

FOURTEENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home

AND

HOME FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN.

JUNE 30, 1893.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

To his Excellency, HORACE BOIES, Governor of Iowa.

The Trustees of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, submit this their report for the biennial period ending June 30, 1893:

Since making our last report, Mrs. S. L. T. Hutchinson was compelled to resign on account of ill health, and Mrs. M. J. Ketcham was elected to fill the the vacancy for the unexpired term.

A change in the management also took place by the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bowman, who held the positions of superintendent and matron.

Their resignations were accepted on August 1, 1893, and Dr. W. E. Whitney was appointed to the position of superintendent, and Mrs. E. S. Free was given the place of matron. There have been very few changes in our force of employes during the past two years, and it is a pleasure to this board to speak in high praise of the work being done and the loyalty and interest manifested by our employes in all the different departments. In commenting on the result of the work of the past two years, there has been little to note different from other years. Applications for the admission of children have been greater, but an effort has been made to discourage sending children to us who are arriving at an age when they could care for themselves. This effort has resulted in making the average age of the children much less than in past years.

The health of the children has been excellent, and had it not been for hereditary troubles and the puny condition of some of the children sent us, our hospital would have been closed quite a part of the time. We have had no epidemic or contagious diseases the past two years.

We wish to especially notice the good care taken of the State property, which has now a value of upwards of \$150,000.00. The small acreage of land owned by the State has been farmed to good advan-

tage, and has been made to produce large quantities of small fruit and vegetables, which otherwise would have been purchased at considerable cost.

THE HOSPITAL.

We regret to say that since our last report we have suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Dr. W. F. Peck, the medical officer of the Home. This distinguished surgeon was of incalculable value to the Home, from his skill in the practice of his profession and in his wide knowledge of sanitary science. We feel that we speak in the highest terms of the present surgeon, Dr. Allen, when we say that he is a worthy successor to Dr. Peck. Under Dr. Allen's care the Home has been remarkably free from disease. We have had no epidemics, and no contagious or contaminating diseases have been allowed to gain a foothold. This indicates great care in the medical officer, when we consider that children are frequently admitted who are filled with congenital or acquired disease. Constant watchfulness is practiced to keep all diseased children from the healthy ones. The hospital is first class in all its appointments, and is in charge of a trained nurse who receives her orders direct from the physician.

MANAGEMENT OF THE HOME.

The board of trustees have not deemed it necessary to make any changes in the method of conducting the Home, as the results have been uniformly satisfactory. These good results have been so marked that we have watched with concern the agitation of the question of the legislature adopting measures arbitrarily placing the children in homes, without considering the wishes of the parents or guardians. The enactment of such a measure will revolutionize the workings of the institution, and this question, to our minds, is one of serious moment and requires the most careful consideration. The present laws governing the institution provides that permission must be granted by parents or guardians before the board can place the inmates of the Home out in the homes of private persons. The trustees have studied this matter diligently and considered it in all its phases, keeping in view the best interests of the State, the welfare of the children and the wishes of the parents or guardians. Any law that will take children from the custody of parents or guardians is of doubtful propriety, if not absolutely wrong. Such a law would treat poverty as though it were a crime, by depriving parents of the control of their children as a penalty, and is out of harmony with the generous spirit which has always been manifested by the people of Iowa towards our institution.

Under the present system, about 115 children are admitted into the Home annually by the full consent of parents or guardians.

Indigent children are admitted on petition of the supervisors of counties and by order of the court, without cost for their committal.

About the same number are placed in good homes. Our average attendance is about 400 and as admissions and dismissals number about 115 annually, the average time spent by children at the Home would be less than three and a half years, which is none too long to prepare and make acceptable children for a class of homes where they would be reared in a way to become good citizens. Many of the parents watch the treatment of these children with anxious care, and we deem it unnecessarily inhuman to deprive these parents of the natural right to have some control over the welfare of their children. The humane feature of the question should be constantly kept in view, and the inherent rights and feelings of the parents and children should not be disregarded by the State. To model this benevolent institution after the penal plan, would be an innovation which no State can well afford to make.

CARE OF THE CHILDREN.

It has been the aim of the management to practice economy in every detail, but to furnish the children with an abundance of good, clean, wholesome, and nourishing food, as we believe that their future usefulness depends largely on the development of good, strong, healthy bodies. They are furnished with strong, well made, comfortable clothing. Personal cleanliness, and orderly methods are insisted upon, and the Home in all parts is a model of neatness. The management is deeply impressed with the seriousness of its obligations as regards the moral, mental, and physical training of the children and the high grade of propriety and good conduct apparent among the children, the strong and robust bodies of the large majority of the inmates, and the success attained by many of the graduates of the institution, attest the wisdom of the methods now in vogue. It must not be supposed that the children lead a cold and cheerless life by any means, as every effort is put forth to furnish them with all proper kinds of childhood amusements, and the warm love and almost parental affection which exists between the cottage matron and her little brood of children, which is observed by all visitors and officers, clearly indicates that cheerfulness and contentment reigns in the many happy little homes. We feel convinced that the graduates of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home will not look back to the life in that institution as Smike looked back to his life at Dotheboys Hall.

