

SEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

IOWA SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME

AND HOME FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN.

---

NOVEMBER 1, 1879.

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*[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]*

DES MOINES:  
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1879.

## REPORT.

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*To the Eighteenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

THE Trustees of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and home for indigent children, as required by law, submit their seventh biennial report.

For the statistics of this institution the General Assembly is respectfully referred to the accompanying report of the Superintendent, which under appropriate heads conveys exact information concerning Industrial Pursuits, Buildings, Schools, Library, and Land. The sanitary condition of the Home is reported by its skillful physician, Prof. W. F. Peck, and Col. Horton, Treasurer, submits a financial statement.

Last June the Sixth Annual Conference of Charities was held at Chicago, and this board delegated thereto Mr. S. W. Pierce, Superintendent of the Home, as a representative of Iowa's charities. Mr. Pierce's paper, read on that occasion, is appended hereto as a valuable contribution to the literature of our eleemosynary institutions.

The Trustees take the liberty of asking legislative attention to the character and interests of the Home, as a general Orphans' Home and home for indigent children. It will occur to any observer that there should be legislation to compel counties to remove indigent children from the common poor-houses and put them in this Home, where the elevating influences of health, cleanliness, schools, industry, and refinement will prepare them for active life and the duties of good citizenship.

Older States are just now brought face to face with serious public problems grown out of pauper-bred populations. It is proven that from each person reared in a poor-house to adult age spring an average of three descendants to return to shelter in the poor-house or find it by compulsion in the penitentiary.

Let our poor-houses remain as asylums for the aged indigents or

those whom disease or misfortune overtake in life, but let the State insist, and by law enforce its wish, that the poor-houses shall not be nurseries for rearing the young amid influences that in each succeeding generation will augment the number of indigents and criminals in a rapidly increasing ratio.

By the report of the Superintendent it will be seen that, with a part of the counties reported, Iowa probably has in her poor-houses a hundred children of tender years, of school age, at the period in which their characters are being formed for good or bad. For this hundred, hundreds will appear in the next generation to be punished as criminals or supported as paupers.

Our commonwealth is now at the threshold of this question. Shall we meet it wisely? Shall we insist that these children shall be removed from degradation and darkness and brought into the school-room, taught industry, and become fortified with right principles and right habits? Or shall we, in every poor-house, establish a pauper and criminal nursery and breed and rear a population of hundreds with no motive in life except to get and eat the bread of dependence or of crime?

This Board, to remove objections based in cost, has reduced the expense of maintaining children in the Home from \$120 each to \$100 per year, and when it is considered that this is for food, clothing, schooling, nursing, doctoring, shelter, and a real parental oversight inclusive, no argument is required to demonstrate the economy of rearing indigent children under the enlightening influences of the Home.

The State cannot afford to ignore these considerations, nor to snub nor slight the conditions under which this far-reaching charity should be placed to secure its greatest success and efficiency.

The buildings are unfit and unsafe for occupancy, with the exception of the brick cottages and laundry. The old barracks donated by the General Government are decayed and endanger the health of the inmates, while they burden the funds of the Home to keep them warm in winter and wholesome in summer. The Superintendent has indicated the wants of the Home in buildings and lands, and the Board very earnestly urges the appropriation of the amounts and for the purposes named in his report. The offices, sewing-room, library, reception and reading rooms, Superintendent's quarters, dining-hall, and kitchen should be under a common roof, in a general headquarters' building, and the rotting and repulsive wooden cottages should be re-

placed by such substantial, pleasant, comfortable, and cleanly buildings as the brick cottages now upon the grounds. Unless this is done the State will so impair the efficiency of the Home as to render its extinction only a question of time. That the State cannot afford this we are so confident that we again urge an intelligent investigation of the subject, believing that enlightened public selfishness will compel the development of the Home to its broadest capacity for usefulness.

With accommodations upon a proper scale, we would suggest as an outline for further legislation that the Assembly should provide that when a certain number of taxpaying citizens petition the board of supervisors for removal of indigent children from the poor-house to the Home, the board shall without option order such removal.

Such legislation will remove from the boards of supervisors a responsibility they are now averse to assuming and put it where it belongs, upon the tax-payers, and the State's poor children, who have in their undeveloped brains and bodies all the mighty possibilities which are the endowment of humanity, will be thereby put into a genial and friendly atmosphere to be prepared for useful and honorable lives.

JOHN P. IRISH, }  
C. C. HORTON, } Trustees.  
SETH P. BRYANT, }

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

*To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children:*

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor of presenting to you at this time a report of this institution for the biennial period closing September 30, 1879.

