

Biennial Report

OF THE

**Minnesota State Board of Visitors
for Public Institutions**



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St. Paul, Minn., February 1, 1917.

Hon. J. A. A. Burnquist, Governor

State Capitol

St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: We herewith submit for your consideration, and that of the legislature, our biennial report.

During the two-year period previous to August 1, 1915, the State Board of Visitors had no approbation from the legislature. One thorough round of state institutions was made during 1914 at request of the late Governor A. O. Eberhart. The legislature of 1915 renewed this board's appropriations and as the late Governor W. S. Hammond desired our institutional inspection work to be taken up again as soon as possible thereafter, at his request the Board of Visitors met and reorganized May 26, 1915, when active work was resumed. The greater part of this report covers accomplishments from that date on.

Hoping our report and recommendations will meet with approval, we remain,

Very respectfully yours,

W. A. NOLAN, Grand Meadow, President.

SWAN J. TURNBLAD, Minneapolis, Vice President.

REV. L. R. S. FERGUSON, St. Paul, Secretary.

REV. E. J. NYSTROM, Buffalo.

J. R. SWANN, Madison.

A. W. MITTON, Browns Valley.

JAMES C. MATCHETT,

St. Paul, Executive Secretary.

Biennial Report State Board of Visitors

IN EXPLANATION.

The State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions was established by Act of the Legislature of 1907. It is an interesting coincidence, that the sponsor for the bill in the House, is the present President of the Board, Mr. W. A. Nolan, of Grand Meadow. The original idea relative to the establishment of the Board (following the lines of similar boards in other states) doubtless originated with the late Rev. Dr. Samuel G. Smith, pastor of the People's Church of St. Paul, who was also a member and president of the State Board of Visitors for several years.

The Board of Visitors, as required by law, has reported regularly to each legislature since the Board's establishment with the exception of the session of 1915. At the session of 1913, the legislature failed to make any appropriation for this Board, and at the same time by abolishing all standing appropriations, wiped out the standing allowance of \$1,000 a year which was inserted in the original act creating the Board.

The Board of Visitors had incurred considerable additional expenses through investigations ordered by the Governor at Red Wing, and elsewhere, and with an inadequate sum of but \$3,500 a year, was obliged to suspend active operations with the adjournment of the legislature and before the close of that fiscal year, July 31st.

The work of the Board, however, was not entirely abandoned. The Executive Secretary, J. C. Matchitt, continued in charge of the office at the Old Capitol and occasional institutional visits were made by the Board, all concerned paying their own expenses for which no reimbursement has ever been asked.

The need of the Board of Visitors' work, however, that of humanitarian supervision and careful inspection of public institutions, asserted itself. Three members of the Board were requested by Governor A. O. Ederhardt to make a careful and unannounced series of inspections of state institutions. The Board of Control offered payment of expenses of this work which was carried out on a detailed and careful scale. Through practical abolishment of the Board of Visitors' inspection service conditions in at least one institution had very materially depreciated, both as to humanitarian treatment of patients and condition of the institution. Minor recommendations for improvements were made at others.

Detailed report was made to the Governor and Board of Control, the work being carried out with as little publicity as possible. The Board of Control at once acted upon all suggestions for betterments, and expressed appreciation of the worth of the work done by the Board of Visitors' committee. Those who had been especially asked by the Governor to conduct this special series of inspections were Messrs. W. A. Nolan of Grand Meadow (now President of the Board); Rev. E. J. Nyström, then of St. Peter, and now of Buffalo, Minn., and J. R. Swann of Madison.

The fact that during a two-year period when the Board of Visitors was without funds to do its work, that it was called upon by both the Governor and the Board of Control to take it up again at the proffered expense of another state department, seems to demonstrate beyond debate the need and efficiency of the Board of Visitors' work.

During the past fiscal year, which chronicled the re-establishment of the appropriation for the Board, we have enjoyed thorough and most helpful co-operation with the State Board of Control. In the work of inspecting the state institutions, this co-operation is absolutely essential. Our Board is a very material humanitarian aid for all state institutions. Without Board of Control co-operation, the Board of Visitors would be materially hampered in bringing about any betterment, as it has no power to enforce its recommendations—merely authority to suggest to those who are in charge of the respective institutions. In appreciation of the prompt action by the Board of Control on all reports submitted by the Board of Visitors, the Executive Secretary of the Board of Visitors was authorized to write the Board of Control under date of August 16th, 1916, as follows:

St. Paul, July 29, 1916.

Hon. C. J. Swendsen, Chairman,

State Board of Control,

The Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: At the annual meeting of the Board of Visitors a few days ago, I was instructed by resolution to write to your honorable board and extend the thanks and appreciation of the Board of Visitors for the co-operation we have enjoyed with you, and for the detailed replies from you relative to our reports filed with your Board. Our Board does its inspections have met with your approval and have been of some aid to you. We are certain your detailed responses have been of material assistance to us.

I am instructed to say the Board of Visitors was especially interested in your letter explaining the betterments to be made at the St. Peter Institution for Dangerous Insane, which even go beyond the Board's list of suggestions. We would also be interested to know if your Board believes construction of peep-holes in the doors of patients' individual rooms would be any material advantage.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) J. C. MATCHITT,

Executive Secretary.

To the above letter the following reply was received:

St. Paul, August 8, 1916.

W. A. Nolan, President,

State Board of Visitors,

St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 29th, addressed to the chairman of this Board by your executive secretary, in which he, on behalf of your Board, expressed appreciation for the co-operation rendered by this Board.

We desire to thank you for this letter and we want to assure you that we also appreciate the splendid co-operation your Board has shown, which we feel has all been for the best interests of the State and its institutions. The Board of Visitors, as well as the Board of Control, must always have—and we think they do have—one object in view; namely, greatest efficiency combined with most humane methods of caring for the unfortunate of the state.

You ask if we are in favor of so-called peep-holes in the doors of patients' individual rooms in the Hospital for the Criminal Insane. This Board has decided to put in such peep-holes. They will be made of very heavy glass, 2 1/2 or 3 inches in diameter.

Very truly yours,

STATE BOARD OF CONTROL.

By C. J. SWENDSEN, Chairman.

(Signed)

The Board of Visitors never announces prospective visits to any institution. The first intimation the superintendent and officers of an institution have of the Board's intentions is the arrival at such institution of the Board members. Nor is the inspection made a mere visit. Every department in every building is thoroughly inspected from cellar to garret, complete notice taken of all conditions. In the supply rooms especially careful examination is made of all foods such as dried fruits, flours, meats and edibles of all sorts. Inspection is also made as to the cooking and preparation of all foods, efficiency and sufficiency of the service at the tables. Notation is made as to cleanliness and sanitary conditions in all buildings. We try to carefully investigate the treatment received by all institution inmates from a humanitarian viewpoint, how they are housed, clothed and cared for. Tidiness, personal appearance and general characteristics of employees have been noted. The institution inmates have been questioned on each visit as to all their surrounding conditions and have been told to speak frankly if they had any just complaint to register, with assurance that such would be thoroughly investigated. In brief, the Board has endeavored to do its work in a fair-minded and unbiased manner.

All reports of inspections, under the law, governing the Board of Visitors are made directly to the Governor. Copies, however, of each report are also sent to the Board of Control (where it is a state institution or the board in charge of such institution), the superintendent, each member of the Board of Visitors, and a copy filed in the Board of Visitors' records in the Old State Capitol. Most of our work naturally pertains to state institutions and we are very glad to say prompt reply is made by the State Board of Control, with statement of their intended action relative to our recommendations and criticisms.

We take great pleasure in stating that in our belief Minnesota state institutions, although always in the lead as compared with most other states, during the past year, have been in better condition in every way than ever before.

There is no Board of Charities and Corrections now existing in Minnesota. The Board of Visitors, therefore, feels there is a great field for its work in public institutions along humanitarian lines. The need of a Board of Visitors in state institutional inspection alone is sufficient reason for its existence and liberal support.

The vast burden of business detail upon the shoulders of the Board of Control practically prohibits the members from making frequent and thorough inspection along humanitarian lines of state institutions.

Under the Board of Control system, each institution superintendent is held directly responsible for his institution; he hires and discharges all institutional employees and has to a large degree, dictatorial powers in his local domain. There is no direct connection with the institutional employee or inmate except through the superintendent. Under this system, the employee or inmate must report or complain first 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 detailed investigation to one and all complaints in the various institutions. Not only are the rights of the thousands within our state institutions safeguarded by the Board of Visitors, but complaints which should be given heed might never be heard and many humanitarian betterments noted and recommended by the Board of Visitors might otherwise never be brought to light. The Board of Visitors also has the larger humanitarian opportunity of looking after the welfare of the many state wards so unfortunate as not to be able to make any form of complaint.

The history of Minnesota institutional life of the past few years has also demonstrated beyond question the real and practical value of the Board of Visitors' system whereby superintendents and institution officers have to be prepared any and every day for a careful and detailed inspection of their institution.

The Board of Visitors furnishes the Governor with an independent and impartial means of speedy investigation of all complaints relating to public institutions, as well as keeping him in constant touch with the details and existing conditions of state institutional life. By law—

"The Governor may at any time in his discretion, order an investigation by the State Board of Visitors or by a committee therefrom of any penal or charitable institution in the State."

Such investigations involve tedious detail and a large amount of work. For this reason the Governor must assign such work to others. Before the establishment of the Board of Visitors, such investigations were conducted by the board of management of the respective institutions in question.

It is manifestly unfair to any issue involved to have a complaint investigated by the individual or individuals who would be subject to adverse criticism by unbiased facts being brought to light.

On the other hand, an investigation of a complaint under above conditions, even where a favorable report is justly made, is subject to more or less public criticism as a possible "white-wash." Absolute independence by those investigating any complaint is the greatest guarantee of real justice and public satisfaction. Thus the Board of Visitors has a vitally important place in public institutional life of Minnesota, guaranteeing justice and fair treatment in all the institutions of the state.

Since the re-establishment of the appropriation for the State Board of Visitors, James C. Mitchell of St. Paul has been continued as executive secretary at a salary of Eighteen Hundred (\$1,800.00) Dollars per year, but in the interests of economy, the position of office clerk and stenographer has been at least temporarily abolished. The members of the Board of Visitors are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms, two members being named every two years. The Board is non-partisan and the members serve without compensation, giving their time gratuitously to the state, having only their traveling expenses paid. The present Board is made up as follows:

W. A. Nolan, Grand Meadow, President. Term expires first Monday in January, 1919.

Swan J. Turnbull, Minneapolis, Vice-President. Term expires first Monday in January, 1917.

J. R. Swann, Madison. Term expires first Monday in January, 1917.

Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson, St. Paul. Term expires first Monday in January, 1919.

A. W. Milton, Browns Valley. Term expires first Monday in January, 1921.

Rev. E. J. Nyström, Buffalo. Term expires first Monday in January, 1921.

Governor J. A. A. Burnquist is a member ex-officio.

STATE AGENCY CONSOLIDATIONS SUGGESTED.

Merely in a suggestive way, the State Board of Visitors under date of August 24, 1916, addressed a communication to the State Board of Control proposing a consolidation of state institution field forces. The communication was not a recommendation, but merely a general proposition that was thought by this Board worthy of consideration.

There is no belief by the Board of Visitors that the present field forces of the respective state institutions are not fully efficient. It was merely an idea that the same results might possibly be obtained for the state with less expense and possibly equal efficiency.

The letter to the State Board of Control is as follows:

August 24, 1916.

Hon. C. J. Swendsen, Chairman.

State Board of Control,

The Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: The State Board of Visitors would like to submit the following general proposition for the consideration of yourself and associate members of the Board of Control:

The State Public School at Owatonna, the Reformatory, the State Training School for Boys at Red Wing, the Home for Girls at Sauk Centre, the State Prison at Stillwater, all have agency field forces for special work covering the entire state. It might be possible that in the same county each of these four institutions might have an agent on the same day, causing four independent sets of expenses for state institutions in practically the same place. Economy and efficiency is a demand in state government and operation at the present time. Would it be practical to so combine these institutional field forces into one, that each individual within his or her respective special district, could do all the work for all these institutions? Or would it be practical to combine the field forces of two or more state

institutions, if it is not thought best to unite them all? Would such a uniting, in your opinion, be too great a loss in efficiency to be considered for state economy's sake? Do the individual institutions require too much specializing in their individual work to consider any consolidation?

May we also trouble you with one further proposition? In some of our institutions for the insane there seems always to be a shortage of help, and a complaint as to inefficiency of those who can be secured; that many of them seem to belong to the "institutional tramp" class, i. e., wander from one institution to another without desire to hold a position long, possibly only until the first monthly pay day arrives. Would it therefore be well to have a central bureau or office in St. Paul where a card record might be kept of all employees, their work, remuneration, length of employment, reason for discharge or leaving, character and efficiency, etc.; that employees might be engaged through this bureau when not to be had in the local field, and that when help is hired at the institution, it be at once reported to the bureau for record and to see if such help has been engaged in any other Minnesota institution; if so, the reason for the change, etc.

We have been told that it is not uncommon for attendants for the insane, discharged at one state institution for cause, to wander to another and because of need of help, get employment immediately again with the state.

We respectfully submit the above merely in a suggestive way, realizing these matters need thought and study and that no change should be made that would be detrimental to our institutions.

Respectfully yours,

W. A. NOLAN, President.

The State Board of Control reply is as follows:

St. Paul, September 6, 1916.

Hon. W. A. Nolan, President.

State Board of Visitors.

St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: We beg to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter, which should have been answered before, but we have been very busy and we hope you will overlook the delay.

Regarding the question you bring up with reference to combining the state agencies of the State Public School, the State Training School for Boys, the Home School for Girls, and the State Prison, wish to say that this matter has been considered for years by the State Board of Control and has been discussed in the quarterly meetings, but for several reasons no action has been taken. On the face of it, the work of the field agents may be construed as duplications, but when we consider the number of people who must be looked after, the state would have to employ the same number of agents as are now employed: besides, a supervisor who would have to be placed at the head of the organization, which would be more expensive than the present plan; hence no economy.

As to the efficiency, it would hardly be expected that a person who knows how to handle a prisoner on parole would be qualified to look after a delinquent child, and vice versa. Each institution requires a great deal of special work, and in order to get the best results in efficiency, men and women who by education, training and natural inclination, are adapted for such special work as each institution may demand, must be obtained. However, some consolidation could possibly be made at some of the institutions, but in the opinion of the Board the time is not yet ripe for such a move. We will suggest to the program committee that they have this question discussed at a quarterly meeting in the near future, at which meeting we hope to have you present.

Regarding the second question which you raise relative to the establishment of a central state employment bureau for the employment of nurses and attendants at the institutions for the insane, this has also been considered by the State Board of Control time and again. Dr. Welch, as you

perhaps are well aware, is very much in favor of such a bureau, but this Board is not convinced that it will be practical or economical. The hospitals frequently advertise in the local papers for attendants, and their experience is that the best attendants come from the rural districts. They may not be highly educated, but as a rule their hearts are usually right, and if they can be induced to enter the nurses' training school and finally graduate, they make the best nurses we can obtain anywhere.

Every institution keeps a record of discharges and resignations, giving reasons therefor, length of service, etc., and if the superintendents of the institutions for the insane submit lists of the discharge and resignation of employees to each other monthly, there could be no possible chance of one institution hiring an unworthy man or woman who has worked in one of our state institutions.

We shall be very glad to discuss these and other questions which your Board may at any time choose to suggest. As stated above, the most opportune time would be at some of the quarterly conferences.

Very truly yours,

STATE BOARD OF CONTROL.

By C. J. SWENDSEN, Chairman.

(Signed)

STATEMENT MADE TO ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.

The State Economy and Efficiency Commission requested a statement from the State Board of Visitors as to its work, the need thereof, and any suggestions the Board had to offer the commission. Under date of October 17, 1915, a reply was given the commission. As the statements therein are pertinent now as then, explaining the actual work of the Board, the scope and need thereof, the communication is herewith given the legislature and the public:

St. Paul, Minn., October 17, 1915.

To the State Economy and Efficiency Commission.

The Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

Gentlemen: In response to your recent request the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions would submit the following:

There are three questions of material interest to your Honorable Body in connection with every state department.

