, 1915.

Thomas H. Hinde, Minneapolis.—Term expires first Monday in January, 1915.

George R. O'Reilly, St. Paul, Secretary.—Term expires first Monday in January, 1915.

Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson, St. Paul.—Term expires first Monday in January, 1915.

Swan J. Turnblad, Minneapolis.—Term expires first Monday in January, 1911.

Rev. G. Wahlund, Warreo, (formerly of North Branch).—Term expires first Monday in January, 1911.

Dr. Charles L. Greene, St. Paul, resigned from the board April 14th, 1910, and Thomas H. Mineline, Minneapolis, was appointed by Gov. A. O. Eberhart to complete Dr. Greene's term.

Dr. S. C. Smith resigned from the board April 17th, 1910, and Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson was appointed by Gov. A. O. Eberhart to complete Dr. Smith's term.

James C. Matchitt, St. Paul, was elected as executive secretary of the Board of Visitors December 20th, 1909.

April 1st, 1910, Mrs. L. C. Cookman withdrew from employment of the board as clerk and librarian. June 8th, 1910, Miss Jessie V. Rhodes, St. Paul, was elected to the position made vacant by the resignation of Mrs. Goodenow.

The Board of Visitors has made it a rule to visit institutions without any previous announcement. The board has desired to ascertain how every-day conditions are, and not conditions especially prepared for a visitation. We have attempted to be as thorough as possible in this work. Every room in every building visited has been inspected from garret to cellar. In the sleeping quarters, beds have been taken apart to ascertain their condition and if the linen were clean. Plumbing and toilets were given special attention. In the kitchens, food has been inspected both before and after cooking, and sampled. Store-rooms and cooking utensils were carefully observed. Tidiness, personal appearance and general characteristics of employees have been noted. Institution inmates have been questioned on each visit as to their condition, their treatment, their clothing, care and food; and have been told to speak freely as to whether they had any just complaint to register, with an assurance that such complaints would be thoroughly investigated and would get them into no trouble. A number of minor complaints have been given attention and adjusted. In brief the board has endeavored to do its work thoroughly, in a fair-minded and unbiased way. The executive secretary has made a number of visitations unaccompanied by members of the board, and has also made written reports of such work to members of the board, and has made reports of all visitations a part of the files of the office in the Old Capitol.

George R. O'Reilly represented this board at the National Conference of Charities and Corrections at Buffalo, N. Y., in June, 1909.

Hon. J. T. Schmin, Rev. G. Wahlund and J. C. Matchitt, executive secretary, attended the National Conference of Charities and Corrections at St. Louis, May 19th-20th, 1910, as delegates representing this board, and also under appointment by Gov. A. O. Eberhart to represent the State of Minnesota.

Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson and J. C. Matchitt attended the National Industrial Educational Conference at Boston, Mass., November 17, 18 and 19, 1910, as delegates named by both this board and the governor. Reports of outside conferences attended have been formally made to the Board of Visitors by its delegates, with explanations of material gleaned from these national meetings and how it may be best applied to the interests of Minnesota and its institutions.

As there is no Board of Corrections and Charities now existing in Minnesota, the Board of Visitors feels there is a great field for its work and believes its record along humanitarian lines, especially during the past year, speaks for itself. What recommendations are made in this report, result from both a study of the subject in hand, (the theoretical), and visits to and thorough investigations of, institutions and their operation, (the practical). The need of the Board of Visitors for state institutional visitation alone is sufficient reason for its existence and liberal support if the public but realized the vast burden of business detail devolving upon the three men who compose the Board of Control, practically prohibiting them because of this volume of work from careful investigation of humanitarianism in state institutions. Under the Board of Control system each institution superintendent is held directly responsible for his institution, and given to a large degree dictatorial powers in his local domain. There is no direct connection between institutional employee or inmate and Board of Control except through the superintendent. The employee or inmate must report or complain to the superintendent, and the case only goes further if the superintendent so rules. The Board of Control has more than enough to do without giving unsifted hearing to one and all complaints and demands originating in the various institutions. It would be a physical impossibility. But without further safeguarding of the rights of those within our state institutions, complaints which should be given heed might never be heard. And it is in alleviation of this fault, as well as the larger humanitarian opportunity of looking to the welfare of those so unfortunate as not to be able to make any form of complaint, that the Board of Visitors has its special field in institutional work. The Board of Visitors feels its influence for good is considerable by virtue of its right to make recommendations for improvements and for betterment of existing conditions without regard to any undue influences.

The Board of Visitors furnishes the governor a means of impartial investigation of institutional complaints. "—The governor may at any time in his discretion order an investigation by said Board of Visitors or by a committee therefrom, of any penal or charitable institution in the state.—" Such investigations always involve tedious detail. For this reason a governor must assign such work to others. In days previous to the Board of Visitors these investigations naturally devolved upon the board or boards managing the respective institutions in question. Yet it is manifestly unfair to any issue involved to have such investigation by a body which might be subject to criticism with the real facts brought to light. With the best of intent, the course of

such an examination must fail to give public satisfaction in that it would naturally be expected to be directed primarily toward vindication of the examiners rather than securing the plain facts from the examined without regard to whom they affect. Thus the Board of Visitors has a vitally important place in the delicate work of securing fairness to all concerned in institutional work, as well as guaranteeing humaneness toward the wards of the state.

In order to more effectually carry on the duties of the Board of Visitors, it was deemed best to divide its membership into committees to better facilitate the various departments of work. These committees as now made up under appointment by President J. T. Schün, are as follows:—

Penal institutions:

George H. O'Reilly, Chairman,
Thomas H. Hinehine,
Swan J. Turnbull.

Children and education:

Rev. G. Wahlund, Chairman,
Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson,
George R. O'Reilly.

Insane and sick:

Thomas H. Hinehine, Chairman,
Rev. G. Wahlund,
Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson.

Municipal institutions:

Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson, Chairman,
George R. O'Reilly,
Thomas H. Hinehine.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

We wish to call attention to the inadequacy of the past and present appropriations for the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions.

For the first two years of its existence, the allowance was but \$1,000 a year—barely sufficient even with the much appropriated aid of \$520 from the governor's contingent fund to employ the services of an office clerk part of the time and such other expenses as the board dared incur, including the equipment of the board's offices in the Old Capitol with necessary furniture.

This board feels that even with the exercise of strict economy, as a result of the great increase in its work, that its annual appropriation should be increased from \$3,500 to at least \$5,000. This amount is not asked for the benefit or remuneration of members of the board. It should be kept in mind that they serve the state without remuneration, giving their time freely as required, with knowledge of the good work they believe the board accomplishes as sufficient reward for the sacrifice of their time and other interests. The appropriation requested is solely for legitimate expenses that the board may do its duty without finding its work blocked by lack of the financial ability to meet its obligations. During the past year the demands for its services have so increased, that unless the appropriation is enlarged by the next legislature it is certain its future efficiency must fail to be what it should. During the past year in addition to routine business, it has conducted four costly investigations at different institutions, taking lengthy testimony and reporting thereon as required by law to the governor. Such work calls for considerable expenditure for traveling, hotel bills, taking and transcribing of testimony by expert stenographer, etc.

The rapidly increasing expenses of the Board of Visitors during the first three months of the present fiscal year, are shown classified and summarized as follows:

Month 1910	Trans- porta- tion	Hotels and Meals	Livery and Bus	Supplies and Postage	Salaries	Misc.	Total
Aug.	\$ 8.54	\$ 3.25	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.50	\$175.00	\$ 13.18	\$206.27
Sept.	100.64	74.75	15.45	34.95	175.00	11.85	412.64
Oct.	154.60	149.14	16.90	175.00	112.78	608.36
Total	\$264.08	\$227.14	\$34.85	\$38.45	\$325.00	\$137.75	\$1,227.27

The above statement is made up from the financial report in the offices of the Board of Visitors. Vouchers issued the latter part of a month by the board, are apt not to show in the state auditor's ledger as being paid through issuances of state warrants until early the next month.

ANOKA STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE.

Our inspections of the Anoka Asylum demonstrate that institution to be in excellent condition in every way. The institution, however, is overcrowded. The main building, built to accommodate two hundred patients, houses three hundred men. The cottages, built for fifty women patients each, contain sixty each, with the exception of a new cottage which is not yet occupied. The grounds of the institution, in spite of the drought, were more attractive this past summer than ever before, with a multitude of flower beds, hedges, foliage plants, bushes, etc. This is especially commendatory in that the institution employs no gardeners, the green house and grounds being kept up entirely by the work of the patients.

In the basement of the main building an apartment is being used for a dining room for the employees. The room in question is poorly lighted, and not suitable for this purpose, but its use is necessary because of the crowded condition of the main building. We would recommend that as soon as possible these employees be allowed a dining room on the main floor above the basement.

The kitchen, pantries, and food supply bins were always found as clean as could be asked. There was not a roach or other vermin to be found as the result of a thorough search on each visit,—apparently demonstrating that if they can be kept away from the Anoka institution they can be kept out of the Hastings asylum, a twin institution, where we found them in inexcusable quantities.

It is also noteworthy that in the Anoka institution the furniture is in excellent condition. There is no carpenter or blacksmith employed, but many of the patients who are handy with tools, repair the chairs and other furniture as well as can be asked.

A recent commendable improvement in the main building is the wiring for electric light. Up-to-date conduits were used, practically eliminating all danger of fire from short circuits.

The Anoka asylum has the record as the lowest per capita in cost of operation of all the state institutions. With this in mind we have endeavored to ascertain if the economy has been at the expense in any way of the inmates. It must be said to the credit of Supt. Coleman that his institution stands the test. The patients are apparently well fed, well cared for, well and cleanly housed.

STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE AT HASTINGS.

The Board of Visitors with much regret feels compelled to render an unfavorable report of the conditions found at the State Asylum for Insane at Hastings. A report of a visit to Hastings June 23rd, 1910, by J. T. Schain of

Brown's Valley, president of our board; Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson of St. Paul; Rev. G. Wahlund of Warren; and J. C. Metchitt of St. Paul, executive secretary, was submitted to the governor and by him referred to the State Board of Control. As late as September 28th, 1910, representatives of the Board of Visitors were informed at the governor's office no reply had been made to the governor by the Board of Control to the criticisms within said report, and nothing further has yet been heard by the Board of Visitors. Wm. J. Yanz is superintendent of this institution. The action of this board's report covering conditions which needed immediate readjustment and remedy, speaks for itself and is as follows:

"Hastings, like St. Peter, suffers from a water supply which is impregnated with iron and acid. The water discolors sinks and fittings, and rusts out valves and pipe joints. A purifying plant is needed.

"In men's cottage No. 1, the pantry and kitchen at the entrance to the underground tunnel, is mildewed, damp and discolored from the damp air. The same we found to be true at the other end of the tunnel. Doors should be placed at the tunnel entrance to prevent this, and power ventilators supplied for the tunnel.

"In examining the kitchen and food supplies, we found most undesirable conditions. The corn-meal bins were full of roaches, actually alive with the vermin. The bins were wood, with loose covers. All flour and meal bins should be zinc lined, with vermin-proof, tight-fitting covers. In the kitchen of the women's cottage, everything was over-run with brown roaches. They were even found in the refrigerator. They were also very numerous in the pantries; and syrup jugs, sticky and unclean, were here in evidence.

"In the basement rest room of cottage No. 2, the insulation has worn away from hot steam pipes. The pipes at this point are but four feet from the floor, and where patients may easily be burned therefrom. This should be immediately repaired.

"In cottage No. 2, the attendants had all gone out with most of the patients, having locked the exit doors. Several patients were thus left absolutely alone within. No patients should be left absolutely alone in a locked building without at least one attendant or institution employee in the building. This is a poor and careless rule to follow. If by so doing anything should ever happen, there could be no excuse made on the part of the management of the institution.

"In the laundry we found gasoline stoves in use to heat the irons. Gasoline stoves are certainly antiquated for institutional laundry work, and should be abolished, and either gas-heated or electric irons used. Several women patients were assisting in the ironing, under supervision of a woman employee. One of the patients started talking harmlessly to herself while we were there, and was promptly and harshly ordered to 'shut up and go to work.' Other

like remarks and orders to patients in the laundry followed. Such language to, and verbally rough treatment of, patients, is unexcusable and should not be tolerated. We were informed that electric irons could not be used in the laundry because there was no electric power during the day. It would seem that there should be, and such power could also be used for driving electric fans throughout the institution buildings.