The number of children in attendance October 1, 1877.....	180
The number of children admitted.....	60
Total attendance.....	240
The number of children discharged.....	110
Total.....	130
The number of children in attendance September 30, 1879.....	130

There are 68 boys and 62 girls. Of these, 92 are soldiers' orphans, and 38 indigent orphans. Twenty different counties have sent us in all 62 indigent children. Twenty-four of these have been discharged. The 38 remaining are from 15 counties, as follows:

Benton.....	4	Johnson.....	3
Cedar.....	4	Linn.....	2
Cass.....	3	Mahaska.....	3
Clinton.....	6	Polk.....	1
Clayton.....	2	Scott.....	3
Davis.....	2	Story.....	1
Delaware.....	2		—
Fayette.....	1	Total.....	38
Jackson.....	1		

The soldiers' orphans are from 27 counties, as follows:

Allamakee.....	2	Johnson.....	5
Benton.....	2	Louisa.....	4
Black Hawk.....	5	Madison.....	1
Buchanan.....	2	Marshall.....	1
Cerro Gordo.....	1	Mahaska.....	4
Clayton.....	1	Mills.....	4
Davis.....	2	Muscatine.....	8
Dallas.....	1	Polk.....	18
Des Moines.....	1	Pocahontas.....	2
Delaware.....	6	Scott.....	8
Fayette.....	1	Wapello.....	3
Floyd.....	2	Worth.....	1
Guthrie.....	3		—
Hardin.....	1	Total.....	92
Jackson.....	3		

The average monthly attendance has been 148. The average age is 11 years. There are two children 3 years old, and six that are 15. The number of applications for admission of children has been greater during the past six months than for a like period during the last five years. There are to-day scores of poor, neglected children in our state, growing up without the care, education, and training that would save them from vice and crime. Many a noble widowed mother, within my knowledge in needy circumstances and feeble health, would never cease to be duly grateful to the State if it would educate and care for her younger children for a few years. If this be not done, many of them will grow up in ignorance and vice. It is a sad fact that not one in ten of the children twelve years old and upwards, sent here, can read in the first reader. Good homes are readily found for indigent orphans that have blue eyes, soft hair, sweet dispositions, and sound bodies and minds; but the dull, ill-favored, ill-tempered, indolent ones are not wanted, and are often sent to the poor-house. From the age of two to sixteen, the child's character is formed. The mind is then plastic, and may be easily shaped to good or evil resolves. The surrounding world is a school full of teaching, and they learn from it. If all dependent children were placed under the care of those whose primary object is the promoting their physical, mental, and moral welfare rather than seeking any personal emolument, and to this were added the teaching of thorough habits of industry, their future interests would be subserved. If a child is vicious or criminal, it is sent to a reform-school, if deaf and dumb, blind, or idiotic, to the proper institution. If, however, it has all its faculties complete, with eyes and ears wide open, but is so unfortunate as to be poor, what is done with it? In too many cases it is let alone, or perhaps helped just enough to keep it just where it is. In more cases it is sent to a poor-house, there to be tainted by associations often with vile men and women, and deprived of even a common-school education.

This is a sin against God and humanity. The prevention of crime is one of the great questions of to-day. If we care for the children properly, the men and women of the future will care for themselves. We need only to note the condition of the older States, as a result of neglecting to properly care for and train up their indigents. The facts in regard to pauperism and resulting crime in the states of Ohio, New York, and Massachusetts are startling. As a State, Iowa must meet this question, sooner or later. There are to-day 67 children in 14 out of 49 of the poor-houses of this state.

The Home in all its departments is in good condition. The schools are thoroughly graded and divided into two departments, of three grades each. They are presided over by two faithful, competent teachers. Promotions from a lower to a higher grade are made at the end of each term according to the result of thorough examinations. Children do not attend school under six years of age. School is in session five and a-half hours a day, for five days in the week, and nine months in the year. One hour each evening is devoted to study in the several cottages. The older boys are not in school from April 1st to October 1st, as they are needed at farming and gardening. Reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, grammar, U.S. history, and physiology are thoroughly taught. Vocal music is taught a part of each year.

Sabbath-school is held in the chapel each Sabbath morning, and preaching each Sabbath afternoon. All children and adults have access to an excellent library of 1300 volumes of well-selected books, which are highly prized and thoroughly read. The matron keeps up a correspondence with the children after they leave the Home, that we may know where they are and how they are doing, and aid them by counsel and advice. Ninety-nine per cent. of those over twenty years old are good citizens to-day. From what I know of their ancestry and natural inclinations, I feel that fully ten per cent. of them, had they been left to shirk for themselves, without the education and training of this Home, would to-day have been supported as criminals. I feel that each employe is earnestly laboring for the present and future good of the children under their care and instruction.

The grounds inclosed by the buildings have been greatly improved by grading and planting 200 choice shade-trees. The children occupy five different cottages. The girls occupy buildings and playgrounds situated apart from the boys.

The smaller children are in buildings by themselves, the larger by themselves, and the medium-sized by themselves. Each cottage is calculated to contain twenty-five children, and is in charge of a competent Christian lady.

The cooking, washing, and ironing are done in buildings used only for those purposes. The children and employes take their meals in one large common dining-hall. The ladies in charge of cottages wait upon their respective families, and the children in turn attend to the wants of the ladies when at their meals. An abundant supply of well-cooked, wholesome food is provided at regular intervals. Fruit is very freely used throughout the year. Children never go to their meals or to school with ragged clothes or unwashed faces and hands.