First.—Is it necessary, or should it be eliminated?

Second.—If needed, is it economically operated?

Third.—Is it efficient?

First.—That the state should assume humanitarian supervision of all those in public institutions is a proposition that appeals to one and all without debate. Whether such supervision is continued through a Board of Visitors or a like department under some other name is immaterial with the primary need of the continuation of such department. It is generally believed our Board confines its operations to state institutions, but this is not so. Although inspection of state institutions takes up a great part of our time, we are authorized not only to visit state, but under the law, all public institutions, and to study into sociological matters. For instance, through the inspection work of our Board a private asylum in Minneapolis was exposed and closed. Therein patients were held without legal commitment, indefinitely; padlocked in separate rooms at night in a building that was a fire-trap. In a secular institution for unfortunate girls we found a large number locked in a third floor apartment at night, with screened windows that could hardly be forced, in a building that was a fire-trap; an iron door at the fire escape padlocked, and one woman found secreting the key. These are but instances of numerous cases where inspections were, and are necessary. In both of these and like cases the Board of Visitors

anxious the sole state inspection. Just as an example of social matters in which our Board is effective, might be cited the matter of public dance halls. We made a careful investigation of these, bringing to light conditions that were surprising. In the Twin Cities, we found cases where connecting passages led to actual dens of immorality. We not only called these to the attention of the local authorities, but the law now on the statute books for safe regulation of public dance halls was drawn almost verbatim from the recommendations on the subject in our report to the legislature of 1913.

As to state institutions, that the work of a Board of Visitors should be continued seems self evident from the freely admitted facts by the Board of Control that because of their heavy detail work, it is a physical impossibility for them to make frequent careful visits to, and inspections of, state institutions. It is either a case of continuing the Board of Visitors' work, or practically abandonment of the so-much-needed inspections of our state institutions.

What do our inspections amount to? We believe our work would be much more appreciated if the answer to this question were generally understood. The name of our board is possibly unfortunate. We do not make mere "visits." To begin with, we never announce our coming. The first an institution knows of us is when we enter the doors. Nor are our trips made at any stated times. We believe in this method, lies much importance. An institution not knowing when to expect us, is compelled to be constantly in shape to pass an inspection, or stand the consequences. As to the inspection work, in each case we visit every apartment from cellar to garret. Food and supplies are carefully examined and tested. Both inmates and employees are carefully noted and interviewed. Beds in all dormitories are frequently taken apart with a view to examination of bedding, mattresses, and springs. We have been the cause of unearthing vermin in many a ward of an institution where the superintendent and even the employees did not know they existed, but where the patients or inmates suffered accordingly, nevertheless. And in our work with state institutions, we wish to here express our appreciation of the thorough and apparently appreciative aid received from every member of the present State Board of Control. Where anything is wrong, the Board of Control desires to know it and right it. A very important factor in essentially effective work, such as the State Board of Visitors accomplishes, is that such work should be done by an unhampered, free and independent corps of inspectors. It must be uninfluenced and unhampered. It should have no connection with the institution inspected or controlling power over that institution. This alone guarantees continued impartiality and independent thoroughness; and lack of this freedom in our opinion was the great fault of the plan proposed in the report of the last Economy and Efficiency Commission to the recent legislature wherein the Board of Visitors' work was included as a minor consideration in the department of Public Welfare. In other words, it permitted the department to inspect and approve of itself so far as its management of state institutions would have been concerned. Such a condition cannot appeal to any fair mind. Visitation and inspection of institutions should be unhampered by any affiliation with other state institutional departments, in the interests of all fairness and justice to the thousands of the state's unfortunate wards—all the more because of their afflictions and troubles and inability to speak for themselves or make their complaints generally known. They should be guaranteed a square deal. The State Board of Control does its best to give all this square deal; but the Board of Visitors creates the guarantee—which the Board of Control is apparently glad to have.

We could go on at unlimited length in citing instances to prove how our inspections are needed and what betterments are accordingly effected, but to do so here we feel would be burdensome. Our Board would be very glad to be represented before your honorable body if you desire to ask questions or receive further information.

Second.—Is the Board of Visitors economically operated?

We are recollecting an appropriation of \$5,000 a year. In order to operate at the very lowest cost we have eliminated the position of stenographer and clerk, and all the work is done by the one employee, the executive secretary, who receives a salary of \$1,800 a year, giving the Board's duties his full time and occupying an office at the Old Capitol when not away on inspections with Board members. The Board members themselves receive no salary or per diem. They are men of standing, of means, of success in business, and rebate in their respective communities. They devote their time freely to the state and receive only their actual travelling expenses. This, we believe, to be "ground floor economy," as on every trip, the members find they spend more money in expenses than they ask the state to repay. One member who has served a number of years, has never yet put in an expense bill of any sort to the state.

Third.—Is it efficient?

As may be judged from the above, we believe we have done our duty to the best of our ability. Let us quote as an instance of what others think, a letter written our Board under date of September 14 last by the late Governor Hannum. He wrote:

"I beg to acknowledge the report of inspections made at the State Public School at Owatonna and the State Hospital for the Insane at St. Peter. I am very glad indeed to note the improved conditions at St. Peter, apparently brought about by the result of your first inspection."

That the Board of Control seems to think the Board of Visitors' recommendations worth while, seems demonstrated by the following extracts from a letter written September 15 last by Chairman C. J. Swendsen:

"... this Board used extraordinary efforts connected with considerable expense to comply with the recommendations of the Board of Visitors."

"We acknowledge your assurance of co-operation and this Board certainly will reciprocate as far as possible in endeavoring to pay attention to such suggestions as your honorable board may give."

"Sincerely yours,

"STATE BOARD OF CONTROL,

"By C. J. SWENDSEN, Chairman."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) W. A. NOLAN, President,

For State Board of Visitors.

FINANCIAL.

The schedule submitted in the Governor for our next biennial period asks for the same appropriation we have at present, viz., \$5,000.00 a year and \$10,000.00 for the two years. This is divided into the following estimated budget:

Salary schedule.....	\$2,150.00
Supplies	275.00
Traveling expenses.....	2,250.00
Postage	75.00
Miscellaneous	250.00

Total

Under the head of "Remarks," is the following statement:

Salaries. Ever since the inauguration of the Board of Visitors, the Executive Secretary has received a salary of \$1,300 a year. He was formerly allowed a permanent clerk and stenographer at \$780 a year. This latter position has been abolished for economy's sake, and the Executive Secretary now does most of his own typewriting, as well as keeping of the records and files, but in the writing of some lengthy reports, and especially when it is necessary to take testimony at official investigations, the Board feels the actual necessity of employing a stenographer. During the past year we have been able to secure the taking of testimony when needed at a very low figure.

Traveling Expenses. The past fiscal year (ending July 31, 1916), the traveling expenses of the Board were \$1,768.41, but in the budget for the following year this item is increased to an estimated expenditure of \$2,250. This is taking into consideration the fact that one of our Board members, Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson, has been (and still is at this date) serving with the troops at the Texas border as chaplain of the First Minnesota Infantry. He will be with us the coming fiscal year—in fact, we have received word he will be home about the first of March. He is a faithful worker in Board of Visitors matters, and his expenses for the beginning of the new year on must be taken into account; hence this estimated increase is very conservative.

Balance. It will be noted our Board has a balance at the close of the year ending July 31, 1916, of a little over \$500. This we have saved through foresight to take care of the bill the following (this) fiscal year for the printing of our biennial report which will be quite an item of unknown size at this writing. We also plan to be more active than ever before, and do much more traveling.

Members Unremunerated. It will be further noted, the members of the Board of Visitors receive no remuneration, either in salaries or per diem, nor do they ask for personal reward; merely actual traveling expenses and because of interest in the work in hand, are glad to donate their services to the state. The Board of Visitors merely asks for renewal of its previous appropriation of \$5,000 a year, all of which is needed for cost of operation on a careful, economical basis.

INDUSTRIAL AND AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS NEEDED FOR THE INSANE.

A combination amusement and industrial building is needed at every one of the state institutions for the insane. The state's duty to these wards is not merely to see that they get enough to eat, clothing, medical attention, and a place to sleep. The insane to a large degree are able to appreciate all those things which go toward the brightening of the lives of the mentally balanced. Under present conditions, especially in winter, when there is no farm work, their life is one monotonous round. They arise at a certain hour, eat breakfast and return to their respective wards. There they wait with practically nothing to do until the dinner hour. After dinner comes the long hours of the afternoon, a weary wait until supper, perhaps broken with a short outdoor walk. This is the program, day after day, year after year.

The general public to a large degree has the idea that the interior of an institution for the insane is a place of continual uproar and noise, with nearly all the patients in violent action. The true condition is nearly the opposite. The percentage of violent patients is very small. And but few are noisy. A ward in a hospital or asylum for the insane is frequently depressingly quiet. The patients sit around in chairs, some of them hardly moving for hours at a time. They seem largely resigned to their sad lot, and it is doubtless due to their befuddled mental condition that they take the tedious monotony of their lives as quietly as they do—certainly vastly more so than would a like number of sane people so confined and with no way of occupying their time.

There is nothing in the world so dreary as to be shut up the greater part of every day in the year with nothing to do. Such a condition of affairs, year in and year out, would make a nervous wreck of a sane person and eventually drive many to insanity. Why let this be the lot of the insane? Why shouldn't the great, rich state of Minnesota give greater means of occupation and entertainment to its unfortunate wards? Such proposed action by the state is not a charity, but it is a humanitarian duty.

The insane appreciate entertainment, and they are not half as particular as to its quality or even quantity as are their more fortunate brothers and sisters. This is fully demonstrated by the occasional entertainments given for them in the hospital halls. These are a step in the right direction, but only a step.

A delegation of the Board of Visitors visited the State Hospital for the Insane at Cleveland. In connection with the institution is a separate building devoted to industrial work and training, and amusement. The first floor contains bowling alleys, billiard and pool tables, and other games and amusements. It also has a little store (run by a couple of patients who make it a success financially and otherwise), where soft drinks, candies, cigars and tobaccos, notions, etc., are sold. It is the club room of the institution. It gives patients an attractive place to go, a place to pleasantly pass the long hours, and make life worth living instead of a despairingly monotonous period of confinement. It tends to actually aid in the cure of their mental difficulties.

The second floor of this building is devoted to industrial work and training for women. It is in charge of a competent teacher with such assistants as she needs. Industrial teachers for the insane are hard to get, says some one. Admittedly yes, but the Cleveland hospital solved the problem by sending a bright nurse to Chicago and paying her expenses in taking a special course of instruction along these lines. It cost but a few hundred dollars—and think of the good that is resulting.

Some one may raise the question that amusement and industrial work can only be taken up by part of the patients, that some are in such a condition that they cannot participate in either amusement or work. This is true, yet remember this important point: that the class who cannot, are those so greatly affected mentally that they fail to appreciate their surroundings, their own condition, and the monotony of their lives. Those who are able to participate in industrial occupations and amusements are those who to a large degree appreciate their unfortunate condition, and greatly need diversion.

don't therefore. It means a great deal to them. There are even nuns among this class who would be paroled from institutions if they had a place to go where the institution management would feel they had proper homes and care.

It is pathetic to go through one of our institutions for the insane and to always be greeted by a large number pleading with tears in their eyes for aid in getting paroled. On such occasions the question forces itself: "Why doesn't the state do something to break the monotony of this institutional life?" And the answer undoubtedly is that the legislature, not seeing the actual conditions, fails to realize the great need along this line. The need is there, and we sincerely hope that an appropriation may be made by this legislature of 1917 for the erection at each of the three state hospitals and each of the two state asylums of a combination amusement and industrial building, with sufficient funds to permit the efficient operation thereof.

In making this recommendation we do not forget that some industrial work is being done at the state hospitals, and that occasional entertainments are given for the patients. But this work is comparatively in its infancy, and is ill provided for.

TRANSPORTATION NURSES NEEDED.

We wish to repeat a recommendation made in previous biennial reports for the establishment of a corps of state transportation nurses, whose special duty shall be to transport insane patients from their places of commitment to the respective state hospitals to which they are committed.

Under the existing antiquated law, the transportation of insane patients is entirely in charge of the county sheriff. This is in accordance with the ancient day idea that an insane person should be classed as a criminal. That insanity is a crime, instead of an unavoidable and pitiable affliction.

No one would for a moment think of placing a patient suffering with tuberculosis or any other disease, in the care of a sheriff or his deputy, to be taken from home to a hospital.

And no more should the transportation of the insane by a sheriff be tolerated. A sick patient, whether mentally or otherwise ill, needs a nurse, not an officer of the law. It is no crime to be sick, and no individual mentally sick should be treated as a criminal. 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 average insane patient may not need the special care of the average sick person, but of the two the insane patient needs the more careful watching and the greater skill in handling. What the average, even well meaning, sheriff doesn't know about the proper care and handling of the insane would fill a large book. And what he does know on this subject he can generally tell without opening his mouth. Nor is this a reflection on the average sheriff. His line is the care and custody of criminals, not the mentally ill.

As long as the sheriff remains the transporting custodian of the insane, just so long will the wrongful taint of crime be associated with the mentally unbalanced, and like a felon, will the insane patient be transported from court to hospital, frequently with limbs strapped and ironed.

Tough treatment and mechanical restraint of a patient is frequently not a matter of necessity. 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; and in unfortunate addition, has absolutely no training or knowledge of how to handle an insane patient.

The Board of Visitors herewith recommends there be established a corps of transportation nurses as needed, distributed among the three hospitals for insane, at Pergus Mills, 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 female insane.

This proposed change will doubtless be opposed by the sheriffs of the state. And the reason is that it would cut out a source of revenue in fees. We challenge anyone to give any other reason why the change should not be made. It might as well be argued that capital punishment should be re-established on the sole ground that its abolition has cut the sheriff out of a fee of \$200 for each hanging. These are days of progress. Let us be progressive.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE AND COMMITMENTS THERETO.

We believe the state altogether too lax in its supervision of, and requirements for, private hospitals for the insane. Not only have we found buildings used for this purpose which are unfit and unsafe for the use to which they were put, but insane patients committed to all private hospitals may be confined solely by authority of friends or relatives. This is wrong. We do not charge that this loose method has led to illegal confinement of individuals who are not insane, but we do charge that the system is open at any time to such serious abuse.

We recommend that the use be prohibited of any and all buildings of frame exterior or interior construction as private hospitals for the care and treatment of the insane. That unless a building be of fireproof construction, that the state prohibit the locking of patients in their respective rooms at night by the use of padlocks, ordinary door locks, or any form of door fastenings requiring a key to manipulate. That the only form of door fastenings permitted be exterior bolts which may be easily operated from outside the respective rooms.

That no insane or alleged insane person be confined in any private institution without first being examined by at least three physicians in said patient's county of residence, and that said patient may only be so confined in a private institution when all three physicians give their unanimous opinion in writing that the patient is insane, and file such written and signed opinion with the probate judge of such county.

YOUTH OF THE STREETS.

The law establishing the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions provides the Board "shall study the whole subject of the care and management of charitable and correctional institutions"—It seems accordingly meet and proper to consider some of the prominent causes of delinquency which help to fill such institutions.

The strenuousness and the constant temptations ever connected with city life have a lamentable effect on the youth of every city. The cheap pool room, the improperly-run public dance hall, the nickel and dime theater, these and many other things are evening attractions which tend to keep children away from their homes nights, where they belong, and take them into the business centers of the cities at late hours. Where the home control is lax, the youth of the city, both boys and girls, are yielding to the temptation by the hundred and spending night hours "down town." Where they have not the small change to get admission to places of entertainment, they parade the streets where they are open to many temptations and evil influences. That this is sadly true no one who has made any pretense of investigation will attempt to deny. Would that it were otherwise. The school authorities know of it in cases of truancy and failure of boy and girl students who are capable mentally of doing good work. The juvenile courts are aware of it through scores of boys and girls who are arraigned. Church and social workers know it, for wayward young people constantly add weight to the troubles these kindly people seek to alleviate. And the worst phase of the whole thing is, that from force of circumstances the work of betterment is being aimed at a cure, rather than prevention, of this social complaint. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

The place for boys and girls at night is the home, and not the public street. In this we may be considered Puritanical; yet we believe we are absolutely right and that it is time to call a halt. And strange to say, it is the small town in Minnesota, rather than the larger cities, which have come to this realization, and where in many places curfew ordinances are in effect with excellent results.