"In A 2 ward of the main building, Messrs. Schain and Ferguson made a special examination of the iron beds of the patients. The outer blankets had been pulled up as if the beds were all right, but fully half the beds examined were found to be in a terrible condition. The under bedding had evidently not been touched by the attendants. It was filthy. In instances human filth had been scraped off the sheets and then the blankets pulled over all. We were informed these beds were supposed to have been made for the coming night. On entering this ward, the nurse was seen to hurry into one of the rooms. There he made an unsuccessful attempt to throw a blanket before we arrived over a naked man who was on a cot. The man had been excused that morning after saying that he was sick. The doctor (so we were informed) couldn't find much the matter, but said he 'guessed the patient had some stomach trouble.' No sick man should have been allowed to lie naked on a cot. He was not violent; seemed dazed and semi-conscious, occasionally turning over. We noticed the nurse in this ward was especially rough and harsh in his talk and treatment of patients. He hustled the patients around with such words as 'what are you doing there,' 'get out of the way there,' 'get along out of there.' He seemed in every way better fitted to drive cattle on the western plains than to care for the mentally sick.

"The patients in this particular ward are known as 'filthy' in their habits, but there is no excuse for their being permitted to remain so or for such conditions as we found. One patient's room was found to contain maps, brooms and pails. It was no place for such things and was but further indication of evident incurable laziness.

"We examined table-ware in the dining rooms of the main building. It was greasy and the cups showed soil inside.

"The Hastings asylum was not up to the standard of Minnesota's other institutions. We regret to report as we have, but believe for the good of the institution and its hundreds of unfortunate inmates, that the result of our visit should be bluntly told, not with a spirit of malicious intent, but that conditions which are evidently not known by the State Board of Control should be righted as speedily as possible."

The four cottages at the Hastings asylum are modern and fire-proof. The large main building, however, is not fire-proof. The legislature should as soon as possible remodel this structure and make it fire-proof. In the meantime the establishment of a complete fire alarm system in the main building would doubtless be a great safeguard and could be done at little expense.

ROCHESTER STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

The State Hospital for Insane at Rochester is one of the most attractive institutions in the state to the eye. The natural beauty of its lawns is enhanced by trees and various forms of foliage, and its interior is made thus more attractive with potted plants, home-like rugs, and easy chairs. We have always found the institution clean, and the food and cooking apparently as satisfactory as could be asked.

An investigation was conducted by the Board of Visitors at the institution during the past year. The original complaint was made to this board by T. G. Clifton, a discharged nurse. The limitations of this report prohibit the publishing of the testimony taken. This, however, is on file in the office of the board. The charges included mistreatment of patients by nurses, use of liquor by nurses and employees both while on and off duty, and a lax and inefficient management of the institution.

January 22nd, 1910, J. T. Schain, president of the Board of Visitors, (at that time vice president), accompanied by J. C. Matchitt, executive secretary, conducted a preliminary investigation at the institution, including the taking of testimony. This included the examination of all witnesses offered by the complainant and such others as could be found to give any light on the charges made. This preliminary testimony was filed with Governor A. O. Elberhart by Dr. S. G. Smith, then a member and president of the Board of Visitors. This testimony was referred by the governor to the State Board of Control. That board conducted a lengthy investigation including the taking of much testimony which was eventually filed with the governor, and by him in turn referred to the Board of Visitors. Messrs. George H. O'Reilly and J. T. Schain were appointed a special committee by the Board of Visitors to review this testimony of the Board of Control. Mr. O'Reilly, as chairman of the special committee, drafted a report thereon which was formally adopted by the Board of Visitors and filed with the governor. This final report summed up the whole matter, and being practically self-explanatory and containing the findings of this board, it is herewith published in full:—

Findings of Rochester Investigation.

Your committee appointed to examine the report of the State Board of Control and the testimony taken before said board concerning certain charges made with reference to the conduct of the Hospital for the Insane at Rochester, Minnesota, have leave to report as follows:

After our last meeting adjourned, Mr. Schain and myself called at the office of the State Board of Control and had an interview with Messrs. Ringdahl and Halvorsen. These gentlemen informed us that they had not yet completed their report to the governor but that they expected shortly to do so, and would

deliver to the undersigned a copy of their report, together with a complete transcript of the evidence taken before submitting same to the governor. After some time elapsed, however, I was advised by telephone from the office of the Board of Control that they had submitted their report to the Governor. I then called on the governor in company with Mr. Selwin and he kindly permitted us to take his copy of the testimony and report for our examination. The transcript of the proceedings is very voluminous, covering some 270 typewritten pages, and it was agreed between Mr. Selwin and myself that I should go over the same and submit the report of the committee to our board. I have carefully read over the testimony and the findings and recommendations of the Board of Control, but in doing so appreciate the disadvantages following from a task of this character where I could not take part in the examination or observe the action or demeanor of the witnesses on the stand. Briefly, however, it appears to me that the report discloses a condition where the superintendent failed to exercise proper discipline in the management of the institution or to keep in touch with its workings. The fact, however, that Dr. Kilbourne, during the past year, appears to have been in poor health, and further, that his duties as the business head of the institution were so pressing, might be largely responsible for this condition. On page 17 in his testimony, Dr. Kilbourne states that some time last year he was somewhat broken down in his physical condition, and that he chose to make his occasional rounds on the women's side of the building, cutting out to some extent his rounds on the men's side.

Dr. Kilbourne does not seem to have been pressed by the members of the board to state how frequently he had been in the habit of making his rounds of the institution, but it is evident that they were very infrequent. His assistant, Dr. Phelps, (see page 53 of testimony), testifies in response to the following question: Q. "On page 4 there appears a statement that in twenty months Dr. Kilbourne was seen going through the ward only three times. Do you believe that to be true?" A. "Why, I shouldn't think so. It seems to me it was along about the first of last year that he went through quite a number of times near each other—I have kept no record of anything—then what he goes in during the day, but I don't know." And again: Q. "I think this man makes the statement that he never went in there at all. Taking that statement of his to mean not only the regular rounds, but any other rounds, what would you say to the statement?" A. "Why I should have supposed that he had been through many more times than that, while the building was going on he was up there frequently."

Concerning the charge of the use of liquor by employes, it appears on page 21 that Dr. Kilbourne testifies that it was true that nurse Blist was intoxicated and that Blist was discharged for habitual drunkenness, but he could not remember the exact circumstances—further, that he did not remember whether he had ever discharged or reinstated him.

On page 11 he further testifies that he only recalled one nurse who was discharged last summer for drunkenness, and it will be noted on page 35, Dr. Phelps testifies that there were six nurses discharged last year for drunkenness.

It will be further noted that an employe of the institution named Burns was for many years in the habit of frequently getting intoxicated and had at one time even been arrested by the village marshal for drunkenness. That these facts were known to Dr. Kilbourne (see pages 28 and 29) but that he permitted him to continue in the service. The testimony shows that there was more or less drinking by many of the attendants of the institution, but that it was not brought to the knowledge of the superintendent or his staff that any of the nurses or attendants had been intoxicated while on duty however. The retention of Burns in the service however, must certainly have been detrimental to the standing and discipline of the institution. It will further be noted on page 15 of the testimony that Dr. Kilbourne thought he only knew most of his attendants and nurses; that he never received any report of the Jones or Poole cases, and further, that he could not recall the circumstances of one Kennedy being discharged by Dr. Phelps for beating a patient and afterwards being reinstated by him (Dr. Kilbourne).

It further appears in the testimony that a nurse named Boner was charged with being cruel to patients, that the matter was investigated by Dr. Phelps and it appears he was sufficiently satisfied with the truth of the charges of report the matter to Dr. Kilbourne. The Doctor appears to have disposed of this matter upon Boner's denial of the charge (see page 21) and states that "It was one man's word against another's, and as Boner was leaving in a few days I allowed him to resign." It further appears from the testimony of Dr. Phelps (see page 29) that Boner was allowed to remain in the institution for four months after that time. To sum up the whole situation, I believe it sufficiently appears from the testimony that the discipline of this institution was rather lax, and that for the past year at least, Dr. Kilbourne, whether from ill health or from his time being fully occupied with the financial management of the institution, failed to keep in touch with the nurses, attendants and patients and to properly supervise the every day life of the institution.

With reference to the incident in Dr. Kilbourne's office, which resulted in the discharge of the nurse Clifton, I think it can be fairly taken from the evidence that Clifton was disrespectful to the Doctor and impertinent and that he was justified in ejecting him from his office. Other charges do not in my judgment appear to be substantiated by the testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. R. O'REILLY.

(The above report was filed with Gov. Eberhart by Mr. O'Reilly, April 25, 1910. Said report was formally approved and filed with the Board of Visitors at a meeting May 18, 1910.)

Shortly following the Rochester investigation, a representative of the Board of Visitors was shown a letter sent to state institutions for the insane by the State Board of Control, ordering the superintendent of each asylum, the superintendent or his assistant in the case of each hospital, to make rounds complete of his respective institution at some hour in the night at least once a week on irregular days of the week, to investigate whether the nurses are attending to their duties and conducting themselves properly. This rule should have excellent results in securing proper care of patients at night.

FERGUS FALLS STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE

We last visited the Fergus Falls state hospital August 27th, 1910. This large and ably managed hospital at that date had 1,665 patients (of whom 907 were men). The capacity is 1,400, but like all other custodial institutions of the state it is overcrowded. In the dormitories cots are side by side with little or no space between them.

The Fergus buildings suffer from up-heaving floors, some corridors and rooms having floors which remind one of the billowy ocean. The floors are repaired and relaid as rapidly as possible, but the trouble continues. The cause is problematical. Dr. Welch, superintendent, is inclined to the belief that the laying of cinders in the cement under the floors results constantly in the formation of gas which forces up the boards. The trouble should be thoroughly investigated by an expert to find its real source, and then remedied to afford permanent relief.

Tubercular patients are permitted in the hospital ward with others who are sick. It would doubtless be better to have a special tubercular hospital, or at least a large airy porch constructed off tubercular wards that these sufferers may have as much out-door air as possible. St. Peter has a new separate tubercular hospital building.

The Fergus institution, like the St. Peter hospital, seems to have a hard time getting needed nurses.

The buildings are clean and well kept. The kitchens have always been found in excellent condition, the flour and food supplies clean and well handled. No roaches or vermin could be found.

Indoor industrial work is carried on more extensively at Fergus than in any other institution for the insane. This commendable fact is mentioned more particularly under the head in this report of "Recommendations for the Insane." It seems but just to mention in this connection that not only is this work encouraged by Supt. Welch but that Mrs. Welch is a great practical aid in helping the women in the industrial ward, spending many hours among them, teaching and cheering them. She is a favorite with the patients, as she ever brings sunshine into their all-too-wet, afflicted lives.

At the time of our last visit the Fergus new Detention and Voluntary Commitment Hospital had been open nearly a month. It is an ideal building, with a capacity of sixty patients. All new arrivals are first placed in this institution, and later transferred to the main buildings if necessary. Of the twenty-five patients in the hospital, five had voluntarily entered. Dr. Welch is a firm believer in the new system as a great step in advance. The detention hospital is thoroughly fire-proof, and newly furnished throughout. The kitchen is equipped with modern steam-heated ovens for cooking.

STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE AT ST. PETER.

The State Hospital for Insane at St. Peter, like all institutions for the insane in Minnesota, is over-habulated. It has in round numbers 1,100 patients, more than half of these being men. At night patients are necessarily crowded in sleeping wards, the cots in rows and but a few inches apart.

The St. Peter institution is in part an old building. The ventilation of some of the wards is poor. The opening of the new Detention Hospital, with a capacity of sixty patients, will somewhat relieve the existing crowded condition, and permit of a rearrangement in the old building of advantage to all.

The new tubercular hospital at St. Peter, a beautiful concrete building with a court in the center, is now but partly used because of a shortage of nurses. In the basement of this building brown roaches have secured a foothold. We were told the floors are scalded out almost nightly with hot water, but still the vermin multiply. Roaches are also in evidence in portions of the old hospital building, the kitchen naturally attracting them. Drastic means should be used to entirely rid the institution of these pests. It would seem that an unrelenting campaign of cleanliness, and the constant use of powders and liquids for vermin extermination would accomplish the desired result. At Red Wing, Owatonna, and the other institutions, roaches are not to be found, and if they can be suppressed at one place they can at another. Old floors in portions of the St. Peter institution make this work of renovation recognizedly difficult. Old wooden floors in bad condition exist in the first, second and third halls in the south wing (except middle and upper third). Floors in the north wing, halls and bedrooms are over thirty years old. The boards are warped, rolled, and full of cracks and crannies for dirt and vermin to lodge. The quicker these floors are replaced with modern tile the better.

