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EIGHTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

OF THE

MINNESOTA INSTITUTE

FOR DEFECTIVES.

1. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
2. SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.
3. SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

LOCATED AT FARIBAULT.

FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING JULY 31, 1894.

ST. PAUL, MINN.,
THE PIONEER PRESS COMPANY,
STATE PRINTERS,
1894.

SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED.

Report of Superintendent FOR TWO YEARS ENDING JULY 31ST, 1894.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

GENERAL.

Superintendent and Physician—A. C. ROGERS, B. S., M. D.
Assistant Superintendent—JOSEPH MASSEY.
Assistant Physician—W. F. WILSON, M. D. (To April, 1894); C. F. GROFF, M. D. (from April, '94).
Steward—JOHN R. PARSHALL.
Matron—MISS NAOMI PINCH.
Assistant Matron—MRS. L. J. PECK.
Housekeeper—MRS. BELLE JACKSON.
Secretary—MRS. C. R. BALDWIN.
Clerk—A. M. HATCH.
Engineer—E. B. DICKINSON.
Visitors' Attendant—MISS EDITH SHARP.

TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

Principal Teacher—Miss Laura Baker.
Vocal Teacher—Miss Jennie Pinch (1892-3); Miss Bertha Schmidt (1893-4).
Teachers—Miss M. T. McLean, Miss L. M. McCarthy, Mrs. T. E. Tanner, Miss Clara Stewart.
Kindergartner—Miss Mary Wilson (1892-3); Miss Ruby Sharpe (1893-4).
Manager Boys' Industrial Training—Mr. Joseph Massey.
Teacher Girls' Industrial Training—Mrs. E. Radcliff (to Jan., '94); Miss L. M. McCarthy (since Jan., '94).

CUSTODIA.

BOYS (SOUTH WING).

Matron—Mrs. E. A. Zimmermann.
Teacher—Mrs. E. Requier.
Supervisor—Louis Grondahl.

GIRLS ("SUNNYSIDE").

Matron—Mrs. E. Radcliff.
Teacher—Miss Emma Jernander.
Housekeeper—Miss Belle Bradfield.

FARM COLONY.

Manager—Eugene Wright.
Matron—Mrs. Mary Wright.

ADVISORY.

Consulting Physicians—Drs. Rose and Wood, Faribault.
Oculist and Aurist—Dr. E. S. Wood, St. Paul.

To the Board of Directors:

Gentlemen: On the 1st of August 1892, the beginning of the period just closed, the population of the School for Feeble-Minded was as follows:

	M.	F.	Total.
Present	141	121	262
Temporarily absent.....	45	31	76
Total on roll.....	186	152	338

On the 31st of July, 1894, it was as follows:

	M.	F.	Total.
Present	176	174	350
Temporarily absent	49	29	78
Total on roll.....	225	203	428
Total number in attendance during the fiscal year 1892-3.....	193	159	352
Total number in attendance during fiscal year 1893-4.....	239	217	456

The admissions have been as follows:

	M.	F.	Total.
1892-3—			
Admissions	16	12	28
Re-admissions	2	0	2
Total	18	12	30
1893-4—			
Admissions	61	64	125
Re-admissions	1	4	5
Total	62	68	130
Grand total	80	80	160

Movement of population for two years:

	M.	F.	Total.
Present Aug. 1, 1892.....	141	121	262
Absentees Aug. 1, 1892.....	45	31	76
Admitted	77	76	153
Re-admitted	3	4	7
Total	266	232	498
Discharged and dropped.....	23	19	42
Died	18	10	28
Absent July 31, 1894.....	49	29	78
Present July 31, 1894.....	176	174	350
Total	266	232	498

The applications received have been as follows:

	M.	F.	Total.
1892-3	41	45	86
1893-4	56	66	122
Total for period.....	97	111	208
All previous applications.....	407	289	696
Total to July 31, 1894.....	504	400	904

Average per month for two years, 12, or over 60 per annum for the entire period since the organization of the institution.

HEALTH, MORTALITY, ETC.

The mortality of our "family" is necessarily great, though not greater than would reasonably be expected where no restrictions whatever are placed upon the character of admission within the general terms "feeble-minded" and "epileptic." Many are received who are physically feeble and can only receive hospital care while with us.

