

MINNESOTA STATE LIBRARY

Biennial Report

OF THE

Minnesota State Board of Visitors
for Public Institutions



1919

Old State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn., February 1, 1919.

Hon. J. A. A. Durnquist, Governor, The State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: We herewith submit for your consideration, and that of the Legislature, the biennial report of the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions.

Very respectfully yours,

W. A. NOLAN, Grand Meadow, President.

SWAN J. TURNBLAD, Minneapolis, Vice President.

REV. E. J. NYSTROM, Buffalo.

J. R. SWANN, Madison.

A. W. MITTON, Browns Valley.

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

JAMES C. MATCHITT, St. Paul,
Executive Secretary.

Biennial Report State Board of Visitors

EXPLANATION OF OUR WORK.

The essence of the work of the State Board of Visitors is to guarantee the humanitarian welfare of the thousands of inmates of our public institutions.

Under the law enacted in 1907 establishing the board, we are authorized not only to visit and inspect public institutions, but to study, investigate, and report on sociological questions and subjects pertaining thereto. This we have endeavored to do in a way not to interfere with the control or work of other state boards, departments and officials, but rather to work along independent lines and be a co-operative and appreciated aid to other authorized authority. Our plan is to carry out our duties quietly but thoroughly, and largely without publicity. Experience has shown us that thus we can be much the more helpful and efficient with results more genuinely helpful to all concerned.

What does our "visiting" amount to?

Our work would be much more appreciated if the answer to this question were generally understood. The name, Board of "Visitors," instead of "Inspectors," is doubtless unfortunate. We do not make mere "visits." To begin with, when going to an institution, we never announce our coming. We do not wish an institution to be made ready for us. We arrive purposely when unexpected that we may find the average daily existing conditions and life. This method we believe of much importance. An institution not knowing at what time we may put in an appearance, is under stress of being constantly in shape to pass a rigid inspection or take the consequences of an adverse report.

Our "visits" are real "inspections." We go through every apartment from cellar to garret. Food and supplies are carefully examined and tested. Both inmates and employees are given careful consideration and written note made of all conditions found. Beds in dormitories are taken apart and examined as to sanitary cleanliness of bedding, mattresses and springs. We have discovered vermin and uncleanly conditions many times where the superintendent and supervising officials did not know they existed, but where patients or inmates suffered accordingly, nevertheless.

It is our constant endeavor to see that institution inmates are given humanitarian care, handling, and treatment. This is perhaps not only the most important feature of our work, but the most difficult in which to obtain our desired efficiency. We are glad to be able to report along this

line, that we have been able to rectify wrongs and mistreatments of institution inmates. In cases we have unearthed where frequently the facts were unknown to the management previous to our investigations. And in full justice to those concerned in such instances it must be said that were such conditions known to the supervisors in any of our institutions, they would not be tolerated for an instant, and where brought to light have always been promptly eliminated with the immediate punishment or discharge of guilty parties. It is particularly hard, however, for supervising officials to attempt to keep track of just what is being done by attendants who are necessarily alone in their respective wards with patients, hours at a time. The best preparedness against such troubles, consists in making careful selection of employees. But today, when all institutions are lamentably crippled by shortage of labor, whatever available help is to be had, has to be accepted. The work of the State Board of Visitors is therefore perhaps more essential now than ever before, as we find that attendants and employees of institutions as a rule have wholesome respect for our members, and knowing they may be visited any day, are much the more careful in their actions.

The fact that the Board of Visitors furnishes a fair and unbiased means of investigating complaints and obtaining information, seems to be increasingly appreciated by institutional inmates, their relatives, and interested friends. From such parties we receive numerous calls and inquiries. The questions raised are largely of minor character, but the replies and information we are able to give have been received with evident satisfaction. A number of additional cases have been referred to this board by the Governor, under whose direction we work as a free-handed, independent department. This board's freedom of action was created in recognition that it is manifestly unfair in any issue involved to have a complaint investigated by the individual or individuals who are in control of the institution under investigation, and who might be subject to adverse criticism by the facts being brought to light. Unbiased independence of authorized investigators, legalized to subpoena and examine witnesses under oath if necessary, is the greatest guarantee of justice in each and every case, and of satisfactory service along such lines to the public. Thus the Board of Visitors has a vitally important place in the life of all our public institutions, a place incidentally, not limited to institutions under state control.

A written report made of every inspection, covering every detail relative to the institution visited, is made to the Governor, as required by law. A copy of this report is also filed with the board or governing authority over said institution, and another copy given to the institution superintendent. We are pleased to report our recommendations have been given careful and courteous consideration, and have been appreciatively followed out.

As all our state institutions (except the Soldiers' Home) are under jurisdiction of the State Board of Control, we have had much to do with that body. We wish to herewith express our sincere appreciation of the hearty response and co-operation received. We have worked in the most pleasant harmony. Only those infinitely acquainted with the immense amount of detailed work on the shoulders of the Board of Control mem-

bers can appreciate the burden they carry, and the efficiency of the results they have accomplished. The war, creating a great shortage of institutional labor and increased costs along all lines, has added greatly to their troubles. We have the pleasure of believing the Board of Visitors has unflinchingly aided the Board of Control in some very important investigations and inspections at their request—in addition to our independent visits—during the last biennial period. This work was accomplished quietly and entirely without what would have been hurried publicity.

The members of the State Board of Visitors receive no remuneration for their services, merely drawing their traveling expenses. The only salary paid is thirteen hundred dollars (\$1,300) a year to an executive secretary, J. C. Matchitt, who devotes his entire time to the work of the Board of Visitors and is at the board's office in the Old Capitol, St. Paul, every day (except when absent on inspection work) from 9 a. m. to 12, and from 1 p. m. to 5 p. m. The board has practiced the strictest wartime economy. In fact, the remuneration of the secretary has remained the same ever since the board was organized eight years ago, and his work now also includes the duties of a clerk, stenographer and librarian who several years ago was employed at an additional cost of \$750 a year. Thus cost of operation is reduced to the lowest possible minimum. The membership of the board is made up as follows:

Hon. W. A. Nolan, Grand Meadow, president.
 Swan J. Turnblad, Minneapolis, vice president.
 Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson, St. Paul.
 J. R. Swann, Madison.
 Judge A. W. Milton, Browns Valley.
 Rev. E. J. Nyström, Buffalo.
 Governor J. A. A. Bundick, member ex-officio.

FINANCIAL.

The expenses of the State Board of Visitors for the past biennial period, were as follows:

	For Year End- ing July 31, '18	For Year End- ing July 31, '17
Telephone and telegraph.....	\$167.19	\$102.97
Travelling expenses.....	1,306.36	1,494.99
Printing.....	28.00	282.25
Postage.....	53.06	34.00
Stationery, supplies, and all other expenses..	24.65	222.52
Salary of executive secretary.....	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total expenditures.....	\$3,377.00	\$2,987.73

On July 31, 1917, the Board of Visitors had a balance on hand of \$1,651.53 (of which \$639.31 was carried over from the previous year). This total balance has been turned back into the general revenue fund. On July 31, 1918, we had a balance on hand of \$1,653.50 (including a railroad war tax refund of \$25.01).

Work of members on Liberty Loan drives and other patriotic endeavors, and the influence of many of the institutions has somewhat retarded the operations of the board the past year. We believe our showing is one of commendable financial saving. We ask for the coming biennial period the same total appropriation for general expenses as heretofore, \$5,000 a year, —\$10,000 for the biennial period. We do not believe this board should be pennitized the coming biennial period because we have made a material saving the past two years, especially as we expect one of our members, Rev. L. R. S. Ferguson, who is serving as a chaplain in France, to soon return. He has been an active and valued member of our board and the welcome addition of his services will, of course, entail an increased total for expenses. We are appreciative of the fact that our work has the endorsement of the Governor and State Board of Control who are best acquainted with its value and results, which fact would seemingly prove both its need and value.

INDUSTRIAL AND AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS FOR THE INSANE.

We renew a recommendation for a combination industrial and amusement building for each institution for the insane, especially the large state hospitals at Rochester, St. Peter and Fergus Falls. The state's duty to insane patients is not merely to see that they get enough to eat, clothing, medical attention, and a place to sleep. A large percentage of the insane are able to appreciate those things which go toward brightening the lives of the mentally balanced. In summer, occupation for men able to work is found on the extensive farms, and even many of the women find occupation in the vegetable gardens and berry patches. But in winter, not only is there lack of occupation, but severe cold and heavy snow compel the keeping of the patients indoors. Occupation of patients in various lines of endeavor is both healthful physically and beneficial mentally. On the other hand, the tedious, lamentable monotony of being confined in over-populated wards with nothing to do but sit in the hard chairs or pace the floors, cannot but be detrimental physically and mentally.

We would suggest a two-story amusement building at each institution, the first floor for men, the second floor for women; each floor to be equipped with such game boards and tables, and apparatus for industrial work as is necessary. The men's department should include bowling alleys, pool and billiard tables. The building at each institution should be in charge of an experienced director of industrial work for the insane—preferably two instructors—one for the men, one for the women.

Industrial work and amusements are already provided at these institutions, but in a decidedly minor way. An amusement building would be a social club house for those able to enjoy its pleasures. That it would be vastly appreciated, should go without saying. On July 31, 1913, there were 6,266 patients in our institutions for the insane, in unduly overcrowded quarters. Of these, those not able to appreciate a proposed amusement building are not in a condition to realize their unfortunate lot. But for the others, those who are in a condition to know where they are and what

they do not get, the comforts and pleasures of an industrial and amusement building would be a blessing that would make a life of melancholy despair once more worth the living. We believe that such humanitarian provision is really a duty of the state. When the state assumes custodial care of these patients—many of them for life—in all fairness and justice the state is bound to make such provisions as it can to substitute those things in institutional life which give healthful pleasure and recreation, for the things the individual leaves behind in losing his or her liberty, the comforts of home surroundings and care and association of friends and relatives. Our institutions for the insane are sadly lacking along these humanitarian lines at present through no fault of management, and we are behind other states in this regard although we lead in other respects. Let us be considerate, humane, even generous, to our hundreds of unfortunate custodial wards to whom "the melancholy days have come."

TRANSPORTATION NURSES NEEDED.

The State Board of Visitors repeats its previous recommendation for the establishment of a corps of state transportation nurses for the insane to transport patients from points of commitment to the respective hospitals.

Under existing antiquated law, insane patients are taken to the hospitals by the county sheriff. This is in accordance with a day gone by when those mentally afflicted were classed with criminals and treated accordingly. Why continue a practice that is unkind, improper, repulsive, and unnecessary?

A patient who is ill, be it mentally or otherwise, needs the care of a nurse experienced in the special line of affliction—not an officer of the law. If a member of your family became insane, would you think of calling a sheriff? And if not, why should that officer be required by law to take the patient into custody for transportation to a hospital, instead of a nurse?

What the average well-meaning sheriff doesn't know about the handling and treatment of the insane, would fill a large book. Nor is this a reflection on such official. His line is the criminal, not the insane.

As long as the sheriff remains the transporting custodian of the insane, just so long will the wrongful taint of crime be associated with those mentally ill, and like a felon, will the insane patient be transported from place of commitment to hospital, frequently with limbs unnecessarily strapped and bound. Uncalled for mechanical restraint of patients by sheriffs is not infrequently applied merely for the officer in charge to save himself the trouble of being continually on the alert. This is vouched for by receiving officials at our state hospitals.

The Board of Visitors accordingly recommends establishment of a corps of transportation nurses of both sexes, in number as found necessary, distributed among the three state hospitals for insane, at Rochester, St. Peter and Fergus Falls, all of such individuals to be experienced in caring for and handling the insane; that where a court commits a patient to one of these institutions, such court be required to notify the hospital authorities

that the services of transportation nurses are needed and whether it be for a male or female patient; that thereupon such transportation nurses shall be authorized to respond and that the expense of such transportation be charged to the county from which the patient is taken.

We further recommend that where a female patient is temporarily held in a county jail awaiting hearing, or awaiting arrival of transportation nurses following commitment, that it shall be required at local county expense that a woman attendant be provided for such patient during the period of jail incarceration.

We understand this plan for state transportation nurses for the insane has previously been opposed by the sheriffs of the state. The only reason for such opposition seems to be the cutting out of a source of fees for these officers. It might as well be argued that capital punishment should be re-established on the sole ground that its abolishment has cut the sheriff out of a fee of \$200 for each hanging. These are days of progress. Let us be progressive.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION TO THE PEOPLE.

