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Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics

Faribault

and

Colony for Epileptics

Cambridge

Reports of the Superintendents
to the
State Board of Control



Biennial Period Ended June 30, 1928

School for Feeble-Minded, Faribault

Report of the Superintendent

J. M. Murdoch, M. D	Superintendent
· ·	nior Physician
Ethel R. Beede, M. D Jur	nior Physician
A. L. Haynes, M. D.	nior Physician
Chris Barnholdt	Steward
Institution opened in 1879	
As a separate institution in 1882	
Capacity of institution	2,000
Area of grounds, acres	1,145
Acreage under cultivation	627
Value of lands and buildings\$	2,006,720.00
	\$446,411.00
Expenditures for year ended June 30, 1928:	
Current expense	\$472,267.33
Repairs and replacements	\$36,195.17
Permanent improvements	\$6,395.10
Equipment	\$15,152.38
Gross per capita cost, current expense	\$245.72
Net per capita cost, current expense	\$201.17
Number of officers and employes	312
	0

To the State Board of Control:

I submit herewith the report of the Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded for the biennial period ended June 30, 1928.

POPULATION

During the period covered by this report there were 542 admissions. The average population actually present was 1,929. The total number cared for was 2,683. At the close of the period there were 1,920 actually present and 59 temporarily absent.

Of the admissions, 240 were under 15 years of age; 177 were between 15 and 25 years; and 125 were over 25 years of age.

The majority of the younger children admitted will profit by education in the school department. They will receive individual attention and a specialized course leading up to useful employment. Many of the older cases admitted are possessed of anti-social tendencies and are more difficult to deal with. However, efforts for their training in the industrial classes are encouraging and, by firm and judicious discipline, the majority should show improvement in behavior.

The children who come to us present varied problems. The cause and nature of the mental defect are diligently sought out; the degree of defect established; and the proper remedial agencies and appropriate methods of training applied to each individual. Each child is a distinct problem calling upon all the resources at our command. Aside from the medical treatment and scholastic training, we endeavor to make each and every one as comfortable and happy as possible.

An institution such as this, caring for in the neighborhood of 2,000 persons and with over 300 officers, physicians, teachers, nurses and employes, is comparable to a fairly large sized town. We have all the needs of such a community: Schools, churches, hospital, stores, shops, industries, amusements, recreation grounds, electric light, power and heating plant, water works, farm, dairy and garden. All activities are coördinated and work in harmony. We have a town of live interests in which each individual takes a part according to ability. There is abundance of opportunity for work and play for all. Cordial relations have been maintained with relatives and friends of our pupils.

The appeals for admission have compelled us to tax our facilities to the utmost.

Although we require a large staff of trained personnel for the treatment and training of the manifold forms of mental defect found in our people, the institution has been maintained, including operation of hospital and school, the furnishing of food and clothing, and the payment of salaries of all officers and employes, at a weekly per capita cost of \$4.62.

Discharges: One hundred twelve patients were discharged from the institution to the custody of relatives. Eighty-six were either sent to club-houses or placed in carefully selected homes under family supervision. Eighty-eight were transferred to the Colony for Epileptics at Cambridge.

MEDICAL SERVICE

During the biennial period we had two widespread epidemics, one of measles during February, March and April, 1927, which was of a severe type. Then, during the spring of 1928, we had a very widespread epidemic of mild influenza.

In January, 1927, we immunized our entire population against scarlet fever and diphtheria, giving each and every child three doses, a week apart, of sodium recinoleate scarlet fever and diphtheria combined vaccine. This involved a great deal of work, requiring 5,793 hypodermic injections, but the results obtained have been very gratifying, as we have not had a single case of either scarlet fever or diphtheria in the immunized group up to the present time.

The amount of venereal work has increased very markedly since the completion of the building for high-grade delinquent girls. This particular field has added a vast amount of work to the medical department as the syphilitic patients require treatments once each week, and the gonorrhea patients have been treated three times a week. The results of this intensive treatment have been very satisfactory. All of the patients admitted were apparently acquired infections.