Minneapolis and St. Paul, the two largest cities in the state, are in most need of an enforced state curfew law. A half hour spent walking along the principal business streets of either of these cities when the evening is well advanced will show how scores of the city youth are spending their time. And it will surprise many to know that the number of girls will greatly exceed that of the young boys.

And in most instances their personal appearance and make-up will tell the story of their waywardness. In their behalf especially, and for public good generally, we hereby recommend the passage by the legislature of a state curfew law, prohibiting either girls or boys under 16 years of age from being on the public streets of any city in the state after 9 p. m. unaccompanied by an adult.

Violation of this law should be made a misdemeanor for the parent or guardian as well as the offending minor; and if such parent or guardian pleads inability to control the child, such child should be placed under court probation and eventually given into other and more efficient custody if the discretion of the court finds such drastic action necessary.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES A REQUIREMENT FOR MARRIAGE.

We again recommend the enactment of a state law requiring a physician's certificate of health to be presented by both contracting parties to the minister, priest, or other person who is to perform the ceremony, and that it be punishable by a fine of \$10 to \$50 for any such person to marry a couple who fail to present such a certificate, or to marry any couple if such certificate does not state in each case that each individual is free from all forms of contagious or infectious disease including consumption, is not and never has been declared insane or feeble-minded, or of imbecile or paternal insane or feeble-minded parentage, and has never served more than one term in any prison.

Marriage of the physically and mentally unfit, has done much toward bringing crime and suffering into the world. Its abolition is not a fad of overcritical fanatics, but a long-felt need which has been scientifically demonstrated. Proper selection has been long practiced in the breeding and betterment of all kinds of live stock, but is ridiculed without reason for the human race. It is unquestionably true there are thousands of criminals, insane, and pitifully diseased persons in the world today who would not have been born if such a law had applied. It is lack of public knowledge of amazing facts that causes any ridicule. A trite example of the terrible results of not limiting the marriage and breeding of the morally and physically unfit, is the history of the famous "Juke family" of eastern New York. From a single notorious couple, the mother being known in scientific annals as "Margaret, the mother of criminals," 1200 descendants have been traced. Of these nearly 1,000 have been criminals, prostitutes, paupers, or insane. These degenerates cost the state of New York \$1,500,000; a heavy price indeed for permitting the union of "Margaret, the mother of criminals," and her equally bad husband.

Lydstom, in his "Diseases of Society," says:

"Rev. O. McCullough has traced the life histories of 1,750 degenerate, criminal and pauper descendants of one 'Ben Ishmael,' who lived in Kentucky in 1790. Among this brood of criminals and paupers there were 121 prostitutes.

"The Rev. Dr. Stocker of Berlin, traced 834 descendants of two sisters who died in 1825. Among them were 76 who had served 116 years in prison, 164 prostitutes, 106 illegitimate children, 17 plunks, 142 beggars, and 64 paupers.

"It has been estimated by Siehart, director of prisoners in Wurtemberg, that over 25 per cent of the German prison population comes from a degenerate ancestry. Vergilla claims 32 per cent for Italian criminals."

This is the reliable testimony relative to unfit ancestry. It doesn't seem necessary for us to here enter into any argument to sustain the well known fact that those afflicted with certain severe diseases, hereditary, and often mentally and morally defective children.

The securing of the proposed certificate of health as a requirement for marriage should appeal to people who reason. Nor should it be repulsive to the contracting parties.

We believe the adoption of such a law would be a great step in advance for future betterment of the human race.

In this connection it is most interesting to note the sad result in our own state of permitting marriages of the unfit. The information at hand is but fractional revelation of the lamentable truth, yet beyond dispute in accuracy and the important result so far of the work of the new State Department of Psychological Research. On our request, the late Dr. A. C. Rogers, superintendent of the School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics, summed up the work of the new department (which started its endeavors at his institution), in part, by saying:

"There is a well-founded belief at the present time upon the part of those who have given the matter close attention that over 50 per cent of the cases of feeble-mindedness are the result of hereditary influences.

"It is the purpose of determining if possible the larger sources of defectiveness from hereditarily that special studies of family histories were taken up under the Department of Research at our institution.

"This is done by trained investigators who confer with parents, relatives and attendants, of inmates of the institution, and thus secure data for preparing family histories, such data being treated as confidential material, the scientific deductions alone being given publicly.

"From October 1, 1911, to August 15, 1912, there had been more or less complete studies made of 65 families, representing 99 inmates of this institution. In these there have been found among the 4,755 individuals involved, 284 feeble-minded, or an average of 4.37 to each family; 50 epileptics, 61 insane, 22n alcoholics, 83 migrainous, 9 paralytic or apoplectic, and 11 syphilitic; 300 died in infancy, 124 died while young; then there were histories given of 85 miscarriages and 7 still births. One hundred and five were sex offenders, 22 showed marked criminalistic tendencies. There were 21 tubercular cases, 11 blind, 11 deaf, 3 trans and 4 suicides. There were only 352, or 17.3 per cent, known to be normal, though there were 2,275 individuals whose status was yet to be investigated.

"It is not our purpose to make hasty deductions from data obtained in our field work, but so far as it has progressed, our study confirms that of Goddard and other investigators that in a general way feeble-minded matings produce feeble-minded progeny and that there are families in which there is a defective strain in the blood so that almost any member of such a family mating with a member of a corresponding defective strain, even though the individuals may be normal, are very liable to produce some progeny who are defective."

PLACING OUT OF CHILDREN BY PRIVATE AND SEMI-PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The Board of Visitors is firmly of the belief that it is the duty of the State to care for all dependent children, at least until they are found good homes. Unquestionably the best home finding institution in Minnesota is the State Public School at Owatonna, which has been under the able and kindly management of Mr. Galen A. Merrill ever since its establishment in 1887.

There has been a semi-public knowledge that for many years, especially in the two large cities of the state—St. Paul and Minneapolis—so-called baby-farms have been in existence. Not only has it been frequently demonstrated

in court that these places were improperly managed, but also that infants have been improperly fed and cared for and that many have actually died from mistreatment and cruelty. It is also a demonstrated fact that infants have been sent out for private adoption by these places into unfit homes. The legislature cannot do a greater duty nor a more humanitarian act than to pass a law requiring strict state supervision, licensing the constant inspection of all institutions and places where infants as well as older children are cared for. There should be created a severe penalty for placing out children without approval of a state agent. The penalty for such violation should apply not only to those in management of such institutions and places, but also to those receiving children in homes which have not been properly investigated and approved by state agents. We believe the legislature should increase the field force of the State Public School at Owatonna to such number as is found actually necessary by the State Public School Superintendent to carry on this inspection work in a thorough and efficient manner.

EMPLOYEES OF OUR STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Employment in many of our state institutions is a matter of such long hours and unpleasant work that in certain departments it is a growing problem how to secure the amount of help needed.

Employment in any specific line of work in our state institutions should be recognized by the state in a remuneration equal to that which the individual could earn in the same line of work outside of an institution, taking into consideration, of course, the fact that room and board is generally supplied each employee. We are of the opinion that in some lines of work, state institutional salaries should be increased in all fairness to employees. For instance, a seamstress in our state institutions receives but fifteen or sixteen dollars per month and averages ten to twelve hours a day. We also recognize in this connection, that the cost of maintenance has vastly increased in practically all institutional lines and that to increase salaries of employees who are not now adequately paid, must mean a material appropriation therefor by the legislature.

It is perhaps well to here call attention to the fact that for some years there has been a Minnesota law requiring that employees working for contractors on all state buildings must operate not to exceed an eight hour a day schedule. Some time ago the Board of Visitors secured an opinion from the attorney general to the effect that this law had no relation whatever to employees of state institutions, but it does not seem consistent for the state to demand that contractors constructing state buildings work their men not to exceed eight hours a day when the state in direct employment of labor within certain institutions requires a day in some cases, of almost twice eight hours. We realize that an eight-hour day for state employees in our institutions is not a new idea and that it is one, if adopted, which will create thousands of dollars additional expense, but we believe it is to be ultimately desired and will not only when it comes, be greatly appreciated by the employees themselves, but will reflect its benefits in better and more humanitarian care of the state's thousands of custodial wards.

In concluding this subject, let us repeat a statement made to the coroner's jury and Board of Visitors at a State Hospital for the Insane several years ago by the late Dr. Tomlinson, then superintendent of the St. Peter Institution. At an investigation of the death of one of the patients whose body showed many bruises and injuries. Dr. Tomlinson said (and we heartily indorse his words):

"I have preached for years that nurses' and attendants' hours are too long; with the number of patients in some wards, with but three or four attendants, it is a physical impossibility to give them attention. I have reported it; it has been called before the quarterly meetings of the Board of Control and Institution superintendents; and whenever opportunity offered, I have spoken of it and I made a report to the legislature, where I recommended the eight-hour shift.

"The insane patients require careful supervision, and a great many of them, constant watching, to prevent them from harming themselves; and when such work is placed in the hands of men from eighteen to twenty years of age as it is, with but three or four months' experience, the wonder is not that such things as we have been talking about (abuse and assault of patients) occur occasionally, but that they do not occur daily."

COUNTY TRUSTEE FOR INSANE.

In our visits to the various state institutions for the care of insane, we have come across a number of instances where patients at the time of their commitment, have had considerable property. In some cases this property consists of farms; in others, stocks of goods, and still others, various sums of money on deposit in the banks. We have occasionally had patients speak to us of their business affairs with various requests in regard to the same. There are doubtless many instances where those left in charge of such properties have taken, and still are taking, advantage of their positions. It is manifestly an unjust condition of affairs. Where the state asserts its right for good and sufficient reason to deprive an individual of his liberty and assume his custodial care, the state should also see that his property, which he is no longer in a condition to personally manage, is conserved and properly cared for during the patient's period of commitment.

We are aware there is already a law providing for appointment of a guardian for an insane person by the judge of probate. But the procedure is slow, and there is frequently heavy loss to the property of an insane patient between the time of his being declared insane, and the time a guardian is actually appointed and takes charge of the estate.

We would therefore recommend the enactment of a law providing for a county trustee for the insane in each county, to be under bond continually, and who shall assume temporary but immediate charge of estates of individuals who are insane as soon as so declared by the probate court; that such trustee shall have full charge of the property of insane patients but without power to transfer or dispose of same; and that such trustee shall turn individual properties over to the duly appointed guardians as soon as their bonds have been approved and they have duly qualified.

PER CAPITA COST SHOULD BE BORNE BY PATIENTS OF FINANCIAL ABILITY, OR BY COUNTY.

When a patient is committed in our state to one of the institutions for the insane, under the existing law, the state assumes the entire expense.

The greater number of insane patients under custodial care are unable to pay any part of their cost of maintenance, but there is a percentage of patients of more or less means who can well afford to pay a part of all of their share of the per capita cost. We believe in all justice that a law should be enacted providing that at the time of commitment, the Probate Court shall be authorized to issue an order that the estate of the prospective patient, or financially able relative upon whom such patient is properly dependent (husband or wife, brothers or sisters, or children), pay each year the per capita cost for keeping such patient in the state institution; or, such part as in the court's discretion it is believed they should and could pay. We believe the only exception to this rule should be where the patient has a family or other relatives who are direct dependents. In such event, the cost of the patient's maintenance should only be paid to the state where, in the discretion of the court, such payment can be afforded after the needs of the dependents have been provided.

Where the patient is unable to pay the expense of his maintenance, instead of such cost being met by general taxation throughout the state, we urge enactment of a law for county support of the insane, i.e., that the per capita cost of each patient be charged to, and collected from, the respective county each year from which such patient has been committed.

This method of supporting the insane in our institutions would be somewhat similar to the manner in which the cost of patients in the state sanatorium at Walkers is met. There they pay individually if able, or if not, the expense is paid by the respective counties from which patients come, through action by the county commissioners.

We believe this system of supporting the insane would not only be more fair and equitable, but would tend towards greater care in commitment of patients. County authorities would not be so willing to shift a patient to the state who is considered perhaps "just a little queer." Instead of supporting such individual through the county poor fund. Unscrupulous relatives would not be so anxious to turn the senile dementia cases over to the state, many of whose number should be cared for at home. Investigation of the records of the insane, especially the aged, frequently brings to light between the lines but none the less distinctly, the ingratitude of many individuals toward members of their own families, especially if there is a good farm or other attractive property involved.

The custodial care of the insane is annually becoming an increasingly heavy burden for the taxpayers of the state and we believe the above amendments to the existing laws are directly in line with the present existing demand for greater economy, as well as efficiency and justice in affairs of state.

STATE CONFERENCES ON CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

We would again repeat our recommendations relative to the state conferences on charities and corrections. This meeting has been held annually in Minnesota for ninety years past. Such a conference is encouraging to all workers and others interested in charities and correctional work—it is educational and helpful. Unfortunately, as a rule, those engaged along this line of work are frequently financially unable to afford the expense of attending the state conventions. It is perhaps for this reason the Minnesota conferences of late years at least, have been very poorly attended and have not therefore, been as helpful and successful as they should be. These conferences are for public social good along all lines and in no way promote any private or individual end. It would therefore seem that they are fully worthy of more material state and municipal support. At present the expense of the annual conference is met by a special appropriation of Five Hundred (\$500) Dollars a year to the State Board of Control. The cause is certainly a worthy one and if these annual conferences are hereafter to be carried out on a materially helpful scale there should be it seems to us a state appropriation of at least One Thousand (\$1,000) Dollars a year.

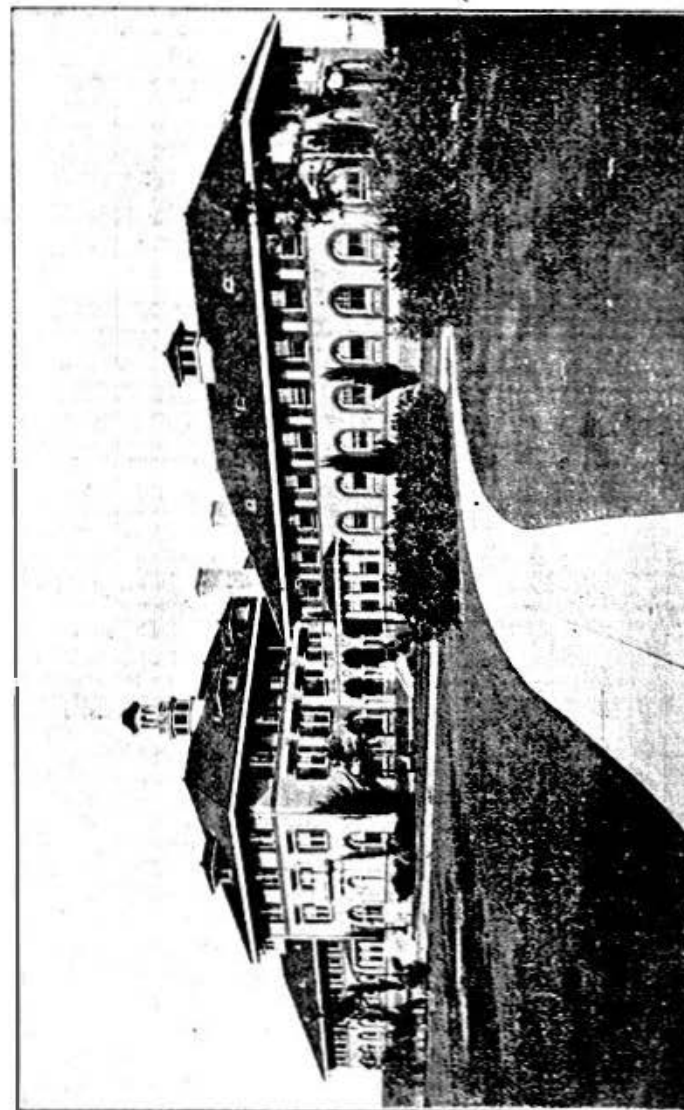
The County Commissioners hold their annual meeting with this conference. Their special sessions are held in a separate hall. It would seem to us advisable that instead of the general meetings of the various classifications of social workers who attend the conference, that it would be well to hold division meetings of those engaged in similar lines of work. Helpful divisions might be composed, for instance, of parole officers for one, state and municipal health officials for another, still another for superintendents of poor houses, one for probation officers, etc. Some of these classifications above named are probably not represented at this state conference, but if a special program for each class is announced, it would be a material attraction and a much larger attendance would doubtless be secured. We would recommend that county, city and other authorities make provision for the payment of the expenses of delegates from their respective localities. We would also again 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 state conference to represent the cities' various interested departments and that payment of the actual expenses of such delegates be made out of the respective funds of the municipalities. The state law at present authorizes the county commissioners to pay the expenses of their delegates to this conference and there is no reason why city authorities should not have the same right.