With a better understanding of just laws and their fair administration, comes greater social content of the people and increased appreciation of the blessings of democracy. On the other hand, spread of biased propaganda of discontent, creates social unrest, opposition to law and authority, and arraigns class against class. On the public streets of our large centers of population soap-box orators have substituted the red flag for the Stars and Stripes and harangued excited crowds against our government. In our rural districts as well, unpatriotic speakers have made ultra-radical addresses even extending to treasonable utterances. Both in city and country incipient riots have resulted. Some speakers have been jailed, others given prison sentences.

The uninformed and the dissatisfied naturally drift in the channels of such information as is brought to them. Mere disbursing of meetings will not eliminate the seed sown by the plausible prophets of detrimental doctrines. The best remedy is the substitution of good seed for bad. Ignorance cannot be accepted as an excuse for violation of law, but law enforcement cannot eliminate ignorance. Most of the speakers in question know better, but many of those who hear them do not.

We therefore recommend a broader system of university extension to the people as a whole, both in city and country; that instruction and lecture courses at state expense be inaugurated at halls and convenient places of meeting in the congested districts of our large centers of population, in our smaller towns, and also in the rural portions of our state where consolidated school buildings will perhaps serve best for gatherings of those of the agricultural classes. This educational work should cover such subjects as advanced civil government, political economy, industry, commerce, capital and labor. These courses should be arranged through co-operation and request of labor organizations, civic associations, and boards of education.

Such an educational system would not only aid to set right those who labor under takabrehensions and misinformation, but would be helpful and appreciated by one and all. We are a thinking people. The mind with the dinner bowl is as interested, and as a whole even more active, in brilliant affairs than the capitalist. It is therefore most fitting that one and all should be accorded the privilege of receiving the helpful direction of higher education along those lines of the important and practical issues of government and industry which lead toward a better, higher citizenship.

We also urge the passage of an act to prohibit the use of the red flag. He for whom Old Glory is not good enough for display on any and every occasion, has no place in American citizenship nor in the confines "of the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INCREASING.

Juvenile delinquency has been on the increase, especially in our large cities, during the past biennial period. There have been many theories and explanations advanced for this. Some say it is because of the general restlessness caused by the war; that many fathers and "big brothers" being away in military service has tended to "remove the safety valve," as it were, from the young people. Judge Orr of the St. Paul juvenile court, says he doesn't believe any one can tell just why, but that it is a well known fact crime increases and decreases by waves in periods of years and frequently without apparent reason.

That lack of parental authority and proper supervision exists in a vast number of cases, is well known by all social and juvenile court workers. Juveniles are not allowed mere freedom in many instances, but undue license. For instance, during one hour one night-venue, 1,500 girls and boys in their teens (averaging 16 to 17) were counted passing by a busy downtown corner in St. Paul. Conditions are certainly no better in Minneapolis. The streets of a large city are no places for juveniles to be loitering evenings. They are in no way watched or supervised, and are not troubled by the police unless they commit some crime or depredation. Our few ordinances are not enforced. Thousands of parents either don't care, or their authority is defied; and the eventual result is the same. Our juvenile courts are altogether too busy; training institutions have their capacity taxed; homes for unfortunate girls are filled, the large majority of those they quietly shelter bring in their "trains."

What's to be done?

First, we would that something might be done to awaken the people to the matter of juvenile delinquency and the vital importance above all other things of home influence, direction, and authority. We plan to attempt a series of instructive articles along this line to be sent for publication in all newspapers of the state which will account them for use in their columns. In this we will ask for the cooperation, and even authorship, of

such helpful authorities as Dr. A. J. Todd, chair of sociology of the State University, juvenile court judges, probation officers, and workers among juveniles.

Second, enactment by the 1919 legislature of a state curfew law, prohibiting juveniles under 17 years of age to be out after 9 p. m. unaccompanied by an adult or without special written permit of parent or guardian where exceptions to the rule are sometimes necessary. On second offense, parent or guardian should be subject to a fine as well as some penalty for the child. A large part of the wrong doings of juveniles takes place at night. If children are at home during the dark hours, much trouble may be averted.

Third, we believe the "social center" movement should not be confined as in the past, to adults. Constructive play for juveniles directs their energies in helpful channels, aids them mentally and physically, and makes for better future citizenship. Public play grounds should be established in every town, with suitable equipment for healthful application of youthful energies, both summer and winter. Organizations which aim at proper direction of "the young ideas," such as the Boy Scout movement, Camp Fire Girls, gymnasium clubs, etc., should be fostered by an awakening of public sentiment to their greater worth, that of keeping the youth of our state out of harmful paths. Civic organizations and churches should awake to a new field for their influence and activities along these lines that Minnesota youth may have a new opportunity, and an interest from our citizens and the well meaning public that not merely stops to criticize when a boy or girl goes wrong, but which believes in preparedness and takes the steps necessary to build up a state's greatest possessions—its men and women of tomorrow.

Fourth, establishment by legislative action of "The Minnesota Cadets," an organization in every city for early evening drill once a week of juveniles, boys and girls meeting on separate nights, under instruction by local non-salaried individuals who will volunteer their services and who are capable to instruct in military drill, tactics, and setting-up exercises; and to at the same time make these organizations attractive to all juveniles by occasional social gatherings and entertainments and public drills. We believe such an organization, especially under state authorization, will appeal to young people and would result in unlimited benefit, both physically and morally, for Minnesota's most worthy boys and girls.

GIVE SOLDIERS CHANCE AT STATE INSTITUTION JOBS.

With the returning of our soldier boys from Europe, hundreds are seeking employment. We would respectfully suggest that either the state institution superintendents in need of employees, or State Board of Control, cooperate with the various agencies in the large cities which are seeking places for returning soldiers, and that these men be given first opportunity to accept such employment as our state institutions have available.

PAROLED PRISONERS AS STATE INSTITUTION EMPLOYEES.

There is a great shortage of help at our various state institutions, especially those for the care of the insane. It is a great problem how to fill the vacancies. Conditions because of the shortage in some instances, are admittedly unsafe, but the best is behind him of a bad situation. Wages are low, hours are long, and the work is not the most attractive.

We would therefore respectfully suggest an expedient if the positions cannot be otherwise filled, which is being tried with considerable success in some eastern state; that of employing paroled prisoners from the state reformatory and state prison, at other state institutions where the need of additional employees is most felt. And in giving paroled prisoners such employment, there is no need they be embarrassed by any general knowledge among their associates of where they came from.

Admittedly, great care should be observed in selection of paroled men for state institution employment. But they are frequently given places of considerable trust and more or less responsibility in business life, and make good. Why should they not do as well in state service? And with so many institutional places vacant there would be no need to keep "trusties" who are paroled for a considerable length of time after their parole is granted, while state agents look for places of employment. The places await them in state institutions. We believe the plan worth trying. If such men are to be given a chance in business life, we believe them worthy of a trial in institutional work. The suggestion is respectfully submitted for consideration of our state authorities having in charge of the rearing and placing of state prisoners.

A PSYCHOPATHIC WARD FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

The State Board of Visitors recommends the establishment at our State University in Minneapolis of a psychopathic ward in connection with the College of Medicine.

Such wards have been established in a few other states in connection with universities, and in each case have been satisfactory in results from every point of view. We would suggest such ward have a capacity of 100 patients, or at least that the plan be given a trial with equipment for not less than 50 patients.

At present, our medical students at the State University, have little or no practical experience previous to graduation in the observation, treatment, and handling of those mentally afflicted. Establishment of a psychopathic ward would fill this need. It would even do more. Most of our State University medical graduates find a field for practice within this state. Trained in actual experience with those mentally ill, they would be better equipped to give such cases treatment and advice, and would be quicker to have them sent to state hospitals where, by early consideration

of their cases by efforts, they would stand a much better chance of recovery than if they waited until their mental difficulty became permanently established and more or less chronic.

Patients for the psychopathic ward should be committed thereto by the respective probate judges throughout the state from those brought to them for examination as to their sanity; cases such as the judges might consider "borderline" or doubtful, mild or incipient, in their mental difficulty. Such cases in an apparently cumbrous condition, would thus receive greater personal consideration and care than if sent to a large, overcrowded hospital for the insane. Being thus cared for at a critical time in their affliction, they would stand a better chance for recovery.

Furthermore, people who are especially sensitive about having one of their family sent to an institution for the insane, would not put off through perhaps a feeling of false modesty, pride, and sensitiveness for both themselves and the afflicted, the expert treatment which to be most helpful should begin as soon as the difficulty in the individual becomes evident. A psychopathic ward would also in a small degree, act as a clearing house for the new cases for state hospitals. The voluntary commitment rule should be extended to the psychopathic ward.

RECOGNITION OF NURSES.

The State Board of Examiners for Nurses refused to grant registration to nurses graduated from our state hospitals for the insane. They claim the state hospital nurses do not get a general training. This refusal has caused considerable feeling at state institutions as being unfair to state institution graduates.

It is now proposed to make arrangements whereby nurses in training at our state hospitals, may take part of their course in some general hospital of the Twin Cities; and that in return, nurses of these general hospitals, may be sent for special training in care of nervous and mental afflictions, to our state hospitals.

We are hopeful this plan may be worked out successfully to the benefit of both our state institutions and the hospitals of the large cities, as well as giving a broader, better education to the young women in training to become graduate registered nurses.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES A REQUIREMENT FOR MARRIAGE.

Marring of the physically and mentally unfit has done much toward bringing crime and suffering into the world. Eugenics is not a fad of the over-enthusiast and the fanatic, but a practical, reasonable need. Proper selection has long been practiced in the breeding and betterment of livestock, but neglected for the human race. Insanity, feeble-mindedness, and even crime, is largely the result of inherited physical and mental weaknesses.

Why not enforce medical rules against the increase of all forms of human defectiveness? Investigation by our state bureau of psychological research among the feeble-minded at Fairbault shows their weakness to be inherited from either diseased or mentally deficient parents. The same thing is largely true of our insane, although research among these patients has not progressed very far. Our courts are compelled daily, in considering offenders, to raise the question of their mentality and according real responsibility. At the Red Wing State Training School, the superintendent is asking our 1919 legislature for an appropriation to build a special cottage to house sixty odd boys who have been committed as juvenile offenders but who have been found to be feeble-minded.

On August 1, 1918, the Fairbault School for Feeble-Minded was not only crowded, but there were 495 applicants on the waiting list who could not be accepted for lack of accommodations. Something must be done, not merely to house these unfortunate in state care, but to take steps to prevent further increase.

Prevention of defectiveness is far better than provision for defectives. We have year after year been appropriating for their support, and have remained blind to the fact that they are multiplying. To gaze over this unpleasant truth doesn't affect its being a live, lamentable issue.

We therefore again recommend enactment of a law requiring a physician's certificate of health as a requirement of the contracting parties to a marriage, to be presented to the minister, priest, or official who is to perform the ceremony, with an adequate penalty against the contracting parties and the individual officiating for violation of such law.

PLACING OUT OF ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE UNDER STATE SUPERVISION.

The Board of Visitors is firmly of the belief that the state should assume the authority of guardianship over all dependent children previous to their adoption by private families. Every child should be guaranteed not only humane treatment and care, but a fair opportunity to make good in the world. This is not merely a matter of sentiment, but of state economy. The neglected child grows into the wrong-doer, and the criminal class are a constant source of loss and expense to the state.

There are a number of private and semi-public children's homes and home-finding institutions in the state, but from inspection and investigation, we believe the greatest and most efficient work along these commendable lines is that done by the state public school. The state institution at Owatonna is the largest of its kind, the best equipped, the best managed, and with by far the most efficient system of supervision of children who are being "tried out" in homes. The state employs a number of wide-awake agents who are constantly travelling and looking after the welfare of these children. Children's institutions other than the state school, we find too inclined to believe that after a child is "placed," the duty of the home-finding

agency is practically closed. As a matter of fact, the most important work is the supervision of the placed child to make assurance doubly sure that such child has all the care and consideration that he or she should have, not turned into a drudge for house work, and given the opportunity to both enjoy and make the most of juvenile life. The days of "binding out" children as mere domestic slaves has theoretically long gone by, but with the present trouble in securing domestic help the temptation of the unscrupulous is great to secure children merely for the work they may be made to do.