During the year ending July 31, 1893, there were nine deaths among the 352 in attendance, or 2 1-2 per cent; and for the year ending July 31, 1894, there were nineteen deaths for 456 in attendance, or 4 1-6 per cent.

The causes were as follows: Tuberculosis, 9; pneumonia, 5; status epilepticus, 4; cystitis, 1; nervous exhaustion, 1; tubercular arthritis, 1; pyaemia, 1; cardiac paralysis, 1; valvular disease of heart, 1; hydrocephalus (with convulsions), 1; epilepsy (gradual decline), 1; fracture of femur, 1; scarlet fever, 1. Total, 28. (18 males and 10 females).

These cases presented the usual high percentage of tuberculous and tendency to pulmonary disease so often observed in the feeble-minded.

The case of fractured femur occurred from a child climbing over a porch railing and falling to the ground before the attendant in charge could reach him.

The experience of all public institutions shows the impossibility of preventing the admission of the various forms of infection. During the last two years we have exercised caution in obtaining the histories of new cases and facts as to their probable exposure to infectious or contagious diseases and watched with more than ordinary care for the slightest indication of illness during the first weeks of residence in our household, yet we have experienced during the biennial period two visitations from diphtheria, three from scarlet fever, one from roetheln, and one from varicella.

By using our detached hospital for the care of these cases, we have always been able to limit the spread of the disease promptly, yet their care requires extra help with extra pay, and interferes materially with the primary purposes of the institution. Much if this trouble could be avoided by complete isolation of new pupils from the others during a short period after admission, but there is no other time when a child so much needs the advantages of companionship and contact with the cheerful influences of the general institution as when first separated from its home.

The best solution of the difficulty seems to be the erection of a small receiving cottage which would serve several very important purposes.

1st. Exclusion of new inmates from others during the incubation period of contagious diseases.

2d. Careful examination and record of the physical and psychological peculiarities of the child preliminary to its classification and treatment.

3d. To provide a place in the interim of admissions for the treatment and study of the special cases which are constantly inviting such care, and yet which are not proper cases for hospital care among those with acute diseases.

CLASSIFICATION.

On the 31st day of May, 1894, when the population of the institution was 400, or the highest during the period, the children were classified as follows:

In school and training department, 76 males, 73 females. Total 149. In boys' custodia, 123 males. In girls' custodia (Sunnyside), 110 females. In farm colony, 18 males. Total, 217 males, 183 females. Total, males and females, 400.

As by the statute any idiotic, feeble-minded or epileptic person is eligible to the institution, and as the test of eligibility for the former class is inability by reason of such mental deficiency to acquire an education in the common schools, the basis of classification becomes evident.

In the school and training department are found children that have been attending the public schools more or less without benefit, and those whose mental deficiency has entirely debarred them from such a privilege and yet who give promise of marked improvement when the special methods of the institution are applied to them, and all intermediate grades.

In undertaking the education of a feeble-minded child, we must assume in general that the possibilities of development are only limited by physical incapacities of communication between the mind and the exterior world. The psychologist recognizes at once a lack of will and that spontaneity that, in the normal child, keeps up a constant nerve activity, holds the mind continually in contact with outward objects and develops perception, conception and judgment without the teacher's assistance. For the normal child the teacher has but to direct these spontaneous activities of the mind that they may be applied to the best advantage. As judgment is the most complex of mental operations, it is the most imperfect product of the feeble mind.

The physician recognizes (since the time of Seguin) the dependence of these deficiencies upon imperfect nerve tissues, either of cells in the brain or conducting fibers. In some cases these deficiencies seem to exist from lack of exercise and in others, disease has destroyed the tissues and with them the possibility of restoring their functions, while in others the necessary tissues never existed.

The successful teacher of the feeble-minded, then, must first supply the will and establish the physical activities and gradually evolve volitional action on the part of the child. The educational process thus consists of an intimate combination of the inter-dependent physical and mental exercises, the physical element being predominant at the beginning, and the more distinctly intellectual element gradually evolving as the process continues.

If I were to present a scheme that would represent theoretically the work of our school (in practice each case must be studied and treated according to the particular indication) it would be as follows:

FIRST STAGE.

(I) Practical Lessons.