Major surgery has increased considerably, due chiefly to the application of the sterilization law; 281 major operations were performed.

All of the operative work connected with the sterilizations has been done by, or under the direct supervision of, the late Dr. George G. Eitel, or his successors, Dr. George D. Eitel and Dr. A. L. Herman, who have been assisted by Dr. D. Stern and Dr. A. T. Baker, and we are greatly indebted to them, as well as to the surgical nurses supplied by the Eitel Hospital, for their painstaking efforts in making this surgery successful.

The total number of patients sterilized under authority granted by the State Board of Control is 163.

The usual period of convalescence for the female was about two weeks in the hospital, followed by a period of four weeks on the grade before dismissal. Complications have been the exception rather than the rule. Only one death occurred, and this girl developed a post-operative pneumonia and died four days following the operation. Several patients of very low-grade mentality were sterilized upon the request of the parents, not with the idea of their ever becoming self-supporting, but that they might be supervised at home, when the danger of complications had been eliminated. Everyone connected with the work feels that the law is operating very satisfactorily, but wishes its scope could be broadened.

The dental department, under the direction of Dr. George Wood, has been kept very busy and has rendered us excellent service.

The X-ray department has done considerable work and has been of a great deal of assistance to us, especially in diagnosis.

Dr. C. J. Plonski, consulting oculist and aurist, rendered very prompt and efficient service.

The opening of the Epileptic Colony at Cambridge resulted in the moving of some of our epileptic patients to that institution. This created a number of vacancies here, so that our new and re-admissions have been far in excess of normal, and for the biennial period numbered 542. As each patient upon admission is given a thorough physical and laboratory examination, it greatly increased the amount of routine work.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

The school is a most vital department of the institution. It is here that the foundations are laid, and it is by early training in this department that we can hope to develop the children so that many may eventually be able to be returned to their homes or placed out under supervision and become self-supporting and useful members of society. Up to the age of 16 a child spends half his day in scholastic and the other half in manual work. Only short lessons are given, and by individual attention the child is not subjected to the discouraging experience of being urged to do that which, for him, is impossible.

Special attention is given to manual work that will help in the home and community. Reading and writing are taught by methods that are attractive to the child. From the commencement of training, special attention is given to physical exercises to enable the child to gain control over his muscles and bodily functions.

The older boys are trained in various kinds of shop and farm work, milking and gardening included; the girls, in all branches of housekeeping and needlework.

Intelligence tests of all children are given by the Department of Research of the State Board of Control.

Religious services are conducted regularly by both Protestant and Catholic clergymen.

There are two excellent libraries, one for the children and one for the employes. Both are well supplied with books, which are added to, from time to time, under the supervision of Perrie Jones, the state librarian, the appreciation of whose selections is evidenced by the very great use made of the libraries by both children and employes.

RECREATIONS

A program of amusements is carried on throughout the year. This includes two dances a week for the children, and moving pictures at least once a week. During the summer months two picnics are held each week. The institution band gives weekly concerts on the lawn throughout the summer. Out-of-door games are provided and playgrounds are well furnished with swings and suitable apparatus. The day rooms are provided with musical instruments: pianos, phonographs, radios, and games.

BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS

A force of carpenters, plasterers, tinners, painters and plumbers have been engaged continuously in keeping the buildings in good condition and eliminating fire hazards. New plumbing has been installed, and wood floors replaced with terrazzo and concrete foundations in bath and toilet rooms.

A number of important replacements and improvements have been made in the power plant. Two very satisfactory industrial school rooms have been equipped for the training of the lower-grade of children in the basement of Annex II of the Girls' Custodial Department.

The root cellar at the Colony has been rebuilt and enlarged, providing much needed space for the storage of roots and vegetables.

NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTION

Appropriations are recommended for library, school and musical equipment, \$3,000; repairs, \$70,000; repairs to dairy barns, \$2,000; repairs to sewers, \$5,650; reconstruction farm cottage, \$8,000; sidewalks and roads, \$5,000; steam pipes, etc., for paint shop, \$1,656; new floors, \$25,000; repairs to roofs, \$5,000; new ceilings, \$500; repointing stone, main building, \$5,000; repairs to porches, \$3,000; repairs to chimneys, \$1,000; office equipment, \$1,200; electric cable, \$2,000; motor trucks, \$2,100; return water tank, \$1,500; improvements heating and plumbing, \$31,200; fire fighting equipment, \$1,000; new boilers, \$3,000; laundry equipment, \$4,000; grounds, fencing and drainage, \$3,000; furniture and equipment, \$15,000; hospital equipment, \$1,400; silage cutter, \$450; tractor, \$1,200; farm equipment, \$2,000; live stock, \$1,200; hay sheds, \$2,000; wagon and machinery shed, \$1,000; additional land, \$17,000; cottage for engineer, \$5,500; assembly hall and gymnasium, \$150,000; cottage for men employes, \$35,000; garage, \$3,500; addition to plumbing shop, \$6,000; additional boiler, \$20,000; buckets for coal and ash conveyor, \$1,800; sewage disposal, Springdale, \$2,000; building for idiotic patients, \$125,000; equipment for same, \$10,000; fire escapes, \$6,150; re-roofing Grandview, \$4,400; and extension of water mains, \$1,500.

CONCLUSION

During the greater part of the period covered by this report, the affairs of the institution were administered by G. C. Hanna, who served as superintendent from June 1, 1917, to August 22, 1927, when he withdrew to give his entire time to the organization of the Colony for Epileptics at Cambridge, during the construction of which he had divided his time between the two institutions.

Mr. Hanna was an able administrator and to him is due all credit for the excellent condition of the institution and the efficient manner in which it has been maintained. I succeeded Mr. Hanna as superintendent August 22, 1927. We deplore the loss of Dr. George G. Eitel, who had supervised all of the operations for sterilization, most of which operations he personally performed up to the time he was called from us. In addition he freely gave of his time, energy and skill in connection with other surgical work of the institution. He was a wise counselor, skillful surgeon and loyal friend and benefactor.

The medical department has been ably conducted under the direction of Dr. D. E. McBroom, senior physician.

I desire to record my appreciation of the most generous and intelligent assistance given me by the heads of departments and the office force in acquainting me with the details of my office, and to them I extend my warmest thanks.

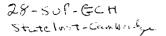
The institution is fortunate in having a loyal and efficient group of physicians, officers, teachers, nurses, attendants and employes, who are faithfully carrying on their various duties, always endeavoring to bring about the best results obtainable in the treatment, training and welfare of those in their care, with due regard to economy that the financial burden upon the taxpayer may be as light as possible.

The services cheerfully rendered by the boys and girls on the farm, in the garden, in the shops, in keeping the buildings and grounds in order, in the various housekeeping operations, and, in fact, in all the departments of the institution, have materially aided in keeping down the cost of operation. For the comfort and welfare of these helpful details we cannot be too considerate.

The sympathetic interest and cooperation of the Children's Bureau has been of inestimable aid in conducting the affairs of the institution and is sincerely appreciated.

To you, the members of the Board of Control, I tender by personal thanks for your patient and sympathetic consideration and generous treatment.

Respectfully submitted,
J. M. Murdoch,
Superintendent.



Colony for Epileptics, Cambridge

Report of the Superintendent	
D. E. McBROOM, M. D.	Superintendent
L. H. Hedenstrom, M. D.	Physician
R. F. Gregory	- Steward
·	
Institution opened in 1925	
Capacity of institution	_ 284
Area of grounds, acres	323
Acreage under cultivation	_ 111
Value of lands and buildings	
Value of personal property	
Expenditures for year ended June 30, 1928:	
Current expense	\$65,423.86
Repairs	\$484.00
Permanent improvements	\$122,665.51
Equipment	
Gross per capita cost, current expense	\$442.05
Net per capita cost, current expense	\$390.19
Number of officers and employes	37

To the State Board of Control:

I submit herewith the report of the Minnesota Colony for Epileptics for the biennial period ended June 30, 1928.