We recommend the legislature enact a law to increase the field force of the Swanton State School to such number as is found actually necessary by the state public school superintendent to carry out the inspection work of all "placed" children.

STATE INSTITUTION EMPLOYEES.

One of the present greatest problems of our state institutional life, is the securing of needed capable help—especially at our hospitals for the insane. The wonder is that the institutions are able to get along as well as they do with the existing handicap. The shortage of needed attendants is alarming and something must be done to alleviate the situation. The last state hospital visited previous to the writing of this report, was St. Peter. There we found the institution actually 47 employees short and the superintendent had been forced to the dangerous expedient of placing a certain number of paroled patients at work in the wards as attendants.

Wages have been shooting skyward for many months in all lines of industry. This has caused a restless condition with labor, workers shifting from place to place possibly more than ever before. The shortage of labor, creating many openings, is largely the reason. Salaries at state institutions have been increased, but hardly in proportion to those outside. In addition in our state hospitals, the work of caring for the insane is unattractive and the hours long; ten, twelve, even fourteen hours a day. Accommodations for men attendants are very inadequate. They are quartered in attic rooms or other small apartments and quarters which far from appeal to a man who wants some home comforts after a long tiring day.

Our state hospitals are asking for better quarters for these men. We sincerely hope the reasonableness and the necessity for this, will be recognized by the legislature. There should also be a further wage increase and a shortening of hours. We recognize this will mean a largely increased expense, but something should be done. With better quarters, more pay, and shorter hours, it will be possible to get our institutions back to normal. But if there is no alleviation serious results may follow. With the insane not having proper care we have so far been very fortunate, but the risk is too great to be continued.

Not only would better conditions mean refilling of the gaps, but it would tend to persuade employees to remain in state service. This means increased efficiency, better care for those so greatly needing it, and a general higher standard of institutional life.

During the past biennial period we have had institution employees call our attention to the fact that for a man to take a position as an attendant or nurse with an idea of remaining permanently (which is much desired of reliable help) is for such individual to abandon any idea of being married. That in fact, the raising of a family for most employees is entirely out of the question. We received one rather lengthy letter of complaint in this regard. We believe the ground is fairly taken, and would suggest the advisability of erecting a series of small, one-story cottages at our state hospitals for married attendants and nurses, each cottage to be allowed at least sufficient ground for a small garden. If this seems too experimental, it might be tried at one hospital first to see if it does not attract a higher grade of help and aid in permanency of employment.

COUNTY TRUSTEE FOR THE INSANE.

There are a number of instances of patients committed to our institutions for the insane, being possessed of considerable property. In many cases this consists of farm lands; in others, stocks of goods, cash, and various valuables. We have in more than one instance had patients in an improved mental condition speak to us of their business affairs, saying they were worrying over possible losses, and wished we would make investigation beyond that afforded the hospital authorities.

We are aware there is already a law providing for appointment of a guardian of a person committed as insane. But sometimes this is purposely overlooked by scheming relatives who are only too anxious to get their hands on what the patient leaves behind. Also, the procedure of securing a guardian is somewhat slow and considerable loss is possible between the time the patient is taken in custody and a guardian formally assumes charge of his affairs. We know of at least one instance where the crop of a farm went to waste and was lost.

Where the state asserts its authority for good and sufficient reason to deprive an individual of his liberty and assume his custodial care, the state in all fairness should also assume it a duty to see that such patient's property is conserved and properly cared for.

We would therefore recommend the enactment of a law providing for a county trustee for the property of the insane, in each county, to be under continual bond in good and sufficient amount to cover all values in his hands; that such county trustees be authorized to assume charge automatically of such property as each patient leaves behind following commitment; that such trustee shall hold and control, without power to transfer, said property until such time as a permanent guardian shall be duly appointed and qualify, at which time he shall surrender said property, receiving due receipt for same from the guardian.

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCES.

It is not the policy or duty of the State Board of Visitors to go into the matter of public institution finances. The detail of this most important subject for practically all our state institutions is cared for by the State Board of Control and is presented most completely in that board's report to the legislature.

It is an evident fact, however, that without adequate appropriations, proper care cannot be given the wards of the state. This is particularly true of the insane and feeble-minded. Institutions for the insane are so crowded today, that to ask them to take care of further assured increase (it averages 4 per cent a year) is not merely a mistake, but an inexcusable wrong. Patients are sleeping in third story stairwells that were only intended for storage, in hallways, and under unkenish places. And all dormitories, large and small, have cots packed in just as close together as possible. There are too many in every room and ward. It overburdens attendants and nurses and increases the degree of unsafety and danger of accidents. It causes apartments to be close and insufficiently ventilated. It is detrimental to physical and mental health. Our insane patients July 31, 1918, numbered 6,206. It is conservatively estimated that by January 1, 1922, they will number 7,100. Present almost capacity with all constructions now under way completed, is 6,380. The conservative request is made by the Board of Control for three new cottages at the Willmar asylum (for 261 patients), and reconstruction of the north wing at the Anoka asylum (with capacity for 70). This would give accommodation for a total of 331 more patients, leaving still an estimated deficiency of accommodation January 1, 1922, of 339.

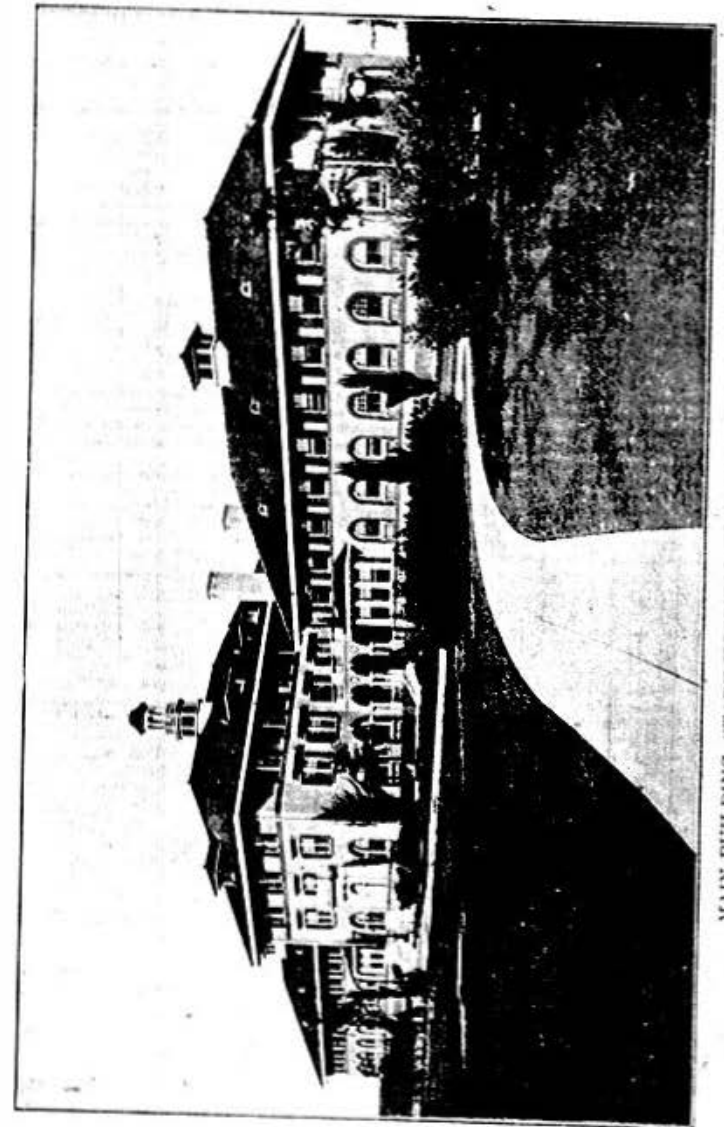
On August 1, 1918, the School for Feeble-Minded was not only crowded to utmost capacity, but there were 496 on the waiting list—a most deplorable situation that can only be remedied by legislative appropriation for further accommodations.

Increases are asked for maintenance funds at all institutions. The additional money is sadly needed. Patients have enough food to eat, but long days frequently intervene between the times when meat can be served. Only increased funds can relieve the difficulty.

WILLMAR STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE AND INEBRIATES.

The Willmar State asylum is a comparatively new institution, located on the shore of a small lake a short distance from the city of Willmar. The buildings are modern in every respect.

This is the smallest of our institutions for the insane. It was originally established not as an asylum, but an institution for the cure of inebriates and the drug habit. It was supported by a tax of two per cent on liquor license collections. From the first, it did not seem to be a practical proposition. As stated in our previous reports, a third of the patients ran



MAIN BUILDING, STATE HOSPITAL FOR INEBRIATES, WILLMAR

away. About 50 per cent of the women and something over 25 per cent of the men were classed as cured. This, with a high per capita cost, was far from satisfactory. With county after county going dry, the income of the institution began to sadly decrease, and at the same time the number of admissions materially diminished. When the institution was changed into an asylum for the insane, with a couple of wards left for the old class of patients, it was a very good and much needed change in the opinion of those associated with the management of the institution. Dr. George H. Freeman, superintendent, was formerly assistant superintendent of the St. Peter State hospital, and therefore well qualified to continue in charge and to take over supervision of insane patients.

To quote Board of Control statistics, the present capacity of our hospitals and asylums (including buildings in course of construction) is 6,280. By January 1, 1922 (buildings not provided by this legislature could not be completed before this date), the estimated population will be 7,100, a capacity deficiency of 720. But it should be also kept in mind that in figuring capacity, it means crowded capacity; the present use of every available room, cot crowded even into attic apartments and halls. Something must be done to alleviate this insanitary, unsafe, and lamentable condition. And Willmar, being less than half the size of our other two state asylums, is the logical place for the creation of additional capacity. Three new cottages to cost \$210,000 and house 261 patients, are requested here and most certainly needed. The Board of Visitors realizes this is an expensive time to build and that taxes and additional war costs have been a burden to our people. But here is a case of actual need. The insane must be accommodated. Commitments to the institutions will be continued and must be accepted. There is no place for them, and room must be provided. We therefore sincerely hope the request for the three new cottages at Willmar will be granted by the 1919 legislature.

We also recommend the abolishment of the departments for inebriates and drug addicts. Plainly, it seems a farce to continue it. In response to a letter of inquiry, Superintendent Geo. H. Freeman, under date of December 6, 1918, replies as follows:

"With regard to a continuance of our wards for inebriates I hesitate about making any recommendations, but I think our population report speaks for itself. The ward for men will take care of 33 patients and the ward for women, 4 patients. Our daily average for the year 1916-1917 was 71.17 males, 11.44 females. For the year of 1917-1918 after the insane were received here, the daily average was 16.29 males, and 4.39 females, but for the present year, I doubt if the total population will reach five."

The lack of need of the department is therefore self evident, and what is more, the room could be much better used for the pressing need of increased capacity for the insane.

We have made various inspections at this institution, covering every feature. We believe the patients are well cared for in every way.

Dr. Freeman, superintendent, is insistent that a service building be provided if the requested three new cottages are supplied. The old service equipment would be totally inadequate. The service building would include central kitchen, dining room, bakery, cold storage and dairy room; assembly

hall on second floor. Other appropriation requests are: barn for young stock, \$3,500.00; milk house, \$1,500.00; cow barn equipment, \$1,200.00; repairs and betterments, \$2,000.00; special salary, \$3,000.00; current expense, \$150,000.00.

ROCHESTER STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

The State Hospital for Insane at Rochester, in charge of Superintendent A. F. Kilbourne, is an attractive, well-managed institution. In summer the surrounding grounds are especially attractive with their varied and numerous shade trees, flower beds, and winding paths. Every ward inside the hospital, when mental condition and actions of patients will permit, is brightened with potted plants and pictures.