Careful attention is paid to cleanly, orderly habits. Thorough bathing and clean linen are attended to at least once each week. All children are furnished with the necessary articles of clothing, as often as is needed, to keep them well clothed, neat, and tidy. Each child's garments are all plainly marked. Each child has a Sunday suit entire.

Sleeping apartments and school-rooms are well ventilated. Care is taken to properly develop the physical, mental, and moral natures. The diet for the inmates is as follows:

For breakfasts—Baked beans, brown bread, white bread, and butter, three times a week. Oat meal and milk, bread, and syrup, twice. Potato soup, bread and syrup, and apples, once. Codfish, bread and butter, and apples, one morning.

For dinners—Vegetable soup, bread and butter, coleslaw or pickles, and apples, once a week. Hash, bread and butter, baked potatoes, pickles, and apples, twice. Noodle soup, baked potatoes, bread and butter, and apples, once. Bean soup, bread and syrup, pickles and apples, twice a week. On Sundays, bread and milk, pie or cake, baked apples, raw apples, and a part of the time cold meat.

For suppers—Bread and milk, with gingerbread, three times a week. Mush and milk, corn bread, white bread, once. Bread and milk, warm rusk, once. Bread and milk, with sugar, cookies, and baked apples, once. For luncheon, Sundays, cake and cheese, and apples.

The above is the regular dietary, but in addition to this, during the

season of green fruits and vegetables, their tables are supplied with sweet potatoes, green corn, tomatoes, string-beans, peas, grapes, melons, and berries.

The limited number and dilapidated condition of the most of our buildings are such that it is very difficult to conduct the institution as we desire. The old buildings have been made as comfortable and respectable as possible; yet their condition is such that the prospect for the coming winter is anything but pleasant to those who must spend another winter in them. The two new brick cottages are very comfortable, and are occupied by the girls. They are greatly overcrowded, as we have 62 girls in them, which is 12 more than the most they were built to accommodate. We are, we fear, forced to put some of our girls into a building not suitable or safe to live in, as we have several urgent applications for admission of girls. Our school-rooms are only moderately comfortable. We have not proper accommodations for our employes, or for visitors. None of our old buildings are suitable for children or employes to live in during another winter, and their condition is such that repairs are useless. It will be remembered that the State has never yet made an appropriation for new buildings for this Home. We have struggled along for the last fourteen years in these buildings, given by the general government to this Institution. They were cheaply built, and have done good service, till they now should be abandoned as soon as possible. The time has come when a liberal appropriation must be made for the erection of new buildings for the use of this institution, if it is to be continued. Our location is an excellent one. The grounds are nicely rolling, beautiful, and attractive, well covered with shade-trees and supplied with a never-failing stream of water. Well water is also never-failing and abundant, and of the best quality. Sewerage and surface drainage are perfect. Street-cars run to our gate. Steam cars stop at a station fifty rods from our gate. We are two and a-half miles from the post-office.

The sanitary condition of the Home is and has been most excellent. There has been almost entire freedom from sickness, except for a few weeks, while we were visited with the measles. There were 47 cases of measles, all of which resulted entirely satisfactorily. There has been no death, with an average attendance of 148. The last death was in December, 1876. During the year 1878 one of the cottage managers, a Mrs. Turner, from Ohio, who had been with us but a week, was taken sick, and after a brief illness died, leaving us all to greatly mourn her loss.

For further particulars in sanitary matters, you are respectfully referred to the report of Dr. W. F. Peck, our physician, who has ever attended promptly to all our wants when in need of a physician.

The various industries of the Home are under the thorough supervision of the superintendent and matron, aided by all the employes. Each child, old enough to be useful, is each day regularly employed at some useful labor, suited to its age and strength, as well as capability. Each child has certain hours, each day, for work, play, and study. Raising small fruits, gardening, and farming employ the older boys the most of the year. Broom-making and carpentering have given employment to a part of our boys. We need other industries established, but for want of sufficient funds we have not been able to at-

tempt them. The girls are taught to do all kinds of general housework, to make and mend girls' and boys' clothes, and to wash and iron, and a few each year are taught to cook. They do a great amount of work, and do it cheerfully and well. They do all the ironing of the children's clothes, all the dining-room work, and a good share of the kitchen work. The following articles of clothing have been cut and made in our sewing department: Coats, 232; pairs pants, 332; pairs drawers, 282; chemise, 246; night-gowns, 150; skirts, 122; sun-bonnets, 104; cloaks, 45; sacques, 24; waists, 53; dresses, 429; aprons, 558; shirts, 575; vests, 6. They have also knit on our machine during the last twelve months 114 pairs socks and 112 pairs hose. The smaller boys do their own housework, and much of their own mending.