OPENING OF MAIN INSTITUTION

Cottage 1, the first unit of the new institution, was opened June 1, 1925, and operated as part of the Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics at Faribault until the completion and opening of the main building August 22, 1927. All epileptic patients in the Faribault institution of at least fair intelligence were transferred to the new institution between August and November, 1927. Other patients were admitted from the various counties of the state until by the end of the year the building was filled to capacity.

PERSONNEL

With the opening of the new institution it was necessary to engage and train a force of employes, as it was not desired to draw on the help of any other institution. These employes, with those who had been in the service for the operation of the first unit, constitute the present force.

MEDICAL SERVICE

The physician who had been on call was put on a regular salary basis as soon as the population reached a point to justify this, and is now a regular officer of the institution. There are two hospitals, one for males and one for females. The nursing service is in charge of a head nurse who is registered.

SPECIAL DIET

On May 1 a group of patients was placed on a special diet under the personal direction of a nutrition expert supplied through the coöperation of the institution, the Mayo Clinic, and the University of Minnesota Graduate School. Dr. C. J. Barborka of the Mayo Clinic is in general charge, not only of the experimental diet but also of the medical, psychiatric, neurological and other examinations and tests that are applied to these patients. In this work he has had the coöperation and assistance of the institution physician. The aim is to discover if possible some way of improving the condition of the patients.

SCHOOL

A school was organized for the children of school age, with a principal, two literary teachers and a manual training teacher. The principal has personal charge of the industrial work on the girls' side, is librarian, has charge of the correspondence of all patients, conducts amusements and entertainments, and presides at religious services. The literary school work embraces the usual subject matter of the lower grades, with instruction in drawing and music. The industrial work among the girls includes rug and other forms of weaving, basketry, sewing, lace making, embroidering and other handcrafts. The manual training department is equipped to do woodwork and work with reed, raffia and such materials as are usually found in manual training shops. Brush making is also carried on in this department. Boys from the school department and the younger boys from Cottage I are employed here.

The principal is a graduate of the Minneapolis Handcraft Guild and the University of Minnesota, College of Education. The two literary teachers are graduates of the Duluth State Teachers College and the Winona State Teachers College respectively. The manual training teacher is a graduate of the Mankato State Teachers College.

LIBRARY

A library, planned in connection with the school department, was equipped and opened at the beginning of the school year. The principal arranged library classes to train children in the use of library books and periodicals, a large number of which are taken.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Religious services are conducted both at the main building assembly room and at Cottage 1 by ministers from Cambridge churches. These services are non-denominational, and attendance is voluntary. Catholic services have been conducted by priests from the nearest parishes.

AMUSEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS

A party and dance are held in the assembly room once a week, and special occasions, such as Christmas and the patriotic holidays, are observed with appropriate exercises under the direction of the school principal assisted by the teachers.

FARM AND GARDEN

Farm and garden operations have gone on in the usual manner. Enough potatoes and other root crops were produced in 1927 to carry the increased population through the fiscal year. The milk supply from the present herd was inadequate, and an increase in the dairy herd will have to be made. Plans and specifications for a new dairy barn, for which an appropriation has been made by the legislature, have been prepared, and a contract will be let soon for the erection of the first unit of a dairy plant.

BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The main building was completed in the summer of 1927 at a cost of \$255,000.00. This building includes the offices, four wards, hospitals for male and female patients with diet kitchens, operating rooms, physician's, dentist's and nurse's rooms, school and industrial department, library, assembly room, store rooms, cold storage, laundry, power plant, kitchen, bakery, dining rooms, superintendent's apartment, and quarters for employes. The construction is brick, steel and concrete, with terrazzo floors, making the building strictly fireproof.