- (a) Care of the person. Keeping hands, face and teeth clean, clothing in order, hair combed, etc., etc.
- (b) Simple home duties. Sweeping floors, dusting furniture, etc. (This kind of training devolves upon attendants and nurses as well as teachers.)

SECOND STAGE.

Kindergarten, behavior, marching, games and songs, form and color, simple finger occupation, weaving, sewing, folding, gifts.

THIRD STAGE.

Manual Training—

Boys and Girls—Learning use of needle and thread by means of forms and leather strings.

Over and over stitching and basting.

Girls—Straw braiding and hemming, darning and knitting.

Boys—Outlining on wood and brass from traced patterns with repousse tools, metal polishing, hammock weaving, etc.

Literary Exercises—

Words from objects and cards.

Use of pencil for tracing and copying.

Distinguishing one from more than one.

Directions and distances in school building and surrounding grounds.

Exercises in articulation.

FOURTH STAGE.

Industrial Training—

Boys—Brush making, scroll sawing, repousse.

Farming—Dairying and care of stock, gardening.

Girls—Making articles requiring only over and over stitching and hemming.

Making plain garments, hemstitching, dress making, lace making, knitting, fancy work.

Literary Exercises—

More advanced reading, writing, orthography, through the ordinary primary exercises to reading in United States History and independent exercises in composition and letter writing.

Numbers—Through fundamental operations and tables of weights and measures.

Geography—Through the course of primary work, etc.

Knowledge of things—From object lessons, charts and excursions to woods and fields.

There are very few properly classifying in our school department that cannot improve decidedly under training, especially if it begins before they are established in bad habits and mannerisms. As the bad in those around us is the most easily understood, so it is first acquired by the feeble-minded, being best comprehended by them. From seven to twelve is the best period to begin work with individuals of this class. It often requires the work of a second or third year to determine the degree of improvement of which a child is susceptible, and when the improvement begins it often increases quite rapidly for a while.

It should be distinctly understood, however, that a *feeble-minded child* *ever becomes normal*. The question is not one of *curing* the person, but of *developing* the mental capacity in each case so far as the capacity for development will permit.

On the other hand, there are very few individuals whose mental development cannot be stimulated if sufficient time and care be expended upon it.

The story of Sylvanus and other similar ones so often told are not fictitious (though sometimes misunderstood), but the application of public funds to the education and amelioration of this class necessarily involves an adjustment of the expense to the recognized good accomplished on some plan of strict catholicity, hence the systemic training of the school and manual rooms can be continuously applied only to those children whose improvement is unquestioned, while for those less susceptible of improvement every effort should be exerted to provide them with the comforts of a cheerful home and such instruction, entertainment and amusement as they are capable of appreciating.

THE CUSTODIAL DEPARTMENT.

The completion (except part of one wing) of "Sunnyside," the new building for custodial girls, gave us room for the admission of one hundred and thirty more children. This building was opened Apr. 11, 1894, and it is a pleasure to state that it serves its purpose admirably. While we have profited by the experience of other states (especially Illinois from the institution at Lincoln), for some of the fundamental features of the building, we believe that the improvements and modifications adopted make it the best of its kind in the world. The ample rooms without cross partitions, and abundant windows all planned with reference to flooding the building with sunlight, its limitation in height to two stories, its system of forced ventilation and its wide verandas for airing courts during all kinds of weather, are its most striking features.

The removal of the girls from the south wing of the center building to Sunnyside leaves the former free for occupancy by boys, and this simplifies the administration of this part of the building; but all of our rooms for custodial boys is taxed to its utmost capacity, and there are at this time (Oct. 18) 108 additional applications on file for the admission of this class of persons.

A detached building for custodial boys should be provided at the earliest possible date, similar to the new one for girls.

THE EPILEPTICS.

The epileptics, heretofore distributed through the different departments of the institution, are now entirely removed from the school department proper; the brighter girls among them having pleasant quarters at Sunnyside and the boys a section of the south wing of the center building. This arrangement, while a vast improvement over the former necessary plan, can only be considered tentative. As urged before, these patients should be provided with the same kinds of occupation, both manual and intellectual, that characterize the institution as whole, but their association with other feeble-minded or idiotic persons is mutually injurious.