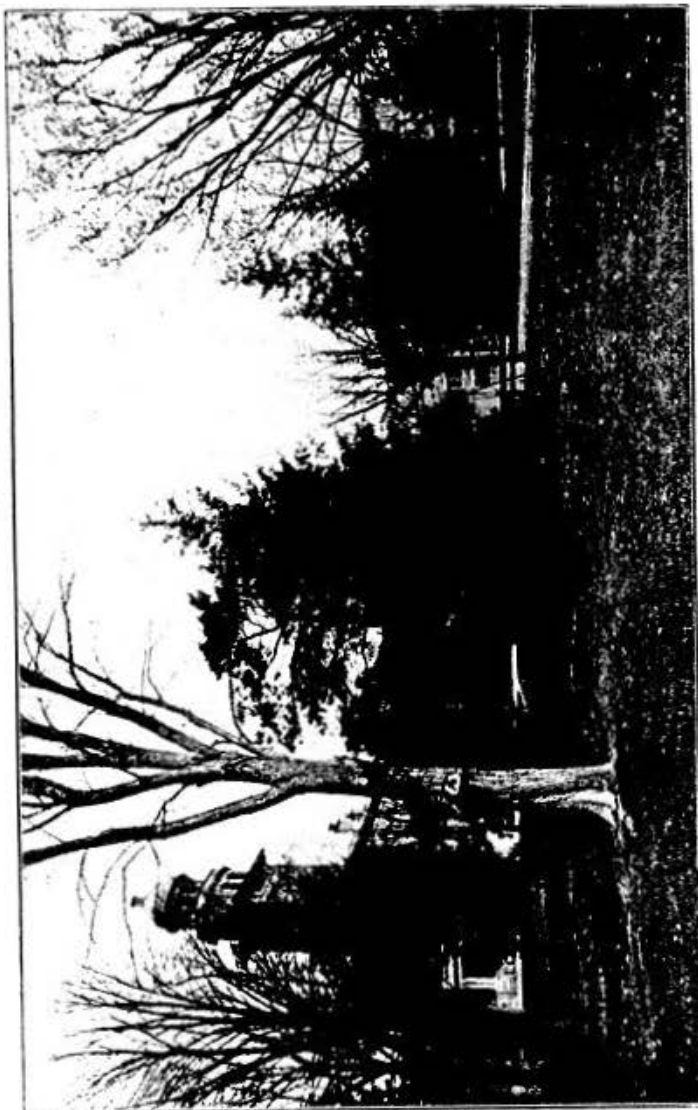
The old condition of overcrowding still exists. In previous years this has been brought to the attention of the legislature by the superintendent, Board of Control, and the Board of Visitors. Relief is needed more than ever. On an inspection June 25, 1918, we found it was necessary to compel over forty patients to sleep on mattresses placed on the floors. This sad condition places further emphasis on the need for the three additional cottages at the Willmar asylum. No additional patient capacity is asked the 1919 legislature for Rochester, but arrangements must be made for transfer of some of these patients.

We have made various inspections at Rochester, always finding the institution in excellent condition. Shortage of funds caused by the great increase in costs along all lines, has been severely felt. The food has been efficient, but meat largely eliminated, vegetables substituted, and fish served one or twice a week. On June 25 last, Dr. Kilbourne informed us meat had not been generally served for two weeks. On this same date, the shortage of help included 7 women nurses and 15 men attendants. The pay roll up to June 1, 1918, was \$6,000.40 short of the estimate for the year, which speaks for itself as to the continual shortage of help; and this in spite of the fact that wages of new male attendants had been increased from \$22.00 to \$28.00 a month. Suggestions relative to the help problem is considered elsewhere in this report.

In spite of handicaps, we believe patients at Rochester receive good care, attention, and consideration.

The institution has a farm of 1,700 acres, of which 325 are rented. A dairy barn burned by lightning has been replaced by an ideal new one. About 120 cows are milked.

We believe it a most wise policy to eliminate fire risks at our state institutions as speedily as possible, especially at those for the insane. Great advance has already been made along this line, but the good work should be completed without delay, that a possible catastrophe may be averted. We therefore hope the request for \$20,000.00 for fire-proofing and new floors at Rochester hospital will be granted. This means not only safety from fire, but better sanitation and better health.



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

Other appropriations requested are: for extension of vacuum system, \$5,000.00; farm building repairs, \$2,500.00; renewing plumbing, \$5,000; painting walls of ward building, \$5,000.00; relics and betterments, \$10,000.00; special repairs, \$11,000.00; laundry equipment, \$5,000.00; kitchen equipment, \$2,000.00; quarry working equipment, \$5,000.00; current expense, \$520,000.00 (this last item an increase of \$30,000 a year compared with the previous biennial period, necessary because of increased costs). Detailed explanation of these financial items is made by the State Board of Control. The Rochester hospital has about 1,100 patients.

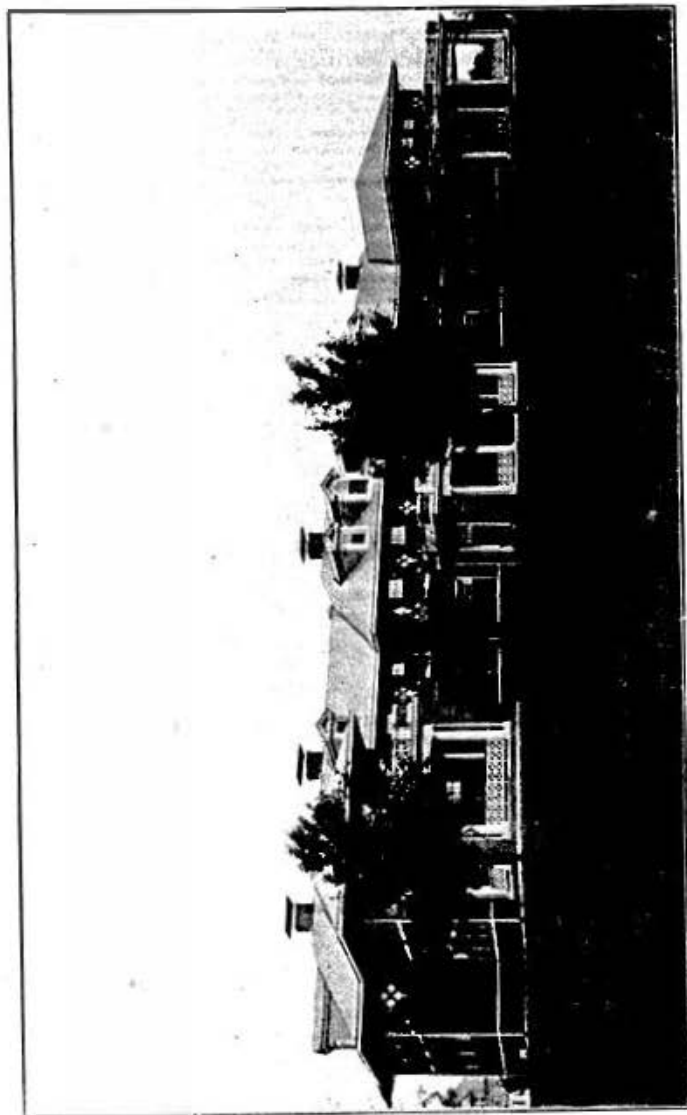
FERGUS FALLS STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

Our last visit to the State Hospital for Insane at Fergus Falls (previous to preparing this report) was July 10, 1918. We found a population of 1,600 patients. Like our other state hospitals, this one is much overcrowded. On the fourth floor it has been necessary for a long time to use small rooms with slanting side wall and small, insufficient windows, for patient wards. Beds are crowded together everywhere as closely as possible. Dr. Geo. O. Welch, superintendent, is doing wonderfully well with an overcrowding of population, and a shortage of help. But the limit has been reached, and the best of men cannot accomplish the impossible. More accommodations for the insane is a necessity of today which the legislature should not overlook.

On the date above mentioned (July 10, 1918), we found the Fergus Falls hospital had 49 male attendants for the insane, and 56 female attendants; a shortage of 35 men, and 15 women. It has been absolutely necessary to transfer 6 women to work on men's wards. In this connection, we would again refer readers of this report to the section on the subject of "State Institution Employees." Something must be done to remedy the present situation.

We would respectfully call attention that in the Fergus hospital are 110 epileptics, and a large number more of patients more properly classed feeble-minded than insane. But to transfer them to the School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics at Faribault is out of the question, as that institution had 496 on the waiting list August 1, 1918. Commitments to Fergus hospital average 50 to 60 a month, compared with 20 to 25 a month three or four years ago. Dr. Peterson, assistant superintendent, is authority for the estimate that 18 to 20 per cent of their male patients have been state wards because of epilepsy, and 12 to 15 per cent of the female patients for the same reason. We call this to public attention as further argument for our recommendation relative to legislation for practical eugenics, found elsewhere in this report.

Shortage of current expense is felt here as well as in all other state institutions. The diet of patients is largely vegetable, from financial necessity. More clothing for patients could also be had to good and needed use. But Dr. Welch is doing the best that can be expected under existing conditions. We have ever found him most considerate of his patients' welfare.



DETENTION AND VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT BUILDING STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE FERGUS FALLS

a good business manager, a humane and kindly physician.

Appropriations desired by the Fergus Falls Institution, are as follows: for enlargement of dairy barn, \$4,000.00; to improve old barn, \$2,500; fire-proofing and tile floors, \$20,000.00; additional porches, \$4,000; additional milliner guards, \$2,000.00; window guards, \$1,000.00; insulating refrigerating slabs, \$7,500.00; improving grounds, \$1,500.00; repairs and betterments, \$10,000.00; special repairs, \$10,000.00; milk room and equipment, \$2,500.00; furniture for wards, \$2,500.00; current expense, \$670,000.00. (Increase asked of \$700,000.00 a year compared with last biennial period). Financial requests are explained in detail in report of State Board of Control.

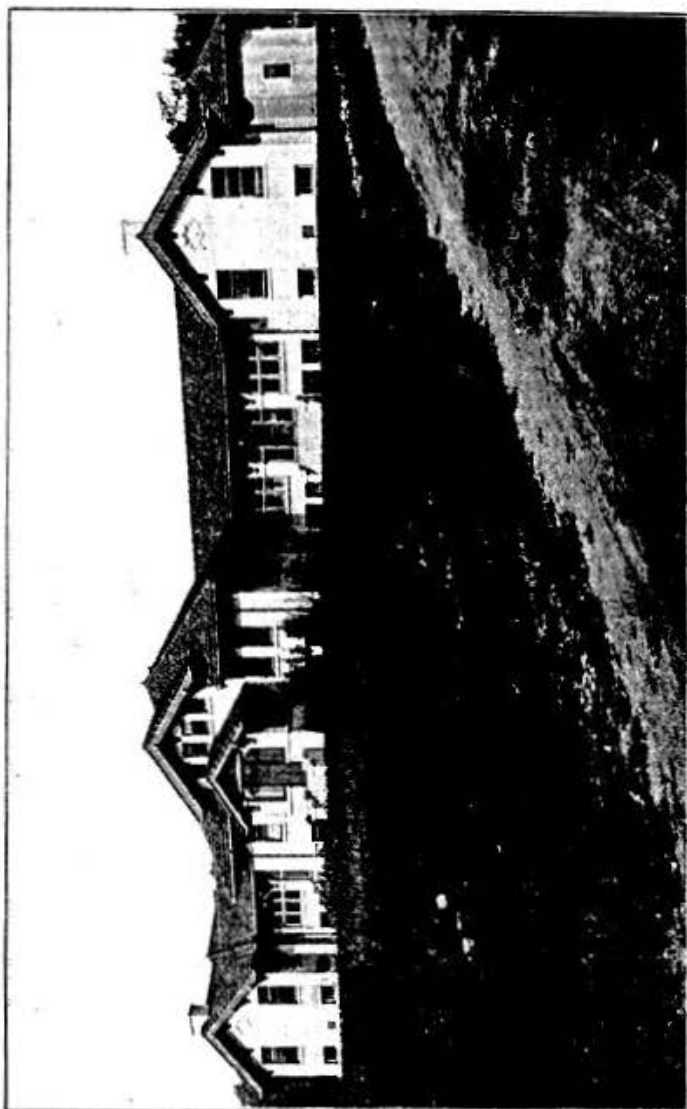
ST. PETER STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

Our last visit to St. Peter State Hospital for the Insane, previous to the preparation of this report, was October 1, 1918. The total population (patients) was then 1,389; male, 747; female, 642. In spite of the fact that wages had been increased 13 per cent in six months, on October 1st the hospital was short 43 employees. Dr. R. M. Phelps, superintendent, in a letter to the Board of Visitors, explains his serious difficulties with labor (as of the above date), as follows:

"If our pay roll were completely full we would have something like 227 on the pay roll now (54). Under the heading of what we call nurses, there were 33 men and 52 women October 1st. The number of places on the pay roll are respectively 32 and 67. During the early part of the year we voluntarily kept the number low, as money was going so fast, aiming at 44 men and 54 women. WE THOUGHT THIS WAS A LITTLE RISKY BUT WERE DOING EVERYTHING WE COULD. However, after that there was only one time we got as high as 44 men and hardly at any time as high as 54 women. On September 14th we had 31 men on the wards, including the supervisor and superintendent of nurses. Eleven of them came down on a strike. They even left the wards unguarded in the morning to be at the office when I came around. They said the women had gotten a raise and they had not. I pointed out to them that since the first of the year the men had been raised \$5 and the women only \$4. However, they said they had agreed to quit unless they got a raise in wages. They all left, but we picked out by using about six patients, putting them on parole, and one old employe came back to work until he was drafted. In a few days we got up to about 30. Today (October 1st) we have 32. The average number of attendants can, of course, be figured out as 33 to 747 men patients, and 53 to 642 women. The women always have a larger number than the men, in addition in which they help run the detention and three special diet kitchens.