STATE INSTITUTION FOR INEBRIATES AT WILLMAR.

On our last visit to the State Hospital for Inebriates at Willmar there was a total of 123 patients, 111 men and 12 women.

This institution is beautifully located on the shores of a lake some two miles outside the city of Willmar. The buildings are architecturally attractive and modern throughout in every respect.

Dr. Freeman, the superintendent, reports that one-third of the patients sent there run away. The institution is operated as a hospital, without guards and without attempt to consider the patients as prisoners. They, therefore, have every opportunity to escape if they so desire.



MAIN BUILDING, STATE HOSPITAL FOR INEBRIATES, WILLMAR

It is supported by 2 per cent of the liquor license money collected throughout the state, and as the state seems to be rapidly going "dry" under county option, the income has already diminished from about \$48,000 a year to less than \$40,000, with the decrease still continuing. The per capita cost is about \$125 a year. This, however, is a decrease from about \$600 two years ago.

No special cure for the liquor or drug habit is used. Every effort is made to build up the patients physically and to keep them away from liquor and drugs to the point where they are returned to normal strength and their habit has been broken. About 25 per cent become abstainers; 10 to 11 per cent more may be listed as satisfactory in condition and behavior to their families. Of the total number of cases some 15 per cent are drug cases. About 50 per cent of the women become permanent cures and about 25 per cent of the men. Consider these figures; the per capita cost of \$125, with one-third of the patients running away and an average of but one in four eventually becoming abstainers. It is evident that state is paying a very heavy price for those who may be considered as cures and returned as good citizens.

The Board of Visitors is of the opinion that this institution should be discontinued as an inebriate hospital and turned into a State Asylum for feeble dementia cases and the feeble-minded who are advanced in years.

Institutions for the insane are crowded beyond their capacity and the institution for Feeble Minded at Faribault has continually over 300 on the waiting list. Thus we believe the Willmar institution, so converted, would be filling a much greater need than at present and at a per capita cost very materially less.

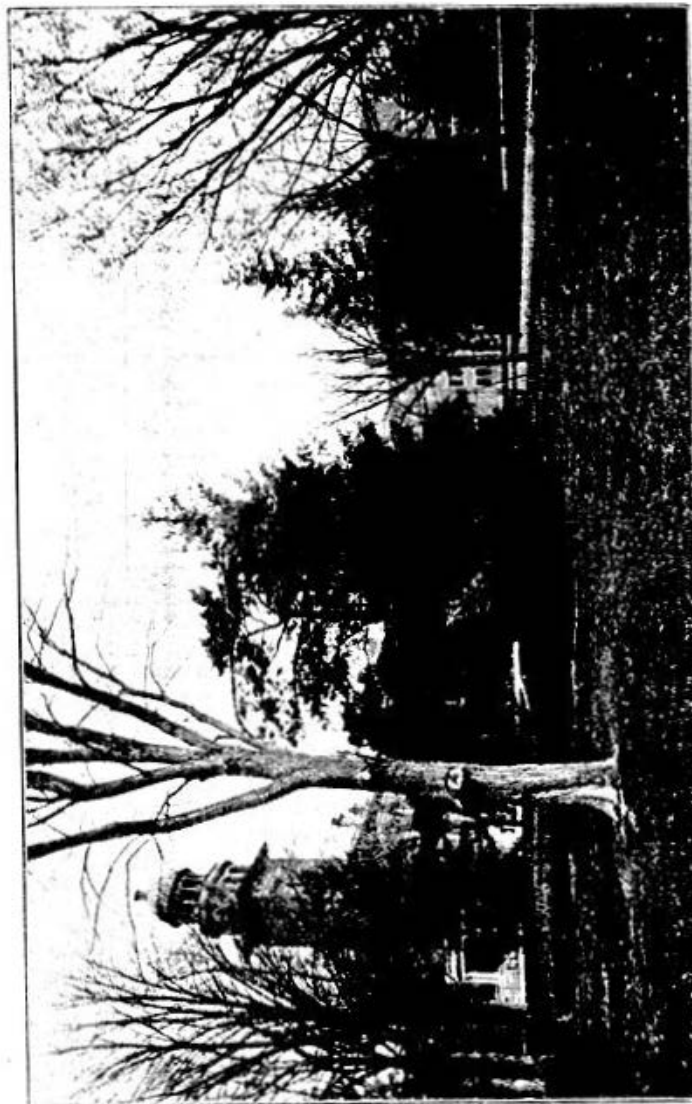
If, in the wisdom of the legislature it is deemed best to continue the Willmar institution as a hospital for inebriates and those addicted to the use of drugs, we would respectfully call attention that this legislature will probably have to make an appropriation to aid in maintenance.

We also heartily agree, after a conference with Dr. Freeman, the superintendent, that continuance of the institution as at present calls for the establishment of a disciplinary ward. This ward should be run both as a custodial and penal department and supplied with day guards and night watchmen. Herein would be placed the returned runaways and those committed whom the authorities state should be given constant supervision.

Whether or not there is a change made in the character of the institution, we sincerely hope that Dr. Freeman, the superintendent, will remain in charge. Our investigations demonstrate that the Willmar patients have always been kindly treated, well fed and cared for.

ROCHESTER HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

We believe no more attractive institution for the insane is to be found in the country than the Minnesota State Hospital at Rochester, which has for so many years been under the able management of Dr. A. F. Kildourne. In summer the grounds are especially beautiful, with many spreading shade trees and numerous flower gardens. These are greatly enjoyed by the patients. In the wards, potted palms and cut flowers add to the appearance of the corridors and rooms.



VIEW OF GROUNDS AT STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, ROCHESTER (MAIN BUILDING IN BACKGROUND)

Our inspections have been very thorough and have demonstrated to us that the institution is most ably managed. The patients are apparently well cared for, well clothed, and fed with plenty of nourishing food.

The financial needs for improvements and repairs are given in detail in the institution's special report filed by the Board of Control, and we hope the requests therein made, all of which are necessary, will be freely granted by the legislature.

Because of the very complete report published by the State Board of Control, we refrain from duplication here.

At the request of the State Board of Control we made a special investigation November 3, 1916, at the Rochester Hospital of the accidental death of Mrs. Bertha Overman October 12, 1916. We took considerable testimony from various witnesses who were put under oath. Copies of this testimony and our report of findings based thereon have been filed with the Board of Control, as well as our office, and may be had by the legislature if the detailed information therein contained is needed. As one of the results of this investigation, orders were issued by the Board of Control that open area ways and stair cases in all Minnesota institutions for the insane be inclosed with heavy wire screenings that there may be no future danger of patients jumping or falling over stair railings.

We also have on file a report in detail of the fatal accidental scalding of Leslie Hanson, patient, January 9, 1916. The man nurse who permitted a patient to assist him in giving another patient a bath (scalding resulting) was immediately discharged.

STATE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES AT WALKER.

The State Sanatorium for Consumptives at Walker on October 27, 1916, had 237 patients, of whom 122 were male and 115 female. There were 78 employees, 46 male and 32 female.

Various improvements and appropriations needed are requested in the report of the State Board of Control.

We believe a material need at this institution is the extension of the steam pipes from the main heating plant to the various cottages. An appropriation was made by the last legislature for this purpose, but has not been used as it was totally inadequate. At present these cottages are heated by wood stoves. In each cottage a stove is located in the center of the building with a quantity of cordwood piled near by. Incipient fires have a number of times been fortunately extinguished, but during the weather when a stove has to be used the danger is ever present.

We understand that pay patients, that is, those who pay their own charge of about a dollar a day, are required to leave the institution if they become unable to keep up the payments. This is most unfortunate, although a seemingly necessary rule. We would recommend arrangements be made through a small additional appropriation, so that in such cases patients may remain at the institution for another thirty days during which time the county commissioners of their respective counties be notified, with a request that such patients be continued at the institution at the expense of the county.



MAIN BUILDING, STATE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES,
NEAR WALKER

There are a number of children at the Sanatorium as patients who must necessarily remain there an indefinitely long period. At the present time they are being given no school instruction. We would recommend the employment of a permanent teacher who perhaps can give part time to some other work.

A sad and unfortunate feature of the sanatorium operation is the sending there not infrequently, of advanced cases of tuberculosis. Under the law establishing this institution, it is for the reception of incipient cases only. Because of the great hardship, however, in returning some of these advanced cases to their homes, they have been accepted by Dr. Beach, the superintendent.

The Sanatorium is rather inaccessibly located and not only at times does this create a hardship for patients (many of whom have a long distance to travel), but it causes much difficulty in getting needed supplies. Fresh eggs, a part of the daily diet, for a number of the months in the year are extremely hard to get, as well as very high in price for delivery at Walker. This has caused some complaint among patients who do not understand the difficulties the management faces.

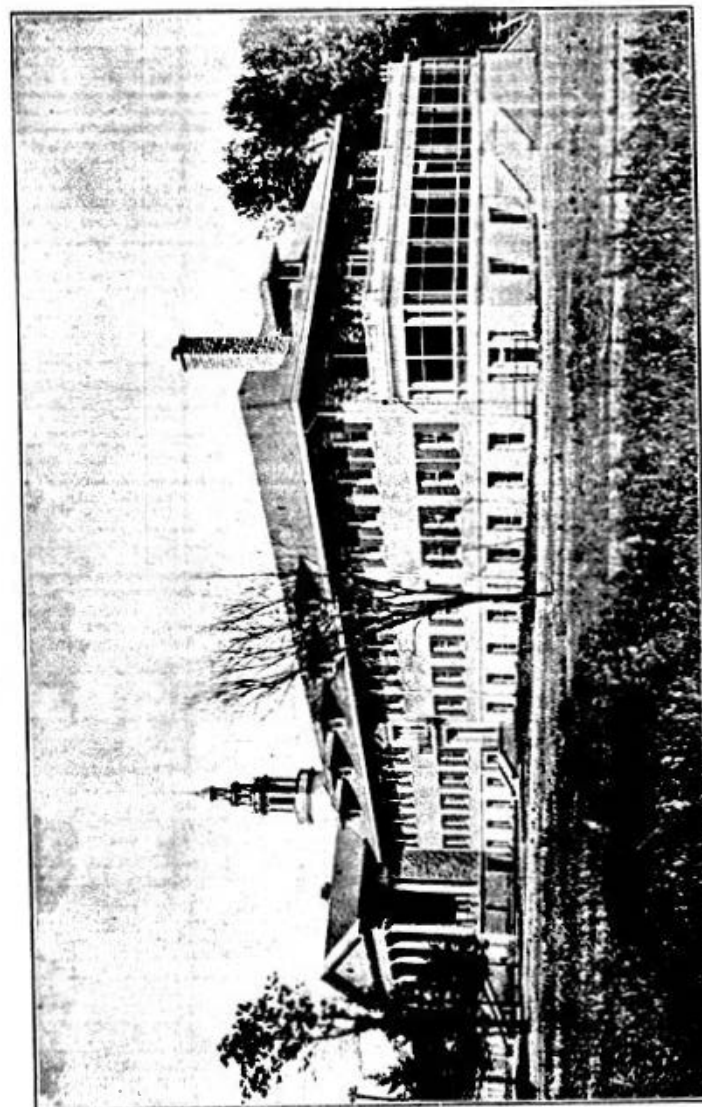
We hope the legislature will give sincere heed to the financial needs of the Walker institution, taking into due consideration the increased cost of living and the increase in the number of patients at the institution.

STATE SCHOOL FOR DEAF, FARIBAULT.

The greatest problem that confronts the State School for Deaf at Faribault at the present time seems to be "what shall be done with Mott Hall?" Mott Hall is the large, old main building which is now vacant except for use of the kitchen, dining hall, and kitchen supply rooms. The Board of Visitors was asked by the late Governor Hammond to make a special visit to this school at Faribault and report on what we believed would be its best disposition. We understand that Dr. Tate, the Superintendent, favors the razing of the building and using whatever material may be found available for a new trades building. Our report submitted to the late Governor Hammond speaks for itself on this subject, as follows:

"Dr. Tate favors abandoning Mott Hall altogether and building a new trades building instead of remodeling. The present trades building is old, in bad shape, and a good deal of a fire-trap. It has been estimated, we understand, that to remodel Mott Hall would cost about \$40,000. Dr. Tate would use such an amount in a new structure.

"We regret to differ with Dr. Tate for several reasons. First, we believe it bad policy for the state to abandon such a building as Mott Hall. Its stone walls are solid and substantial, and the building of good appearance. It would seem to us an equal amount of money put into rebuilding the interior, would go farther than in a new edifice. Second, if Mott Hall were left as it is, it would go from bad to worse, always be a firetrap, and become more of an eyesore and "white elephant" as time goes on. We would suggest retaining the walls their present three story height, and not cut them down to two stories as Dr. Tate informed us was one plan. As long as the good walls are there, use them. Finish the first two stories into trade schools with a much needed gymnasium, and if there is no present need for the third floor, let it be left rough to be made in later years into whatever is needed. More room will be needed and this can be kept avail-



TATE HALL, NEW MAIN BUILDING AT STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

able. We would also recommend him and his fellow members be prepared with proper estimates for consideration by the legislature, as the longer the building is left vacant, the more it will run down. We also believe the average legislature is too apt to look with favor on giving an appropriation for remodeling Mott Hall, than to grant money for a new building, with the understanding that Mott Hall remain vacant and go to ruin."

Military drill has been established at the State School for Deaf with apparently good results. The discipline and exercise are helpful and healthful. Olive drab uniforms have been adopted. The federal government has provided the older boys with Springfield rifles and wooden guns were purchased for the smaller boys.

We endorse the requests for appropriations to fill the needs of the institution as made in the report submitted to this legislature by the Superintendent except that we advocate the remodeling of Mott Hall as we have above suggested as an economic move in preference to its abandonment and construction of a new building.

SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS.

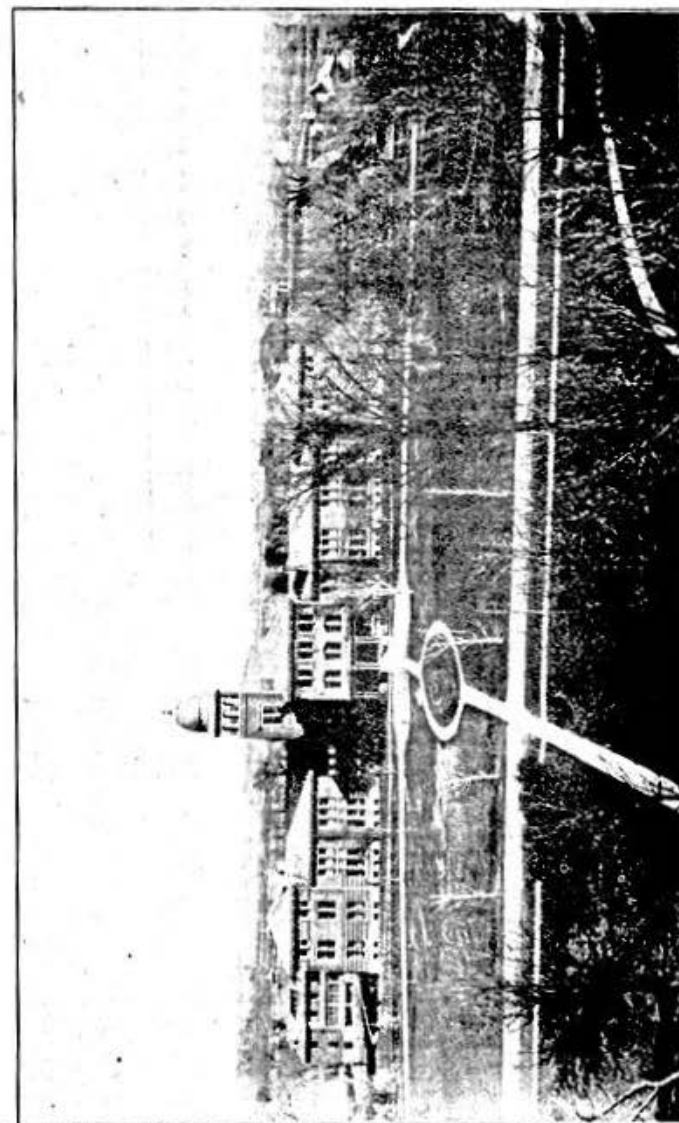
The Minnesota State School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics at Faribault is a model institution of its kind.