Construction work on Cottage 2, a unit with a capacity of 72 female patients, began with the opening of the main building, and the new cottage was ready for occupancy at the end of the fiscal year 1928. This building will be occupied as soon as the equipment is installed. It is a brick, steel and concrete structure, is fireproof and is connected to the main building by a tunnel through which its food supply will be furnished from the main kitchen. The building has day rooms, dormitories, dining room, industrial room, individual laundry and diet kitchen, locker rooms, shower and tub baths, and everything necessary for the life of the patients there. There are two fine inclosed porches at the end of the building. The center front of the building contains a reception room and quarters for five employes.

NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTION

Appropriations are needed as follows: Two cottages to house 100 inmates each, one for males and one for females, \$200,000; furniture and equipment for cottages, \$14,000; tunnels and connections to the cottages, \$20,000; tunnel and connection to Cottage 1, \$10,000; painting interior of main building, \$2,000; steward's cottage, \$4,500; addition to dairy barn for milk handling and equipment for same, including water supply, steam, and electrical connection, etc., \$4,000; one 200-ton silo 20 feet by 34 feet, \$1,450; piggery, \$1,500; addition to garage and root cellar, to include room for heavy storage, \$4,000; walks, driveways, and landscaping, including planting of trees, shrubs, etc., \$5,000; fruit and orchard planting, \$1,200; water line to garage, fire hose, cart, fire ladders and equipment, \$1,600; lighting for grounds, \$1,200; water mains to new buildings, hydrants, and sewage disposal system for whole institution, \$15,000; radiator guards for Cottage 1, \$850; farm and garden supplies and equipment, \$1,500; addition to dairy herd, 20 cows, \$2,500; moving-picture machine, \$600; library, school, musical and industrial supplies and equipment, \$2,000; X-ray and medical and hospital equipment, \$4,000; and repairs and betterments, \$5,000.

CONCLUSION

The superintendent takes this opportunity to express his appreciation for faithful services of the employes, to whose efforts are ascribed whatever degree of success has attended his plans and purposes. He is deeply grateful to the State Board of Control for its many kindnesses and its support in all things pertaining to the operation and management of the institution.

Respectfully submitted,
G. C. HANNA,
Superintendent.

Institutions for Feeble-Minded and Epileptics

Classic sian	Year Ended June 30, 1928			Y	Year Ended June 30, 1927——		
Classification	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Tota	
POPULATION							
n institutions at beginning of year	994	986	1,980	978	964	1,94	
First admissions	138	184	322	97	103	20	
Readmissions	10	27	37	13	22		
From summer vacation	166 19	96 2	$\frac{262}{21}$	$\frac{168}{18}$	97 1	26	
Total under care	1,327	1,295	2,622	1,274	1,187	2,4	
Discharged :							
As normal	1 13	$\begin{smallmatrix} & 3\\102\end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4\\115\end{array}$	1 11	45		
As insane				1	5		
Pied	49	38	87	52	38		
Paroled: For indefinite period		1	1	2			
For summer vacation	172	105	277	189	110	2	
Iscaped	39	5 3	44	23	3		
Transferred to other institutions	1,049	1,038	2,087	994	986	1,9	
verage population	1,035	1,035	2,070	1,012	986	1,9	
PERSONS ADMITTED Feeble-minded:							
School	60	63	123	27	20		
Custodial	53	128	181	49	90	1	
Farm coloniesEpileptic:	5		5	24			
Custodial	5 24	6 14	11 38	5 5	11 4		
Total admissions	147	211	358	110	125	2	
AGE GROUP						_	
Under 5 years	7	8	15		7		
to 9 years	29	23	52	25	18		
10 to 14 years	38 40	32 45	70 85	29 23	30 30		
20 to 24 years	30	30	39	10	11		
25 to 29 years	6	32	38	7	15		
30 to 34 years	5	14	19	2	9		
35 to 39 years	1	10	11	6	3		
40 to 44 years	3 2	11	14 4	2 4	1		
45 to 49 years50 to 54 years	2		2	2			
55 to 59 years	3		$\tilde{3}$				
60 years and over	1	2	3				
Age unknown	1	2	3				
Total admissions	147	211	358	110	125	2	
MARITAL CONDITION							
Single Married	138 6	$^{171}_{28}$	$\frac{309}{34}$	108	110 13	2	
Widowed		1	1		1		
Separated					1		
DivorcedUnascertained	3	3 8	3 11				
Total admissions	147	211	358	110	125		
NATIVITY							
United States	131	179	310	108	116		
Austria	1	2	3				
Canada (Includes Newfoundland)	1	2	3		4		
Denmark		1	1				
Finland	2	1	3	1			
GermanyHolland		1	1				
11VH9H4		1	1			_	