We have cultivated three acres of garden vegetables, one and a-half acres of strawberries, one acre of raspberries, one-half acre of grapes, ten of corn, and two of potatoes. This work has been done without employing a farm-hand, the boys having done all but the plowing. The book-keeper has charge of the boys when at their work.

We have rented for cultivation during the past three years ten and a quarter acres of land adjoining us on the south. We greatly need more land for cultivation, as but eight acres of our own land can be cultivated. The importance of systematic labor and training for dependent children in trades or farm labor is equally important with instruction in chapel or school-room. Among the surest safeguards which children can have, when they leave this institution, is the thoroughly formed habit of constant, uniform labor.

In accordance with instructions given by a resolution adopted at your meeting in June last, I attended the sixth annual conference of charities, held in Chicago, June 10, 11, and 12, as a delegate from this institution; and at the request of the president of the conference read a paper setting forth the condition and working of this institution.

The following shows the expenditure of the balance of the special appropriation, made by the Sixteenth General Assembly of \$3,600 for furniture, improvements, and repairs:—

## RECEIPTS.

Balance—cash on hand October 1, 1877.....\$1,702.44

## EXPENDITURES.

For insurance, transfer to general fund.....\$ 800.00  
 For carpenters' services..... 312.00  
 For building fence..... 7.90  
 For steam fitting..... 48.23  
 For plastering and whitewashing..... 112.64  
 For lumber..... 128.00  
 For hardware and general repairs..... 293.67

Total expenditures.....\$1,702.44

The following shows the expenditure of the special appropriation made by the Seventeenth General Assembly of \$3,000:—

## RECEIPTS.

Cash from C. C. Horton, Treasurer.....\$3,000.00  
 Cash from sale of sundries..... 4.05

Total receipts.....\$3,004.05

## EXPENDITURES.

For furnishing cottages.....\$ 500.00  
 For carpenters' services..... 510.12  
 For lumber..... 300.67  
 For hardware and general repairs..... 864.50

Total expenditures.....\$2,175.29

Balance—cash on hand September 30, 1879.....\$ 828.76

The following shows the receipts and expenditures of the special appropriation for industrial pursuits:—

## RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand October 1, 1877.....\$ 33.50  
 Cash from R. P. Spear, Treasurer..... 450.00  
 Tools sold..... 7.30

Total receipts.....\$ 490.80

## EXPENDITURES.

For rent of land.....\$ 127.85  
 For labor..... 89.16  
 For strawberry and raspberry plants..... 69.95  
 For seeds, etc..... 40.62  
 Tools and implements..... 163.22

Total expenditures.....\$ 490.80

The following shows the receipts and expenditures of the library fund:—

## RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand October 1, 1877.....\$ 10.76  
 Cash from C. C. Horton, Treasurer..... 200.00

Total receipts.....\$ 210.76

## EXPENDITURES.

For library books.....\$ 41.66  
 For periodicals..... 97.47

Total expenditures.....\$ 139.13

Balance—cash on hand September 30, 1879.....\$ 71.63

The live stock consists of 4 horses, 15 cows, 2 calves, 32 hogs and shoats, 12 pigs, and 100 fowls.

During the biennial period the live stock furnished, and we consumed, the following:

3,760 pounds beef killed, valued at.....\$ 274.90  
 1,458 pounds veal killed, valued at..... 103.56  
 10,755 pounds pork killed, valued at..... 607.15  
 135 pounds poultry killed, valued at..... 13.50  
 68,640 pounds milk consumed, valued at..... 2,256.40  
 718 dozen eggs consumed, valued at..... 77.64

Total value.....\$3,333.15

We commenced in May, 1879, with six stands of bees, from which we have taken 220 pounds of honey, valued at \$26.40. We now have 15 stands of bees, all in good condition.

The following is what has been grown on the land we have cultivated:

FOR 1878.		FOR 1879.	
Pounds grapes.....	600	Quarts raspberries.....	312
Bushels string beans.....	10	Quarts strawberries.....	256
Bushels shelled beans.....	15	Pounds grapes.....	800
Bushels peas.....	3	Bushels string beans.....	6
Bushels potatoes.....	20	Bushels shelled beans.....	2
Bushels beets.....	100	Bushels peas.....	4
Bushels carrots.....	80	Bushels potatoes.....	300
Bushels parsnips.....	60	Bushels beets.....	160
Heads cabbages.....	1000	Bushels onions.....	55
Pounds pie-plant.....	200	Bushels tomatoes.....	126
Bushels tomatoes.....	100	Bushels turnips.....	10
Bushels turnips.....	10	Pounds pie-plant.....	400
Pounds asparagus.....	200	Pounds asparagus.....	250
Pounds hops.....	5	Pounds hops.....	20
Loads pumpkins.....	20	Pounds sage.....	80
Pounds lettuce.....	10	Dozens cucumbers.....	80
Dozens cucumbers.....	300	Heads cabbages.....	2000
Bushels field corn.....	460	Loads pumpkins.....	2
Bushels onions.....	100	Bushels carrots.....	10
Dozens sweet corn.....	300	Bushels parsnips.....	25
Pounds sage.....	8	Pounds lettuce.....	10
		Bushels field corn.....	560
		Dozens sweet corn.....	600

