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TENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of Public Instruction

STATE OF MINNESOTA

FOR THE

School Years Ending July 31, 1897 and 1898.

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT IN THE SERIES.

ST. PAUL, MINN.:
THE PIONEER PRESS COMPANY,
STATE PRINTERS.
1898.

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SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED.

W. W. Pendergast, Superintendent of Public Instruction,

Dear Sir: I have the honor to report for the School for Feeble-Minded for the two years ending July 31, 1898, as follows:

The largest attendance for the biennial period at the School for Feeble-Minded was on April 13, 1898, when it was 630, distributed as follows:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Training department ("Centre").....	111	111	222
Boys' custodia ("Sunnyside").....	157	...	157
Girls' custodia ("Geo. E. Skinner Hall").....	...	175	175
Epileptic Boys ("Retreat").....	52	...	52
Farm ("Springdale")	24	...	24
Totals	344	286	630

Upon the admission of a child it is considered with reference to the following: (1) Epilepsy, (2) degree of mental infirmity, (3) physical disabilities from disease or age, and its classification and assignment to the proper department is made accordingly. Those assigned to the

TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

are then carefully examined with reference to their mental conditions and motor abilities and assigned to the training and class indicated. Self-helpfulness and general ultimate usefulness are kept constantly in view.

The following table and descriptions indicate the classes and divisions of time:

FIRST DIVISION.

Sense Training.

Practical Exercises.

Kindergarten—Five hours a day.

SECOND DIVISION.

LITERARY.

Class "D"—	
Sec. 1.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	1½ hours.
Class "C"—	
Sec. 1.....	2½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	2½ hours.
Class "B"—	
Sec. 1.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 3.....	1½ hours.
Class "A"—	
Sec. 1.....	2½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	2½ hours.

INDUSTRIAL.

Net-work.....	1½ hours.
Ironing Class—	
Sec. 1.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 3.....	1½ hours.
Sewing and Lace-Work—	
Sec. 1.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 3.....	1½ hours.
Sloyd—	
Sec. 1.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	¾ hours.
Sec. 3.....	¾ hours.
Sec. 4.....	1½ hours.
Manual Training—	
Sec. 1.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 2.....	1½ hours.
Sec. 3.....	1½ hours.

THIRD DIVISION.

MUSIC.

Vocal—	
(1) Senior class.....	¾ hour.
(2) Junior class.....	¾ hour.
Instrumental—	
(1) Violin.....	¾ hour.
(2) Piano.....	¾ hour.
Band—	
(1) Individual.....	1½ hours.
(2) Concert.....	1 hour.

PHYSICAL CULTURE.

- (1) Indian clubs.
- (2) Dumb bells.
- (3) Wands.
- (4) Swedish Gymnastics.

In the kindergarten the methods are modified from those of the Froebel system to suit the requirements of these special children. They do pricking, sewing, weaving, pasting, paper-folding, paper-cutting and clay-modeling. In color work they have parquetry, bead stringing, laying or colored sticks, etc. In addition they use peg tiles, string straws according to color, make paper chains, string beads according to form and color, etc. Not many of the gifts are used; chiefly gifts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. They are encouraged to talk and describe objects around them. Motion songs and games are much used. They learn to march in line and keep good time.

Class "D" is composed of the lowest grade of children who have literary training. They are taught color and form, read from chart and primer, write from copy and combine numbers below ten with the use of objects.

In "C," or the Primary Class, there are two divisions. Each is in school one-half day. The girls, when not in school, are in the sewing room or ironing class, the boys in the sloyd class or shop.

In this class they do chart, primer, first and second reader work. Their writing grades from tracing to writing legibly from dictation. They compose and write brief letters with aid in spelling and punctuation, learn to tell time, count money and make change for small amounts. They work with numbers below ten, using objects in making combinations in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Class "B." The boys are in school from 8:15 to 10 o'clock, the other two periods being spent in the net class, sloyd and shop. The girls are in school from 10:30 to 12:15, the other periods being spent in the sewing room and ironing class. This class does second and third reader work. They have simple language work, spelling and diacritical marking of words in connection with the reading lessons. They compose and write letters with aid, learn to solve easy problems, involving a knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have lessons in primary geography.

Class "A" consists of the brightest and most advanced children in school. The girls are in school from 8:15 to 11:15, the rest of the day being spent in the sewing room. The boys are in school from 11:15 to 3, the rest of the day being spent in sloyd and shop work. In this class they have third and fourth reader work, study primary geography and history, physiology, composition and letter writing. They learn weights and measures, count money, make change, tell time, etc. The number work varies from addition to simple fractions. For supplementary reading they use the "Youths' Companion," "McClure's Magazine," "The Great Round World," and other papers and magazines.

The Net Class is composed of both boys and girls who spend one session during the day at this work, alternating with other manual training. They learn to make laundry bags and hammocks.