Epileptics are characteristically irritable and exacting and often unreasonable and cruel in their relations with others, while the activity and mischievousness of other children increases their irritability.

Medical treatment decreases the frequency of their convulsive attacks, but suitable occupation for mind and body is an absolute necessity to their happiness and the maximum degree of improvement. Occupation should be administered in these cases as a remedial agent, and should vary in kind and quantity with the conditions presented.

The regular routine of school exercises adapted to the other children of the institution is positively injurious to most epileptics.

It is exceedingly desirable that special accommodations be provided for this class at an early date.

THE FARM COLONY.

The boys at the farm, constituting the "Barron Club," have made a good record during the past two years, both as to their ability to perform faithfully the duties of young farm apprentices and to maintain good order among themselves and in their relation to the farm manager and matron. These boys form a happy and contented family, and the development of this colony will be an important factor in the future of the institution.

(For practical results of the two years' farming see p 58.)

It is exceedingly important that the dairy be increased, as before urged, and additional land procured for that purpose while it can be done at a minimum cost.

IMPROVEMENTS DEPENDENT UPON LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

(1) The necessity for more land has already been referred to, and is so evident as a purely business matter, and is so fully appreciated by you, gentlemen, that no further explanation is needed here.

(2) The heating plant is barely adequate for the present buildings without any reserve for accidents or emergencies, and is not centrally located with reference to the distribution of steam. It should be increased and located accordingly.

(3) The dynamo should be duplicated, and in place of the clumsy wire rope and shafting for the transmission of power to the shops and laundry, there should be small motors and electric connections.

(4) A suitable residence for the engineer and his family should be provided upon the grounds near his place of duty. In the absence of such a place the engineer now resides in town, nearly a mile from the school—an undesirable arrangement for both parties at interest, as any practical person can see at a glance.

(5) A new building for custodial boys, as referred to above.

(6) A receiving cottage, as referred to.

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT CLOTHING FUNDS.

The present law governing the payment of the clothing and transportation accounts of inmates is, in most respects, a good one and works well for all interested. It would, however, be better if the duty of collecting delinquent accounts should devolve upon the county attorney, or some other proper officer of the county in which delinquent resides, as there is no means available for the superintendent to meet the expenses of collections.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Every thoughtful person engaged in the work of training and caring for the feeble-minded, must realize that the work involves more than the study and execution of methods for the care and improvement of individual cases. Great as these things recognizedly are, and justly so, it involves, in addition, the proper protection of the individual during his entire life. It involves a study of the influences, however subtle, that stop the processes of development and the enlightenment of the people concerning them. It involves the prevention of marriage and the absolute prohibition of cohabitation between people mentally incompetent.

One of the saddest features of our work is its incompleteness, in that it permits the brighter boys and girls—especially the latter—to go out again to be eventually the victims of vice and depravity.

The emoluments of official position would be no inducement to a conscientious officer of the state to assist in building up unnecessarily an institution of perpetual expense; but no one who ever casually studies the subject can doubt the economic value to the state of keeping any mentally incompetent person under life guardianship. He need not in every case continue residence in the institution, but some official tribunal should be qualified and empowered to restrain him when reason for such a course develops, and in certain cases there can be no doubt that surgical interference should be had, if this action could be protected from abuse.

The preventative methods involve some delicate questions, not least among them being the privation of parents of the guardianship of their own children, but conditions already exist where such interference is had, and there are certainly other cases where it should be.

Every person taking a child from the institution should give bonds conditioned upon its proper care and protection and the child should be returned whenever any requirement of the bond is violated.

CHANGES.

Miss Jennie Pinch, who served so faithfully as vocal teacher, resigned in 1893 to continue her musical studies, and Miss Bertha Schmidt filled the place very pleasantly during the year '93-'94. Miss Pinch was superior in her profession as vocal teacher of feeble-minded children, and one whose success and devotion to duty for years could not be measured by salary, and whose energy in her work was only limited by physical endurance.

Dr. W. F. Wilson resigned his position as assistant physician in April, 1894, to enter general practice, much against the inclination of the superintendent, who recognized in him, as did all acquainted with him, a highly

talented physician, an absolutely loyal officer and a gentleman of broad culture and sympathies, whose continuation in the work would have done it credit.