The following is an itemized statement of incidental expense account:

For postage.....	\$ 238.92
For horse car, and railroad, and hotel .....	44.40
For freight and express.....	16.02
For bees and apiary supplies.....	80.00
For berry boxes.....	13.56
For seeds and tools.....	27.78
For fire-works.....	76.25
For fire-extinguisher and pump.....	51.70
For various sundries.....	110.94
For printing.....	15.50
For harness repairs.....	10.70
For buggy and wagon repairs.....	72.25
For horse-shoeing.....	63.75
For games and Christmas gifts.....	94.08
For insurance.....	102.50
For rent of land.....	116.95
For laundry and machinery.....	1,939.27
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$3,074.57</b>

The figures below show the quantities used of the following articles during the biennial period:

Pounds meat.....	15444	Gallons oil.....	545
Pounds pork and lard.....	11448	Dozens eggs.....	800
Pounds meal.....	10400	Pairs girls' shoes.....	153
Pounds butter.....	4097	Pairs boys' shoes.....	209
Barrels flour.....	518	Dozens girls' hats.....	11
Barrels sugar.....	18	Dozens boys' hats and caps.....	20
Barrels apples.....	348	Bushels potatoes.....	955
Barrels beans.....	19	Bushels coal.....	17031
Gallons syrup.....	1856	Yards flannel cloths.....	2009
Gallons vinegar.....	704	Yards cotton cloths.....	5258
Gallons milk.....	68640	Yards coat and pants goods.....	1089

NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYES, AND THEIR SALARIES.

	SALARY PER MO.
1 Superintendent.....	\$100.00
1 Matron.....	50.00
1 Physician.....	33.33
2 Teachers, each.....	25.00
5 Cottage managers, each.....	20.00
1 Housekeeper.....	12.00
1 Laundry manager.....	15.00
1 Laundress.....	12.00
1 Book-keeper and assistant.....	20.00
1 Baker.....	26.00
1 Carpenter and engineer.....	26.00
1 Laborer and teamster.....	15.00
1 Night watchman.....	15.00
1 Superintendent sewing-room.....	15.00
1 Seamstress.....	10.00
1 Superintendent kitchen and dining-hall.....	20.00
1 Assistant superintendent kitchen and dining-hall.....	10.00

STATEMENT,

Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditures from October 1, 1877, to September 30, 1879:

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand October 1, 1877.....	\$ 2,481.83
Cash from R. P. Spear, Treasurer, industrial fund.....	450.00
Cash from R. P. Spear, Treasurer, general fund.....	14,075.00
Cash from C. C. Horton, general fund.....	21,935.93
Cash from C. C. Horton, improvem't and furniture fund.....	3,000.00
Cash from C. C. Horton, library fund.....	200.00
Cash from all other sources.....	1,224.85
<b>Total receipts.....</b>	<b>\$43,367.61</b>

EXPENDITURES.

For groceries and provisions.....	\$ 9,467.06
For salaries and labor.....	12,980.79
For clothing.....	4,979.63
For improvements and repairs.....	2,577.73
For furniture.....	1,813.80
For incidental expenses.....	3,084.57
For books and stationery.....	459.49
For drugs and medicines.....	219.56
For live stock.....	1,104.91
For fuel.....	1,876.84
For lights.....	170.19
For library.....	139.13
For industrial pursuits.....	490.80
<b>Total expenditures.....</b>	<b>\$39,364.50</b>

Balance cash on hand Oct. 1, 1879	{	General fund.....	\$ 3,102.72	} \$ 4,003.11
		Improvement fund.....	828.76	
		Library fund.....	71.63	



A TABULAR

Of Monthly Receipts and Expenditures on account of the Iowa Soldiers'