We sincerely hope the request made by the late Dr. Rogers in his biennial report for increasing the capacity from 1,000 to 2,000 will be heeded. For some years the institution has been unable to accept all the patients applying for admission. On August 1, 1916, there were 318 names on the application file, and of this number 220 awaiting a date for admission. To say that the state in permitting this condition of affairs to continue year after year is negligent is putting it mildly. It permits defectives to multiply their kind. It discourages the public, the authorities and particularly those having defectives in their homes, from endeavoring to perform their duty to society, i. e., to make provision for commitments to the school. For why hesitate to have more defectives accepted at Faribault with the continual reply that two or three hundred are constantly on the waiting list?

With the reputation of the Minnesota Institution for feeble-minded so envitably established through the great-hearted ability of the late Dr. Rogers, superintendent, it is most unfortunate that such an institution, for lack of capacity, is unable to fulfill its full duty.

Our inspections at this institution have been very thorough in spite of the number of buildings and great amount of ground to cover, but we have absolutely no criticisms to make. Food and supplies were always excellent. Dormitories and all other halls and apartments are always clean, orderly, sanitary and attractive. Patients are well clothed and given kindly, considerate treatment.

We have reviewed the rather numerous, but in our estimation, much needed improvements, requested through the institution's report submitted to the legislature by the board of control. We wish to endorse it in total, and feel sure if the legislators but knew the late Dr. Rogers they would grant these recommendations as coming from a conscientious, conservative and unusually capable official.



SKINNER HALL, AT MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, FARIBAULT

In the recent passing of Dr. A. C. Rogers, the state of Minnesota has sustained a loss the greatness of which is only understood by those who had the rare pleasure of being associated with him. In his chosen special line Dr. Rogers was most eminent, yet withal, ever modest and unassuming. He was a wonderful executive, a tireless student, and the originator of scientific and psychological research of inestimable value. He was an able humanitarian whose devotion to the unfortunate, doubtless shortened his allotted years. His was a character true as steel, yet gentle as the dowers; a masterful mind of that sturdy, great-hearted integrity which made him a beloved and most worthy follower in the footsteps of the Great Physician.

STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AT FARBULT.

Through the courtesy of Dr. James J. Dow, superintendent of the State School for the Blind at Faribault, the Board of Visitors has had the pleasure of reviewing the institution's biennial report submitted to the present legislature. We take pleasure in sincerely endorsing all the recommendations and requests made therein. The betterments asked are all in line of necessities and, in our opinion, conservatively estimated. We believe the needs of the blind should strike a sympathetic chord with the members of the legislature, and hope that the applications requested will in no way be diminished.

The institution's report so fully covers all present needs that we have nothing to add, with the exception of calling attention to a letter received from Dr. Douglas Wood, the oculist who has charge of examining the children of this school. In reply to a letter from the Board of Visitors, Dr. Wood wrote as follows:

"Your favor of the 11th in regard to the State School for the Blind at Faribault, received.

"First, let me answer the questions you asked. I make it a point to go down every three weeks, and oftener as the service requires. A complete examination and record of every student's eyes, also every blind person that we can make appointments with, are made and filed. We are very proud of this record, because it is the only one of its kind we know of in the United States, although there are several of the blind schools that are planning to copy our system.

"I do not think more frequent visits would be of any material help, because there are very few of these eyes that are under and need continual treatment. I can merely help the acute conditions.

"As for the recommendations, if we had a room completed and furnished that we could use for operative purposes, and the facilities for treating some of those pupils, we could probably improve the vision of a number of them, and improve their general condition by operating for tonsils and adenoids, etc., to a very marked degree. The state does not provide for all treatment including operations. Just now we have a number of children that ought to be operated on for tonsils and adenoids. Some of the worst ones we can arrange to take to the feeble-minded school and operate there.

"These pupils are supposed to have had everything done for them that could be done before they come to us. It is a school for education and not treatment, so we are so limited.

"DOUGLAS WOOD."

In view of what Dr. Wood says, we would urge in the remodeling work yet to be done to the main building at the School for the Blind, that a modern and suitable operating room be provided for such operations as may be deemed necessary. This seems especially essential through the doctor's statement that he could, with this equipment, "improve their vision, and their general condition, to a very marked degree." Arrangement should also be made for payment by state or county of expense of such necessary operations as cannot be afforded by the individual.

The children at the State School for the Blind are receiving kindly care at the hands of the management and teachers, and they are given good substantial food.

We understand there are a few instances each year at this school where children are not in a position to supply themselves with needed warm clothing and wraps. We would recommend legalizing expenditures from the current expense fund of the State School for the Blind for the purchase of needed clothing for pupils, as deemed necessary by the superintendent.

HOME COTTAGES FOR STATE INSTITUTION EMPLOYEES.

The home is said to be the bulwark of the nation. Its great influence is beyond estimate. During childhood and youth it creates those characteristics in each individual which through parental love and guidance lead on toward the making of real men and women, and upright, noble citizenship. With the passing of years of varied necessity comes the "breaking of home ties." But in every heart remains that sweet fragrance of early years, a lasting memory of such enticing beauty, it early becomes the ambition of every young man and woman to establish an ideal home of their own.

The great importance of the home is recognized in legislation by the federal government, fostered by such broad and generous laws as the "homestead" act.

But in our state institutional life the state has made home creating by employees (except such as might be considered staff officers) almost impossible. He or she who enters state institution employment in any of the host of minor positions with an intention to make this a sincere life work, must of necessity do so with an understanding that it means remaining single, without prospects of ever creating a home.

This is one of the greatest drawbacks to the present state institution system, so far as employees are concerned. Those who desire to settle down to married life and home establishment, are the best class of employees, the most desirable to keep. They are those who intend to remain in some one place and among their number is seldom, if ever, included the undesirable, no good "institutional trash." But what chance of real "home" life has the employee who perhaps sleeps with several others in some attic, individual hall room, or apartment off a ward for the insane. Even the young woman engaged in caring for the insane who has a most desirable room in the nurses' home building, must necessarily leave there if she marries.

In consideration of the above, we would respectfully suggest the building at each of our state institutions a series of individual one-story cottages, to be assigned to employees who marry, or those who are married who desire to enter state institution service. The cost of these cottages individually would be very small. They should be erected on state ground, but some distance from the main institutional buildings that institutional and home life of employees be as little as possible intermingled. With each cottage should be allowed sufficient yard that the individual family may be able to cultivate a small garden tract at their own expense and with their own spare-time labor, to help out existence on the small state salaries paid.

If the aggregate expense of building the necessary number of cottages at all our institutions at the same time is too great, we would suggest the plan be at least tried at one of our institutions, preferably a state hospital for the insane.

We believe the more the plan is studied of individual small cottages for institutional employees who are married, especially where marriages must otherwise in many cases mean resigning from state service, the more appealing and practicable it seems. There is really no reasonable argument against it except the initial expense, which we believe would be overwhelmed by the resulting benefits to the institution in permanency of its list of employees, the securing of a much better and higher class of help, creation of much greater contentment, and thereby better service. We believe it not only the privilege, but the inherent right of the state institution employee to be so environed that he may have and maintain a real home of his own.

PENSIONING EMPLOYEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Pensioning faithful and efficient employees after a long period of service has become a custom of many large corporations, and is practiced by most large municipalities with men of police and fire departments.

We recommend the adoption by the state of an act to pension all officers and employees of state institutions; that after twenty-five years of service in the state they may retire with a pension for the remainder of life of one-half the amount of salary per annum received the twenty-fifth year of state employment.

We believe such state pensions will not only give just recognition where such reward is due, but that it will tend to give a permanence to employment in state institutional service that in some branches, especially attendants for the insane, is now lacking to a materially detrimental degree. A pension system would cause Minnesota institutions to be sought by those desiring to give long and faithful service, and would tend to eliminate the so-called "institutional tramp."

Employees of our state institutions work long hours at a comparatively small remuneration, and we therefore believe the expense of a pension system would but give to those who have served the state a quarter century that money in additional and continued payments which they would have already earned under fairer schedules.

BETTER ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MALE ATTENDANTS OF THE INSANE.

Women nurses and attendants of the insane at our state hospitals have already been provided with fine and adequate quarters in a nurses' home building at each hospital.

Such should also be the case with the men engaged in a like work. At present, men attendants for the insane are quartered wherever most convenient: in little rooms or apartments, pressed into their present use because of crowded conditions; unsuitable, inadequate and very far from equalling from any view the quarters given women nurses and attendants.

It is accordingly (as might be expected) both harder to get the desired kind and number of male attendants, and to persuade them to remain after they become "broken in" and efficient. They feel their needs have not been properly considered and provided by the state; and we believe they are justified in such a stand.

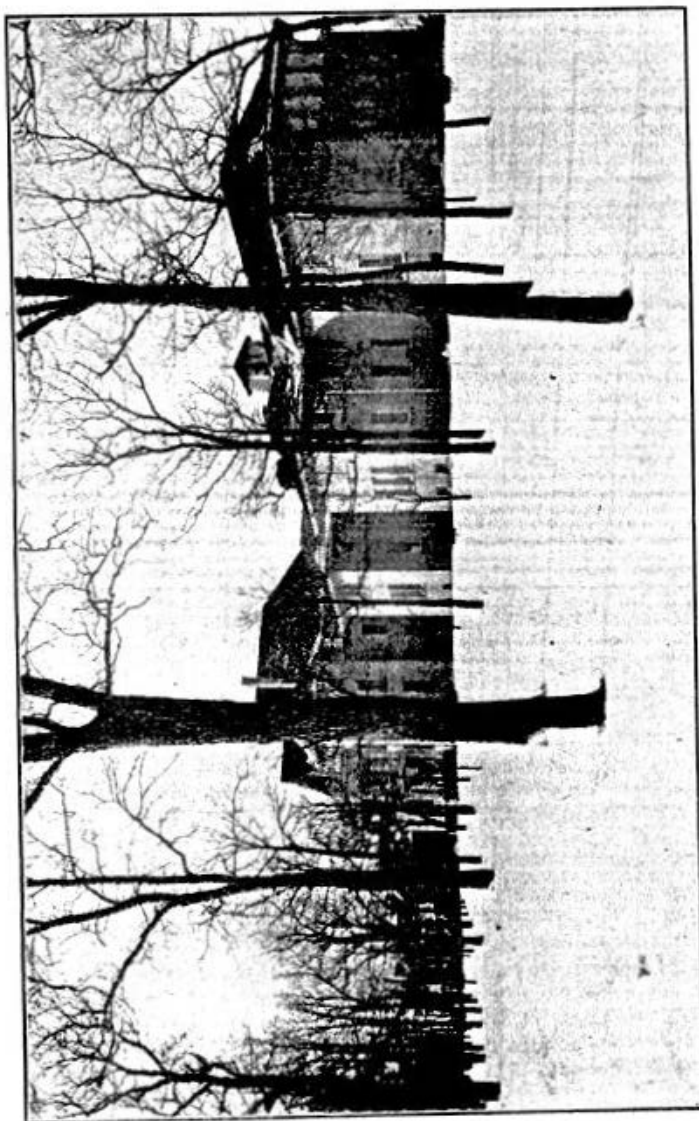
The Board of Visitors would therefore respectfully urge for the good and betterment of the state hospital service and care of the male insane, that a male employees' home building be provided at each of the state hospitals for the insane, i. e., at Fergus Falls, Rochester and St. Peter.

When such buildings are being provided they might as well be made large enough to house all male employees desiring to room on the hospital grounds, for better quarters for male employees in all departments would lead to the same betterments in service that would be found true among the attendants: more contentment, with better work and care as a result, a better class of men applying for positions, and a much longer period of service.

ANOKA ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

It is always a pleasure to visit and inspect Anoka State Asylum. Its superintendent, Mr. John Coleman, was a member of the state board which had charge of institutions for the insane before the Board of Control system was created, and when the Anoka Asylum was established, consented to become temporary superintendent. He has been prevailed upon to remain ever since. His institution for many years has had the lowest per capita cost of any in our state, and yet the closest inspection on our part could never find any need of the patients not properly cared for. Mr. Coleman is an efficient in having all departments practically above criticism as he is successful along lines of financial saving. He has had many offers to leave his present position and take up institutional work in other states at largely increased remuneration, but has successively declined them all in turn to remain at Anoka; and Minnesota has gained very much thereby.

The modern cottages built at Anoka in comparatively recent years, are all that could be asked. But the main building—the original asylum—is old, and with interior frame construction is more or less of a fire-trap. This should be fireproofed, Mr. Coleman suggests one wing at a time so as to not interfere too seriously with the occupancy of the building.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE, ANOKA

A new administration and steward's building is a real need. Present office accommodations and facilities for storing and caring for supplies were built to care for considerably less than half the institution's present population.

The Anoka Asylum management is inclined to the opinion the institution has been somewhat discriminated against by past legislatures in view of the fact it is the only state institution for the insane not provided with a general assembly hall in which patients may be assembled for religious services or entertainment. We hope the present legislature will fill this long-felt want at Anoka. The present greenhouse is too small. Its output is even unable to supply sufficient plants for flower beds on the grounds in summer, let alone furnish flowers to brighten the quarters of patients.

We have made a number of visits to Anoka, and in each case have made thorough inspections. We have absolutely no criticisms to make, only commendation to offer, and hope the requests for needed improvements will be granted.

STATE SOLDIERS' HOME—MINNEHAHA FALLS.

On our last visit (previous to the preparation of this report), to the Minnesota State Soldiers' Home at Minnehaha Falls, there was a total of four hundred seventy-seven (477) inmates, three hundred sixty-eight (368) men and one hundred and nine (109) women. We found conditions somewhat improved compared with previous visits, but there was still room for material betterment, which we believe is to be secured through recommendations we have reiterated in nearly all our inspection reports. As is generally known, the male inmates of the Home are housed in a series of cottages, while the married couples and the women are domiciled in a large building known as the "Women's Building."

The old soldiers are required to take complete care of their quarters in the several cottages under the supervision of a cottage sergeant. Many of the veterans are crippled and more or less incapacitated with rheumatism, various diseases and the infirmities of old age. In our opinion they are no longer able to properly take care of their own quarters and this becomes the more apparent with the passing of each day. Inspections have demonstrated that the cottages are overrun with bed bugs, although on our last visit there was some improvement. Conditions cannot be as they should until competent help is supplied to take care of these various buildings. The buildings, although old, are substantial and adequate and with a sufficient number of able-bodied orderlies, they could be kept in a cleanly, attractive condition and furnish the old soldiers with quarters such as is certainly expected they should have. We believe that the state in giving them a home, intends such home should be adequate in every way.

We have been subject to more or less criticism because of our adverse findings in our inspection reports, but we have merely spoken the plain truth, which we believe to be our duty.

It was in courtesy to the old veterans and their desires, that years ago both the management and work at the Soldiers' Home was placed entirely in their hands, but that was at a time when the old soldiers were considerably less advanced in years and in physical condition to properly undertake and execute the work at the institution.