Superintendent H. A. Tomlinson is commendably a pioneer in Minnesota in the employment of women nurses in the care of insane men, especially in hospital wards. It is the plan to still further extend the sphere of women nurses to all wards except the custodial for men, woman being naturally a better nurse than man.

St. Peter has a beautiful cottage for nurses, but it only accommodates forty-three. Even with the present shortage of nurses, twenty-two are compelled to sleep in small rooms off insane wards. These nurses work about fourteen hours out of each twenty-four, and should have apartments provided apart from the general hospital building where they can rest in perfect quiet. The present cottage for nurses should be enlarged or a new one built.

The water supply for the institution is artesian, and contains much iron and acid. This injures boilers and causes much leaking of water pipe joints and valves. There has also been much typhoid among the patients. An appropriation should be made immediately available for a softening plant and water purifier.

Next spring will probably see the opening of the new institution for criminal insane at St. Peter. This building will be modern in every way.

The entire institution is in need of rewiring. Fire-proofing and reconstruction of the old wing should continue as rapidly as possible. Danger from fire cannot be eliminated too soon.

The present cold storage system is inadequate. The laundry is too small and the equipment worn out.

Superintendent Tomlinson estimates the crop loss for 1910 on the institution farm, due to the drought, at \$12,000.

THE ST. CLOUD STATE REFORMATORY.

Superintendent Frank L. Randall, of the St. Cloud Reformatory is conducting advanced work in the study of criminology, and therein is endeavoring to unite the practical with the theoretical.

Mr. Randall believes that with the criminally inclined, it is very often a question as to whether the prisoner needs punishment, or treatment by medical experts; that the criminal should be measured by his individual capacity, by his mental equipment and strength, rather than be doled out punishment solely for the wrong he has done.

In carrying out the practical side of this theory, Mr. Randall has had the inmates of the Reformatory examined by scientists, the list of experts including Drs. J. H. Kuesling and L. S. Wilcox of Fergus Falls State Hospital; R. M. Phelps, assistant superintendent at Rochester; Supt. H. A. Tomlinson and Assistant Supt. Freeman of the St. Peter State Hospital. Of those examined,—and each man was taken separately and examined closely for physical and mental defects,—at least eight out of ten were found defective. Dr. Phelps is reported as saying he believed the class of mentality he observed at St. Cloud was lower than the average in the Rochester Hospital for Insane. There is on file in

the office of our board a report of the specialists on each of the cases examined. This interesting record is open for inspection. Based on results obtained to date, the complete report of examinations of the inmates of the reformatory will make an astounding showing. Mr. Randall is doubtless ahead of his day in his work as a criminologist, but is pioneering in a practical way in a new field along lines which may ultimately cause him to be acknowledged one of the great reformers of his day in custodial institution work.

Supt. Randall favors the establishment of a new state custodial institution for such class of wrong-doers as are criminal because of being defective, and who could have permanent custodial care therein. He believes that a court, on finding a man to be irresponsible or deficient, should have authority to send direct to this new institution. Supt. Randall is of the opinion that with sufficient men being sent to the proposed institution, following proper expert examination to demonstrate their condition, the so-called habitual criminal would largely be done away with. Under the existing system, these defectives as soon as discharged by the state at once again become a demoralizing influence to all society. He asserts that twenty-five to fifty reformatory inmates a year should be transferred to such a new institution, and that the state prison should annually contribute a still larger number; and he predicts that in ten years more prisoners would be transferred from the reformatory and prison to the custodial institution than are now imprisoned altogether in both.

Mr. Randall intends to confer with the superintendents of various other institutions in the state with a view to drafting a bill following out his new plan, for presentation to the next legislature. This bill would doubtless provide that criminals should not be sentenced to definite terms of imprisonment. Sentencing, Mr. Randall contends, involves the power of a prophet to look into the future and is based on such facts in the life of the individual only as surround the crime for which the conviction is secured. He proposes each convicted man be turned over to an expert state commission for examination, investigation of his past life as well as present physical and mental condition, with full power to commit to, or transfer from, any institution.

Work on the great stone wall which is ultimately to enclose the reformatory buildings and adjacent grounds, has been suspended for lack of cement; \$30,000 worth of cut stone is ready to be placed. The next legislature should purchase the needed cement.

A new three-story addition to the dining room wing is nearing completion. The first floor will contain a contagious ward; the second floor a general hospital, and the third floor a tubercular hospital, the hospital having a separate diet kitchen, with equipment for electric cooking to do away with all smoke. This is commendable improvement.

The reformatory is shipping about two hundred cars of crushed stone a year for road work. The Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Milwaukee roads are hauling this stone free to its various destinations.

The reformatory is equipped with the usual solitary confinement cells for "ugly" prisoners—cells absolutely dark but for high ventilating windows. Mr. Randall wants an innovation in the way of a "solitary"; he desires a "sun-room" with windows all around it and skylights above, that the brightness thereof may be allowed to "soak" into a dark nature. He believes the dark solitary tends to make men morose, sullen and "sour on the world," although it may temporarily "break" an incorrigible spirit. His idea is unique, certainly humane, and as it can be given a trial with little cost, we suggest he be allowed the opportunity.

We have found the reformatory clean. Prisoners are well treated and given individual consideration by Supt. Randall with a view to their real reformation. The food was well cooked and bountifully served.

STATE SANITARIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES AT WALKER.

The State Sanitarium for Consumptives is located on a beautiful seven hundred acre wooded tract, some three miles from the village of Walker, and fronting on a picturesque bay of Leech Lake. The buildings are located a quarter of a mile from the water-front, thus avoiding the dampness, and at an elevation of some two hundred feet above the lake.

On our last visit to this institution, (August 28th, 1910), on walking through the woods from the water-front to the main buildings, we noticed a large amount of slashings left among the timber. This is a violation of the state law and is a constant extreme fire-hazard which should be eliminated. It seems, however, there is but small and inadequate appropriation for this purpose. Such economy on the part of the state is "penny wise and pound foolish." A fire this past 1910 season destroyed two hundred cords of wood and threatened the institution.

Dr. William J. Barclay, superintendent, wants a steward appointed by the Board of Control, who will relieve him entirely of the business detail of the institution. Dr. Barclay finds his time taken up to the fullest extent with his patients. It must be remembered these patients are not like the inmates of a state hospital for insane, requiring in great part but custodial care. They are all suffering from a dread disease which, if not taken in its incipient stages, each individual being watched and given daily attention by the physician in charge, will pass beyond human aid. Dr. Barclay's time is too valuable, too much needed, to be taken up with the thousand and one little things connected with institutional operation. It would therefore seem good policy for the Board of Control to make an exception in this one instance, and permit the employment of a responsible steward at a requisite salary, who could be under Dr. Barclay's supervision, and yet can't entirely for the business side of the institution.

There are no blinds for the windows. They are needed. The mesh of the mosquito netting around the numerous porches is too large, as it permits many of these pests to enter the wards. The netting frames are ill-fitting, necessitating the stuffing of crumms around the frames with rags. This is an inadequate remedy. It would seem that the contractor who thus failed properly to complete the job should be made to alleviate the trouble.

The sanitarium uses six crates of eggs per week,—thirty dozen to the crate. They are purchased. A henery at the institution would not only be economical, but a guarantee always of the freshness of the eggs.

Forty-five gallons of milk are consumed daily. This is furnished from a Jersey herd belonging to Dr. Camp at Brainerd and is very satisfactory in quality. A herd, however, at the institution, would be a good investment for both state and patients.

We believe that it should be recognized by the Board of Control and the public at large, that a sanitarium for consumptives, if properly run, cannot be an economical institution and should not be expected to operate on a per capita cost at all comparable with other state institutions. The only fair comparative basis is with other institutions of the kind in different sections of the country. The weekly per capita cost of the Minnesota institution is \$10.93. The Adirondack (N. Y.) cottage sanitarium, which also charges \$1 a day for board and treatment, in 1909 cost \$12.63 per capita. A recent published report by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis gives a cost summary of thirty semi-charitable sanatoria showing a per capita cost of \$1.66.9 per day, or \$11.65 per week. Hence the financial outlay for the Minnesota Sanitarium for Walker is \$17.4 per week per capita less than the average, which considering the location of the institution, is a commendable showing, and it is to be hoped will be so considered by the legislature.

Recommendations which Dr. Barclay makes and which this board feels should be granted, include:

A separate building from the patients for residence of institution workers, and cottages for officers and their families.

Clearing of sufficient land for a vegetable garden and for pasture.

A new domestic building to include kitchen, dining room, laundry and store rooms. The basement laundry is too small by half.

A central heating plant for all buildings.

A boat-house, with a gasoline launch and row-boats.

A suitable appropriation for live stock.

An emergency water pump. A break-down or shut-down for repairs of the present pump necessitates hauling water from the lake for domestic purposes. An additional pump would also afford needed additional fire protection which is much needed in event of a forest fire.

Dr. Macclay estimates that these improvements will cost \$115,000 and that \$60,000 is needed for the next two years' maintenance.

During the past biennial period, 971 individuals have applied for admission to the institution. Of these 689 were examined, 120 accepted, 127 not accepted, and 122 cases deferred. The erection of 6 cottages has increased the institution capacity from 60 to 110. Two of these are occupied by employees, leaving a capacity of 90 for patients.

CASES CONSIDERED DISCHARGED.

	Incipient	Moderately Advanced	Far Advanced	Total
Apparently cured.....	17	4	1	21
Arrested.....	24	38	1	64
Improved.....	19	78	15	112
Unimproved.....	2	25	22	49
	62	146	38	246

There have been two deaths, both in the moderately advanced class.

Ninety-six per cent of the incipient cases were apparently cured, arrested or improved.

Eighty-two per cent of the moderately advanced cases were arrested or improved.

Forty-two per cent of the far advanced cases were arrested or improved.

Per capita cost, \$10.92 per week.

The above table considers only 246 of the total number discharged (314).

The remaining number, 68, were under treatment only about one month and are therefore classed as not considered cases.

The average age of the considered cases was 26 years.

The average length of stay was four and a half months.

The average gain in weight was 12 pounds; the greatest gain being 45 pounds.

Sixty-three gained 16 pounds or over, and ten gained 25 pounds or over.

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON.

Numerous visits by members of the Board of Visitors have been made to the State Prison at Stillwater during the past biennial period. As is general knowledge, the buildings of the old prison in Stillwater proper are open to considerable criticism. They are dark and crowded, with cell conditions very unsanitary. The use of fibre toilet pails is especially bad but unavoidable under existing behind-the-times conditions. It is but due to Warden Henry Wolfer, however, to

state that through his efficient management everything is in as excellent shape as it is possible to have it. The buildings are clean and made as sanitary as they can be under the circumstances. With others who see the need of better things, however, Mr. Wolfer is looking forward enthusiastically to the time when the old prison can be abandoned for the magnificent new one—a model to the world—now in course of construction at South Stillwater. It seems almost needless to say that the sooner the new prison can be completed the better, and that the legislature should lend every endeavor to this end.

Already the use of part of the new prison is having a helpful effect. The normal capacity of the old prison is about 700. September 15th, 1910, there were 619 inmates in the old prison and 75 at the new. As building of the new prison proceeds, the number at the old will constantly decrease, and the number at the new increase.

Employment in the new prison is at present made a sort of a reward for the deserving prisoners and also a place to which such prisoners may be removed as are physically run down, suffering from collapse, or threatened with mental difficulties. In the new prison at present, the inmates sleep in large dormitories instead of being confined in cells. The iron cots are "double-deckers"—one man sleeping above, another below. Those in the "upper bunks" are allowed to converse with those below them,—a privilege which is doubtless appreciated.

In both the old and new prisons, the food served has been carefully inspected and sampled by members of our board. It has always been found wholesome, well-cooked, and beautifully served. Through a system of signals at meals, the men are allowed to ask for and be served second supplies of eatables if desired.

Men both paroled and discharged, who should feel free to express their opinion, have been questioned as to their treatment in the prison and if there were any just causes for complaint. None of these has had a word of criticism, and in general have commended Mr. Wolfer. They assert the discipline is very strict, that the prison work is very hard, but that is what they should expect and what should be the case.

MINNESOTA TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS AT RED WING.