"With regard to salaries, the men receive a minimum of \$38 a month. They all get this except the superintendent and supervisor of nurses, and 5 second nurses. The 5 second nurses get \$42.50 per month, and the head nurses get \$50 to \$55, mostly according to length of service. Similarly on the women's side, the nurses here enter more especially to go through the school. They commence at \$23 per month and in the course of 10 months go to \$32, where they stay until graduation, unless they are put into one of the positions of second nurse or the position of head nurses of flats. The second nurses who are graduates receive \$40 a month, and the head nurse of a flat receives \$42.50 if a graduate, and \$40 if not a graduate.

"We have economized in every way possible. Our stock is running



TUBERCULOSIS BUILDING, STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, ST. PETER

down, and we are short of clothing, bedding, and have bought no new furniture of any kind for some time. We are short of bed springs and bed clothes; bed spreads have become a luxury and we will no doubt run out of table clothes. We, of course, economized a good deal on food."

The shortage of labor and needed supplies of beds, bedding, clothing, and even food, as demonstrated in Dr. Phelps' candid and helpful letter, is typical of similar conditions in our other institutions for the insane, and it is necessary to impress this need on the legislature, for from the legislature alone can come the needed relief.

If a member of one's family were taken ill and it became necessary to send such patient to a hospital, certainly no hospital would be selected where they were seriously short of nurses, beds, bedding, clothing, and meat. Yet today, when one's relative or friend becomes mentally ill, the state steps in and commits the commitment of such patient to a hospital where these lamentable insufficiencies exist— even to a point where a superintendent states shortage of nurses is dangerous for safety of patients. If it were a private hospital, the state would doubtless promptly cancel its license, but the state hospital must continue under conditions that are growing from bad to worse. The fault is not the management, and, as we have said, the only relief is with the legislature, which we ardently hope will give the situation at our institutions for the insane the full consideration the situation demands.

Dr. Phelps has had his hands full with more troubles than shortage of help and supplies. In September last, an epidemic of head lice got a start and was very hard to overcome, especially with a lack of nurses. We requested the Board of Control to give the superintendent permission to have the hair of women patients cut short where the head lice did not yield to immediate treatment, and in needless cases this was done. This trouble was followed by a severe epidemic of influenza, which is decreasing at the time of writing this report (December).

Appropriations requested by the St. Peter hospital for the coming biennial period are: for fireproofing quarters for married employees and chapel, \$10,000.00; two large ward porches, \$10,000.00; tile floors in wards, \$10,000.00; covering heating pipes, \$5,000.00; repairs and betterments, \$10,000.00; special repairs, \$2,000.00; equipment for new dormitory for men, \$5,000.00; current expense, \$750,000.00 (the base of \$25,000.00 a year).

CRIMINAL INSANE.

The building for the Criminal Insane is on the grounds of the State Hospital at St. Peter, and supervised by the same superintendent. It is now an ideal structure, with a new wing which will give much needed increased capacity of 100 when necessary; additional funds therefor are appropriated. Various safeguards have been added to prevent escapes, and the record of this institution the past two years has been excellent. The institution has been fortunate in keeping a full complement of help. There are a

class of patients requiring constant alert watching, and the help is paid higher wages than for similar work in other state hospitals. Wages of men attendants have been increased from \$44 to \$50 a month (new hands receiving \$3 to \$4 less until they become experienced).

We have two suggestions. As these patients cannot be taken out for airings on the extensive hospital grounds and have to be kept within the small walled-in yard of their special building, we would suggest this walled-in area be considerably increased in size, especially in view of the fact that the capacity of the institution has been so greatly increased. We also recommend investigation as to the best form of industrial work which may be established for such patients as are able to work, and who now have nothing to do.

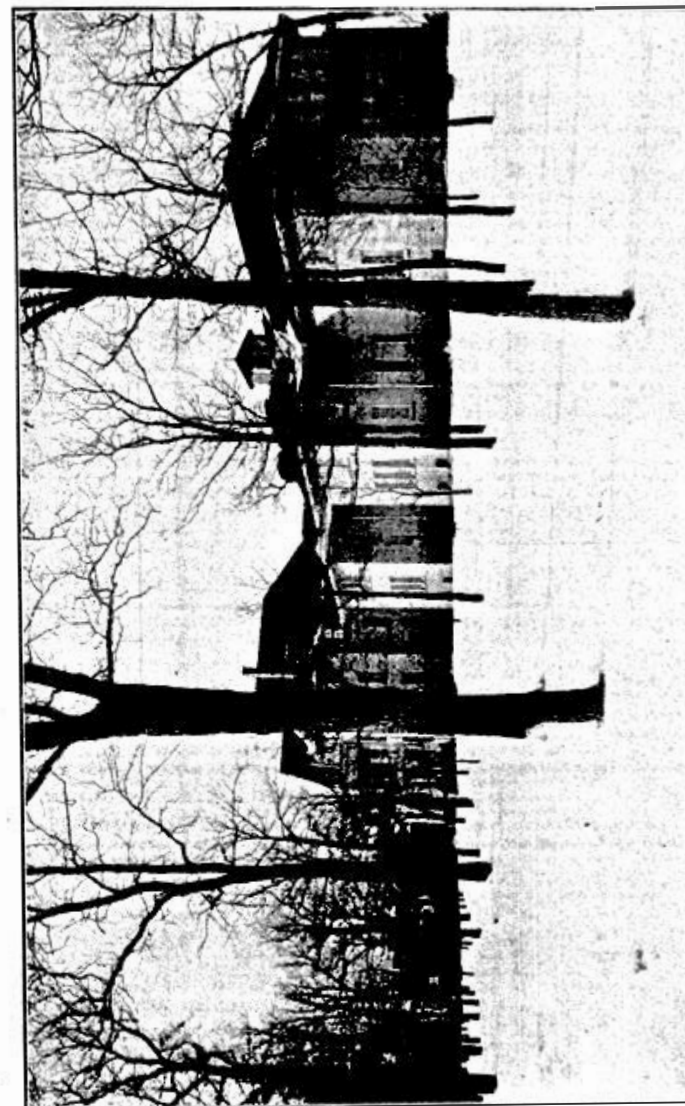
We have always found the patients well cared for, and the building scrupulously clean.

ANOKA STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

It is always a pleasure to visit Anoka State Asylum. Superintendent John Coleman is a most thorough and capable executive, and the state is most fortunate in being able to retain his services. He always manages to operate the Anoka asylum at the lowest per capita cost of all state institutions, yet everything is always in excellent condition. His patients are well fed and clothed, he has the least trouble with help, and we have only commendation for both superintendent and institution.

The Anoka asylum is mainly for women patients, who are housed in ideal cottages. The men, most of whom aid in the farm work, are quartered in the old main building. The north wing of this building is still a fire trap and we hope the legislature will see fit to grant the appropriation asked to make this a safe place for custodial wards. The construction of a new hospital building and an amusement hall, were improvements made during the past biennial period, long needed, and thoroughly appreciated.

Mr. Coleman asks the legislature for the following needed appropriations: reconstruction and fireproofing north wing of main building, \$75,000.00; electric wiring and water supply for farm buildings, \$5,000.00; improving grounds, \$4,000.00; repairs and betterments, \$5,000.00; special repairs, \$5,000.00; enlargement of dairy herd for milk for increased population (new accommodations will increase capacity from 367 to 1,030), \$2,500.00; current expense, \$300,000.00, being an increase of \$90,000.00 over the allowance of the past biennial period, necessary because of increased costs and, largely, because of increased capacity.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE, ANOKA

HASTINGS STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The average population at Hastings asylum for the past year has been 946. It is planned to care for 1,000 patients the next biennial period.

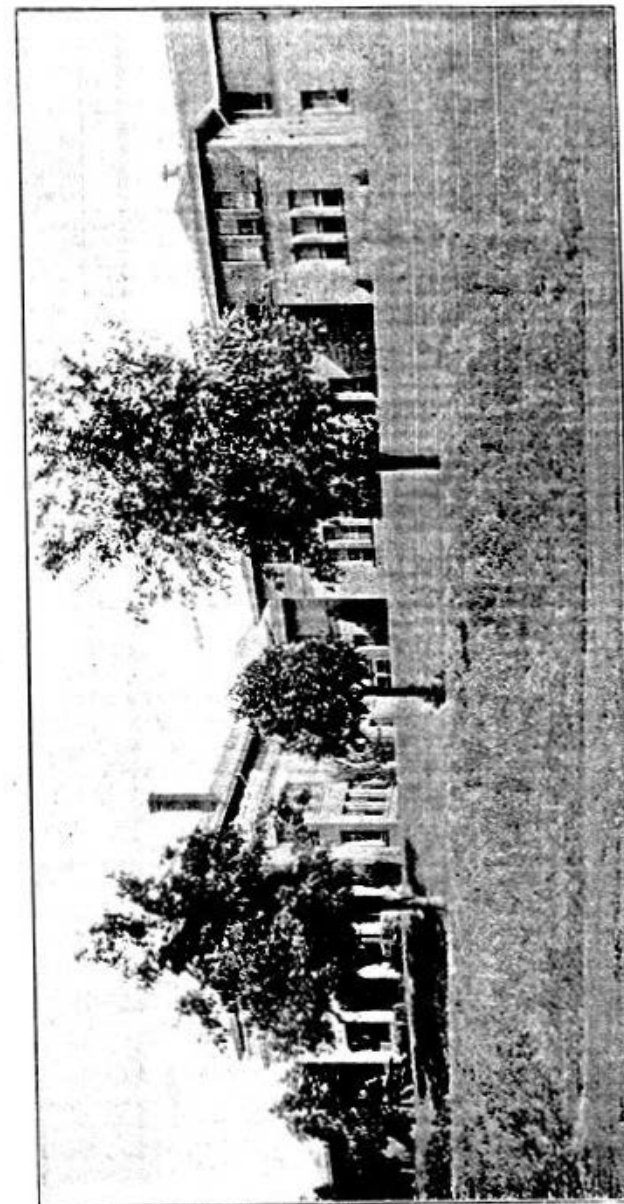
At the time of our last visit (December 18, 1918), Superintendent Wm. Yanz was having more than his share of troubles with an epidemic of influenza prevailing among both help and patients. During the previous thirty days, there had been 200 cases, and 40 deaths. The institution was 16 attendants short of a quota of 60, but with so much sickness it was necessary to secure additional trained help. Five trained nurses were being employed in aid during the epidemic.

We believe that Hastings asylum has been in better condition in every way the last biennial period than for a number of years previous. We have found the wards clean and sanitary, and patients apparently well fed and clothed, although it has been necessary to largely substitute vegetables for meat here as in other state institutions. Stocks of supplies are low, and more clothing could be well used if money were available for such purchase.

Vermion which got a start in the wards of the old main building a few years ago, have been entirely eradicated. We had one recent investigation of a complaint of a brother of a patient who was suspicious of bruises he noted on nose and eye of patient. Management and attendants of the institution were entirely and satisfactorily cleared, it being established the injuries were the result of a fall, said patient being very unsteady on his feet because of general paresis.

Mr. Yanz asks for \$529,000.00 in appropriations for the coming biennial period. Of this, \$150,000.00 is requested for a new power plant. The Board of Control has had it looked over by engineers, who think a new outfit necessary, but if the old one is to be patched up, that \$35,000.00 in repairs is needed. The engineer informed us that with a new plant, located toward the top of the grounds' hill (the present one is on a grade with the cottages below the hill) he could use all of his exhaust steam for heating and save probably a third of the present amount of fuel used. We noted one large dynamo and engine in the old plant seem to be perfectly good and could perhaps be removed in a new power building. We admit, however, this is a question for expert engineers to report upon.