Mrs. Georgia Fanning gave up her work as kindergartner at the beginning of the period, and they were assumed by Miss Mary Wilson; both did very good work for one year. Miss Ruby Sharpe, who brings to her work extended experience in similar work in another state, took the position at the beginning of the second year.

Mr. T. C. Adams and his estimable wife, who inaugurated our farm colony (the Barron club), resigned early in the period, and Mr. E. Wright, who was with us two years previous as gardener, assumed charge of the farm, and is doing good work.

AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The work of our training department was recognized with honor at the Columbian exposition, where it was arranged with that of twelve other American institutions of this kind, by an award for "work accomplished by pupils both in what they learn from books and in varied industries, illustrating the beneficent provision of the state for its feeble-minded."

There was no attempt made to develop competition between the different institutions interested, hence the commendation was the more appreciated.

COTTAGE RESIDENCE FOR SUPERINTENDENT'S FAMILY.

I desire to express my sincere gratitude for the pleasant cottage residence which, by your request, the state has recently provided for the superintendent and family.

CONCLUSION.

We can but feel that the School for Feeble-Minded has been greatly blessed during the past two years, and if its usefulness has been in proportion to the zeal that has characterized the officers and teachers in the performance of their several duties, it has not existed in vain.

For the unswerving loyalty of my assistants and your ever cordial support, gentlemen of the board, I am under continued obligations.

Respectfully submitted,

A. C. ROGERS.

FARM STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 1.

	1893.	1894.
Inventory, May 1.....	\$17,401.67	\$17,869.21
Expended for dairy.....	423.96	748.97
Expended for piggery, expense.....	.15	.25
Expended for food.....	745.38	741.11
Expended for produce (seeds, etc.).....	306.56	228.51
Expended for furniture and household supplies..	77.87	26.11
Expended for horse and oxen.....	161.55	59.36
Expended for poultry.....		8.00
Expended for implements, vehicles and tools.....	82.48	119.81
Expended for repairs on buildings.....	155.55	31.11
Expended for salaries and wages.....	1,749.24	1,764.22
Balance, gain.....	2,455.58	2,282.07
Total	\$23,559.99	\$23,878.73
Receipts from dairy.....	\$2,958.34	\$3,148.66
Receipts from piggery, pork, etc.....	687.87	419.13
Receipts from produce.....	1,997.11	2,121.15
Receipts from poultry, eggs.....	17.96	5.84
Receipts from labor (work off of farm).....	29.50	189.80
Inventory, May 1.....	17,869.21	17,994.15
Totals	\$23,559.99	\$23,878.73

INVENTORY.

	1893.	1894.
Food	\$591.41	\$419.90
Bedding	4,711.72	5,166.01
Laundry supplies.....	270.47	263.74
Fuel	433.00	451.20
Light	8.83	2.40
Medical supplies.....	770.66	679.36
Postage	22.00	44.00
Books, etc.....	752.85	746.96
Amusement, etc.....	2,169.83	2,354.74
Household supplies.....	3,494.06	3,799.50
Furniture, etc.....	8,135.69	10,388.85
Building and repairing.....	311.81	216.57
Tools and machinery.....	1,729.46	1,652.30
Farm, garden, etc.....	3,447.19	3,663.79
Industrial training.....	1,082.48	1,076.02
Boiler, engines, shafting.....	3,832.74

CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION.

LOCATION.

The school is situated upon the east bluff of Straight river, overlooking the city of Faribault, which lies to the west of the river. It is about two miles from the railroad depots, and forms the southern terminus of a line of six public institutions, which are arranged in the following order from the north, viz.: Shattuck Military School (Episcopal), School for the Deaf (state), St. Mary's Ladies' Hall (Episcopal), Seabury Hall (Episcopal), School for the Blind (State), and School for the Feeble-Minded (State).

OBJECT.

The school has for its general objects the training of such feeble-minded children as are capable of improvement, and the care and comfort of such as cannot be improved. The former is accomplished by regular school and industrial work adapted to this class; the ultimate aim being to make each child self-supporting, or as nearly so as possible. To accomplish this, all the training is of the most practical nature.

ORGANIZATION.