A number of visits have been made to the Minnesota State Training School for Boys and Girls at Red Wing by members of the Board of Visitors during the past biennial period. We have uniformly found the institution well kept, clean and neat in every department, and the boys served food that is well-cooked and unobtrusive in amount. Supt. F. A. Whittier certainly has the best interests of the boys at heart. He is necessarily strict, but is ever awake to the needs of his institution and the betterment of those in his charge.

The law allows children between the ages of 8 and 17 to be sent to this school. The report of the institution for the two years ending August 1st, 1910, shows the ages of children committed as follows:—

	Boys	Girls	Total
8 to 9 years old.....	1	..	1
9 to 10 years old.....	5	1	6
10 to 11 years old.....	11	1	12
11 to 12 years old.....	10	3	13
12 to 13 years old.....	27	1	28
13 to 14 years old.....	43	7	50
14 to 15 years old.....	63	18	81
15 to 16 years old.....	52	26	78
16 to 17 years old.....	53	27	80
17 to 18 years old.....	3	..	3
	268	84	352

A system of credits is in use which in brief is as follows: A child earns 5 credits each day by good conduct, making 150 credits a month, which constitute a badge. It is necessary for a child to have 12 badges to be eligible for a parole. Thus it is possible through ideal conditions to earn release in one year. The Board of Control has the power to parole at any time after commitment, and on the other hand is not compelled to parole each inmate as soon as eligible. But the rule is generally observed not to parole a boy or girl until eligible and until a suitable home or place of employment is found. The average length of stay at the school of boys the past two fiscal years was 18.45 months—practically a year and a half; the average length of stay of girls 25.05 months—a little over two years.

In considering these statistics, it must be kept in mind that up to August 1st, 1910, the end of the last biennial period, the boys and girls were both under the same management. August 1st last, the beginning of the new fiscal year and new biennial period, the girls' school passed into the hands of Mrs. Moore as superintendent, with the superintendent of the boys' school having nothing to do with the girls' institution except as to financial details.

It would seem to the Board of Visitors that conditions are too severe to "first-timers"—(and the above statistics relate solely to them). It makes the punishment for what is in some instances but an aggravated form of mischief, too severe.

For instance, but a few months ago, a young man and two boys were arrested in Minneapolis for taking a ride in an auto which was not their property. The man had taken the machine, and persuaded the two younger boys to go with

him. The court recognized him as the most guilty. He was sent to the work house for 30 days, and the two boys committed to the Red Wing Training School. In 30 days the most guilty one of the trio was released and a free man in every way, with his misdeed and his punishment a thing of the past. The two less guilty boys are still at the Training School. If they get out in the average time, they will have first to serve 18 months, instead of one as did their tempter. And then they will not be free. They will be on parole. For three months they will have to report to the school twice a month, and after that report monthly for several years—possibly until they attain manhood. And this parole has its sting to it. The boy feels its disgrace. As one boy on parole told a member of the Board of Visitors,—"I am trying to behave myself, and would try just as hard if I were free. But this parole weighs on me. The boys I go with know about it, and look down on me. Some of them call me 'Parole.' I feel I haven't a fair chance any more with other boys."

The Board of Visitors recommends that the law and rules regulating the state training school be so adjusted that "first-timer" inmates on perfect conduct may be released after not more than six months' residence in the institution, and that such release be a full discharge; but that the present rule of retaining "second-timer" boys for at least a year and then releasing them on parole, be continued.

This board also recommends a liberal appropriation by the next legislature for the building of a combination gymnasium and chapel. Weather permitting, the boys are outdoors daily from 12:30 to 1 p. m. and enjoy the same games, romping and sports as are permitted boys on school play grounds elsewhere. But in bad or severe weather, they must necessarily remain indoors. During the summer from 6 p. m. till dark they are daily on the playgrounds, but in winter it is dark before 6 o'clock and the boys for safety are kept indoors. A gymnasium at this hour would be a great boon. The boys could then exercise to their hearts' content just before retiring instead of having to spend the time quietly reading in their sitting rooms. A boys' school of over 300 lads without a gymnasium in these days is certainly behind the times.

During the winter Supt. Whittier gives the boys as entertainments in the assembly hall of the school once or twice a month—concerts, readings, stereopticon pictures with lectures, motion pictures, etc. Occasionally the good people of Red Wing ask Supt. Whittier to bring the boys to some entertainment in the city auditorium. Two representatives of the Board of Visitors visited the training school October 27th last. The night before, the boys of the school were marched from the institution to town to enjoy a lyceum bureau concert in the city auditorium, and then marched back to the institution. The fact that this is not an infrequent occurrence, without some attempt to escape on the road in the dark on the two mile tramp each way, speaks for itself both for the boys and for Supt. Whittier and staff.

GIRLS' TRAINING SCHOOL.

The building occupied by the Girls' Training School at Red Wing is much in need of betterment. On a recent visit we found the plumbing in the basement leaking and the floors partially flooded. It has apparently passed the stage where it can be repaired. It should be replaced with new and modern open plumbing. It seems advisable the building be given a general overhauling and be placed in perfect repair as soon as it is vacated for the new girls' school buildings at Sauk Center, and before it is re-occupied by the junior classes of the adjoining school for boys.

During the past year the Board of Visitors conducted an investigation of the Girls' Training School. In this connection the following self-explanatory report was filed with the governor:

ST. PAUL, MINN., November 8, 1910.

HON. A. O. EBERHART, Governor,

St. Paul, Minn.

DEAR SIR:—

September 20th, 1910, the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions visited the State Training School for Girls at Red Wing, and conducted a thorough investigation of that institution. Twenty-one witnesses were examined in the presence of five members of the board, and their testimony made a matter of record.

August 1st, Mrs. Fanny Morse became both matron and manager of the girls' school, except in matters financial. Mrs. Morse came from a Massachusetts school where she had nine years' experience in handling incorrigible girls and had attained an enviable reputation. As the former management of the Minnesota Girls' School could not agree to keep the former employees of the institution, they had all made arrangements to leave when Mrs. Morse arrived. Hence she was confronted with the difficulty of securing an entirely new corps of assistants. This without doubt handicapped Mrs. Morse materially.

The girls had been under a most rigid plan of discipline previous to August 1st last. This system was similar to that in the boys' school, a system of merit and demerit marks for good or bad behavior. Mrs. Morse believes in running the institution more as a home; trusting the girls to their honor, their sense of justice and individual responsibility, rather than to the laying down of a set of strict rules and regulations. To use her words,—"I try to make the girl more or less a reasoning factor herself.—I take her with the question of right and wrong and have her feel her own personal responsibility in the matter; I direct her energies in every way, mental, moral and physical."—The change in plan of operation of the institution, from an extreme discipline to one of placing the girls on their

honor, was revolutionary rather than evolutionary because of its suddenness. This is doubtless the reason for various infractions of discipline which occurred during Mrs. Morse's first month in charge—August. The girls seem to have abused their additional privileges and liberties during that month. They were seen many times at windows not properly clothed, by boys and employees of the boys' school, and by people passing on the nearby public road. They were more or less noisy and disorderly at times during this four weeks. Early in September, however, there seemed to be steadily increasing and marked improvement.

We believe the new plan of trusting the girls more to their individual honor would work much better if they were not so near the boys' school, and the public road—in other words if there were less temptation for misconduct. The new home for the girls in course of construction at Sauk Center will be a material betterment in that it will be as isolated as necessary, not near any community of boys or a public road.

We found Mrs. Morse to be a woman of unquestioned ability, having the best interests of every one of the girls in her school at heart, and an advanced student of her work. Some of the criticisms against the institution during her first month as matron and manager were not without foundation, but we believe were due to the sudden change in methods of operation, the handicap of an entire new set of institution employees, and the extra temptations which the present location of the girls' school creates. The quicker the change can be made to the new home and site, the better.

We are of the opinion that Mrs. Morse should be given more of a chance; that she has not yet had fair opportunity to demonstrate her new methods of reforming wayward girls, and that she should be afforded every facility for a full and fair demonstration of what results may be obtained from the carrying out of her plans. We believe that because of existing conditions which she could not personally control or be held but in small part responsible for, that she is not to be censured, but to be aided in every way possible.

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Visitors,

L. H. S. FERGUSON.

OWATONNA STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

An institution which it is always a pleasure to visit is the State Public School at Owatonna, which is under the direction of Supt. Galen A. Merrill. Supt. Merrill had been in charge of the school ever since its establishment in 1883, and is without doubt the right man in the right place. Fortunately, this institution was established on the modern cottage plan, with a "Mother" matron in charge of each cottage. The buildings are beautifully situated on the brow of a hill, and the atmosphere of the whole institution is excellent. The children are happy, excellently clothed, well fed, and well treated. The institution is apparently made a real "home" to these little ones.

Early in January, 1910, a complaint was made to the Board of Visitors relative to the management and operation of the Owatonna Public School. It is a pleasure to state the criticisms made were found to be without any just foundation; that the Owatonna institution apparently had been, and still is, all that could be asked. The report of this special investigation, made by Rev. G. Wahlund, member, and J. C. Matchitt, executive secretary, of the Board of Visitors, speaks for itself answering said complaint and explaining the institution's affairs in detail. The report here follows:

Report of Owatonna Investigation.

Rev. G. Wahlund, member of the board, and J. C. Matchitt, executive secretary, visited the State Public School at Owatonna, January 25th last, with a special view of investigating certain conditions suggested in a letter written to the chairman of this board by Mr. T. A. Abbott of St. Paul, president of the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Cruelty.

Mr. Abbott's letter, Exhibit A, is filed with this report. In brief the points made in his communication may be summarized as follows:

1st, that in some of the cottages the children were kept in the basement and deprived of light and air for fear of their defacing or soiling rooms on the floors above;

2nd, that many of the children are kept indoors during the cold weather for lack of sufficient clothing;

3rd, that there was a lack of provision for teaching manual training, and no opportunity for the children to learn manual training;

4th, that a person, unnamed in Mr. Abbott's letter, was appointed to have charge of one of the cottages but remained at the school only one day, because of being dissatisfied with what she saw and heard, and asserting that she would have nothing more to do with such an institution.

We spent the entire day and that night at the institution, and could find nothing to substantiate any proper cause for complaint.

As to the keeping of children in the basements of cottages, we found that the basement rooms are only used a small part of the time, one large room in each basement being used as a play room, in which during inclement weather the children may romp and make all the noise they please. An adjoining basement room is simply used as an assembly hall where the children meet to put on their outer clothes preparatory to going to their meals in the main building.

The children apparently do not spend over an hour a day in this room. These basement rooms are finished and plastered, have good hard wood floors, and wood casings some four feet in height around the walls. The above is true of five cottages, and the sixth cottage has no basement. The first or main floor of each cottage is given over to play rooms which we found to be well supplied with toys. The children all sleep on the second floor of the cottages. The third floor of one cottage is finished and used as a dormitory for the older children when the institution is crowded. Supt. Merrill stated to us: "Never a child has slept in any of the basements so far as I know," and Mr. Merrill has been in charge of the school since its opening in 1886.

It is the practice to keep the children out doors as much as possible during pleasant weather. Every facility seemed to be furnished for their enjoyment of outdoor life. Mr. Merrill reported the children would average at least three hours per day outdoors. Each cottage is supplied with a number of sleds and skis. There is also a large ice skating rink, and last Christmas one hundred pairs of skates were distributed as presents. This permits all the children who desire to enjoy the exercise of skating. The institution also has six Shetland ponies which the children are constantly riding or driving, and apparently thoroughly enjoy. There is also a big hel-sled which is drawn by one of the ponies. The day we were at Owatonna a number of the children were out doors in spite of the deep snow, coasting down the hills on the beautiful grounds of the institution. The grounds are well supplied with swings of various designs, a merry-go-round, and sand boxes.

Each child in the school is supplied with two suits of clothing throughout, including underclothing, shoes, good woolen stockings, and head-wear, which, according to the season of the year, are either woolen stocking caps, visor caps, straw or felt hats. There are not overcoats for every pupil, but are apparently plenty to go around, and all who work outdoors have them, and overshoes in addition. Those who play outdoors wear overshoes during the severely cold weather. Every child who leaves the institution has an overcoat as well as two full suits of other clothing.