Hastings asylum also asks for the coming biennial period: for cottages on grounds for asylum engineer, \$4,000.00; screens and storm sash for new west wing, \$3,000.00; improving grounds, \$2,000.00; power plant repairs, \$5,000.00 (or if old plant is kept, \$35,000.00); shingle roofs of cottages Nos. 3 and 4, \$3,000.00; plumbing, repairs, \$3,000.00; replanking and repainting bridge across Vermilion river, \$2,500.00; rebats and betterments, \$6,000.00; special repairs, \$5,000.00; laundry equipment, \$5,000.00; service building equipment, \$5,000.00; furniture for wards, \$2,500.00; for current expenses, \$330,000.00, an increase of \$15,000 over amount granted for past biennial period. These requests are explained in detail by the State Board of Control.



MAIN BUILDING, STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE, AT HASTINGS

MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS.

This is the largest institution in charge of the State Board of Control and inspected by the Board of Visitors. It had an average population the past year of 1,623. It is too large. As a matter of fact, the time is at hand when the Colony for Epileptics should be removed to a new institution at some other location, and the present buildings given over entirely to the feeble-minded. On August 1 last, there were 406 applicants on the waiting list for admission to the institution, and the place full to utmost capacity with no relief in sight. It is evident something must be done. The feeble-minded must not be allowed to multiply at large. They are a menace to society and add materially to the criminal list.

"No class creates a greater menace to society than certain types of these unfortunates," says Superintendent Guy C. Hanna, superintendent of our School for Feeble-Minded.

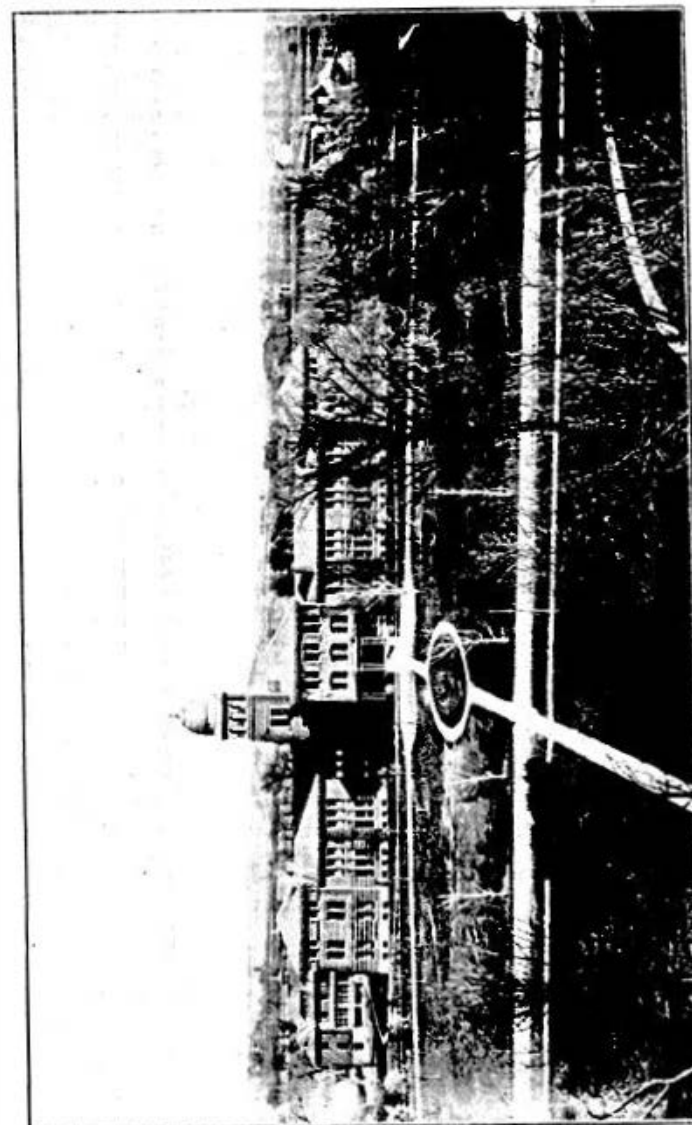
"A great majority of our criminals, young and old, to be correctly classified are feeble-minded," says Judge Orr of the St. Paul juvenile and district court.

The longer these slighted facts are overlooked, the more will our crime and social troubles increase. The state which refuses to properly provide for this unfortunate class, must realize that such policy is but "penny wise and pound foolish." The care and segregation of the feeble-minded is a duty to good citizenship, and an advanced preventive measure against innumerable troubles that run through the entire category of human misdeeds.

We therefore urgently hope that full consideration will be given to the appropriation requests for the School for Feeble-Minded as made by its excellent superintendent, Mr. Guy C. Hanna. His management of the institution has been exceedingly economical and wise. He puts the coming financial needs of the institution for the next biennial period, into the following requests:

Cottage for school and working boys (capacity 150), \$100,000.00; cottage for dairy boys (now living in a temporary shed), \$25,000.00; cottage for steward, \$1,000.00; farm buildings, \$11,000.00; blacksmith shop, \$3,000.00; ice house, Wolcott colony, \$800.00; fireproofing and remodeling main building, \$60,500.00; remodeling old house, Springdale, \$2,000.00; extension of tunnels, \$5,400.00; water supply for dairy barn, \$2,500.00; electric line, Grand View to Wolcott Colony, \$2,500.00; thermomatic control valves for bath tubs, \$3,200.00; grounds and fencing, \$2,500.00; repairs and improvements, hospital, \$10,000.00; repairs and improvements, Sunnyside, \$10,000.00; repairs and improvements, Skinner Hall, \$10,000.00; repairs and improvements, Epileptic Colony, \$2,800.00; repairs and betterments, \$20,000.00; hot water pumps, \$1,800.00; sterilizer for "T. N." hospital, \$1,000.00; current expense, \$500,000.00.

We have ever found the inmates of this institution well cared for, kindly treated, properly fed and clothed. The institution is always clean and sanitary in every way. We believe Minnesota is fortunate in having Mr. Guy C. Hanna as one of its institution superintendents. His record is one of both efficiency and economy.



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

STATE HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

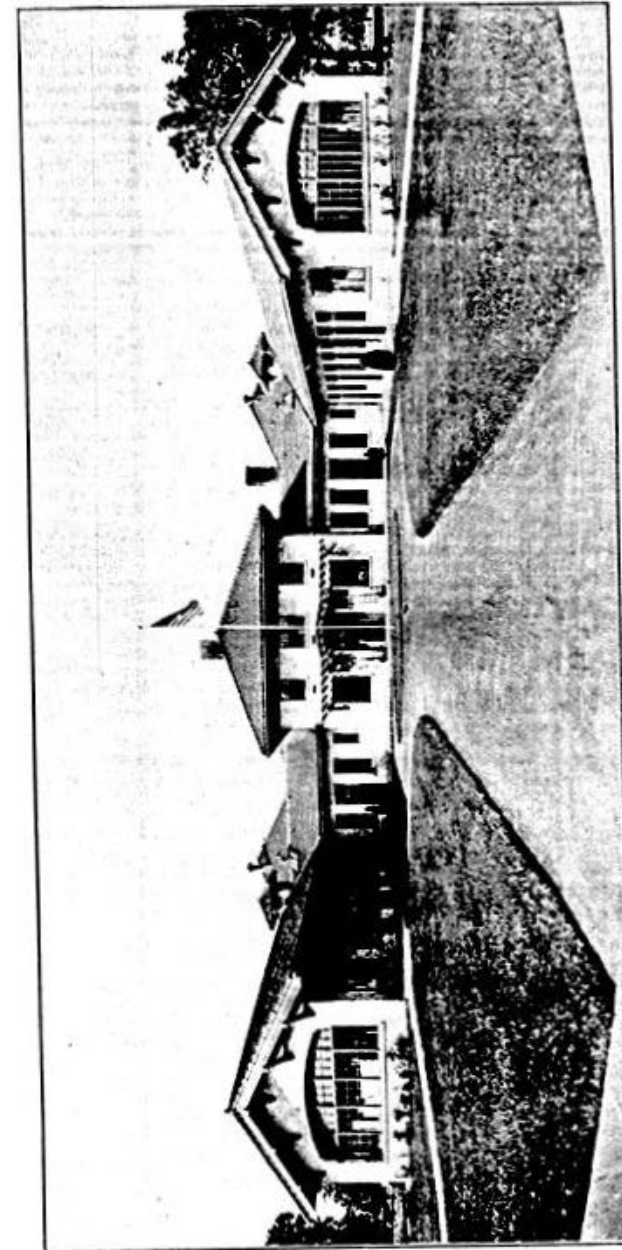
The State Hospital for Crippled Children at Phalen Park, St. Paul, is doing a wonderful work for unfortunate little ones. Dr. Gillette, chief of staff, with his corps of able assistants, have for years given their services free of remuneration and in hundreds of cases have proved themselves miracle workers. We have always found the little patients bright and cheery in spite of their afflictions. They are well cared for, with clean, sanitary surroundings. It is a model hospital of its kind. Miss McGregor, superintendent, has been serving in children's war relief work in France, and Miss Marie D. Roppe is acting superintendent.

More room is needed. There were 50 patients on the waiting list August 1, 1913. An addition to the main building is asked, to cost \$30,000.00, to accommodate 22 more patients and increase service facilities; for improving grounds and appropriation is asked of \$2,000.00; repairs and betterments, \$5,000.00; library, \$500.00; special appliances for patients, \$5,000.00; instruction and amusement, \$3,000.00; care of indigent blind babies, \$4,000.00; current expense, \$137,000.00. Total, \$236,500.00.

STILLWATER STATE PRISON.

It is always a pleasure to inspect the State Prison at South Stillwater, an ideal institution, splendidly managed; a penal institution wherein the offender fully realizes the severity of his punishment to be fitting to his offense against society, yet where every physical and mental need of the incarcerated individual is humanely provided. Effort is made to practically demonstrate the modern theory that with imprisonment should go all possible steps for betterment and reformation; that the inmate, received as a convicted criminal, may be discharged a helpful member of society prepared to stand up among his fellow men as a good and industrious citizen. To accomplish this, is the great problem of modern criminology, and we sincerely believe the methods in operation in Minnesota point vastly nearer to its solution than is the case in most of our sister states.

Minnesota pays her prisoners (from 15c to \$1.50 a day) for their labor in accordance with their individual skill, ability, and deserts. We give them schooling, even permitting specialization along advanced lines in promising cases. We pension needy dependents of prisoners in such amount as investigation proves they need. The innocent are not compelled to suffer because of the incarceration of the guilty. We have ever found the strictest discipline to prevail, with no infringement of rules tolerated; yet the individual given every consideration if he but responds to requirements. Frequent inspections invariably find everything scrupulously clean, the food abundant and well cooked, the men well clothed. We have only commendation for the wonderful work of warden C. S. Reed.



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

Donations and subscriptions to war funds made by prisoners up to July 31, 1918, averaged \$61.68 per capita, and were as follows:

Donations to Red Cross.....	\$2,353.86
Donations to Knights of Columbus.....	757.25
Miscellaneous donations.....	157.00
Subscriptions to First, Second and Third Loans.....	34,300.00
War Savings and Thrift Stamp purchases.....	15,637.52
Total	\$53,205.62

On August 1, 1916, there were 966 prisoners (25 women). On August 1, 1918, there were 371 prisoners (17 women). For the biennial period ending July 31, 1916, 782 prisoners were received, as compared with 644 for the biennial period ending July 31, 1918. The decrease is doubtless largely due to so much of the state going dry.

Wages of \$151,822.37 were paid to prisoners the past biennial period. The net income for the year ending July 31 last, was \$331,553.18, which was passed to the revolving fund. In 1879 it cost the state \$107.99 more than he earned to keep a prisoner, and in 1918 his earnings were \$326.06 in excess of the per capita expense.

Hennepin county, with 232 prisoners July 31 last, heads the list of counties for number of prison inmates. Ramsey comes second, 156; St. Louis third, 124. The following counties had no prisoners in the institution July 31 last: Chippewa, Hubbard, Lac Qui Parle, Lake, Le Sueur, Marshall, Sherburne, and Waseca.