It is the established policy of the institution to find comfortable homes for such children as are fitted to be sent out. As long as the children remain under our care we have little fear for their progress. But it is a serious thing to send a friendless child out into the world among strangers, without something to assure us that they will be treated with kindness and with care. Too frequently we receive applications for children from persons who seem to think that these unfortunate little ones deserve no better fate than many long, weary years of drudgery—slaving for a favored class. We must earnestly ask a larger contingent fund than formerly to enable us to send a competent person to investigate the probable treatment and surroundings of a child when placed in its new home. It is almost impossible to ascertain the necessary information in any other way. We feel that this plan of careful personal investigation, is not only a duty due the children, but is a matter of economy, as we believe that many more children could be placed in homes, under this plan, than any other. The rule is, that when one child finds a home in any locality other applications for children follow. With a contingent fund sufficient to enable us to employ a suitable agent we feel that many children could be placed in localities from which no one now ever thinks of sending to us an application.

This institution has been in operation thirty years, during which time over four thousand children have been admitted to the Home. They have come from homes of the broken down old soldiers, from the unfortunate but worthy poor families, and from the homes of crime. The latter class generally came in a wretched condition, both morally and physically. These children have all been subjected to a discipline and course of training in the hands of trusted and conscientious workers, such as would eliminate the vicious traits of character and prepare them for good citizenship.

Nearly four thousand of them have gone out into the State equipped with a good education, in good physical condition, and imbued with the importance of having habits of sobriety and industry. Our boys have taken rank with the best men of the State and are found in the different professions and in places of responsibility and trust, and our girls have made as creditable a record as the boys. The constant good reports that come to us from the wards of the State that have gone out from this Home, encourage us to feel that our institution is both practical and profitable to the State in turning this class of children from their former surroundings and influences, and in helping them to become sober, industrious citizens, thereby turning the current of pauperism that can be traced in some families for generations. Realizing as only those can who are familiar with the work of our

institution and knowing the good work it is doing, we beg to present you the urgent needs of the Home, and shall hope for your approval of the same.

COTTAGES.

In the cottages first built the dormitories are very small and without proper ventilation. The health and comfort of the children demands more commodious quarters and better arrangements in some of the buildings. Many of the roofs of these cottages will have to be repaired within the coming biennial period. In a number of the cottages we can at comparatively small expense raise the roofs one-half story, and thus obtain all the room necessary, giving us large, well ventilated dormitories. We must emphasize the importance of slate roofs on these buildings, as they are crowded together almost as closely as the houses in a great city, and should a fire start in any one it would be almost impossible to prevent it from spreading to all the rest. For the reconstruction and repairing of the cottages and for putting on slate roofs we ask for an appropriation of \$11,500.00.

HEATING.

Our present heating arrangement is incomplete and expensive and not satisfactory. Seven of the cottages and the school building are heated by stoves. We ask for an appropriation of \$4,000.00 to make such changes and additions as are necessary to complete a proper system of heating.

FURNITURE.

Much of the furniture about the Home is old and worn out, and must be replaced by new. We ask for an appropriation of \$1,000.00 to enable us to make the necessary purchases.

LIBRARY.

The library is one of the most important adjuncts of the Home. To many of the children it is a constant source of pleasure, and as no books are admitted into the library except those of the highest order, we feel that this department is of incalculable value to the Home. A committee from the board has given the library special attention, and has made a list of new books, which will be necessary to bring our library up to the proper standard and to meet the demands upon it; and for this purpose we ask an appropriation of \$500.00.

CONTINGENT FUND.

Our contingent fund has been drawn on largely in the past for the investigation of the character of persons making application for children; and, as referred to above, we consider this matter of supreme

importance for the welfare of the children, and we ask a liberal appropriation for the same. From this fund we also draw for repairs, and we ask for an appropriation of not less than \$4,500.00.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING.

The board of trustees believes that part of the education of the boys entrusted to our care is to furnish them with such knowledge as will enable them to make their way through life after they have left the institution. We do not feel that we should be faithful to our trust should we graduate a number of boys with simply a common school education and with no knowledge of the arts of life. While many of the graduates of this institution have entered the learned professions, and some have met with very gratifying success, many others, not endowed with the same ability, enter the vast army of laborers. It is surely placing our children at a disadvantage to deny them, during the years of development, a chance to learn, at least, the rudiments of industrial arts. Many of our boys possess fine mechanical abilities, which abilities, we think, should be fostered and developed, and we feel that there is great propriety in asking for an appropriation of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of erecting an industrial building for the purposes mentioned.