We found a well equipped work room for the teaching of sloyd, in charge of Miss Anna B. Cooper. Miss Cooper also teaches domestic science. She is a graduate of the Boston Sloyd School with special training for her present work, and had taken special work at Columbia University. Supt. Merrill pointed out the impossibility of fitting the pupils for special trades in view of the fact that the average stay of the students in the school is but five months. For this reason it was impossible to graduate a class in manual training. Occasionally there are scattering cases of pupils who remain in the school a much longer period, or who for some reason are returned to the institution. In these instances such pupils are advanced as much as possible, both in manual training and in the general school studies. At the time of our visit there were two students being sent to the Owatonna high school and three were in the eighth grade. The sloyd work begins at the

average age of eight, much depending upon the individual capacity of the pupils. Supt. Merrill told us that frequently the instruction in sloyd seemed just what was needed to develop certain pupils for other work. Each pupil in the sloyd department receives instruction from Miss Cooper twice a week.

We endeavored to ascertain who the young woman was who had spent but one day at the school and left because of dissatisfaction with existing conditions there. In this we were rather unsuccessful. Last May a Miss Lillian Schmidt came to the school with the expectation of being employed as a matron, and remained but one day. The original plan was for her to succeed a matron who was ill. The ill matron, however, desired to retain her place and was soon able to resume her duties and is still at the institution. We were given to understand that Miss Schmidt had formerly been connected with the Soldiers' Orphan's Home of Kansas, and also with the Washburn Home of Minneapolis. She stated that she had been used to a private bath in connection with her private rooms, facilities not available at the Owatonna School for each employee. We also understood that she criticized the use of wooden bedsteads in one of the cottages. These, however, are now about to be replaced with iron ones.

The children seemed to be well treated, well fed and happy. They seem very fond of their matrons and of Supt. Merrill. The rooms were all clean and the linen on the beds in excellent condition.

We inspected the clothing in the store rooms of each of the cottages. The suits and dresses were of wool material, as nice as any children might ask to wear. The underclothing was Dr. Wright's sanitary union suits.

With this report we also file Exhibit B, including statistical information of the number of pupils cared for, homes found, etc., expenses in connection therewith, courses of instruction in all departments, daily program of work, and other information.

Respectfully submitted,

G. WAHLUND.

J. C. MATCHITT.

Executive Secretary.

Of the state buildings at the Owatonna school, the central section and the north wing of the main building are fire-proof. The south and west wings of the main buildings are not fire-proof, and should be made so as soon as possible. The cottages have brick walls and slate roofs. In view of the fact that these cottages, although comparatively small, house little children, they would be much safer if fire-proofed. The same may be said of the school building and hospital. The school and hospital have shingle roofs.

The Owatonna institution is one of the few in the state which does not seem to be overcrowded. Its maximum capacity is 250 children, boys 130, girls 65; infants under four years of age, boys and girls, 55. The population fluctuates from day to day as the children come and go. The population October 6th, 1910, was 212, boys 156, girls 56. The institution has generally been able to secure competent help at the salaries now paid, with the exception of the position of cook. The head cook receives \$27.50 a month, the assistant \$25 a month. This is hardly more than wages paid for cooks in private families. It seems little wonder the institution has trouble not only in securing but in keeping competent help in this line.

Superintendent Merrill in his forthcoming report will ask for the establishment of an elementary course in agriculture at the school. This suggestion the Board of Visitors heartily accords. There is a farm in connection with the school, so such instruction would be very practical.

At the National Conference of Charities and Correction at St. Louis, (in May, 1910) at which this board was represented, the advanced plan was strongly favored of keeping children in their own homes, where possible, instead of removing them to some institution. Where the surroundings are good, "there's no place like home—." There are many sad instances of the removal of children from satisfactory homes solely because of financial misfortune. It would seem better for all concerned if the state in such instances would expend the cost of caring for such children, at the home instead of at an institution. In other words, it would be better to allow the parent (most frequently in such instances some poor widow) an allowance for the maintenance of the child equal to the per capita cost of so doing in a state institution. Thus would the home be preserved without additional outlay by the state, and thus would the state become a home-maker instead of a home-breaker.

In making this recommendation for dependent child state aid, the Board of Visitors does not wish to be understood as carried away with sentimentalism. Such aid should be extended under the direction of the Owatonna School management, and only where the home and its surroundings are found satisfactory in every way except financially after thorough investigation. These investigations should be in the hands of the traveling state agents of the Owatonna School and such home should be visited by these agents as long as aid is given, the same as homes are visited where the children are placed by the school, thus to make certain that the money granted is expended as intended and with satisfactory results; otherwise the child or children should be sent to the Owatonna institution.

INSTITUTION FOR INDIGENT AND CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

It is with pride that Minnesota may point to its hospital and school for the care of indigent, crippled and deformed children, at St. Paul, for this state was the first in the Union to appropriate money and establish a home for these little unfortunates. Of late several states have followed Minnesota's example, in this respect copying Minnesota's law of 1897. On the occasion of the last visit of a representative of the Board of Visitors to the State Hospital for Crippled Children, May, 1910, there were 70 enrolled. This institution is located in the St. Paul City and County Hospital grounds, with Dr. A. B. Ancker, superintendent, of the state, as well as the city and county institution.

The beautiful new State Industrial School for Crippled and Deformed Children, rapidly nearing completion at Phalen Park, will be a great step in advance. It will accommodate probably sixty children.

In a communication to the Board of Visitors Dr. Arthur J. Gillette, surgeon in charge, explains as follows:—

"In this institution we propose to teach and care for the children in the manner suggested in my report.—"

(Quoting from report)—"there are a great many indigent children in our state who are receiving no benefit whatever from our institution or any other institution in the state, as they are suffering from deformities which cannot be helped by any treatment, but who are bright, have some use of their limbs, and should be taught some trade adapted to their disability in an industrial school.—"

"—In short, we have two institutions, one for those requiring surgical operations, etc., and a school and hospital at Phalen Park to educate and care for those who cannot be absolutely cured, and yet who should be taught some occupation suitable to their more or less crippled condition, thus making of them useful and happy men and women."

The crippled children are most fortunate in having Dr. Gillette as surgeon in charge. His fame in treating various deformities successfully is well known; and his services are given to the children of the state hospital without charge and without return save for the knowledge of the great good he is continually accomplishing. There are also a large number of specialists interested in the institution who from time to time treat these afflicted little ones and who like Dr. Gillette have their sole reward in the lisping thanks of childish lips and the grateful words of appreciative parents.

The Board of Visitors has but one recommendation to make relative to this Children's Hospital. At this institution the children are absolutely dependent for clothing on what is sent from their homes or supplied by friends. And to a large degree, the homes of these children are typical of the poorest class of citizens. As a result, the children are not properly clothed. The difference between their

seant apparel, and the nice warm suits and dresses of the children of the Owatonna State Public School, is most marked. We strongly urge that the legislature appropriate sufficient money for the State Board of Control to furnish the children of this state hospital with clothing the same as is humanely done for the children of the Owatonna State School.

STATE SCHOOL FOR BLIND AT FARIBAULT.

During January, 1910, investigations of complaints relating to the State School for Blind at Faribault, were made, first, by the State Board of Visitors, and immediately following by the Board of Directors of the school.

The original complaints were made by boys of the school to the editor of the Minneapolis Journal. These complaints were verbally referred to Gov. A. O. Eberhart by the editor. The governor telephoned J. C. Matchitt, executive secretary of the Board of Visitors, instructing him to proceed to Faribault and investigate such charges as would be told to him by a representative of the complainant who would meet him on the first train the following morning from the Twin Cities for Faribault. This representative of the Minneapolis Journal was authorized by the governor to go with the executive secretary of the Board of Visitors to make sure that the investigation of the charges was fair and thorough, and the instructions of the governor in this regard were followed by Mr. Matchitt. The charges included one particular complaint of severe corporal punishment, that the superintendent was not in touch with the students, that the food served to the students was poor, lack of outdoor exercise and gymnasium facilities, and minor items.

Mr. Matchitt reported to the Board of Visitors, which board conducted a thorough further investigation at the school immediately thereafter.

We believe Superintendent Dow made a mistake, even though the provocation might have been great, in administering corporal punishment December 22nd, 1909, to one Albert Neumann, a weak-minded blind boy, age 23. Further, that the diet was not up to the average it should have been, with the cooking below par. There was no gymnasium in the institution, and too little opportunity for outdoor exercise. Supt. Dow's time seemed too fully occupied with teaching to be able to keep in close touch with pupils and details of the institution. There also seemed lack of social life among the students.

Steps have since been taken by the Board of Directors of the school for the alleviation of practically all the troubles of which there was any just complaint. Corporal punishment was ordered abolished. Albert Neumann was sent from the school. Gymnasiums and exercise grounds were fitted for both the boys and girls of the school and a physical instructor engaged. A new matron has been

employed, and a new assistant to have charge of one of the detached cottages. The lenehing of organ and piano tuning which the Board of Visitors found had been abandoned for the time being at least, has been resumed and an instructor secured.

There is but one further suggestion the Board of Visitors would make, that is, that the salaries of the two cooks employed be raised to ensure efficient help in this line in future and the retention of good cooks when secured. The schedule of salaries paid at the school shows the head cook receives but \$30 a month, and the assistant \$19 a month. This is hardly more than is paid in scores of private homes, with the work in a family residence and that in a big institution not to be compared. The raising of the salaries of the cooks at the school for blind 100 per cent—or at least 50 per cent, we believe would be an excellent investment ensuring elimination of future complaint about the diet.

Supt. Dow is to be commended for taking the initiative in this country in the matter of establishing summer school sessions for the blind. This board also cordially supports the recommendation in the recently drafted report for the institution by Supt. Dow and approved by the Board of Directors, including the following:—

Completion of the East Boys' Cottage in substantially the same manner as has been done in the West Cottage. Relitting and repairing the cottage of the superintendent. Complete fire-proofing of the main building.

MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

A number of visits have been made to the Minnesota School for the Deaf at Faribault during the past biennial period. We have uniformly been greatly pleased and interested with the institution, its obliging and able corps of instructors, the efficient work with the students, the excellent and advanced methods of teaching, and the kindly, homelike treatment of the deaf children, whom we found apparently happy and fond of their instructors; all of which reflects credit on the efficiency and kindness of Superintendent J. N. Tate.

This institution is doing excellent work in teaching trades as well as in giving each student a general education. The trades taught include blacksmithing, chair-making, painting, shoe-making, cabinet work, printing, sewing and domestic science. The work in the school rooms is especially attractive in its efficient results. Its inspiration can only be abbreviated by a visit to the institution, by seeing these little children who know what you say solely through skill in lip reading and who freely reply in childish voices that they themselves cannot hear. The Wing symbol and five slate systems, as improved by Dr. Tate, bring about wonderful results in the teaching of grammar. The alphabet is not taught by names of letters, but phonetically; and as a result these deaf students readily pronounce any and all words, even though they may not know their meaning.

The dormitories we always found clean, well ventilated, and the beds in excellent condition. The dormitories are all on upper floors, the basements containing only play rooms and toilets. The toilet facilities are over twenty years old, worn out, antiquated, unsanitary, and should be at once replaced with modern plumbing. The kitchen we found clean, the food wholesome and well cooked.

The students are kept well informed of the profitable news of the day, by having this information woven into their work in reading and grammar. During the summer vacation they are asked to keep diaries. These diaries are returned to the teachers each fall, and by looking them over the teachers learn much of the characteristics, the strong and weak points of each individual writer.

During the past biennial period, diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles have existed in the institution, at one time there being as many as forty cases of diphtheria alone. Each case as it developed was promptly isolated, and carefully treated and nursed, with a happy result of not a single death. This battle with disease developed the need for a new hospital building, which is strongly recommended by Dr. W. H. Robillard, attending physician of the institution, and whose recommendation we endorse.

Dr. Tate thoroughly approves of the compulsory educational law applied to his institution. It has resulted in a number of pupils attending the school who would otherwise remain uneducated.

That "all work and no play make Jack a dull boy" is fully recognized at the school for the deaf. During the past year the playgrounds have been made the more attractive by the commendable addition of two sets of swings of six each, two sets of see-saws of four boards each, two merry-go-rounds, and a giant slide. In each case, one set was placed on the boys' playground, the other on the girls'.

Dr. Tate's ideas as to the necessity of home life for those in his school and the stress laid to general influences and surroundings of pupils aside from their school and craft instruction, are the most practical, interesting and highly commended by this board as an excellent policy.