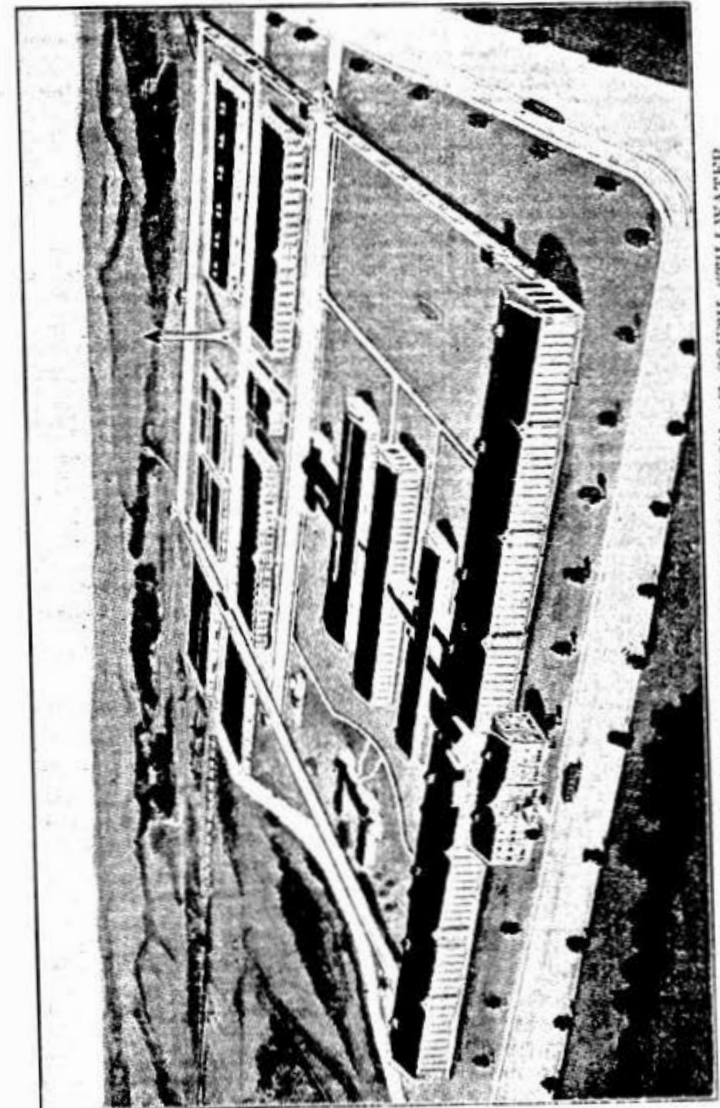
Terms of service in prison by the inmates the past biennial period are as follows:

	1917	1918
First term	223	223
Second term	76	60
Third term	18	17
Fourth term	5	1
Fifth term	3	0
Sixth term	1	0
Eighth term	0	1
	326	317

Following are the financial needs recommended by Warden Reed for the next biennial period: horse barn, \$6,000.00; root cellar, \$7,500.00; additional land, \$11,000.00 (for 180 acres fine land—farm now comprises 785 acres); repairs and betterments, \$5,000.00; printing equipment, \$6,000.00; current expense, \$180,000.00; total, \$252,500.00.

RED WING STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

We have a profound sympathy for the boys at the Red Wing State Training School. They haven't had a square deal from the state, and their equipment is below par. A request is being made for the Sauk Center School for Girls for additional equipment that the so-called "families" may



SHOWING GENERAL PLAN OF STATE PRISON AT SOUTH STILLWATER

be reduced to twenty inmates. But at the school for boys, Red Wing, the combinator run from 60 to 70 to the cottage, entirely too large a number for one officer to care for even were they well-behaved, normal lads, instead of wayward and incorrigible. If they are compelled to go to Red Wing, then the same state which uses such power should be in duty bound to see that they have a chance for material betterment, in their environment, in their instruction, in their care, and in the quarters and equipment furnished. This is not the case. Their every-day clothes are patched and tattered. There isn't the money available to clothe them neatly and permit them to present an appearance in which they might take just pride. Their food is necessarily largely of vegetable diet. Lack of funds prohibits daily serving of meat.

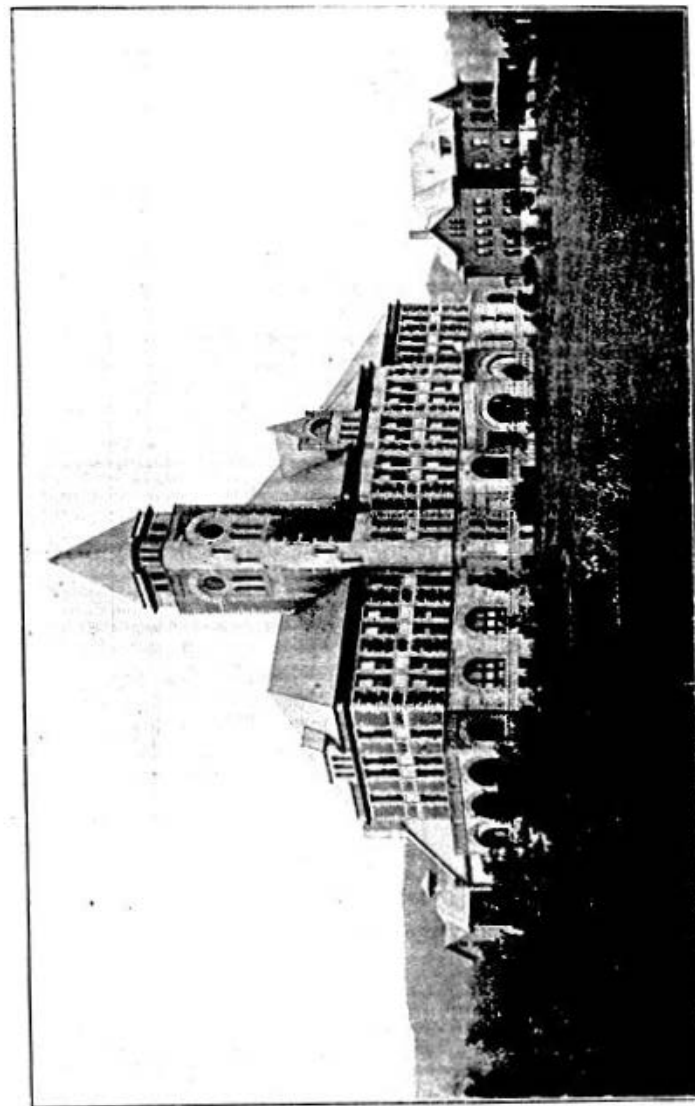
The buildings have been erected 29 years, and a comparatively small repair fund has been provided year by year, the amount in recent years being inadequate. The roofs, plastering, and coping are deteriorating very rapidly. The basement rooms of the main building and of the building formerly used by the girls' school, need runways, enlarged windows for light and ventilation. The shop building is in bad condition. Only half of it is fireproof. The carpenter shop and paint shop are in that part of the building which is not fireproof. In this building are the engine room and shops, in constant fire danger. It would certainly seem real economy and foresight to put this shop building in proper safe condition.

Shop equipment is old and out-of-date. Boys trained in a poorly equipped shop with antiquated tools are not qualified to take similar work in a modern industrial plant.

We have had a number of minor complaints and investigations at the Red Wing school the past biennial period, none of any serious character. There seems to be an atmosphere of disgust and unrest among a fairly large percentage of the boys. This is not to be wondered with the existing impossibility of proper supervision and direction by supervisors in charge of family companies more than twice as large as they should be.

The "flu" visited the Red Wing Training School, but in lighter form than at many of the other state institutions. A total of 39 boys and 13 officers were afflicted. There were no deaths. By November 20 last, the epidemic was practically a thing of the past, with but one patient still under the weather.

In asking for appropriations for the new biennial period, \$65,000.00 is requested for a cottage for feeble-minded boys. It would accommodate 50 to 60 boys. Lads of this class should certainly be segregated. Mixed with other boys, they can do more evil than the entire school can do good. We sincerely hope this new building will be granted. In fact, we believe at least three more cottages should be erected and the present companies or families divided to a degree where each officer in charge may see his way clear to reach his boys with that personal touch and influence so necessary. Other appropriation needs are: dining-room partitions for boys of different ages, \$1,000.00; 155 acres additional land, \$12,000.00; special repairs, \$10,000.00; laundry machinery, \$1,500.00; current expense, \$232,000.00—an increase of \$22,000.00 over the previous biennial period. In this connection it should be kept in mind that the past two years the boy population has increased from 217 to 268—23 per cent.



MAIN BUILDING, BOYS' STATE TRAINING SCHOOL, RED WING

FARIBAULT STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

During the past biennial period, the Faribault State School for the Blind has been entirely under management of the State Board of Control, the board of directors for the schools for deaf and blind being eliminated by legislative action of the 1917 session. During the school year 1916-1917, there was an attendance of 111, of whom 63 were boys, 43 girls. During the 1917 summer session for adults, there was an attendance of 35—of 20 men and 15 women. For the school year 1917-1918 there was an attendance of 122, of whom 71 were boys, 51 girls. During the 1918 summer session there was an attendance of 35, of whom 25 were men, and 10 women. The enrollment the last biennial period was the largest in the history of the school.

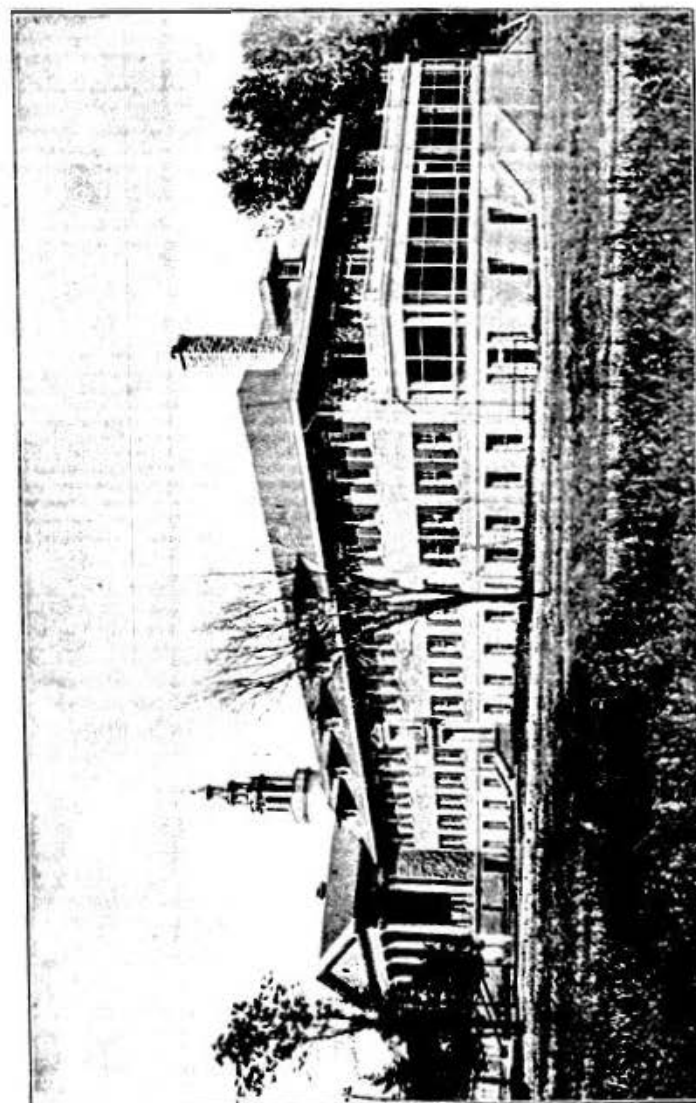
It is worthy of note that every pupil received is carefully examined under direction of Dr. Douglas Wood of Minneapolis, eye specialist. Record is made of cause, condition, and prospects as regards defective vision. Several operations on eyes, and for adenoids and diseased tonsils have been made. Dr. Wood has also cared for many cases at his Minneapolis office for the school.

The compulsory attendance law now applies to the School for Blind for those between 8 and 20 years of age. It is hoped with the agency field work—which is hampered for funds—and co-operation of county child welfare boards, that the next biennial period will see the school attendance still larger.