DATE.	RECEIPTS.										
	From Treasurer.	Groceries and provisions.	Clothing.	Improvements and repairs.	Industrial pur-suits.	Furniture.	Incidental expen-ses.	Books and sta-tionery.	Drugs and medi-cines.	Live stock.	Fuel.
1877.											
October .....	1,800.00	7.28	26.78			12.15	1.75				
November .....	1,795.00	227.20	4.80			6.75	3.15	1.15			
December .....	1,780.00	4.77	10.80	4.05		3.25	3.71	.55			
1878.											
January .....	1,740.00	3.00	7.70			1.50	4.90	.75			
February .....	1,765.00	18.04	2.42			27.98	1.00	.60			
March .....	1,825.00	19.41	5.10			3.65	1.13	.52			
April .....	1,785.00	16.24	3.05		1.30	1.50	2.10	.90			
May .....	1,585.00	8.75	11.80			8.00	6.75	1.15	.30	10.00	
June .....	1,480.00	15.58	5.00			2.70	1.10	.25	1.50		
July .....	3,675.00	14.48	4.17			4.47	.70	1.65			
August .....	1,400.00	13.47	4.82			1.00	2.20	1.00			
September .....	1,370.00	13.85	4.16				1.16	.65		75.00	
October .....	1,330.00	10.44	3.92		6.00		2.00	.60			
November .....		17.99	7.82			30.32	1.15				
December .....	1,083.33	14.70	7.25			.25	4.10	2.12	4.00		
1879.											
January .....	2,422.50	15.89	26.20			1.21	1.98	1.85	.70		
February .....	1,141.66	9.85	3.25			1.60	45.82	1.77	4.75		1.54
March .....	1,129.16	63.87	3.21				42.72	.70	2.55		2.19
April .....	1,134.99	7.75	3.45				90.60	.80			
May .....	1,120.82	1.50	10.77			5.00	1.85	.19	.15		
June .....	1,183.35	1.25	2.13				1.86		1.00		
July .....	1,196.00						1.85				
August .....	1,158.33	1.00	2.07				3.36	.34	.55		
September .....	1,120.82	19.18	4.18			1.00	6.04	.98	1.05	49.45	
Improvement and furniture fund.	3,000.00										
Industrial fund .....	450.00										
Library fund .....	200.00										
Total .....	39,660.93	525.49	164.85	4.05	7.30	21.06	309.76	31.14	21.52	135.96	3.73

Total receipts..... \$40,885.78  
 Cash on hand Oct. 1, 1877..... 2,481.83  
 Total..... \$43,367.61

STATEMENT

Orphans' Home at Davenport from Oct. 1, 1877, to Sept. 30, 1879.

Groceries and provisions.	EXPENDITURES.											
	Salaries.	Clothing.	Improvements and repairs.	Furniture.	Incidental expen-ses.	Books and sta-tionery.	Drugs and medi-cines.	Live stock.	Fuel.	Lights.	Library.	Industrial pur-suits.
689.02	617.70	306.14	111.20	68.36	1,101.92	8.74	5.52	22.50	65.55			32.15
774.08	610.65	275.76	28.38	10.50	308.05	6.60	4.00		122.60			20.00
476.54	604.60	285.80	49.20	29.35	222.54	15.80	5.00	13.75	211.60			21.11
253.87	622.95	287.05	83.87	209.81	307.12	30.06	7.30	50.00	255.50	35.19		98.60
603.62	622.60	287.74	39.35	25.74	160.00	20.97	4.45	105.10	52.14			34.00
263.74	606.95	286.99	31.33	75.25	26.84	7.05	10.30	36.10	19.00		32.81	73.20
284.29	594.55	69.48	97.14	101.72	55.05	19.93	9.60	21.05	88.35			29.95
255.74	600.55	136.63	130.65	3.17	.50	1.10	8.83	37.00				40.38
177.30	475.55	132.91	472.38	185.13	57.64	2.10	8.28	5.25	64.56	11.40	11.80	21.78
359.07	488.20	77.01	53.63	27.35	19.15		19.97	8.85	20.68		3.25	21.78
206.09	478.00	163.57	180.14	19.05	36.05	1.75	5.29	61.47	118.98	40.20		1.00
663.68	519.55	204.19	45.25	37.43	17.06	22.53	13.25	84.80	115.50			9.81
534.77	534.35	92.88	408.81	68.46	10.85	10.53	7.50	50.75	70.55			13.90
439.55	525.35	312.86	58.30	20.80	43.05	3.14	11.40	26.90	307.02			24.15
315.16	515.00	133.69	66.18	74.68	160.07	18.94	5.15	79.37	83.32	27.00		
239.46	520.35	125.48	37.00	72.13	55.55	36.72	10.25	119.00	94.46	34.50	35.36	3.28
233.27	508.35	42.43	65.52	30.43	39.20	35.83	13.35	24.00	9.83	21.90	7.85	32.05
217.04	536.29	280.34	40.80	8.64	142.75	2.60	15.40	37.90			6.50	46.25
159.06	530.70	303.70	82.72	102.80	29.57	33.59	10.17	15.00				7.25
449.54	515.10	126.29	294.61	148.32	95.44	49.08	7.74	26.00	17.41			3.75
266.26	467.35	160.98	62.91		119.91	4.12	3.30	11.76				5.00
168.98	489.69	199.57	41.10	8.40	19.00		13.30	7.00	197.92			
267.08	501.40	69.41	32.96		26.81	4.00						14.75
1,209.85	505.10	618.73	134.30	485.28	30.45	134.31	13.30	261.36	51.87			
9,467.06	12,980.79	4,979.63	2,577.73	1,813.80	3,084.87	469.49	219.56	1,104.91	1,876.84	170.19	139.13	490.80

Total expenditures..... \$39,364.50  
 Balance, cash on hand Oct. 1, 1879..... 4,003.11  
 Total..... \$43,367.61

After a full and careful consideration of the needs of this institution, with a desire to make as limited requests as possible, I request that the following amounts be asked for as special appropriations for the coming two years:

For eight new cottages.....	\$16,000
For the erection and partial completion of one central building	15,000
For one school-building.....	4,000
For purchase of land.....	5,000
For industrial pursuits.....	1,300
For general repairs.....	1,500
For furniture.....	3,000
For library.....	200
Total.....	\$46,000

I wish to call your attention to the plan upon which Michigan is conducting her Orphans' Home, as I believe it to be the best within my knowledge, and recommend that a similar plan be adopted by Iowa as soon as practicable, that Iowa may take her place in this important work.