We fully appreciate the fact that our state institutions are a heavy drain on the funds of the state and especially in view of the great increase in present cost of maintenance, every effort should be made to keep down this large expense. In view of this fact, we call to your attention that practically every one of the inmates of the Soldiers' Home receives a pension ranging from twenty-five to thirty dollars a month, not one penny of which, at the present time is demanded of the old soldiers. Their every want is supplied by the state. If they were charged but a fractional part of their pension income, to go toward the increased cost of their maintenance and for the salaries of young, energetic and capable orderlies, it would be no financial hardship to the inmates and under efficient management, would result in keeping the institution cleanly, sanitary, and eliminate all vermin.

We realize that this recommendation will doubtless meet with disapproval on the part of a large number of the old soldiers who desire their entire pension for pocket-money. We believe, on the other hand that there are some inmates of the home who would appreciate the privilege of being allowed to pay a small amount of their pension money in return for being furnished a good home and would take pride in so contributing, feeling that they were no longer absolute dependents of the state.

If, however, the state legislature thinks that the demand of the old soldiers for their entire pension should be acceded to (and this is now a matter of law), we would recommend an additional appropriation to pay for such orderlies as the management of the home deems necessary to properly take care of the work in the old soldiers' quarters.

In inspecting the food supplies, we have found that in a number of instances the dried fruits and cereal foods were wormy, although we are told that orders for food called for first grade material in every instance.

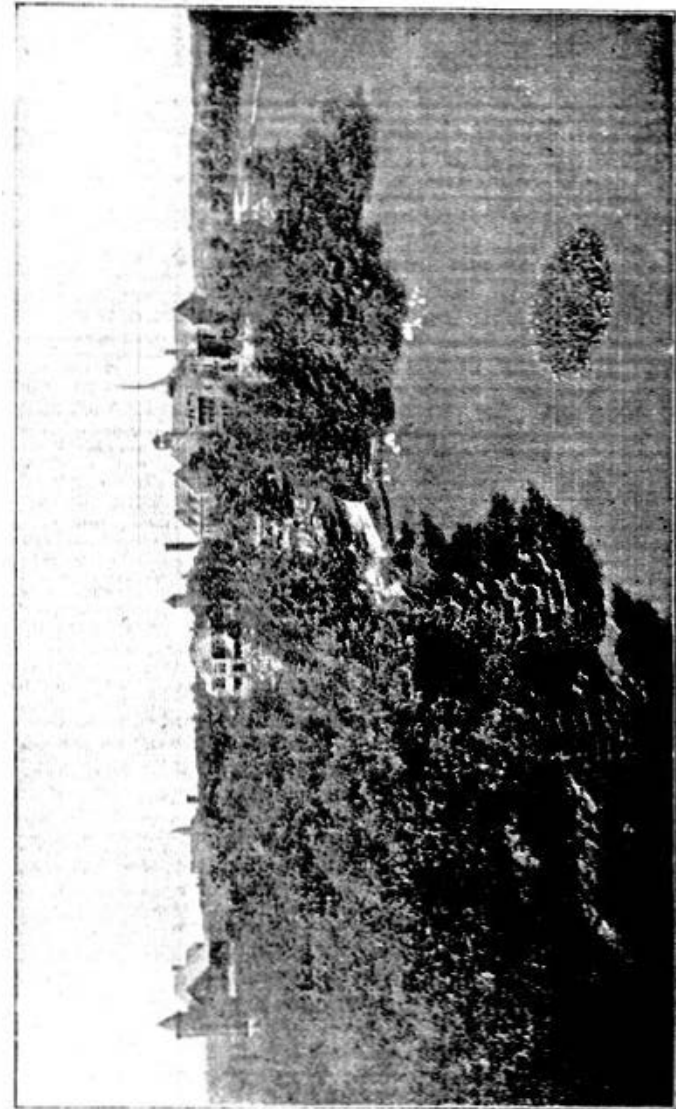
We believe there is room for betterment in this department, although in making this plain statement we have no desire to unduly criticize. The cooking we have always found to be first-class and the product of the institution bakery all that could be desired. We believe the old soldiers are pretty well satisfied as to the table service.

MINNESOTA STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL AT OWATONNA.

We understand the State Public School at Owatonna desires three special appropriations for permanent improvements, in addition to the needed increase in current expense allowances to enable the institution to employ an additional state agent.

It seems desirable to have a new fire-proof cottage with individual rooms for the children. This would cost \$30,000. The request is renewed for an appropriation (\$15,000) for an industrial building, to be fully equipped for manual training instruction. A new laundry, with complete equipment, is also a pressing need, for which the estimated cost is \$16,000.

We are informed by the authorities in charge of sending homeless and dependent children from the large cities to the Owatonna School that not infrequently infants have to be kept for some time in temporary city quarters because of lack of capacity in the nursery department at the Owatonna institution. This is unfortunate and we hope that means may be provided by the present legislature to further increase the capacity of the institution for the care of needy infants.



STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL, OWATONNA

Mr. Galen A. Merrill, has been superintendent of the Minnesota State Public School ever since its establishment, and under his direction, it has grown into one of the best institutions of its kind in the country. We believe that there is no greater work for the state to do than take care of and eventually find homes for these needy, homeless and dependent children. There are several institutions in Minnesota which carry on a similar work, but they are supported by public donations. None of these, in our estimation, compares in efficiency and completeness with the Owatonna School. What is more, we believe that inasmuch as the state has rightfully assumed the duty and responsibility of caring for dependent children, that it should not do so in such an incomplete manner that private or semi-public institutions are a necessity. It is therefore hoped that the present and succeeding legislatures will be financially generous with the Owatonna School and in so doing, may have the assurance that they are appropriating to a most worthy cause and to an institution that is both ably and economically managed.

In another section of this report we call attention to our belief that children placed in homes throughout the state by public authorities or institutions other than the Owatonna School, should only be placed after due investigation by the Owatonna school agents. Thus the future welfare and happiness of these children could be assured by inspection visits of the Owatonna school officers. If this is done, and we believe it is most important that it should be, the one additional agent asked by the management of the Owatonna School will not be sufficient. Several more may be necessary. We would like to call attention to the important fact that when a home finding institution places a child in a home that its duty is not over, but that the future of that child should be guaranteed by frequent and unexpected visits. That children should be taken back where their environment is found to be unsatisfactory for any good reason. The placing of a child in a home with undesirable environment or where that child is not properly treated and cared for, is doing a harm instead of a betterment, and we believe that it is the important duty of the state to see that foster parents are all that can be reasonably expected. The day when a child is bound out merely that those receiving the child may get as much free work as possible is supposed to be a thing of an age gone by, but instances today are not at all infrequent where children of an age capable of doing considerable work are found to have been taken by those of whom better things might be expected, merely to become household drudges. The proper guarantee against these unfortunate instances is one of the most important features of home finding for dependent children.

A new feature of the work of the State Public School at Owatonna is the temporary care of children taken from good homes where, for the time being, through some misfortune, the parent or parents are unable to support and care for them. One of the most lamentable features of home finding work of days gone by was the taking of children in such instances from good parents and good homes and placing them under permanent care of foster-parents. There have been a number of cases where the real parents, after recuperating from misfortunes, have endeavored to again claim their children only to find that the law has forever taken them away. This is radically wrong and cruel from every view. We believe the matter of

There is a special ward for the mentally afflicted. A new wing is being built to the institution for dangerous and criminal insane at St. Peter and on its completion, the mentally unbalanced prisoners at Stillwater are to be transferred there.

The prisoners always have plenty of good substantial food. The dining room is an especially bright, attractive apartment. Here the prisoners are allowed to converse at noon every other day. The kitchen is ideal in its equipment. In the examination of the foods and food supplies, we have never been able to find the slightest need of criticism—only commendation. There are forty to fifty cows being milked in the prison dairy. A new barn is under consideration to accommodate one hundred head of cattle.

It is interesting to note that there are about 160 men, all prisoners, who are allowed to work daily outside the prison walls. These men are, of course, classed as "trustees." On the day of our last visit, 27 prisoners were scattered over three different farms obtained in connection with the institution, in charge of but one expert farmer. These men go out to work daily at 5:20 a. m. and return as a rule between 6 and 7. The fact that there has not been a single case of attempted escape among these "trustees" speaks volumes for the discipline of the institution and for the excellent judgment of Warden Reed in selection of men in whom to place such confidence.

It is, of course, understood that the women's department of the prison is but temporary and that they are to be eventually cared for in a new building. On the day of our last visit there were twenty-five women prisoners and this was a reduction from thirty-one not long before. The appropriation for a new women's prison is already available. In the present women's ward, the prisoners have but one toilet and one bath room in the whole ward, and the statement of the matron that this is inadequate seems self-evident. There are two women attendants during the day and one at night. Everything here, as elsewhere in the prison, was always found in most excellent condition. We would respectfully recommend, even though the present women's ward is but for temporary use, that an additional bath room and toilet be provided.

REGISTRATION FOR STATE HOSPITAL NURSES.

A few years ago the state created a State Board for the registration of graduate nurses. This board was authorized to establish rules and regulations relative to requirements for registration. This board also conducts the necessary examinations. The rules established are of such a nature that, strange as it may seem, it is impossible for a graduate of a course for nurses in any of our state hospitals to even become a candidate for examination.

It seems very unfair and unnecessary that a state board should apparently discriminate against the state's own hospitals. Those desiring the services of a first class nurse naturally look upon the fact that only such a nurse as is registered is fully competent and a graduate of a thorough course in training. For this reason, graduate nurses of state hospitals have to compete on an unfair basis with the graduate nurses of the general hospitals of our large cities. We understand registration is refused state hospital nurses on the theory that they have not had thorough experience in the

rate of various forms of sickness and inoperative work—that they are trained almost solely for the care of the insane, and not general nursing. On the contrary, the nurse who completes the training course in our several state hospitals, has experience in caring for practically all the various kinds of cases to be found in a general hospital and in addition the proper care and handling of the insane.

We would therefore respectfully and most earnestly recommend the enactment of a law providing that nurses who have fulfilled the requirement of a training course in our state hospitals be automatically given the right to demand registration from the State Board without examination, on the same theory that where a student completes a course at the State University as a physician, he is given a license to practice without having to appeal for examination to the State Board of Medical examiners.

CIVIL SERVICE FOR OUR STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The subject of civil service to be applied to employees of our various state institutions has been given consideration by members of past legislatures, members of the Economy and Efficiency Commission, and those in charge of our institutions. It is the unanimous belief of all our institution superintendents, of the Board of Control, and of the Board of Visitors, that civil service applied to institutional employees would be detrimental and in no way helpful.

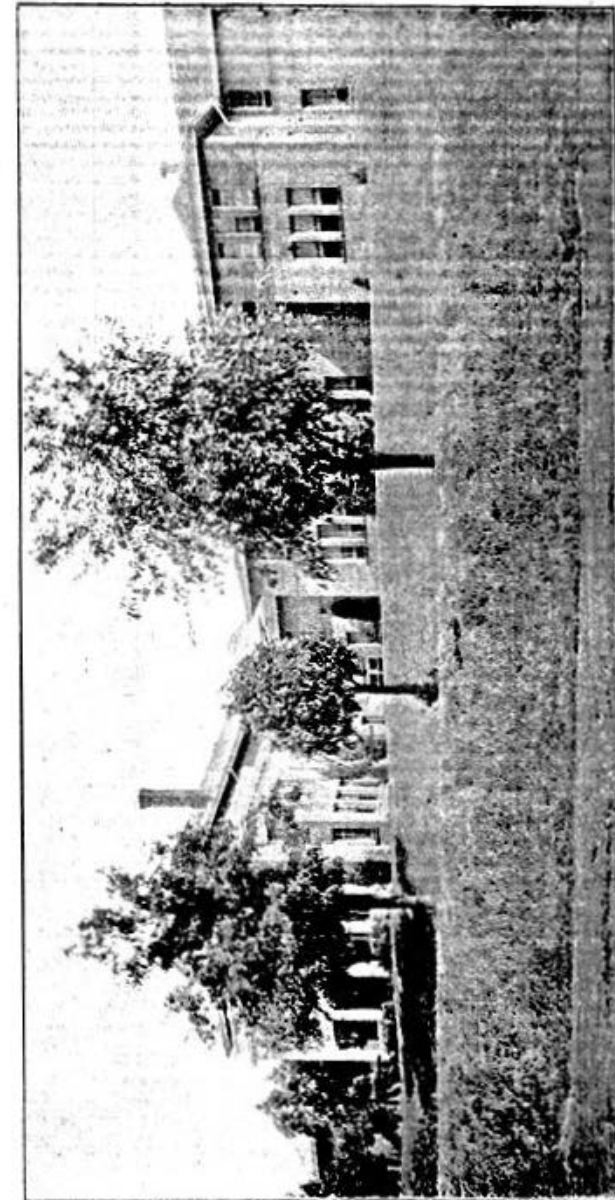
Minnesota has been blessed for many years and the envy of numerous other states, because of the fact that politics has never been allowed to enter our state institutions or influence the discharge or employment of any institutional help. The superintendent, under the Board of Control, is properly held to be the best judge of what employees he desires and of the individual from whom he can obtain the best service. This method has been found to be so satisfactory that no change whatever is desired.

It is frequently the case that a good man is available and desired for a certain position. Under civil service rules, such individual would have to first pass some special examination and wait his turn, with others ahead of him, on the available list demanding first recognition. Good help, especially if already otherwise employed, does not care to run the risk of possibly losing present positions by having it known that they have taken the civil service examinations for a change. There are also times when for the good of the institutional service, the immediate discharge of some employee is demanded, and under civil service such discharge might be materially hampered and much trouble made by such employee appealing to the civil service board on a claim that he is being discharged without proper cause.

We are also of the opinion that politics is more liable to cause trouble under civil service by entering into the membership of the civil service board than it is ever to enter into and cause trouble relative to state institutional employees.

HASTINGS STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE.

We wish to indorse the various recommendations for improvements at the Hastings State Asylum, given in detail in the report of the State Board of Control. The east wing of the main building was fire-proofed a year ago. We believe the safety of patients calls for fire-proofing of the west wing at as early a date as possible.



MAIN BUILDING, STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE, AT HASTINGS

We join in again recommending the purchase for the Hastings Asylum of the old mill (including water power) adjoining the asylum grounds, just west of the bridge at the institution. This is desired as a convenient site for a power plant where a considerable part of the old water power is available. At present this old mill and the water power is not in use.

There are also minor betterments to be desired. The greenhouse at Hastings, like that at Anoka, is much too small for the needs of the institution.

A small cottage on the grounds for the engineer could be erected at little cost, and would permit him to be available for call at all times.

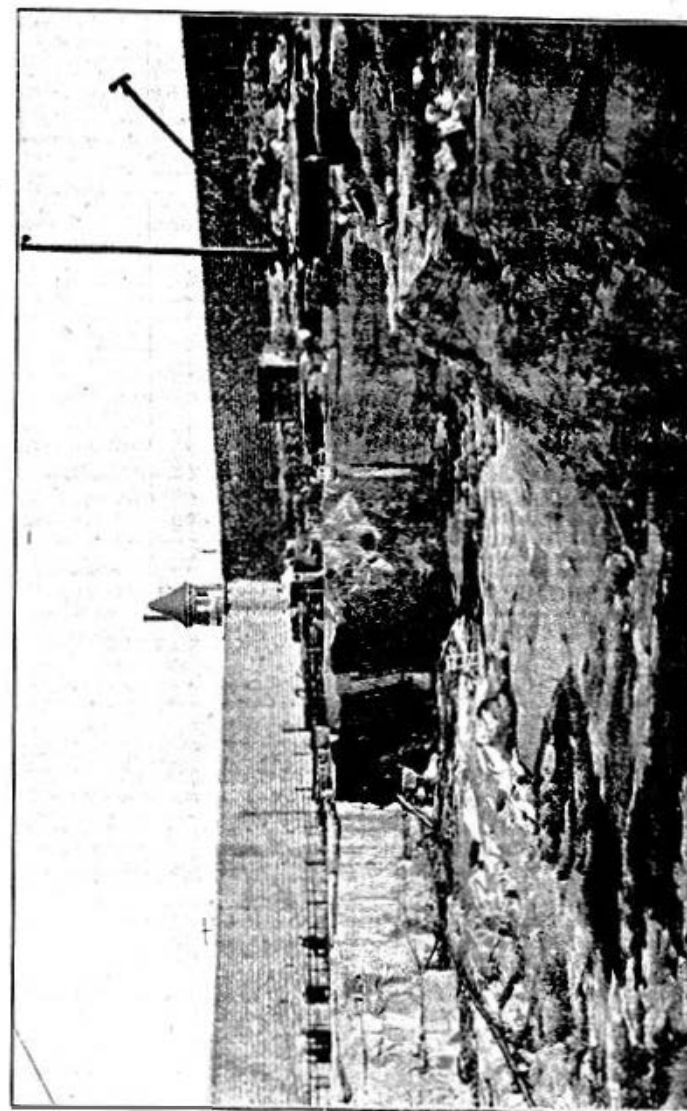
The herd of milk cows, at present about forty, should be increased to at least one hundred to give the desired supply of milk and cream for the present population of the institution.