The school is in reality an institution performing the functions of a school, a home and a hospital. It, therefore, consists of three departments quite distinct in their nature and yet mutually connected, viz: (1) School and training department, (2) custodia or home, and (3) epileptic hospital.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

All feeble-minded persons, residents of the State of Minnesota, who, in the opinion of the superintendent, are of suitable age and capacity to receive instruction in this school, and whose defects prevent them from receiving proper training in the public schools of the state, and all idiotic and epileptic persons, residents of the state, may be admitted to their respective departments, and receive the benefits of the school free of charge, subject to such rules and regulations as may be made by the board of directors. (Chapter 205 General Laws of 1887.)

[Clothing and transportation are not paid by the state.—See last paragraph of this circular.]

METHODS OF OBTAINING ADMISSION.

Application should be made to the superintendent for blank forms, which, when properly filled out, give a correct and detailed description and history of the person for whom application is made to enable the superintendent to determine the eligibility of the case. The applications are numbered and filed in the order in which they are received.

CLASSIFICATION.

Pupils are classified by the superintendent and assigned to their appropriate departments in the institution.

SCHOOL AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT.—School.

(During School Hours.)

The children are under the guidance of refined teachers, who, while they endeavor to impart the simple elements of an English education, are constantly on the alert to correct improper habits, develop the sense of right and wrong, teach acts of courtesy, and keep all hands busy at something useful. About six hours a day are devoted to school room work and industrial occupations, which vary according to the capacity of the child, from stringing beads and buttons, or matching color and form blocks, to recitations in reading, penmanship, numbers, geography, orthography, composition and other elementary work of the common schools. Music, dancing and calisthenics occupy a portion of the time, and are of primary importance in arousing and maintaining the interest of the sluggish minds and strengthening the feeble wills.

MANUAL AND INDUSTRIAL OCCUPATIONS.

Properly adapted occupations and games of the kindergarten are employed for the little children, while manual and industrial training is co-ordinated with the school work for the older ones. Experience has shown with this class, as with normal children, that definite physical effort to accomplish a useful object, if only it be an errand, or button a shoe, tends to mental and moral development, effective in proportion as it involves complexity of movement and thought within the limits of ability to perform the same properly. The programme is so arranged as to keep all busy during school hours, the time being divided between literary and industrial occupations. By this means, it is believed, maximum mental development can be realized and each child at the same time, be rendered capable of the greatest degree of self-support.

Brush making, mat weaving, scroll sawing, repousse work, farming, gardening, and care of stock are some of the industries adapted to the boys and are followed by them at the school.

The girls are employed at plain and fancy needle work, lace making, crocheting, baking, cooking and general house work.

(Outside of School Hours.)

The pupils are under the care constantly of attendants. Abundant recreation is provided for all out of doors when the weather will permit. It is the earnest endeavor of the management to surround each child with good home influences in school and out. No employe can retain a position in the school whose influence, with the children, is known to be detrimental to them.

Books and periodicals, of a suitable kind, are furnished for the use of the pupils.

ENTERTAINMENT.

Special entertainments are provided for the various holidays of the year for the children, and it has been the custom for the children, under the direction of the teachers, to give one public entertainment each year.

One evening of each week during the school year is devoted to the children's dance and sociable, under the personal supervision of the officers, and one evening of each week is devoted to miscellaneous entertainments, games, stereopticon exhibitions, etc., by an officer or teacher.

CUSTODIA.

Such children as are not capable of improvement, or but slightly so, are cared for separately from those in the school, and every effort is exerted to make their lives as comfortable and happy as possible. A school is maintained in this department, so that no case will be neglected, however hopeless it may appear at first.

In this department many of the older and more capable pupils are employed in the care of their more unfortunate brothers and sisters.

EPILEPTICS.

Epileptic persons whose minds are weak, or in whom this condition is threatened, are assigned a place in the institution and given medical treatment and mental and physical training adapted to their requirements.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

On Sunday mornings regular Sunday-school exercises are held by the superintendent and the teachers, and on Sunday evening, the superintendent or

one of the teachers, instructs by "plain talks" in morality and good conduct. An effort is made to develop strength of character, and to cultivate purity of heart and purpose.

Any pupils, whose physical health or mental peculiarities do not render it inadvisable, may attend church services in the city with teachers or attendants, as approved by the superintendent.