Since writing the above, a letter has come to hand from Bousquet & Ryan, of Pella, Iowa, informing me that Jacob L. Bouman, deceased, left the sum of \$300 as a bequest to this institution. This is cheering news to all friends of the Orphans' Home. The time is near when others will remember the institution in a similar manner.

Thanks are due the clergy of the city for their kindness in preaching in turn to us on Sabbath afternoons. We also wish to return thanks to the C., R. I. & P. R. R. and the Davenport & St. Paul R. R. for the many favors granted. We return thanks to the publishers of the following for donations of the same: *Davenport Gazette*, daily; *Davenport Democrat*, daily; *Des Moines State Register*, daily (a partial donation); *State Press*, Iowa City; *The Presbyterian*, Philadelphia; *Cleveland Herald*; *Hartford Courant*; *Lippincott's Magazine*; *Western Rural*, Chicago; *Clinton Herald*; *Examiner and Express*, Lancaster, Penn.; *Arthur's Home Magazine*; *Christian Union*, N. Y.; *National Republican*, Washington, D. C.; *American Agriculturist*; *Burlington Hawkeye*, weekly; *Home Weekly*, Xenia, Ohio; *Grand Rapids Eagle*; *The Christian Woman*, Philadelphia.

Thanking you, gentlemen, for your counsel and support in the performance of my duty, I submit this, my sixth biennial report, for your consideration.

Yours respectfully,

S. W. PIERCE, *Supt.*

Davenport, Iowa, Sept. 30, 1879.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

MUSCATINE, Sept. 30, 1879.

To the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and Home for Indigent Children.

GENTLEMEN — I have the honor herewith to hand you my biennial report of funds received and disbursed, as Treasurer of the Home, from the ninth day of June, 1878, to the thirtieth day of September, 1879, inclusive.

C. C. HORTON, *in account with State of Iowa:*

		DR.	
1878.			
June 9.	To Auditor's warrant, for library.....	\$	100.00
June 9.	To Auditor's warrant, repairs.....		1,000.00
June 9.	To Auditor's warrant, furniture.....		200.00
June 9.	To Auditor's warrant, reimburse support fund..		1,800.00
June 9.	To Auditor's warrant, I. Kirk & Son.....		425.00
June 9.	To received R. P. Spear, Treasurer.....		1,480.00
July 10.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,450.00
Aug. 3.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,400.00
Sept. 3.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,370.00
Oct. 7.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,330.00
Nov. 16.	To Auditor's warrant, repairs.....		500.00
Nov. 16.	To Auditor's warrant, furniture.....		300.00
Dec. 24.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,083.33
1879.			
Jan. 10.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		2,422.50
Feb. 6.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,141.66
Feb. 9.	To Auditor's warrant, library.....		100.00
Mar. 7.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,129.16
April 5.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,124.99
May 5.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,120.82
June 7.	To Auditor's warrant, improvement fund.....		1,000.00
June 7.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,183.32
July 25.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,196.00
Aug. 25.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,158.33
Sept. 6.	To Auditor's warrant, support fund.....		1,120.82
Total.....			\$25,135.93

### CREDIT.

By amount paid S. W. Pierce, Superintendent, by order of Board of Trustees.....\$25,135.93

Total.....\$25,135.93

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. C. HORTON, *Treas.*

## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

*To the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home:*

DURING the two years which have intervened since my last biennial report, the health of the children has been comparatively good. No disease in epidemic form, except measles, has invaded the institution. In the spring months of 1878, there occurred considerable sickness on account of the introduction of measles from Polk county. Two children were permitted to enter too soon after the acute stage of the disease had subsided, and as a consequence the germ was propagated to the extent of confining forty-seven (47) of the inmates. It was several months before the *sequela* of the epidemic entirely passed away. No serious complications developed in any of the cases. All of them fully recovered. So far as I am able to determine, all of the children have now had this as well as most of the epidemic diseases of childhood, not including scarlet fever. Vaccination has been thoroughly performed, and all are now considered reasonably safe against the influence of small-pox. Malarial diseases have been quite prevalent in all parts of the Mississippi valley during the period comprised by this report; but only two cases of bilious fever have originated in the Home. Taking this fact and comparing it with the peculiarly favorable season for generating epidemic germ diseases, the location of the institution is considered salubrious and healthful. There have been two cases of fractures of the bones of the lower extremities. Both cases recovered with useful and undeformed legs. Sore eyes, formerly so prevalent, are now rarely seen. One important fact should be mentioned concerning the "eye cases" of the past. In no instance has a child left the Home with defective vision, which originated in the institution.