Appropriation requests for this institution are: for reconstruction and fireproofing boiler house and new coal bunker, \$19,000.00; ice house, \$1,000.00; extension vacuum heating system, \$1,500.00; fire protection, \$1,500.00; repairs and betterments, \$3,000.00; furniture and bedding, \$2,000.00; musical supplies, \$1,000.00; library and printing, \$2,000.00; field and employment agency, \$8,000.00. (This appropriation would go for most practical purposes: collection of statistics, securing labor and employment for the blind, home instruction and training, tools and equipment, etc. In a word, it would help the adult blind to become self-supporting, self-respecting, and life-enjoying citizens). Higher education, \$1,000.00; summer school (this for adults), \$5,000.00; current expense (an increase of but \$3,000.00), \$33,000.00. Total, \$128,000.00.

FARIBAULT STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

The State School for the Deaf at Faribault is a most interesting institution. The average population for the 1918 fiscal year was 237. We have visited this institution a number of times, and believe the work accomplished in the school seems remarkable. We believe certain methods of instruction are in advance of those used in the public schools for children who enjoy all their faculties. Tate Hall is also an ideal school home building. The quarters for the boys are not new, but fairly satisfactory except they are not thoroughly fireproof.



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

We endorse recommendations which are urged by Dr. J. N. Tane, superintendent. He calls attention that salaries for their teachers are most inadequate for expert technical work. Not to increase them is likely to mean to lose valuable instructors who are most efficient and much needed. There is also need for a dining hall in connection with the girls' dormitory. It is especially hard in winter for them to go clear across the campus for meals.

Perhaps most urgent is the need of extending the vocational training. Barton Hall, the old main building, still remains practically vacant except for the commissary department. We believe this building at comparative small expense, could be remodeled into an excellent vocational training building. We were asked to make a special investigation of this by the late Governor Hammond, and this was our report at that time to which we still adhere.

Appropriations asked are: for remodeling greenhouse, \$1,200.00; improving grounds, \$1,000.00; new tunnel floor, \$1,000.00; repairs and betterments, \$6,000.00; equipping trades, \$6,000.00; special repairs, \$6,000.00; school appliances, \$500.00; library, \$500.00; Gallaudet students, \$500.00; current expense, \$100,000.00.

OWATONNA STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

It is always a pleasure to visit the State Public School at Owatonna, Mr. Galen A. Merrill, superintendent. We have always found the institution attractive in every way. The children are cared for in family cottage groups, and apparently receive the best of attention. They are comfortably clothed, bright and happy. This institution is not primarily a home, but a home-finding organization. The average population in 1918 was 329, and the number under supervision in homes, 1,296.

We have recommended elsewhere in this report that the excellent field agency force of this institution be extended to supervision of all "placed-out" children from the various other children's homes in Minnesota. We believe this is a duty of the state, and can be most efficiently done by our capable state agents.

There is urgent need for hospital accommodations and additional room for girls. The present frame hospital would make a better cottage. The girls' building with a capacity of 45, now houses 58.

Other appropriations desired are: reconstruction of old hospital (as explained above, \$10,000.00; laundry building and engineer's workshop, \$25,000.00; silo and dairy house, \$2,500.00; reconstruction of horse barn, \$2,500.00; water tower and tank, \$10,000.00 (the present tank of 20,000 gallons capacity, is too small, 22 years old, and worn out); draining land (about 100 acres), \$1,000.00; improving grounds, \$2,000.00; repairs and betterments, \$8,000.00; special repairs, \$5,000.00; furniture, \$2,000.00; library, \$1,000.00; current expense, \$223,000.00 (this includes field agency expense, the cost of which has greatly increased).



STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL, OWATONNA

ST. CLOUD STATE REFORMATORY.

The St. Cloud State Reformatory is an institution for male offenders who are young men and have erred for the first time. The institution is the step between the State Training School at Red Wing, and the State Prison at South Stillwater. The average population has decreased from 551 in 1917, to 439 in 1918, due to war conditions and the state becoming largely "dry." Superintendent H. K. W. Scott, however, looks to see an increase in population the coming biennial period.

We believe the inmates are well cared for, properly fed and clothed. We have had minor complaints from some of them, but none in which we were not of the opinion the institution management was in the right.

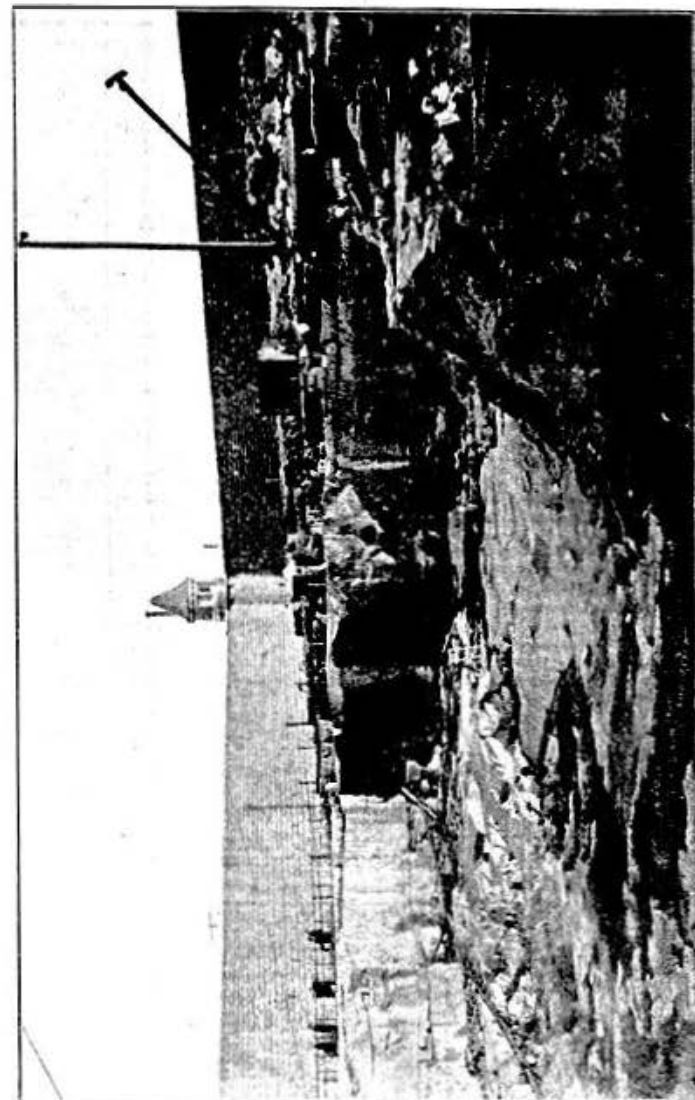
Good work is being done in the trade departments, but we understand Superintendent Scott agrees with this board that vocational work should be carried on an enlarged, more practical degree: to a point where the workers may actually become skilled tradesmen in their respective lines. Modern equipment is lacking for complete work and instruction. We would also suggest the employment of expert teachers for the institution school, which is now taught as a "side line" by institution employees and some of the inmates. A high standard can hardly be expected under these conditions.

Appropriations asked for are: for continuation of work on Cell House "B," \$10,000.00; coal bunkers, \$2,400.00; cottages for farmer and engineer, \$7,500.00; outside wall and towers (22 feet 9 inches high, will enclose 60 acres), \$14,000.00; remodeling cottages, \$5,000.00; repairs and betterments, \$10,000.00; special repairs, \$2,000.00; printing equipment, \$5,000.00; maintenance of rock crusher, \$30,000.00 (the crushed rock is delivered to the highway commission free; 10,378 yards last biennial period); current expense, \$110,000.00. Total, \$255,900.00.

WALKER STATE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

We have made a number of visits during the past biennial period to the State Sanatorium for Consumptives at Walker. Without its being necessary to go into detail in this report, we believe we have been of material service to this institution and appreciate the statement of the members of the State Board of Control to this effect. Dr. Beach, former superintendent, resigned a few months ago, and has been succeeded by Dr. P. M. Hall, formerly of Minneapolis. The farm in connection with the sanatorium is poor, and in addition, has been ill managed. We hope Dr. Hall will be able to secure a capable farm manager by next spring who will remain "on the job," as the products of the farm and dairy are most essential.

The most needed addition at the "San" is an infirmary building. The experience of last winter accentuates this demand. At one time it was necessary to make a hospital out of the recreation hall, and now the six small rooms in the main building which can be utilized for very sick cases, are filled with three beds in a room instead of but one as originally intended.



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

There should be some arrangement, some understanding or legislative enactment making the various county sanatoria clearing houses for the state "San". The state "San" finds it necessary to take patients without opportunity of knowing definitely the state of their disease. An instance occurred recently of a man who died November 30th last, his physicians giving his acceptance on the ground that he was a suitable incipient case; yet upon his reception it was found his case was far advanced and he died in 27 days. If county sanatoria could be utilized for the purpose of examination and favorable cases sent to Walker, it would make a division of the work which was undoubtedly contemplated by the law. The original act for the state sanatorium provided for acceptance of incipient cases only; the act authorizing county sanatoria provided that advanced cases should be given preference. This is logical, as advanced cases should be kept near home, friends and relatives.

The proposed infirmary building would cost \$100,000.00, provide rooms for forty beds, isolation for contagious disease, quarters for nurses, diet kitchen, laboratory, X-ray room, and a receiving department. Other appropriations desired are: cottage for 24 women, \$12,000.00; greenhouse, \$1,200.00; stokers for boilers, \$5,000.00 (at present the soft coal smoke frequently blows into rooms and porches occupied by the patients, a most harmful condition); completion of steam heating system, \$20,000.00; new water supply system, \$25,000.00 (lake supply condemned by State Board of Health); new sewerage system, \$7,000.00; electrification of elevators and dumb waiters, \$2,000.00; tile floors, \$2,000.00; clearing land, \$3,000.00; grounds and fencing, \$5,000.00; repairs and betterments, \$5,000.00; special repairs, \$5,000.00; power plant equipment, \$2,000.00; current expense, \$125,000.00; total, \$327,200.00.

STATE SOLDIERS' HOME AT MINNEHAHA FALLS.

We have made a number of visits to the State Soldiers' Home, many of them on complaints of inmates. Some have been without reason, others with causes which were largely corrected. The men's quarters are not kept in sanitary condition. We have found bed vermin in practically all the men's cottages on different inspections. The old soldiers have to take care of their own rooms and beds, and are really too old to do the work. Young, capable orderlies should be provided. Even in the women's building we have found vermin in some of the living apartments. Food supplies have also not been what they should at times. These, however, improved with a change of official in charge. The old soldiers of the Civil War are too venerable to properly supervise or maintain the state home. We would suggest if it were possible to instill new energy by appointments perhaps of soldiers returning from the world war. Young men, the result would be beneficial. It is certain that the soldiers' home is far below the grade in every way of institutions managed by our State Board of Control, which possibly might also take over this home to material advantage of all concerned.



MAIN BUILDING, STATE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, WALKER

INDEX

	Page.
Anoka Asylum for the Insane.....	28
Criminal Insane at St. Peter.....	27
County Trustee Needed for the Insane.....	17
Explanation of Work of Board of Visitors.....	5
Financial Statement by Board of Visitors.....	7
Fergus Falls Hospital for the Insane.....	23
Give Soldiers First Chance at State Institution Positions.....	12
Hantings Asylum for the Insane.....	30
Hospital for Crippled Children, Phalen Park.....	34
Industrial and Amusement Buildings Needed for the Insane.....	8
Institutional Finances.....	18
Juvenile Delinquency Increasing.....	11
Medical Certificates a Requirement for Marriage.....	14
Paroled Prisoners for State Institution Work.....	13
Pinched-Out Children Should Be Under State Supervision.....	15
Psychopathic Ward Recommended for State University.....	13
Rochester State Hospital for the Insane.....	21
Recognition of State Hospital Graduate Nurses.....	14
State Institution Employees.....	16
State School for Blind, Faribault.....	40
State School for the Deaf, Faribault.....	40
State School for Feeble-Minded, Faribault.....	32
State Public School, Owatonna.....	42
State Prison, South Stillwater.....	34
State Reformatory, St. Cloud.....	44
State Training School, Red Wing.....	36
Soldiers' Home, Minneapolis.....	46
St. Peter State Hospital for the Insane.....	25
Transportation Nurses Needed for the Insane.....	9
University Extension to the People.....	10
Walker Sanatorium for Consumptives.....	44
Willmar Asylum for the Insane.....	18