CONSERVATORY.

Gardening is one of the chief industries at the Home during the spring and summer months. It furnishes healthful and remunerative exercise. Healthful for the children, and remunerative to the State. We have long felt the need of a conservatory to facilitate the germinating of plants early in the spring, and to assist us in a thousand ways in gardening. A small conservatory could be made an object of beauty during the entire year, furnishing the cottages with flowers during the winter months, and giving to the girls an agreeable employment in caring for the plants. We would respectfully ask for an appropriation of \$3,000.00 for the building of a conservatory.

LAND IMPORTANT.

More land is needed for pasturage and farming purposes. At the present time there is in connection with the Home but 56 acres of land, and we have been obliged to rent from five different parties to furnish pasturage for cows, and for the purpose of raising vegetables for supplies. These lands are at various distances from the Home, and there is always an element of uncertainty in renting lands from year to year. We think it is almost an absolute necessity, that an appro-

priation be made to purchase the necessary amount of land, and therefore we earnestly ask that the sum of \$5,000.00 be appropriated for this purpose.

LIGHTING.

Our means of lighting the different buildings of the institution remains the same as it has been for years past. We use nothing but oil lamps. The appropriation asked for of the last legislature was cut down so low that we were able to purchase but part of the machinery necessary for lighting with electricity. The least possible amount which will enable us to complete the electric plant now partly finished will be \$2,500.00. We ask for an appropriation of such an amount for this purpose.

The needs of the Home have been carefully estimated and we respectfully ask for special appropriations as follows:

To purchase additional land.....	\$ 5,000.00
For remodeling and repairing cottages.....	11,500.00
For the industrial building.....	5,000.00
For the conservatory.....	3,000.00
For furniture.....	1,000.00
For contingent and repair fund.....	4,500.00
For library.....	500.00
For completing heating apparatus.....	4,000.00
For completing electric light plant.....	2,500.00
Total.....	\$ 37,000.00

We very respectfully present this, our fourteenth biennial report, for your consideration.

A. P. DOE,
President.

MARY J. KETCHAM,
Secretary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees:

I herewith submit report of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and Home for Indigent Children, for the period extending from July 1, 1891, to June 30, 1893.

As these reports are read by many who are acquainted with the institution, it seems proper to give a brief sketch of its history.

HISTORY.

During the first years of the war, the grounds on which our present buildings are erected, were owned by the general government and used as a recruiting station, named Camp Kinsman. The Home was first organized December 1, 1863, as a private charitable institution, the object of which was to provide a home for soldiers' orphans. It was located at Farmington, and opened for the reception of children July 14, 1864. Another was opened at Glenwood July 4, 1865.

At the close of the war the Iowa Soldiers' Orphan Association leased the grounds and buildings at Camp Kinsman, and moved the children from Farmington to Davenport November 15, 1865. During the following session of Congress a joint resolution was introduced donating the land, buildings and other property to the association for a soldiers' orphans' home. The bill became a law January 22, 1866. June 9th the same year the association conveyed the property into the hands of a board of trustees, appointed by the legislature, and the asylum became a State institution under the name of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home. January 30, 1875, the branch established at Glenwood was moved to Davenport. The one at Cedar Falls was transferred to the same place January 1st of the following year. Thus the three institutions were united at Camp Kinsman, near Davenport. In the spring of 1876, the Sixteenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa amended the law regulating the admission of children to the home, making any dependent child of the State, men-

tally and physically sound, eligible to the institution on the same terms and conditions as soldiers' orphans. The name was also changed to its present one. The property transferred to the State by the Soldiers' Orphans' Home Society, consisted principally of thirty-three acres of land and several wooden buildings that had been used as barracks for soldiers. Since then, twenty-four acres of land have been added to the farm, the old wooden buildings have given way to more modern brick structures, and new ones added as needed, until now we have eighteen cottages, with capacity to accommodate on an average twenty-five children each, a school-house with seating room for five hundred pupils, a large two story hospital, a laundry and engine house, and a barn with a storage capacity for one hundred tons of hay, and stable room for twenty-five cows, six horses, leaving space for carriages, vehicles and farming implements.

In this sketch of the institution should be mentioned the disastrous fire of November, 1887, caused by lightning, that entirely destroyed the main or administration building, recently replaced by a structure, which, though not so imposing as some of our State edifices, is most admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is intended.

METHOD OF WORK.