Superintendent William Yanz, in our opinion, has made every desired advance in all departments in the management of his institution. On our last inspection, previous to the preparation of this report, we found institutional supplies in excellent condition and all wards and departments neat and clean. In the old main building, where several years ago vermin had secured a foothold, a strenuous campaign has, as far as we can ascertain, entirely eradicated this trouble. We have no criticism to make in this report, but on the contrary, we are glad to quote the statement made in our last inspection, which we believe is merited at this time, viz.: "We wish to congratulate Superintendent Yanz on the general fine showing of his institution. After a very thorough inspection, we take pleasure in congratulating him with assurances that we believe the asylum was never in better condition in every way than at present."

MINNESOTA STATE REFORMATORY, ST. CLOUD.

All commitments to the State Reformatory at St. Cloud are under indeterminate sentence. Paroles are granted by the board of parole and it was evidently the legislative intention that this board should also discharge paroled men who made good. A discharge, however, in view of a ruling of the attorney general, is, from a legal viewpoint, the same as a pardon. Therefore, when a prisoner is to be discharged from the reformatory, the case has to be referred to the State Board of Pardons. Said pardon board meets in regular session but once each quarter, but we are informed that the reformatory discharge recommendations are taken up between quarterly meetings. It is doubtless a matter for consideration by the attorney general as to just what provisions may consistently be inserted in a bill to be introduced in the legislature to definitely place the discharge of reformatory cases in the hands of the board of parole, where such discharge authority should be vested. The present system of having to refer discharges to the board of pardons is cumbersome, necessarily causes undesirable delays and creates considerable discontent among the prisoners who are in line for release from the institution and cannot understand why they have to be longer detained.

The parole agency system seems to the finding of positions for paroled men; in fact, inmates of the reformatory are not allowed to leave on parole until suitable work has been secured. To be subject to parole, an inmate must have served at least eleven months, of which six months must have been in first grade. The man who is discharged does not seem to



GRANITE QUARRY, INSIDE THE WALL (in background), AT THE STATE REFORMATORY, ST. CLOUD.

be so well cared for. So far as the law is concerned, the discharged man is merely released and apparently forgotten, except should he be again arrested, when his old record is brought up against him. We believe that it would be an excellent additional work on the part of the state to find positions that discharged men may accept as soon as released, thus giving these men immediate occupation. The discouragement of finding something to do is then eliminated, as well as much of the danger of his falling into old evil associations. It is frequently true that a man ready for discharge is already occupying some position on parole, but this is not always the case. We also believe that it would be well to have discharged men (necessarily those remaining within the state) helped by a follow-up system; of unobtrusive calls by parole agents. We believe these agents should keep in touch with such a man for at least a year that he may be given a helping hand when necessary. This might prevent many a man from falling back into evil ways, and would help him to continue to live as an upright, hard-working citizen.

We believe in Mr. H. K. W. Scott the Minnesota State Reformatory has a man capable, kindly and conscientious; a superintendent whom we have ever found has the interests of the institution inmates at heart. It has been interesting to note that in asking information of any individual case, Mr. Scott has been generally found to go into details without having to refer to his records.

As to recommendations for appropriations and improvements at the institution, we wish to endorse the requests made for the institution through the detailed report of the board of control.

There is, however, one matter which we believe calls for immediate remedy. We refer to the very crude and inadequate toilet facilities adjoining the stone quarries. The toilet shanties are very unsatisfactory and insanitary; and in summer especially, are nothing less than disease breeders. A sewerage and septic system is requested and is certainly a very great need—one which should be immediately supplied.

We have always found the reformatory on our various thorough inspections to be in excellent condition in every way, including cleanliness, quantity and quality of food supplies, clothing, care and proper consideration of inmates.

We would urge for the St. Cloud reformatory establishment of practical training in industrial trades. The main industry for years has been quarrying and stone working. Old-fashioned hand tools are used, and a man who has been working in the reformatory quarries who afterwards seeks free employment of a like character is likely to be considerably at sea through inability to understand and use modern drills, power hammers, etc., not introduced at the reformatory because of an abundance of labor and no need to limit it by more up-to-date equipment.

Many men are not adapted to quarry work. We would suggest establishment of thorough and complete courses in practical trades, that when a man is discharged he will be able to earn a living in some special line of employment to which he is better fitted. At present there are other trades taught, such as tailoring and blacksmithing, but they are very subordinate to the stone industry which occupies the time of the great bulk of the inmates and is probably the least beneficial to them for the period following their discharge.

STATE HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

The State Hospital for Indigent, Crippled and Deformed Children is located at Phalen Park, St. Paul. This is a modern, well-equipped institution, ideally managed by Miss Elizabeth McGregor, superintendent. We have always found this hospital in excellent condition, cleanly and attractive from every view. The children, in spite of their many and varied afflictions, are a happy lot of youngsters whom it is a pleasure to see, and Miss McGregor seems to have the interests of each one at heart. Dr. A. J. Gillette, the well known St. Paul surgeon, is at the head of the efficient staff of specialists in all lines, who, in many cases, are performing wonders for the children who come to this institution. We wish to call special attention, as we have in previous reports, that these men, to whom time is so valuable, give without charge, their services to this state institution. Money could hardly repay them for what they accomplish at this hospital. The children at the institution are practically entirely from families who could not afford to engage the services of these specialists and yet are here given every attention, and care, free of cost. We have only commendation for this hospital and Miss McGregor as its superintendent, and wish to strongly urge the granting of requests made in the special report of the institution, submitted by the board of control. These requests include a new school building, additional room for babies, a small green house, and a fund for repairs and betterments sufficient to paint the interior of the building and keep up ordinary needed repairs.

One of the greatest needs is a separate heating plant building. At the present time the heating plant is in the basement of the wing of the main building. This we believe to be dangerous and should never have been permitted and the remedy of a new power and heating plant building cannot be applied too soon.

The hospital is already crowded beyond capacity and even individual small wards are taken up for regular use as general wards. This leaves no place for very sick children, newly operative cases and where children can be kept quiet, away from the general ward.

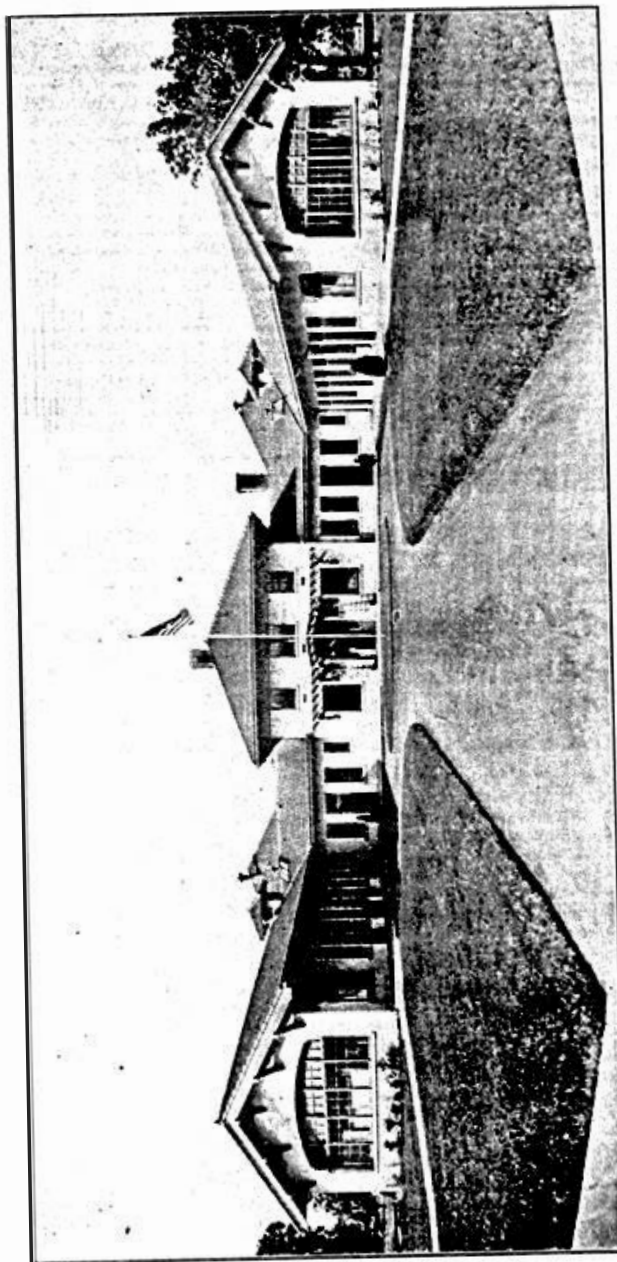
Additional toilet room and wash room accommodations are also much needed, in view of the increased population.

We sincerely hope that these requests will be given heed by the legislature.

STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, ST. PETER.

Under the efficient management of Dr. R. M. Phelps, as superintendent, the St. Peter State Hospital for the Insane has made steady improvement. Our inspections here have been very thorough, including on each inspection every department of every one of the buildings.

We have investigated as closely as possible here, as well as at all institutions for the insane, the treatment of patients. We believe they are given the best of care and medical attention; that their food and clothing is all that could be asked.



STATE HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN, PHALEN PARK, ST. PAUL

As Dr. Phelps is of the opinion that some of his recommendations for needed improvements are liable to be eliminated from his report because of printing expense, we take pleasure in herewith summarizing and endorsing them as he has presented them to the Board of Visitors in a recent letter:

"1. Dormitory for men nurses and employees. We think this a peculiarly fitting time to ask for this building. First, the men nurses are at present housed in some hastily constructed rooms in the south half of the top story of the North Detached building, with patients at the side of them and beneath them, and with no entrance except through the patients' dormitory. This has caused complaint from both nurses and patients on account of noise and bad ventilation. Second, when the nurses are moved from this location, it will make accommodations in this building for forty-five more men patients. This value alone would pay for over one-half the cost. Third, the employees' building on the second floor would be vacated also when this dormitory is built, and would afford generous room for enlarging our industrial work, which in turn would release other rooms now used for sewing room and for industrial work. Fourth, it should tone up and dignify the position of men nurses to have better quarters. For this purpose \$50,000 would erect, we think, a good, substantial building of eighty beds.

"2. Fireproofing the storeroom. We have been criticized for not having this building fireproof. A quite large stock of goods is necessarily carried. This is a brick building and needs new roof surfacing anyway. The interior would be fireproofed throughout.

"3. Fireproofing the section which affords sleeping quarters for the married people. As will be noted, we have approximately a fireproofed condition in all our main buildings. But over the men's living room adjacent to the chapel, is a built-on dormitory portion which, though over a fireproofed portion, is itself very inflammable and cheaply constructed. It is thought that \$4,000 would rebuild the interior and remake the roof.

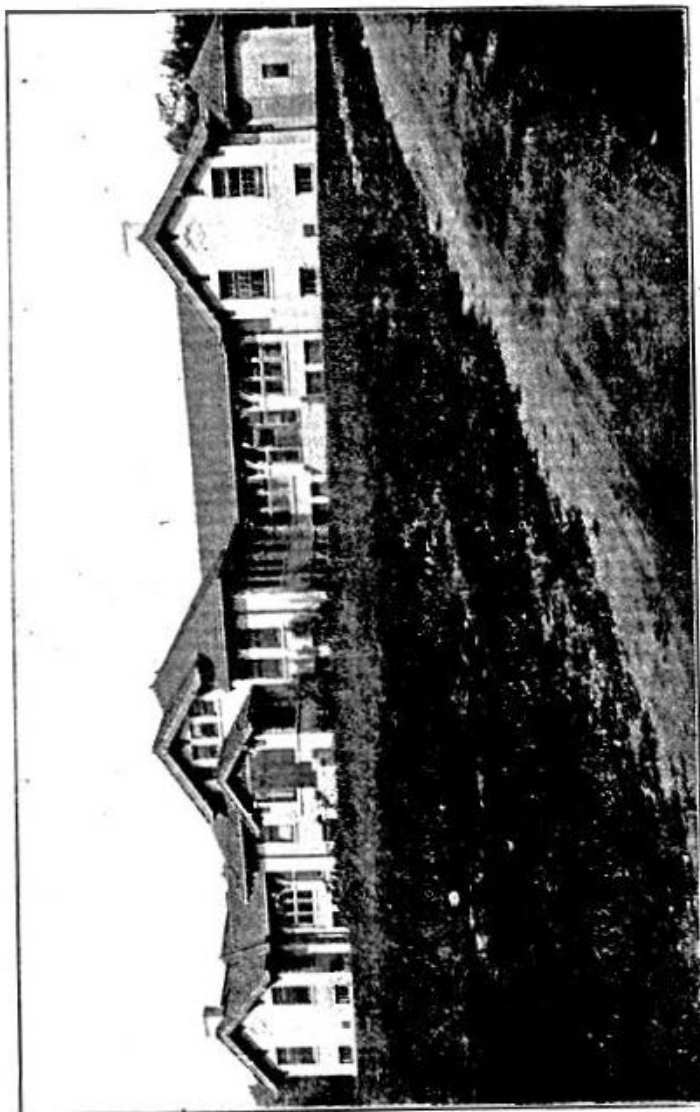
"4. A new machine shop. The old machine shop was invaded by the new coal-carrying machinery, and the present wooden floor has been criticized as inflammable. With this in mind, it is noted that a simple concrete building of the same size, on the ground and extending south from the present one, will allow of our discarding this floor entirely, thus increasing the roofed-in coal storage (the coal pit is just below this room). This cuts out the wooden floor just above the coal, and is also quite a labor-saving element in the machine shop work; and still further gives more room, because the present room, though of the same size, is partly occupied by the new coal-carrying machinery.

"5. Urinals in north wards of main building. We have here much trouble to keep down odor from these old slate urinals. There are nine of them. It is thought that \$1,000 will install some more modern and sanitary ones. We can only keep these at all clean by buying and constantly using chemicals.

"6. An X-ray outfit. Scientifically considered, this is very desirable. Dr. Vahlm urged it for the last report, but it did not seem best to ask for it then. I think this is a reasonable and very useful item to ask for: \$1,200 is the sum named to provide a very fair grade machine.

"7. We have been seriously and severely criticized for the very old bedsteads in stock. We discarded a large number. We now think it advisable to ask for \$3,000 to replace those remaining and rid us of this criticism, which will otherwise continually pursue us. We at least do our part in making this recommendation."

Current expense. This item calls for mutual comment at this time. It will be impossible to keep up the same grade and quantity of supplies with the same amount of money as before used. The reason should be outlined:



TUBERCULOSIS BUILDING, STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, ST. PETER

"1. The population has increased and is increasing. The daily average for 1912-1913 was 1155.7; for 1913-1914 it was 1111.6; for 1914-1915 it was 1239.7; and for 1915-1916 it was 1288.6. This coming year, ending July 31, 1917, the population will probably reach 1400. The increase of the last two years (exclusive of transfers back and forth) was about 110 per cent from our territory. We are now completing in addition to the asylum for dangerous insane which will hold ninety-six. We have at present a population of 1288, and if during the year 110 and 96 are added, we would have 1478, and would have 1,400 even if Hastings and Anoka are able to take 78 from us. Moreover, our accommodation capacity, with these new changes, will be about 1,420.

"For moderate increases within our capacity and without new buildings the cost of wages, fuel and light are not materially increased. But for so large an increase as the above, there is some increase even in these items. Even an increase which does not call for additional equipment calls for additional food, clothing, etc., and these cannot be obtained for nothing. Every increase, therefore, calls for more money, though at a lessened per capita rate.