I have thoroughly looked after the hygienic condition of the surroundings of the children, and have found them uniformly good except in one important particular, viz.: the sub-homes (cottages) of most of the children cannot be commented upon with favor. The old cottages are very poor, and in their present condition badly, very badly, adapted to the needs of the children. Should we pass another winter without the occurrence of considerable lung fever, bronchitis, diphtheria, colds, etc., etc., I will be much surprised. New cottages, like the two erected at a small cost about two years since, are wanted. I trust, for the sake of the children, that you will be able to efficiently attract the attention of the people's representatives to this great and pressing want of the institution.

The food and clothing are of good quality, and in quantity ample. I desire to express my appreciation of the valuable services of the superintendent and matron. In every particular have I found Mr. and Mrs. Pierce ready to do their utmost for the comfort and welfare of the inmates.

Yours, respectfully,

W. F. PECK, *Surgeon.*

## APPENDIX.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION OF CHARITIES OF CHICAGO, BY  
S. W. PIERCE, OF DAVENPORT, IOWA, JUNE 11, 1879.

HAVING been requested by the Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and home for indigent children, to represent them in this body, I will say briefly that this institution, located at Davenport, was organized, in 1863, as a home for soldiers' orphans. Since then 2300 soldiers' orphans have enjoyed the comforts, education, and training of this institution. In July, 1876, it was opened to all indigent children, and now as soldiers' orphans go out county orphans come in and take their places. The present enrollment is 142. Ninety-eight are the orphans of soldiers, and forty-four are county orphans. Their ages range from four to fifteen. Eighty-two are boys, and sixty are girls. Children are now sent to us through the supervisors of the several counties in the state. They are received as young as two years old, and can remain with us till they are sixteen, when they are returned to a parent or guardian. An extended correspondence is kept up with them after they leave us, with a view to know where they all are and how they are doing, as well as to keep up the homelike feeling and relations begun at the institution.

The Home is conducted upon the cottage plan. The buildings inclose about six acres in the central portion of a beautiful twenty-acre tract, and are built in the form of a hollow square, all facing the center. They were originally government barracks, in use during the late war. In many cases children, while in the Home, have occupied the same building that their fathers occupied while waiting marching orders. The buildings were given to the State by the General Government to be used as a home for soldiers' orphans. At this time they are rather dilapidated, except a chapel, two new brick cottages, and a laundry, recently built at a cost of \$9,000. These buildings are neat, substantial, and comfortable, and are located with a view of erecting others from time to time, as we have the means, till a complete collection of neat cottages shall be built on each side of one central administration building. The cottage plan is not the most showy, but is the most comfortable and healthful. If it is the more expensive to maintain, for help, food, fuel, lights, general repairs, etc., it is the less for physicians and medicines. Its successful management requires greater labor on the part of superior and subordinate officers, but the children are more readily graded and classified, and it is more healthful and homelike. My experience leads me to say that I think the cot-

tage plan far preferable to the congregate or hotel plan, for public institutions.

The allowance per annum for each child supported is \$100, and this we spend. Attention is given to industrial pursuits to as great an extent as our limited means will allow. The principal employments of the boys are farming, gardening, and raising small fruits; while the girls are employed at knitting, sewing, ironing, cooking, and general housework. There are belonging to the Home forty acres of land; from ten to twenty acres of other land are rented for cultivation. It is our aim to see that no child spends any time in idleness. The children are taught for nine months in the year in graded schools of a high order. The health of our children has always been remarkable. We have never had a case of diphtheria or scarlet or typhoid fever. From August, 1869, to January, 1873—three years and five months—with an average daily attendance of 308, we had no death. For the last two and a-half years, with an average daily attendance of 140, we have had no death. Our work is steadily gaining ground, as the masses become familiar with its success. County officials are often afraid of the expense to their county, and so decline to send needy children to us. The average legislator is willing to provide for the maintenance of penal institutions, because he must, in order to protect his home and little ones. Yet he too often sees no necessity for sustaining charitable institutions. Of those cared for in our Home, ninety-nine per cent have become useful citizens. From what I know of the ancestry and natural inclinations of our inmates, I feel that ten per cent of them, had they been left without the education, training, and care of this Home would to-day have been supported as criminals. I wish to raise my voice for war against allowing children to be supported in almshouses. Like begets like. County officials need educating in this matter. The masses need it. Legislators need it.

The children are the hope of the State and nation. I trust that we may each gain renewed strength by our intercourse here, and be better prepared to infuse into the masses, and all in authority in our land, a lasting purpose to protect, care for, and properly educate the unfortunate poor, and especially the youth. This duty we owe to them and to ourselves. It is a noble work. It is Christ-like and will be successful.

*Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, Davenport, Iowa, June 1, 1879.*