The Ironing Class consists of various grades of girls who spend from three-fourths of an hour to three and one-fourth hours a day in this department. Their work varies from the ironing of simple, plain articles, such as towels, handkerchiefs, children's table napkins, etc., to that of aprons, skirts, dresses, shirt waists, etc.

In the Sewing Room there are several classes of girls who work at different periods during the day. The girls are classified according to the work they are capable of doing which ranges from sewing over and over on strips of cloth to taking measurements,

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cutting from models, fitting and making dresses, knitting, crocheting, hemstitching and torchon lace making. Much of the bedding, children's underclothing, etc., used in the institution is made in this class.

Sloyd. The knife course, as taught in this school, requires the production of some thirty models and mechanical drawing of the same. Among the models made are the picture frame, ribbon winder, paper knife, letter opener, windmill and mallet. Each model introduces a new exercise and reviews those of the preceding one. The tools used in this work are as follows: T-square, triangle, thumb tacks, try-square and knife. The material used is white wood, bass and pine. In the public schools this course is supposed to represent three years' work, but our class of boys giving more time to it each day than pupils in public schools do, complete it in a very satisfactory manner and begin upon bench work within seven months.

In the Manual Training Class or Shop the simplest occupation is that of braiding rope for floor mats and sewing them over a peg board. Wood turning and brush making are also taught. Over thirty different kinds of brushes are made,—clothes, counter, shoe, scrub, bottle brushes, etc. A few of the more advanced in the class do such simple practical work as making knee pads, curtain rods, lace bobbins, sleds, work boxes, drawing boards, towel rollers, etc.

MUSIC.

A teacher has charge of the music, who conducts the singing in chapel and Sunday school, also the vocal classes. There are two of these. In the senior class the children are drilled in solo, part and chorus singing. In the junior class they have solo and chorus drill.

The bandmaster, besides giving the individual instruction necessary to prepare new boys for the band, has violin and cornet pupils. There are fourteen pieces in the band, and a variety of music is successfully played by it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The calisthenic and senior singing classes meet in the evening.

The girls' reading club and the boys' reading club meet separately with a teacher for an hour's reading each evening of the week with the exception of Tuesday and Saturday evenings. Tuesday evening all the children go to the Assembly Hall for an hour's dancing.

On Saturday evening they are assembled again and are entertained by a programme prepared by some officer or teacher.

SUNDAY EXERCISES.

On Sunday morning all assemble for Sunday school, where simple exercises are conducted, consisting of praise songs, psalms and responsive readings. Classes are then formed, and the teachers conduct such exercises in the line of developing ideas and habits of upright conduct as the particular classes and individuals require. The International Sunday School lessons are followed by the Bible class.

One-half hour is also spent by the children in the evening under the tuition of an officer or teacher.

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS.

In addition to the regular training, as shown above, there are details of various lengths of time to the various occupations that pertain to the administration of the institution as—

Boys to—	Girls to—
Kitchen.	Kitchen.
Bakery.	Bakery.
Laundry.	Laundry.
Garden.	Chamber work.
Farm and team work.	Dining-room work.
Firing and assistance in care of steam plant.	General housework.

The idea is everywhere inculcated that employment of children must be so managed as to teach how to do and serve primarily as training. Continuity of employment is increased with the length of time in the institution, other things being equal. Farming and dairying, for instance, are followed under the direction of the farm manager by a regular colony of boys.

ATTENDANTS' AND NURSES' TRAINING CLASS.

In September, 1896, we organized a training class for attendants and nurses to cover a period of two years' study and practical work. It has been conducted quite satisfactorily to the present time, Sept. 30 being the time appointed for graduating the first class.

The course is at present tentative and somewhat experimental. It covers an elementary course by lectures and text, of physiology, hygiene, child study, nursing, sanitation, heating and ventilation, together with the practical care of children as represented by their daily employment. Our experience, so far, justifies our anticipation that increased interest in their work, more intelligent care of the

children and better service in every way would more than pay for the extra time and work required for conducting such a class. One lecture per week is given to each class, junior and senior. Most value is placed upon the character of daily service, which is marked monthly in eight points on a scale of ten. Minimum wages are paid at first and successful candidates are advanced in wages upon a graduated scale, the maximum only being reached after completing the two years' course.

As the completion and occupation of the large custodial building has relieved for the time the strong pressure for the admission of unimprovable cases, and the work of the training department has been better understood, the applications for admission to the latter department have increased. For some time the school has been too crowded, and many applications have been filed beyond its capacity to receive pupils. By an appropriation from the last legislature the board of directors have been enabled to rebuild and enlarge this department, and when this improvement is completed, it will enable the school to place more pupils under training, and that under more advantageous circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

A. C. ROGERS, Superintendent.