"2. Increased prices. Some months ago we estimated that all expenses lumped together, increased prices were about 5 per cent above those of August 1, 1914. Prices have jumped up since. Thus, if we spent \$120,000 a year two years ago, we would need, at a 5 per cent increase, \$126,000 for this reason alone.

"3. The addition to the asylum for dangerous insane calls for an added wage force and added supplies. Moreover, this asylum is separated from the main hospital and is more expensive per capita to maintain. The present building probably figures as \$6,000 to \$7,000 more annually than if the same number of patients were ordinary patients in the main building. The increase for 96 more of patients of this type, with the new building to heat, light and care for, will be an increase rather near the per capita rate.

"As to our economy during the past four years, it is to be said that the per capita expense was somewhat reduced, but would have reduced much more except for increased prices, and for the legislative action authorizing an increase in wages.

"In building operations there is one comment that is noteworthy. In the original building, and to a great extent later, it was assumed that there should be an equal number of men and women. Yet the last report shows that there were received 63 per cent men and 37 per cent women."

STATE HOSPITAL FOR DANGEROUS INSANE.

On each of our visits to the State Hospital for Insane at St. Peter, we have always inspected the adjoining State Hospital for Dangerous Insane. A new wing for this building is nearing completion and will very materially increase the capacity of the institution. These are a hard class of prisoners to care for, in view of the fact that many of them are not only desperate men, but have sufficient mentality to scheme and carry out plans for mischief, and there have been several cases of assault. We believe the present corps of men in charge of the institution is alert and efficient.

Following the escape from this institution on May 21, 1916, of Patrick Gibbons, we were requested by the governor and the State Board of Control to make a special investigation. This we did. A number of witnesses were examined under oath at the institution and as a result of testimony taken, we made a lengthy report in which twenty different recommendations were made for greater safeguarding of patients. These recommendations were all carried out on orders passed by the State Board of Control, which

board had, in fact, foreseen many of the suggestions and executed them before receiving our report. The general result is that the hospital has since been operated more largely as a penal institution, with closer watching of inmates, stricter rules and with more safeguards. Our detailed and lengthy report relative to the Gibbons' case is on file at the office of the governor and the board of control in the New Capitol and at our office in the Old Capitol, and is available for any members of the legislature who desire to see it.

We believe the inmates of this institution are now as safeguarded as it is possible and given the best of food and care.

We would, however, recommend an investigation as to what means of employment may be found for these patients. Some are not in a mental condition to take up any occupation, but as previously mentioned, most of the inmates are materially above the mentality of the average inmate of a general hospital for the insane. Their time should be occupied for their own good, to keep them out of trouble, and to permit those who are able, to give some small return for their cost of maintenance. It is recognized it would be dangerous for these patients to have tools, or to let them operate dangerous machinery. It is possible they could safely be allowed to tend knitting machines, operate looms, or do basket-making. We believe it is a subject well worth immediate investigation by the management of the institution, and legislative appropriation for trying the experiment.

STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FERGUS FALLS.

The Board of Visitors has made a number of visits to the State Hospital for Insane at Fergus Falls and on each inspection has been very much pleased with conditions found in each of the departments. Patients have the best of care and supervision, and the food and supplies are excellent. This is one of our largest institutions, with nearly 1,600 patients. The wards and apartments have always been found cleanly, sanitary and attractive. We have only commendation for the excellent work accomplished by Dr. Welch, superintendent.

A detailed report of this institution, with a list of its appropriation needs is to be found in the report submitted by the State Board of Control and is, therefore, not duplicated here.

We have only one special need to which we would call attention for the Fergus Falls hospital. At the present time the tubercular cases are isolated to a ward in the main building. The toilet facilities are inadequate and it is necessary to carry the food for these patients through other wards; and we believe because of this tubercular ward being in the main building, there is much more danger of other patients being infected. We would respectfully recommend the construction of a separate building for tubercular patients at Fergus Falls similar to the tubercular hospital at St. Peter, said new hospital to be provided with ample porches, sun rooms, and modern facilities for combating tuberculosis.



DETENTION AND VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT BUILDING, STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, FERGUS FALLS

MINNESOTA STATE TRAINING SCHOOL, RED WING.

The State Board of Visitors believes the greatest institutional problem that faces the state today is the proper care of the incorrigible boy. The incorrigible girl has been ideally provided for by the building of a complete new and modern institution at Snook Center, where everything is supplied that money can buy. For the boy, the old accommodations, occupied for years at Red Wing State Training School have been considered good enough, provision for enlargement being made by extending the boys' school to the neighboring old building vacated by the girls. We believe the boy problem in Minnesota is fully as important as the girl problem. It requires just as much care and consideration by competent authorities and should receive fully as generous consideration by the legislature in the matter of needed appropriations.

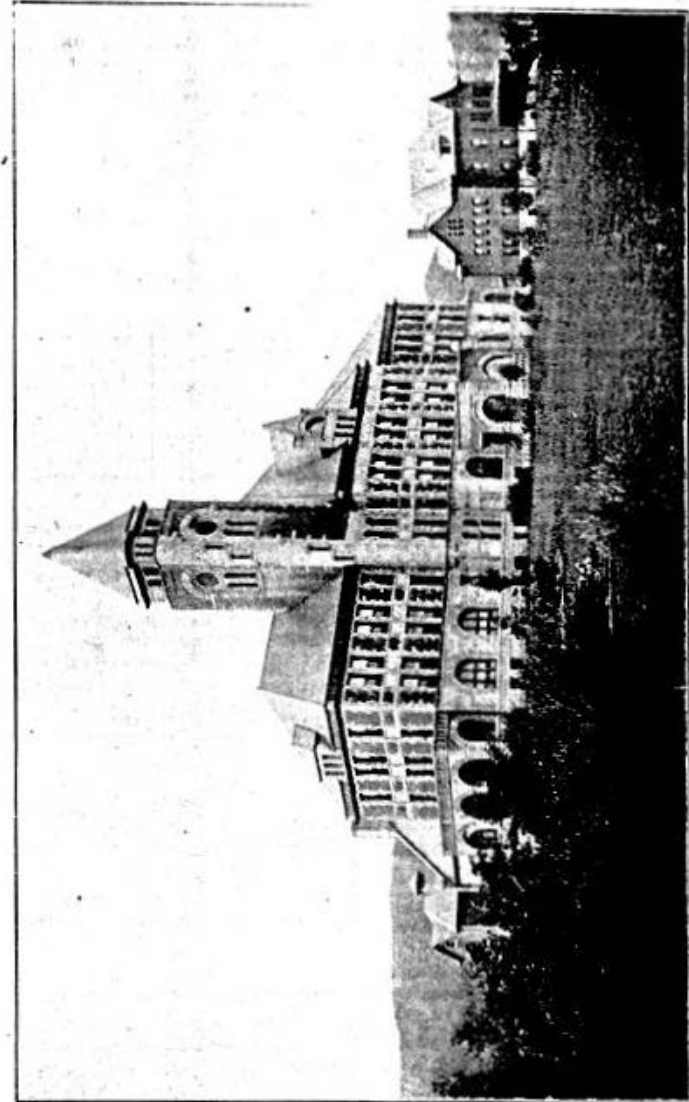
The Red Wing State Training School for boys has suffered much in recent years through the application of new theories which proved more or less disastrous.

The class of boys now being sent to Red Wing is probably harder to handle than ever before in the history of the institution. In years gone by a boy found guilty of some serious mischief was sent to the Red Wing school without consideration as to his character or without being given any further opportunity to make good. At the present time, in the large cities where we have the juvenile court system, the boy who makes his first misdeed is given a more or less lengthy period under probation to return to obedient paths, and is generally sent to the city truancy institution on any further infraction of rules or law. It is only after the probation system and the truancy school have been unable to reform him that he is eventually sent to the Red Wing school. Thus, the lad now received at the State Training School is generally a thoroughly bad boy.

The establishment of the so-called honor system at the institution proved a failure and there has been a return with much more successful results, to the old system of discipline. Corporal punishment is re-established in extreme cases. We believe, in spite of opposition in some quarters, this form of punishment is necessary with some of these boys and that its use by Superintendent Fulton is not abused.

To have an ideal state training school in our estimation would mean the establishment of the cottage system (a cottage for each company) and the abandonment of the old dormitories in the main building. This would cause the vacation of much of the old main building, which, for the time being, at least, could probably not be used for other purposes. We understand this is discussed rather fully by Superintendent Fulton in his report submitted to the legislature by the State Board of Control and which we hope will be given serious consideration.

There are at present six companies of boys at the Red Wing school. They are classified into companies not only by age, but by their moral characters. We believe that Superintendent Fulton agrees with the Board of Visitors that still greater division of the boys would be very beneficial. We hope the present legislature will increase the appropriations for the school to permit at least two more companies. One of these should be a receiving company for new boys. This would be but a temporary placing



MAIN BUILDING, BOYS' STATE TRAINING SCHOOL, RED WING

of the boy until fully ascertained as to his mental ability and his moral character, after which he would be duly assigned to the company and grade to which he properly belonged. There are a number of boys in various companies who eventually demonstrate they cannot be made amenable to general rules of discipline and are constant creators of trouble, and a bad influence to the boys about them. We would recommend these boys be placed in a company by themselves.

The newly received boys are, at present, placed in the disciplinary cottages until it is fully ascertained where they should be assigned. It seems unduly hard on the new boy to put him in with the boys receiving punishment and from whom all privileges are withdrawn, when he is guilty of no infraction of the rules. It is also in our minds questionable whether it is not a bad initiation for the boy to be introduced to the institution through association with the worst class of boys there.

We have made a number of visits to Red Wing State Training School, because the members of our board are especially interested in work pertaining to the reformation of the incorrigible boy. We have found the boys well clothed, apparently well treated and well fed. The food supplies have always been carefully examined and there seems to have been a steady improvement in the way the food is cooked and served, as well as an increase in the quantity.

It should be taken into consideration that when Mr. J. T. Fulton, the present superintendent, assumed charge of the school he had a great problem on his hands, and in our opinion, the institution has shown marked improvement along all lines under his jurisdiction.

The gymnasium building, with its swimming pool and hall for entertainment, has been a great boon to the boys. We would suggest, however, in addition, the construction of a frame building at a suitable and convenient place on the river bank for a bath house which may be used during the summer months. Great care should be taken as to the selection of a site of this building. The shore should be sandy, with a very gradual slope and where there is little or no current. At least two large launches would be greatly appreciated by the boys and add much to their pleasure during the summer months.

We should like to see the minimum period for boys committed to the Red Wing State Training School lengthened to at least eighteen months. To one uninitiated in work of such a state institution, this may seem like an additional hardship and penalty. As a matter of fact, work with this class of boys demonstrates it takes a long time to bring about any moral reformation or betterment in their characters. They should be kept at the institution, compelled to keep regular hours, required to give implicit obedience until it becomes second nature, given substantial food until they are made physically strong, and given full and sufficient time to make healthful progress and establish studious habits in their work. It is also useless to attempt to give industrial training at the institution in less than eighteen months if a boy is to be expected to become at all efficient in the trade which he selects or to which he is assigned. We also find it to be the opinion of those engaged in handling this class of boys in various other schools in other states, that to parole a thoroughly incorrigible

boy from the state school before he has had due and sufficient time to change his ways, is no kindness to that boy, but on the contrary, merely increases the number of returns of boys paroled for unsatisfactory behavior.

We ask for the boys at Red Wing, for the superintendent of the school and those associated with him, full consideration by the legislature and the granting of as many advantages as have already been accorded the state home for incorrigible girls.

On each of our visits to the Red Wing State Training School we have taken opportunity to talk with a large number of the boys and they have been permitted to see members of our board as they desired. We have received a number of minor complaints, but on investigation, these have proved to be without foundation and merely petty grievances that were easily adjusted. It was borne in mind, as was true at the investigation conducted at this institution a few years ago, that this class of boys are very apt to take every advantage of opportunities to make complaints; that a great deal of what they have to say is without foundation and told with a desire to "get even" for some more or less imaginary grievance. We believe that Superintendent Fulton is giving the lads a square deal, is most kindly disposed to them, individually and as a whole, and is using humanitarian methods in the operation of the school that should receive the support both of the legislature and the public.

During the past year (January 20, 1911), the Board of Visitors had forty-two boys picked at random among the inmates of the school, examined by a specialist as to throat and nose troubles; and by a dentist as to the condition of their teeth. Dr. J. W. White, specialist, reported twenty-eight cases of diseased tonsils, twenty-five cases of adenoids, thirteen of impacted hearing, and three requiring surgical treatment. Dr. White further stated in his report:

"The removal of diseased tonsils and adenoids from over 50 per cent of the inmates will no doubt place these boys in better physical condition and indirectly benefit them mentally and morally, or both. To say that the removal of diseased lymphoid tissue will benefit a specific case, morally or mentally, is impossible, but a certain percentage of boys so operated on will show a marked improvement mentally and morally."

Dr. Arthur P. Little, dentist, reported:

"A majority of these cases presented a gingivitis or initial pyorrhea and a general unhealthy condition of the gums. Many of the mouths contained abscesses and many of the teeth were found to contain cavities. Some of the cases were in need of surgical treatment. If the diseased conditions of these mouths are not corrected promptly and the systematic effects remedied which already begin to show, as the result of absorption into the blood stream, etc., we may expect morbid developments to follow gradually, such as tonsillitis, bronchitis, septic gastric disturbances, intestinal toxemia, appendicitis, Bright's disease, rheumatic and heart troubles, and a general lowered systemic resistance to all forms of infection. Compulsory mouth cleaning with regular inspection by the dental surgeon in charge, would, I think, avert fully 75 per cent of the faulty mouth conditions found at the school. Clean mouth and clean teeth mean a higher moral, mental and physical development."

"These findings are in no way meant to cast any reflection on the dental work now in progress at the boys' training school at Red Wing, as the amount of time allotted (two half days per week) the dental surgeon in attendance is entirely inadequate to cover this vast field."

The above reports were filed with the governor, the board of control and the superintendent of the training school. As it was suggested that in making these examinations of training school boys, the Board of Visitors had possibly exceeded its authority, no further action was taken on our part. We understand, however, that the State Board of Control had investigations made of their own and that from seventy to eighty operations have been performed as a result. As to whether or not these operations will make any material difference in the moral caliber of these boys only time will tell, but their records are being carefully observed. Whether or not they are helped morally, it seems that the work of the board of control in this regard deserves commendation in view of the fact that the boys are certainly better physically.

INDEX

Anoka Asylum for Insane.....	37
Better Accommodations for Male Attendants.....	27
Civil Service Opposed for State Institutions.....	46
County Trustee for the Insane.....	22
Employees of Our State Institutions.....	21
Financial Statement.....	13
Fergus Falls State Hospital for Insane.....	56
Hastings Asylum for Insane.....	46
Home Cottages for State Institution Employees.....	35
Industrial and Amusement Buildings for the Insane.....	14
In Explanation.....	5
Medical Certificate a Requirement for Marriage.....	19
Placing Out of Children by Private and Semi-public Institutions.....	20
Per Capita Cost of Insane Should be Borne by Patients of Financial Ability, or County.....	23
Private Hospitals for Insane and Commitments Thereto.....	17
Pensioning Employees of State Institutions.....	36
Registration for State Hospital Graduates.....	45
Rochester State Hospital for Insane.....	26
State Soldiers' Home, Minnehaha Falls.....	39
State Public School, Owatonna.....	40
State Prison, Stillwater.....	43
State Training School, Red Wing.....	58
State Sanatorium for Consumptives, Walker.....	28
State School for Deaf, Faribault.....	30
State School for Feeble-Minded, Faribault.....	32
State School for Blind, Faribault.....	34
State Reformatory, St. Cloud.....	48
State Institution for Inebriates, Willmar.....	24
State Conference on Charities and Correction.....	24
State Agency Consolidations Suggested.....	9
State Hospital for Crippled Children, St. Paul.....	41
Statement to Economy and Efficiency Commission.....	11
St. Peter State Hospital for Insane.....	51
St. Peter State Hospital for Dangerous Insane.....	55
Transportation Nurses Needed.....	16
Youth of the Streets.....	15