The school for deaf suffers from the fact that its teachers are undersold; that although the cost of living has increased, the salaries have not. The institution loses teachers every year who go to other like schools at materially higher salaries. It should be remembered that their work is not ordinary school teaching. They are experts, specialists in instructing the deaf. Minnesota cannot afford to lose their services for the sake of saving a few dollars. The Board of Visitors hopes the legislature and the Board of Control will see to it that the scale of wages for these teachers is raised all along the line.

Mott Hall should be rebuilt, or at least fire-proofed. This building was constructed in sections, in 1866, 1871 and 1877 respectively. Within this building an average of 140 girls are dormitoried. Although supplied with fire-escapes,

it is a fire-trap. Every day it is left in its present condition invites disaster. It must be remembered its inmates are deaf, and to arouse and get them out of the building at night would take vastly more time than if they were normal children. The state has no moral right to enact a law to compel deaf children to attend this school and endanger their lives by housing them in a tinder box. Remember, the newest portion of Mott Hall is 33 years old, and its oldest wing, 44 years. Its dry, decaying timbers would be a tender morsel for the fire fiend. Its children are just as dear in their home circles as normal little ones; just as bright, sweet and lovable as those who hear and are able to attend school at home. Even though no fire ever occurred and these children remained safe and sound, the legislature should recognize the mental strain and worry caused mothers and fathers, who know their children are compelled to sleep nightly in a fire-trap, and should grant the remedy in the appropriation asked of \$25,000 for fire-proofing Mott Hall. In the words of Supt. Tate:

"It would seem presumptuous to longer expect God to protect us from fire unless we do what we can to avert so dire a calamity."

At the School for Deaf there are two pupils classed as both deaf and blind. One of these is Lenert Sternberg of St. James. He has sufficient sight left to use his eyes for reading. The other is Vera Mabel Gannon of St. Paul. This child, now about sixteen years of age, is already known as the "Helen Keller of Minnesota." In view of the fact that one teacher (Miss Blanche Hanson) devotes nearly all her time to Vera, and that a special appropriation of \$1,000 is requested of the next legislature for additional equipment for instruction of Vera and Lenert Sternberg (mostly for Vera) a word of explanation here in her behalf we hope will be of aid in securing this state allowance.

Something less than three years and a half ago Vera entered the Minnesota School for Deaf. Until then (January, 1907), hers was a pitiable life of darkness and silence. But that day marked an epoch in her existence. She began to both see and hear through her sense of touch and under the patient, loving guidance of Miss Hanson. The first day she learned three words and their meaning—"hell," "bear" and "doll." Today she has a vocabulary of 3,000 words. She can write the "square hand" of the blind, she can operate a typewriter, and she can read raised letters—the point system of the blind. Under the guidance of Miss J. R. Bateman, teacher of lip-reading and speech, she has made good progress in this latter direction. Vera is bright, lovable and appreciative. With her, as with Helen Keller, the day of miracles would seem to have returned. The world is opening to her; for without sight, she sees, and without hearing, she hears. Surely it is to be hoped there will not be a single voice raised in the legislature against the special appropriation necessary, that intellectual sunshine may brighten her path in life. In all humaneness, this is an instance above legislative duty—it is legislative opportunity.

MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE MINDED AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS.

The Minnesota State School for Feeble Minded and Colony for Epileptics is located at Faribault, Minnesota. It is in charge of Dr. A. C. Ittersas superintendent, a man of national reputation in his line of work, and whose address at the National Conference of Charities and Correction at St. Louis last June (1910) on advanced research in study and classification of the feeble minded was one of the features of the meetings of the state board sessions. Numerous visits to this Faribault institution seem to demonstrate the inmates are made as happy in their surroundings as possible. To the uninitiated visitor, the institution is depressing in view of the fact that material improvement in the mental condition of the inmates is practically hopeless. Yet this fact is only realized by the visitor and not by the visited; hence their cheeriness and apparent satisfaction with their pitiable lot.

When established, this institution was housed on the old fashioned plan of having the inmates congregated in a large main building. In more recent years the cottage plan, the modern idea, has been followed. Numerous cottages now dot the extensive grounds, in which the epileptics are housed according to up-to-date ideas of classification.

The capacity of the institution is as follows:

For males.....	220
For females.....	680
Total.....	1,100

It includes buildings not occupied at this writing, but to be opened soon. With the completion of the buildings now being constructed and for which plans are practically completed the institution will have a total reasonable capacity of something over 1,500. As a matter of fact the management is compelled to crowd the buildings so as not always to give the proper room, or at least the theoretical amount desirable.

There are accommodations for only 275 in strictly fire-proof buildings, and one building is under construction for 74 brighter girls that will be fire-proof. The Board of Control has let a contract for a building for custodial boys of low grade that will contain 100 beds, which building will be fire-proof. Thus it is seen that when the buildings are all completed, which are now under construction, only about 27 per cent of the capacity represents fire-proof construction. The most helpless children have been considered first.

It is very desirable that, as fast as money can be obtained for the purpose, the older buildings for inmates should be made fire-proof, beginning by making the attic floors of fire-proof construction and selecting the four-story center building, which is the highest, for the work.

There is possibly one exception. While the dormitory building for farm boys is not fire-proof, it need not be so far as safety to inmates is concerned. This dormitory is only one story high and with the open ceiling (there is no attic) it would be very difficult for a fire to gain a foothold, and even in such an event, the boys all being able-bodied, hearty fellows could probably get out of the building safely, even in the night time.

Dr. Rogers has much difficulty in securing competent help,—the supply being determined by the industrial conditions of the state and country. The Board of Control has modified the schedule from time to time to try and enable him to secure good help, but the great demand for help, especially men, during these prosperous times and the fact that the work, at first glance, does not seem attractive, makes it especially difficult to secure the male help desired. It is a well known fact in political economy that salaried people employed in professional work are always the last to be recognized by increased pay when prosperous times come. Perhaps just now, the medical assistants and department heads of this institution are the most deserving of better compensation. In this regard Dr. Rogers says: "I do not have any special recommendation on this proposition as I know the Board of Control are trying to meet the exigencies as they arrive in a liberal spirit. Of course the very fact that so many institutions must be treated alike, though local conditions do vary, complicates the situation and makes it embarrassing both for the institution and the board to meet every contingency as we would all prefer to see it met."

For the benefit of many cases with which this institution has to deal there should become hereafter by which the courts should be able to provide permanent guardianship by the institution. The cases are not committed to this institution by court but are voluntarily received, and there are, in the course of each year, certain cases that should remain under positive and definite guardianship. While the management usually can, by moral suasion, control these cases, they cannot always do so, and their going back into the community is a serious matter, particularly with certain girls of immoral tendencies, or of whom advantage is liable to be taken by unscrupulous men in the particular environment to which they go.

One of the most important matters at the present time related to the work of this institution is the study of hereditary and other causative influences tending to produce feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, criminality and degeneracy.

Dr. Rogers believes there is no field where the expenditure of a few thousand dollars annually can be made to pay so richly in contributions to definite knowledge on this subject as the study and analysis of the hereditary, social and pathological conditions of which the great majority of the inmates of our institutions for defectives (and law breakers) are the product.

In view of the fact that the school for feeble minded is an institution over the entrance of which for the large majority of those received there is necessarily

the unwritten motto "He who enters here leaves hope behind," it is not the duty of the state to do all in its power to study the general subject of the feeble minded and epileptics from every point of view, and apply every method of advanced research, that the future may see a decided decrease in the ratio of such individuals to the population of the state? This true, and remembering that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," it would seem the inevitable duty of the next legislature to enact a law for the establishment of a Department of Psychological Research,—spoken of more in detail in this report under the head of "General Recommendations." New Jersey has blazed the way in this work among the feeble minded and epileptics in connection with its institution at Vineland, N. J., which is under direction of Henry H. Goddard, Ph.D. In the establishment of this work in the Minnesota School at Faribault valuable suggestions for a start in the right direction could doubtless be secured from New Jersey.

The necessity for scientific steps toward prevention of increase in the feeble minded and epileptics, is further found in the startling fact that in spite of the present great size of this Minnesota institution, there are (and have been for a long time past) some 300 to 400 applicants for admission to the institution who actually cannot be accepted for the one reason of lack of capacity to accommodate new inmates. Such needy individuals who are deserving of immediate custodial care should be accommodated without delay, and it is to be hoped that the next legislature will not practice economy by compelling these cases to remain a large to be more or less a burden on the community and to multiply their kind.

It would seem the best policy to establish a new institution to alleviate the overcrowded conditions. This was called to the attention of the legislature two years ago in a statement by Dr. Rogers in the published report of the Board of Control. He believed the population of the institution should not be allowed to exceed 1,500. The accommodations soon to be completed will reach this limit. This, therefore, would seem to be an opportune time for a "parting of the ways"—in other words, the separation of the feeble minded from the epileptics. The new institution should be established preferably to accommodate the epileptics on the cottage plan, and the cottages and other quarters now used for their accommodation at Faribault be given over to the housing of the many feeble minded on the waiting list, alleviating the present congested conditions in dormitories of the main building, and possibly providing accommodations for the feeble minded increase for a few years to come.

Numerous visits to the institution seem to demonstrate that it is kept in first class condition in every way. The inmates are clean, fed with nourishing well-cooked food and plenty of it. The kitchens, pantries, dining rooms, etc., are neat and attractive. The dormitories and other apartments are orderly and attractive, although the crowding of the buildings compels the placing of too many cots in the main building sleeping apartments. We have always found the beds inviting, with clean linen.

The faculty of the school and industrial training departments seems above criticism. The teachers are patient with their none-too-bright pupils, and the results, especially in the industrial work, are most commendable.

"The North Star", a monthly publication giving the news of the institution, is issued within the school and freely distributed. It is sent to outside subscribers for 35 cents a year, thus giving those who desire a very cheap means of keeping in touch with the school, its work and affairs.

SOLDIERS' HOME AT MINNEHAHA FALLS

The Minnesota Soldiers' Home at historic Minnehaha Falls is an institution of which one and all may be proud. It is the most beautifully situated of all public buildings in the state, occupying a high point overlooking the Mississippi river on one side, and Minnehaha glen and park on the other. Never before has the home been in such excellent condition. In large part this is due to the excellent management of Col. F. H. Barnard, commandant, who has taken care of many little things which others in his position in past years have overlooked, but which mean much to the comfort of the old veterans. During the past biennial period a staff cottage, a substantial brick building, has been completed. The hospital has also been greatly improved. New plumbing has been substituted for old, and a cement floor laid in the hospital basement. What was formerly the dining room in the surgeon's living quarters, has been turned into a sitting room, and it is much appreciated in that many of those in the hospital have to remain indoors. Shower baths have been installed in addition to the tubs. The operating room has been materially enlarged and modernized with brilliant illumination that permits of its use day or night. The removal of the staff to a separate cottage gives room for twenty-three additional hospital beds. What was formerly the dining hall, has been turned into the dormitory. Those accommodated in the hospital are to a large extent simply afflicted with the infirmities of old age.

There are five cottage dormitories. Each has a well furnished sitting room. Old plumbing has been replaced with new in each cottage, and tile floors, marble partitions and baths supplied.

About a year ago the new laundry was erected at a cost of \$3,000. On our last visit this laundry was found to be modern in every respect, except that gasoline stoves were used for heating irons. The attention of the commandant being called to this, he explained that they planned before long to substitute electric irons, which will be a decided improvement.

The power house has had a thorough interior housecleaning and painting, and a bath room with enamel tub added for convenience of engineer and fireman.

The dining hall seats 230 at a time. The food served is plentiful and well cooked. The "high cost of living", however, has resulted in the serving of meat but once a day where it was formerly on the table twice daily. Eight young lady waitresses wait on the old soldiers. Formerly the veterans took turns in waiting on the tables, but their age and infirmities made this unsatisfactory; so now each inmate of the house contributes 70 cents a month toward paying the young women waitresses. This is the only demand made on the pensions or other sources of income of the old soldiers.

The women's building, now some four years old, is a large handsome structure, filled to capacity, with some on the waiting list. At the time of the last visit of a representative of the Board of Visitors it sheltered seventy women and thirty-four men. Each widow has a room of her own, and each old couple has a suite of a sitting room and bed room. The main dining room, although in the basement, is light and airy. The building unfortunately was not built fire-proof, but a year ago was equipped throughout with fire hose and extinguishers. Water works as well as an electric lighting system have been extended throughout the grounds during the past biennial period.

On the occasion of our last visit, the Soldiers' Home enrollment was 414. This number is constantly changing. Frequently the old soldiers use their accumulated pension money for extended trips and visits to old friends, returning when their funds give out to find a home and welcome still awaiting them.