The school is non-sectarian and the wishes of the parents will always be observed in the selection of churches for attendance.

MEDICAL CARE.

The school is under the care of a medical superintendent and an assistant physician, and the needs of such as require ordinary medical aid are supplied. An oculist and aurist and a dentist are also employed who give necessary attention in these directions. *Special* surgical and dental work is done at the expense of the patients.

VACATION.

During the months of July and August there is a nominal vacation of the schools, and when it is deemed advisable by the superintendent, children may be returned to their homes for vacation. Unless for urgent reasons it is not generally advisable for children to go home at other times. All expenses for bringing and returning children must be borne by the parents or friends of the children, unless especially provided for otherwise. It is always desirable for parents to visit the school before or at the time their child is admitted, that they may know personally of the school and its methods. When this cannot be done the superintendent may send for the child to be admitted, provided all actual expenses (no fees) are paid by the person or persons interested. The state does not pay the traveling expenses in such cases.

Such of the school children as do not go home during the summer vacation, have the privilege of summer outings during July and August. The summer camps or picnic excursions are now established features of the school, and they contribute immeasurably to the health and comfort of the whole household.

DISCIPLINE.

Sympathy and kindness on the part of officers, teachers and attendants render government simple and easy generally. Cases seeming to require punishment are acted upon by the superintendent or an officer, and corporal punishment is not delegated to any one. If in an extreme case it is required, the superintendent alone assumes the responsibility of such action. •

DURATION OF ATTENDANCE.

Admissions are not made for any specified time. Applications may be received at any time during the year, but the best interests of the pupils are consulted in reference to their discharge.

AGE OF APPLICANTS.

There is no age qualification required for admission, though the earlier a feeble-minded child can be received, after leaving the mother's arms, the better the chances are for improvement in most cases.

VISITATIONS.

The institution is open to the public at all reasonable hours on every day of the week except Sunday and Saturday. The school hours are from 8:15 a. m. to 3 p. m., and those desiring to see the children in their school and training exercises should visit within those hours. The children have the time to themselves outside of school hours. Parents having children at the institution are at liberty to visit them but must provide their own transportation to and from trains and have their lodging provided for outside of the school.

Food and confectionery should never be given to the children without the advice and consent of the superintendent. Such articles should be left at the office or with the matron who will attend to issuing them at proper times. Clothing and all articles of value must be left at office to be receipted for and marked. *All business matters should be transacted at the office.* This is important, and if observed will prevent many misunderstandings.

The history and characteristics of the children and their family connections are considered confidential matters by the management, and all reasonable

means are employed to protect children from curiosity seekers. Children are mentioned to strangers by their first names.

Visitors should refrain from talking of the peculiarities of the children in their presence. Feeble-minded children are often painfully conscious of their infirmity and it is very humiliating and discouraging to such persons to hear themselves discussed by strangers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Children who have parents or friends interested in them are reported at least one each month, during the first year of attendance. Children who are able to write are expected to do so at stated times. When the address of any child's correspondent is changed, the office should be notified of it at once.

Do not blame the institution for not replying to correspondence which is regularly answered and sent to some former address, the latest reported. Do not send a letter addressed to "John," "Theodore," "Joe," "Mary," or some other given name and signed "Your Loving Mother," or "Your Brother," etc., as it is often utterly impossible to know to whom such letters belong among several persons of the same name and with equally affectionate relatives.

Always give the name in full of the child and sign the full name and address of the writer in every case, except that letters to children inclosed in a letter to the superintendent need not be so signed.

In many cases after the child has been in the school for some time or where there are no near relatives of the child, no stated reports are sent, as they would add unnecessarily to the work of the office, but correspondence from friends and relatives will always be promptly and cheerfully answered. In case of serious sickness, the persons interested will be notified at once. To parents requesting it, a full report of school progress will be made at the close of the year.

EXPENSES.

A deposit, not exceeding forty dollars (\$40) per annum, as fixed by the board of directors, is required in advance for clothing and traveling expenses of each child. Relatives of the children are required to file with the superintendent a duly and properly executed bond for the subsequent payment of funds for clothing and traveling expenses, as may be required.

For further information address,

DR. A. C. ROGERS,
Faribault, Minn.