

October 14, 1943

Mrs. F. L. Nelson
State Teachers College
Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Nelson:

We received your request for information regarding the colony type of institution. Since your questions require some qualifying answers, we will reply to them in this letter rather than use your supplementary sheet.

Although our institution is not strictly a colony plan if you are referring to colonies which are organized away from the institution proper, yet we do have departments for all types of mental defectives and some of these are known as "colonies" here for the sake of classifying them more easily. They are all located on the campus or on farm land belonging to the institution.

Our total population is 2,583. Besides the school department and custodial divisions there is a dairy where about 25 male, adult patients assist in the care of the herd, and a farm where about 21 work as farm laborers. In addition to these divisions about 60 young men live in one cottage and work as teamsters, greenhouse laborers, and farm helpers. Also 233 older boys and men are situated in four cottages about one-half mile east of the regular campus. These patients work in the gardens and care for a large number of pigs.

The Gross per capita cost for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942 was \$234.61. This amount fluctuates very slightly from year to year, but it is based upon the average cost of maintaining a person here regardless of classification.

Our system of placements is not designated as "parole" since it is felt that this term applies to a penal institution. As perhaps you know, the Commitment Law permits the committing of a feeble-minded person to the guardianship of the Director of the Division of Public Institutions. He or she may be either in the community or institutionalized, depending upon conditions and whether there is space here or not.

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Our yearly turnover usually numbers up to 300 patients received and about 300 returned to the community. During the year ending June 30, 1942, there were 273 first admissions and 40 readmissions. The local county welfare boards have paid staffs and they assume the supervision of any patient who is discharged from here. In general, those going out are from the brighter, moron group who have received training here and who can become wholly or partially self-supporting. A study is made of each case individually here and recommendations sent to our state office and the welfare board. In turn the staff worker for the welfare board makes an approved plan for the supervision of the patient who is being considered for placement. Guardianship is indefinite unless a committed ward is restored to capacity in Probate Court where the original commitment was made.

It is rather difficult to give any estimate of the percentage of feeble-minded in Minnesota who are institutionalized, as any survey is necessarily based on an arbitrary Intelligence Quotient in the borderline level. We do not believe that there is adequate material available as yet on this subject. Our waiting list numbers 1,052. This number represents committed cases who are still in the counties and whose need for institutional care at this time is imperative. Due to the National Emergency it has not been possible to secure materials in order to add to our buildings here. Moreover, from day to day there are cases which constitute acute emergencies and which are constantly coming to the attention of the county welfare boards even though they have never been committed. As soon as commitment can be arranged for such a problem we are expected to accept the case if possible.

We do not have individual copies of our Biennial Report, but the Division of Public Institutions has issued a Ninth Biennial Report, covering the period which ended June 30, 1942, and which includes all institutions. We presume that your college library could obtain a copy of this document.

Very truly yours,

E. J. Engberg, M.D.
Superintendent

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