Inquiry among the old soldiers in the Home failed to find a single cause of complaint over conditions or treatment. All the buildings are clean and well kept.

COUNTY JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

During the past biennial period a number of visits have been made by members of the Board of Visitors to county jails and lock-ups; but, to keep within our financial means, it has been impossible to visit every county. In many instances these institutions are open to material betterment, but conditions along these lines are continually improving. Each year sees a number of new jails and lock-ups erected and each new structure is more modern and up-to-date, the plans therefor being approved according to law by the State Board of Control.

It is essential that where new buildings of this character are contemplated, authorities have before them some like institution which may be taken as embodying advanced ideas found practical and successful by use. Every new jail or lock-up should contain separate and distinct departments for young boys, and also for young girls, temporarily under custody. Otherwise, under the old system of permitting juveniles to mix in idle hours with those hardened in wrongdoing, jails become actual schools for crime. Proper ventilation and sanitation is a feature given altogether too little attention in jails and lock-ups. No new jail or lock-up should be built with its windows opening on dark courts, alleys,

or facing nearly shadowing walls of other buildings. Under such conditions light is always lacking, and there is little circulation of air. Care should also be taken that ventilating shafts within these structures are not only sufficiently large, but that they really do their duty in drawing away foul air and supply plenty of fresh. Jails and lock-ups probably need good ventilation more than any other buildings in public use. As an ideal jail, one that may well be copied even on a much smaller scale, the Board of Visitors especially recommends the comparatively new jail of Ramsey county. It is fire-proof, located on a corner with plenty of light and air, and modern in every respect, with sanitation, ventilation, and arrangements for separation of prisoners all that could be asked. No a small sentence its general aim might well be kept in mind in the construction of lock-ups.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN HOME.

The Women's Christian Home, Hunline avenue and Albany street, St. Paul, is an institution which in a quiet way is doing a most excellent christian work. It is under the management and ownership of the Minnesota Magdalen society, a maternity hospital and temporary abode for unfortunate girls, semi-public in its operation. A board of twenty-five ladies from the various protestant churches comprises the executive department of the society. Mrs. H. L. Parsons of St. Paul is president of this board.

The Home building is a handsome three story brick structure costing \$23,000, and erected between four and five years ago. It is in direct charge of Mrs. L. R. Sheldon as resident matron, a cultured, unassuming, kind-hearted woman; broad-minded in her work and with every sympathy and regard for the girls who come under her care.

Needy girls are admitted through recommendation of some member of the Magdalen society, a physician, or even on their own application, for assistance. A charge of \$2.50 a week is made for the care of each girl. They are given such time as they need to make their payments, and no girl is turned away if she has not the money.

Every effort is made to turn wayward girls into good women. Each girl admitted is asked to remain four months, and during this time is surrounded with every home-like and refining influence; in a gentle way is shown the seriousness of her mistake with the desire to return her to the world strengthened in soul as well as body.

This Home cares for about 160 girls a year. Good homes are found for the infants, or if they are not placed in three months, they are turned over to the Children's Home at St. Anthony Park. The Home can comfortably take care of thirty-five patients at one time, assuring them of skilled treatment. The Minnesota Magdalen Society is now in its thirty-fourth year. The equipment of its Home is first class in every particular, and its good work beyond criticism.

POORHOUSES.

The public probably knows less of county poor houses than of any other of what might be termed district or local institutions. This is doubtless true because of lack of publicity. The newspapers make much from time to time of criminals in jail, thus bringing the jail to mind. In political campaigns candidates see to it that the county jail and city lock-up and their management are given publicity, especially if there is anything to criticize.

But with the poorhouse it is different. When an individual is committed to county charity, it is never chronicled, and known by few. This is just as well for the unfortunate who does not care to be heralded on his trip "over the hill to the poorhouse", and whose private tribulations certainly have no place in public print; yet it all helps to make the people forget the institution wherein he is perhaps to spend his remaining years. Nor does the occasional election by the county commissioners of a new poorhouse superintendent attract any attention. So it is, the poorhouse is generally overlooked. So it is that its inmates, many of them once valuable citizens, but overcome by physical afflictions or incapacitated by the burden of years, are forgotten. Yet these people of poverty are especially to be pitied. Not infrequently they feel their surroundings the much more keenly because of the remembrance of better and different days. Unlike the insane they are mentally right and appreciative; unlike jail or prison inmates, they are innocent of wrongdoing, and in custodial care through no avoidable fault of their own.

These things true, they should be granted charity in the broadest sense. The Board of Visitors suggests that those of the public who are charitably inclined and desire a field for occasional hours of humane, christian work, make a practice of visiting the poorhouses in their respective localities. The inmates of these county homes are always glad to hear kind words from their occasional callers. The institution superintendents generally welcome visitors—and when they don't all the more reason visitors should come. Such visitations would surely result in eventual betterment of institutions where improvement is needed, as well as kind cheer for the dull hours of those whom Dame Fortune has long forgotten.

As a model poorhouse which may well be copied by these counties contemplating new buildings, the Board of Visitors takes pleasure in recommending that of Winona county. The Winona county commissioners will doubtless be glad to give all information asked and aid in furnishing duplicate plans and blue prints. This building cost \$25,000 a few years ago, and is situated on the western boundary line of thirty of Winona. It is of brick, fire-proof, and two stories with accommodations for forty, but now containing only sixteen. It is located on a hill, with a view of the city and Mississippi valley. It is heated by steam, and has its own water works, water being secured from a spring well and forced throughout the building by hydraulic pressure. It is lighted by electricity. It is furnished with modern toilets, hot and cold water, and bath shower and porcelain tub baths. It is constructed on a plan so that by closing corridor doors, it may be used in

sections or thrown open as a whole. Its basement has a cement floor throughout besides containing the steam heating plant and electric power water pump, is equipped with store-rooms, carpenter shop, laundry, etc. The building is located on a farm of forty acres, worked by the inmates under direction of the prisonhouse superintendent.

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN.

Our library consists of 900 publications, of which 200 are bound volumes, the rest in pamphlet form. We are daily receiving additions from the various state and city organizations with which we are in correspondence, as well as from private charities. At the last quarterly meeting of the board Dr. Ferguson was appointed a committee to expend \$250 in the purchase of new books and shelves upon which to place them. The Dewey system of cataloging is in use, with numbering according to Cutter, and we are indebted to the expert advice of Miss Miriam E. Carey, Organizer of the State Library Commission, for valuable assistance in the arrangement of this work.

When it is said that we have reports, bulletins, brochures, etc., containing articles by workers of national repute, such as Edward T. Devine, Robert W. De Forest, Homer Folles, Dr. Luther H. Gulick, Francis H. McLean, Jane Addams, Mary E. Richmond, Kate Barnard, from Minnesota included in that category, Dr. A. C. Rogers, Supt. Frank L. Randall, Dr. H. A. Tomlinson, Warden Henry Wolfer, Eugent T. Lies, and many others both at home and abroad; as well as a file of the proceedings of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections from the year 1887, in which are published the addresses delivered before those great gatherings by specialists in the various departments of sociological effort; that the Russell Sage Foundation and the National Child Labor Committee have contributed generously to our collection; that Jewish charities hold a prominent place; that almost every class of charitable and correctional work is represented and some extensively treated; and that new and inspiring material is constantly coming in fresh from the centres of altruistic endeavor to record the experiences and describe the methods of The New Philanthropy, which unites the forces of medicine and science, religion and law, psychology and industrial education, in the aid and upliftment of the poor and afflicted, the wif, the fallen, the diseased, the criminal, the defective; the intense human interest and inestimable practical value of our library can be in some degree appreciated. It would seem that such resources could be utilized to much advantage by students of social science.

Respectfully submitted,
JESSIE V. RHODES,
Librarian.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

ANOTHER STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE NEEDED.

We recommend the establishment by the next legislature of another state asylum for the insane. This is imperative, not only to take care of the steadily increasing number of patients, but for alleviation of the actual present crowded condition of our institutions. From a humanitarian point of view, which in this enlightened day should always be first in consideration, the state is not doing its duty to the insane by compelling these unfortunates to crowd into living quarters like so many cattle. This is literally true relative to dormitory sleeping quarters, especially in the larger hospitals. Cots are crowded side by side like so many stalls. It is frequently necessary for a patient to crawl over half a dozen cots before he gets to his place in the sleeping line.

Such crowding of sleeping rooms is unhumanitarian, unhealthy, unsanitary, disturbing to those who want to rest because of those who don't and can't rest, permits of absolutely no privacy among patients so placed, and is both physically and mentally the more detrimental to patients individually and as a whole. This crowded condition is no criticism on the superintendents, nor the State Board of Control. It is simply a case of many more patients than there are now accommodations for.

Preferably the new institution for alleviation of this crowded condition should be an asylum, that is a custodial institution for the chronic insane instead of a new hospital. The present hospitals are more in need of relief than the asylums. There are a sufficient number of chronic cases in the excess population of the present institutions for insane to at once fill to proper capacity two more institutions like those at Hastings and Anoka. The establishment of two new asylums at the coming session of the legislature, much as they are needed and especially so when the future is planned as well as the present, seems out of the question. With the pressing demands in other directions made on the state treasury, this could hardly be done. But the establishment of one new asylum at the coming session would greatly relieve the extreme crowding that exists and which should be at once alleviated.

The following table speaks for itself. Under the head of "Capacity" the figures quoted are estimates supplied by the respective institution superintendents, and in most instances represent the number of patients the existing buildings were originally planned to accommodate. The figures given under the head "Population", are the actual number of inmates at each institution on dates but little apart from each other—all being quotations furnished by superintendents during the month of September, 1910.

Table Showing Present Capacity and Population of Minnesota Institutions for Insane, Demonstrating the Need of A New State Asylum.

Institution	Capacity			Population			Excess over Capacity
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Hastings Asylum.	300	50	350	418	58	474	124
*Anoka.....	200	150	350	300	180	480	130
Fergus Falls Insane Hospital..	750	650	1400	951	704	1655	255
St. Peter ..	400	400	800	550	475	1025	225
Rochester ..	500	500	1000	635	599	1234	234
	2150	1750	3900	2852	2016	4868	968

Excess of population over capacity—Males - - - - - 702
Females - - - - - 266

Total excess of population over capacity - - - - - 968

*One more cottage to be completed.

TRANSPORTATION NURSES RECOMMENDED.

The legislature of 1909 enacted Chapter 224 for the establishment of the three excellent detention hospitals which have been erected at a cost of \$60,000 each, at Fergus Falls, Rochester and St. Peter respectively. The intent of this law is along advanced lines, and is a praiseworthy step. It permits of either voluntary commitment to the detention hospitals on application of individuals who believe they need treatment for mental difficulties, or for a hearing before a board of three physicians summoned by the probate court, which board shall either commit or order release of the individual under examination.

The new law, however, provides that "when a person has been so committed, all subsequent proceedings relating to his detention—etc.—shall be governed by existing laws."

This means that provision of the old law remains intact, requiring that following the hearing the patient shall be transported by a sheriff or his deputy, and attendant, to the town and place where the institution is located in which the patient is to be treated. It means that the very thing which the new law was aimed in large part to prevent—the tint of treating an insane person as a criminal—still remains. Like a convicted felon, he is now sometimes transported in hand-cuffs, ankle-irons, and chains. Frequently such rough treatment of a patient is not so much because of the necessity due to the patient's violence, but because the officer in charge wants to save himself the trouble of being on the alert every moment of the trip or is more fearful of his charge than is at all called for. There are cases on record at the hospitals for insane where patients have actually presented themselves with their commitment papers, the attending officer being too intoxicated at the end of the trip to do this final duty.

This is all wrong. The county sheriff should have nothing to do with the transportation of insane patients, in the opinion of the Board of Visitors. The insane are mentally ill. No man would ever think of calling in a county sheriff to care for a sick person. Yet this is exactly the ridiculous stand which the state takes.

The Board of Visitors herewith recommends there be established a corps of transportation nurses as needed, distributed among the three hospitals for insane at Fergus Falls, St. Peter and Rochester, all of whom shall be experienced and expert in the handling of the insane, and whose special duty it shall be to transport persons committed from their respective places of commitment to the institutions in which they are to be domiciled and treated. Necessarily, this corps of traveling nurses would have to be composed of individuals of both sexes. The present law permits the sheriff to employ women attendants in the transportation of the female insane.