Institutions for Feeble-Minded and Epileptics-Concluded

Classification	Year Ended			Year Ended		
	——June 30, 1928——			June 30, 1927		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
NATIVITY—Concluded				-		
Italy		1	1			
Norway		2 2	2			
Poland	1 1	1	3 2			
RussiaScotland	1		ĩ			
Sweden	î	3	$\bar{4}$			
Unascertained	8	15	23	1	5	6
Total admissions	147	211	358	110	125	235
PARENTAGE						
Native parentage	40	63	103	62	64	126
Mixed parentage	29 35	$\frac{24}{76}$	53 111	$\frac{8}{27}$	$\frac{27}{17}$	35 44
Parentage unknown	43	48	91	13	17	30
Total admissions	147	211	358	110	125	235
PHYSICAL DEFECTS						====
Physically defective:						
Blind	2	2	4	1 1		1
Crippled, maimed or deformed	6	10	16	5	5	10
Paralytic	5	1	6	4		4
Epileptic	26	$\frac{15}{7}$	41	7	9	16
Two or more defects Dumb	$\begin{smallmatrix} 3\\16\end{smallmatrix}$	10	10 26	9 2	23 3	$\frac{32}{5}$
Not physically defective	89	166	255	8 ĩ	85	166
Total admissions	147	211	358	110	125	235
DISPOSITION OF INMATES DISC	HADGE	D				
To custody of parents	10	14	24	27	25	52
To custody of parents To custody of other relatives	3	19	22	5	11	16
To custody of self	1		1	5	4	. 9
To custody of others		72	72	1	13	14
Total	14	105	119	38	53	91
AGE AT DEATH	_	_				
Under 5 years	1	1	2		3	3
5 to 9 years	4 6	6 5	10 11	8 8	3 9	11 17
15 to 19 years			14	9	š	12
20 to 24 years	8 7 7	6 2 5	9	3	4	7
25 to 29 years		5	12	4	5	9
30 to 34 years	3 4	2 3	5 7	5	$\frac{2}{1}$	7 1
40 to 44 years	3	6	9	3	1	â
45 to 49 years	1	ž	3	1	$\hat{\overline{2}}$	3
50 to 54 years	2		2	7		7
55 to 59 years	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	4	$\frac{2}{2}$	5	2 7
60 years and over		1	3			
Total	49	42	91	52	38	90
CAUSE OF DEATH	4		4			
Erysipelas Tuberculosis of the lungs	1 10	7	17	3	<u>-</u>	7
Other forms of tuberculosis	10		1	3	4	7
Cancer and other malignant tumors				i		i
Cerebral hemorrhage and softening	1		1			
Forms of mental alienation Epilepsy	1 11	10	$\begin{smallmatrix}1\\21\end{smallmatrix}$	8	5	13
Organic diseases of the heart	4	6	10	4	1	5
Pheumonia	11	7	18	12	6	18
Diarrhea and enteritis	1	3	4	6	5	11
Nephritis and Bright's disease	<u>-</u>	5	₁₃	<u>-</u> -	. 2 11	2
Cause unknown or ill defined				2		24 2
Total	49	38	87	52	38	90
						=
		_				