FOR BETTERMENT OF THE INSANE.

More amusements and more industries are needed for the insane. This is especially true in the winter, when to a large degree the patients are compelled by the severity of the weather to remain indoors. The general idea of the uninitiated is that an asylum or hospital for the insane is a noisy, boisterous, custodial institution with a large proportion of the patients under physical or mechanical restraint. The truth is, the interior of the average ward in an insane institution is distressingly quiet. The patients (as a whole) talk little, and not infrequently a patient will remain quietly in one position for hours. A visitor entering the average ward (except among the especially disturbed cases) finds the patients sitting around in chairs placed against the walls, their faces vacant, showing little or no intelligence, disturbing no one, and apparently

only desiring to brood in quiet over their troubles in such degree as their mentality will permit. It would seem that people of average mental strength, if shut up day after day in huge buildings, with occasionally a fresh air parade, would sooner or later break down under the dull monotony of nothing to do but be herded to meals three times a day, with slow unfilled waits between, and to be sent to bed shortly after sunset. Mental as well as physical occupation is an absolute necessity to the normal individual. The meaningless daily routine of the average inmate of one of our institutions for insane would be enough to unbalance the mentally well. This true, can much benefit thus be expected for the mentally ill? It has become a demonstrated fact that occupation is excellent for the insane. It sets their minds away from their hobbies. It gives them exercise. It passes the long hours away. It lets them do something useful, something which may aid in their comfort and support or yield them some pocket money. In short, physical occupation, where possible, has nearly always proved a mental tonic. This seems to be admitted beyond room for dispute.

The Board of Visitors therefore recommends that the leaching of industry among the insane in our state institution be materially extended. Dr. Welch, of the Fergus Falls Hospital, who has made more of the industrial indoor work than is the case in the other institutions, has been agreeably surprised at times to find the apparently most hopeless cases getting into line with other workers among the patients. He has tried the experiment of bringing the more deeply afflicted patients, by ones and twos, into the industrial ward. For days there might be no result. In many instances time would bring no development. But in others, very little by little, the seemingly hopeless ones have started to imitate the others in their sewing, lace-making, mending, or other employment. This board believes the experiment worth trying and should be attempted with every patient in every institution for the insane. This would probably demand the employment of additional unskilled help, but the extra cost we believe would be many times worth the outlay.

That the insane appreciate amusement to break the monotony of their institutional life, is demonstrated by their solid enjoyment of the occasional dances which they are afforded. Such light amusement costs but little, yet means a great deal to the patients. The Board of Visitors recommends that more amusement be afforded the insane, not only in dances but in the display of moving picture films, additional phonographs, mechanical piano players, and the giving of frequent concerts with such talent as is available.

A number of the institutions have been partly equipped with sanitary drinking cups with running water. These sanitary drinking cups should be placed in every ward of every institution.

Electric fans are few and far between, yet are a great boon to the afflicted in large institutions in hot weather. A supply of fans would cost but little, and add greatly to the comfort of the patients.

NEED OF FIRE-PROOFING.

The Board of Visitors wishes to call special attention to the need of fire-proofing of various state institutional buildings now in crowded use, and of the establishment of a rule that all buildings hereafter erected by the state for custodial care or occupancy by children, be of strictly fire-proof construction. In March, 1905, this question was brought up before the Board of Control, S. W. Leavitt, (then a member), offering a resolution calling for a change in the plans of the then proposed school building for the Winona Normal, to make such building fire-proof, the terrible Collingwood disaster then being fresh in the public mind. This resolution was turned down by a vote of two to one. We believe it was a mistake, and, as mentioned above, that all custodial buildings or those to be occupied by children, should be fire-proof, or if there is not money for such construction, the building should be delayed until the necessary funds for such purpose can be secured.

That Minnesota has not had a terrible tragedy in the way of the burning of one of its custodial care buildings, is a fact for which thanks is due to Providence and not to any foresight of authorities in charge of such construction. In some of these institutions, inmates cut off from escape by stairs would find themselves shut off from escape by windows heavily screened and even in some instances barred. Much improvement has been made in recent years in fire-proofing of buildings which were inflammable, but the good work should be completed without any delay. In this connection we would call attention to the following:

At the Anoka asylum, the crowded main building is not yet fire-proofed, and its dry timbers would burn like kindling within a brick-walled furnace if it ever got started. The same statement is just as true of the main building at the Hastings asylum.

At the St. Peter hospital for insane, the south wing of the main building, and the north detached wing, still lack fire-proofing. At the Rochester hospital for insane, the east and west wings need fire-proofing. These are at present what might be termed "slow-burning" construction.

The State hospital at Fergus Falls is the nearest fire-proof of any of the Minnesota institutions for the insane. The final change for the better is rapidly nearing completion, and before the end of this winter it is understood the work of fire-proofing will be complete.

A WORD FOR THE NURSES.

Nurses, or attendants, in the institutions for the insane, have no sinecure. In some instances they are required to sleep in what were intended to be patient's rooms in the buildings with the insane. The system of nurses' cottages should be extended so that every nurse and attendant would be able to leave behind the wearying sight of their labors when they go to rest, and one and all be allowed to repose in perfect quiet in a separate building. It is a strange thing the state, in letting a contract for the construction of a building, has established the legal requirement that the laborers, carpenters, etc., not be allowed to work in excess of an eight hour day; but that the same great State of Minnesota requires its nurses caring for the insane to serve twelve to fourteen hours a day. The care of the insane is hard work. It calls for constant, unceasing attention and activity every moment the nurse is on duty. An eight hour day as a nurse for the insane, is a longer and harder siege than an eight hour day as a carpenter on a state building. The carpenter should be cared for as he is in this respect, but much more so should the nurse of the insane. The long hours are one of the reasons for the constant shortage of nurses at hospitals and asylums. With a shorter day more help could be secured, and the superintendents believe that the eight hour day would result in benefit to the patients in that the nurses would thus be permitted to become properly rested and be in better condition physically and mentally to do their duty to their charges. The eight hour day would mean a corresponding increase in the number of nurses to be employed, and increased expense for nurses' salaries; but it would be worth it, to the nurses themselves, to the patients, and to the honor of the state in giving a "square deal" to its employes in this line, as well as demanding it for state contractors.

ENLARGEMENT OF POWERS OF BOARD OF VISITORS.

Under the law governing the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions, it has no power except to report to the governor. The board is, in other words, an investigating and advisory department of the state government netting under appointment of and reporting to, the state's chief executive. During the past fiscal year it has made various reports to the governor of matters and conditions at several state institutions which in the estimation of its members, required immediate adjustment and betterment. These reports were in each case referred by the governor to the State Board of Control. The Board of Control, receiving these reports from the governor, is under no special obligation to in turn report on its action or reason for not acting on such recommendations, to the Board of Visitors. Thus it is that the Board of Visitors, after spending much time, effort, and in some instances considerable state money, on completion of its work knows nothing in the way of direct information from the authorities in charge of the institutions criticised, whether its work is of any

avail. It would seem but a fair proposition that the law be amended to require a report to be made to the Board of Visitors of such action as is taken on its recommendations, by the authorities to whom the Board of Visitors' reports have been referred by the governor.

It would appear to this board that in order to avoid confusion or conflict in investigations of charges against these institutions, that the power and authority to officially investigate charges and report findings based on such investigations should be vested in a single state board; and as the act creating the State Board of Visitors makes it an investigating body, with power to administer oaths to witnesses, and compel their attendance, it would naturally follow that the State Board of Visitors should be intrusted with exclusive authority to make such investigations and report thereon.

Experience has demonstrated in the conduct of the work of this board, in order to achieve best results to the state, the powers of the board should be enlarged so that the benefits of the investigations conducted by the board should result in the uplifting and betterment of state institutions. We respectfully submit this result can only be secured by having the State Board of Visitors solely empowered to make investigations and report thereon.

ENLARGE AND ENCOURAGE CHARITIES AND
CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE.

For many years past, there has been held annually in Minnesota, as is the practice in practically all other states, a Charities and Corrections Conference. This conference has ever been encouraging and educational to all workers and others interested in charities and correctional work. It is unfortunately true that as a rule those engaged along these lines are financially the least able to afford the expense of attending such conference. These conferences are for social, public good, and to promote no private or individual end. It would therefore seem that they are fully worthy of greater state support. At present the expense of the annual conference is met by a special appropriation paid through the State Board of Control of \$500 a year. The cause is certainly worthy, and in great need of a fixed state appropriation of at least \$1,000 a year.

We also recommend that the existing law be so amended that the mayor of each municipality throughout the state be authorized to appoint delegates to this annual conference and that payment of the actual expenses of such delegates be made out of the respective funds of the municipalities. This would give municipalities an opportunity to receive enlightenment in handling charitable and correctional problems, an education which is badly needed. They could then proceed with knowledge of the best and most scientific methods, of ways and means adopted in other places, and putting to practical use the advice of experts and the combined experience of others throughout the entire state.

At present the law authorizes county commissioners to send delegates to these conferences and pay their expenses. There is no reason why city authorities should not have the same privilege.

TO ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

We recommend the establishment of a State Bureau of Psychological Research. This bureau may be established at present under the broad scope of the authority given the State Board of Control and as an adjunct of the work of the board, but there is no appropriation for this purpose or money that can be thus used. The most thorough way to conduct this work would be with a special employe at each state institution whose sole duty it shall be to investigate the history of every case in each respective institution. This should include an expert physical and mental examination of each individual when received at the institution or as soon thereafter as the services of an alienist can be obtained, to be followed by an investigation of the history of each individual, of the family from which the individual has come especially as such history may apply to the reason for which the individual has been sent to the institution, and a history so far as obtainable of the individual's past surroundings, conditions, influences and record.

The maintaining of an employe at each institution for this work of research would necessarily mean considerable expense, not only their salaries, but the costs of their work. In addition there should be a clerk to whom each should report at the Capitol, St. Paul, who in turn would need a clerk, and stenographer. The head of this bureau should, if possible, be an alienist and an expert.

If the cost of having a special employe at each institution is considered too great by the legislature, the plan could be followed of having the bureau consist of a board of three men, one of them at least an expert, with headquarters at the Capitol, under authority of the Board of Control, and authorized to visit and conduct their work at each institution, their findings to be published as part of the regular report of the Board of Control.

This work of scientific research should give much accurate statistical information on many doubted questions; such as whether insanity, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy and crime as well, are in greater part the result of heredity; to what nationalities and classes of society they are mostly confined, their surroundings and conditions, etc. These things known, a great step in advance may be taken toward their decrease in future years, and if such decrease can be accomplished, the work would eventually many times pay for itself in financial saving as well as in social economy for the state. At the present time and under the existing system, we are blindly accepting things as they are, with little scientific effort

to alleviate, because of comparatively no actual knowledge of the real roots from which these monstrosities to society spring. The collection of such data as is herein proposed, would doubtless also lead to much more successful methods of treating and aiding the thousands who are already wards of the state in its various institutions, as well as decreasing their future ratio of increase.

INDETERMINATE SENTENCE.

Modern criminologists seem united on the advanced position that the aim of criminal law should be first, reformation of the convicted; and second, punishment; as opposed to the out-of-date reverse order of first, punishment, and second, reformation. It would seem self evident that no court can tell with any accuracy just how long it will take for the reformation of the prisoner who stands before the bar of justice,—or even if that reformation is ever to be accomplished. The indeterminate sentence is pronounced as a punishment for the crime of which the individual stands convicted. The court takes into consideration the age and general appearance of the prisoner, and what little he knows of him outside of the legal record secured in the trial, and then pronounces sentence. But the information a judge has outside the record at hand, is generally very limited. It has, for instance, been discovered that men at the state reformatory who are supposed to be young men who are first offenders, are really confirmed criminals who have served one or more terms in state prisons. On the other hand, such a case as that of John Carter recently pardoned from the Minnesota penitentiary, is an instance fresh in mind of a young man who, stranded and without work, in a moment of desperation committed robbery of a few dollars, and received therefor a seven year sentence, which, if fully served, might have blighted his entire life and perhaps have turned a brilliant mind into hardened criminal channels. So it is that the court, with full knowledge of only one incident in a man's life, is compelled to pass sentence which later developments may demonstrate to be either extremely harsh and unjust, or ridiculously lenient and misfitting to the man whose dangerous criminal character is completely hidden.

This, true, it is therefore the recommendation of this board that in all cases of conviction for crime, except homicide and rape, the defendant be sentenced under the indeterminate plan.