The institution is conducted on what is known as the cottage plan. The buildings are located in the central portion of the farm and form three sides of a hollow square facing the east. Each cottage is equipped with most of the modern conveniences and facilities. It is intended to make each cottage a miniature home, where all the surroundings and associations approximate as nearly as possible to the true ideal. For this purpose every cottage is under the care of a Christian lady, whose business it is to see to the moral training of the children, and look carefully after their behavior and personal welfare. It is her duty to see they are neatly and suitably clothed, regularly bathed, and liberally supplied with wholesome food. The preparing and serving of meals for the entire institution is done in the main building.

SCHOOLS.

The school year consists of ten months graded work, beginning with the kindergarten and closing with the ninth grade studies. Only experienced teachers are employed, and our school work ranks with the best in the State. The study of vocal music is a very prominent feature. Pupils who complete the course of study and receive diplomas are admitted to any of the high schools of the State without examination.

The course of study is the same as that pursued in the city schools of Davenport.

INDUSTRIES.

Attention is given to industrial training as far as our means and facilities will permit. The principal employment of the boys is farming, gardening, caring for the stock, and small fruit raised. They are also required to assist in the care of their cottages. Some of the larger ones are employed in the laundry, bakery, engine room, and carpenter shop. The work of the girls is chiefly sewing, kitchen, laundry, fancy and general housework. The aim is to have a system of rotation of details for the different departments so that each child will have a knowledge of the various kinds of work before leaving the institution. Within the last few weeks a new feature of work has been introduced, viz.: a cooking school for the girls under the direction of a competent woman. The girls are manifesting great interest in the enterprise, which is very gratifying to us and will no doubt be of great use to them.

RECREATIONS AND AMUSEMENTS.

The children are liberally supplied with everything in the line of recreation and amusements. The holidays are observed here the same as elsewhere, or nearly the same as the environments of institutional life will permit. A few days previous to last Christmas a circular letter was sent to the friends of the Home throughout the State, and to those having children here, asking them to aid us in making the holiday time a success. The letter met with a more generous response than we had expected. Over \$50 in money were received, and more than \$200 worth of presents, so that every childish heart was made glad by a Christmas present.

Balls and bats, footballs, swings, teeter-boards, croquet and other customary playthings incidental to childhood are furnished and a daily play time is allowed to each child. In this connection acknowledgment should be made of the children having been frequently invited to matinees and social entertainments by the good people of Davenport. Through the kindness of Capt. W. A. Blair the children were given an excursion down the Mississippi to Linwood last year, and are looking forward to another trip this summer, having lately received an invitation from the captain.

READING MATTER.

We have a library consisting of several hundred volumes selected with a view to the instruction and entertainment of children. In addi-

tion to this every cottage is supplied with newspapers and periodicals. Before leaving this subject we wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the publishers who have so kindly favored us with their publications gratis.

HEALTH OF INMATES.

The health of the children has been good. We have been remarkably free from contagious diseases except scalp ringworm, which has been very stubborn in yielding to treatment. We are glad to say that Dr. Allen has the disease under control now. During the last biennial period only eight deaths have occurred. The average attendance being over four hundred makes the rate of mortality less than one per cent, which, considering the ages, the inherited and acquired tendencies of many of our inmates, is a very low rate. For further particulars we refer you to the physician's report.

REPRESENTATION BY COUNTIES.

COUNTIES.	Soldiers' children.	County children.	COUNTIES.	Soldiers' children.	County children.
Adair.....	1	2	Jefferson.....	1	2
Appanoose.....	2	2	Jones.....	4	14
Audubon.....	3	2	Johnson.....	1	6
Benton.....	6	2	Keokuk.....	7	5
Black Hawk.....	1	1	Linn.....	6	2
Boone.....	14	2	Louisia.....	1	2
Bremer.....	7	1	Lyon.....	7	1
Buchanan.....	2	2	Madison.....	2	15
Butler.....	1	2	Mahaska.....	12	23
Calhoun.....	2	4	Marion.....	2	13
Carroll.....	2	2	Marshall.....	19	1
Cass.....	1	1	Montgomery.....	6	1
Cedar.....	8	1	Muscatine.....	8	2
Cherokee.....	2	1	O'Brien.....	1	2
Chickasaw.....	4	2	Page.....	1	1
Clayton.....	1	2	Pocahontas.....	1	1
Clinton.....	1	7	Polk.....	18	8
Dallas.....	1	1	Pottawattamie.....	1	9
Delaware.....	3	1	Poweshiek.....	2	2
Des Moines.....	6	1	Scott.....	14	14
Dubuque.....	6	1	Shelby.....	1	7
Fayette.....	1	1	Tama.....	4	6
Floyd.....	1	1	Union.....	3	2
Greene.....	1	1	Wapello.....	1	1
Guthrie.....	2	2	Wayne.....	4	4
Howard.....	1	2	Winnebago.....	1	1
Ida.....	1	1	Winneshiek.....	3	2
Iowa.....	5	2	Woodbury.....	7	7
Jackson.....	5	2	Total.....	213	300
Jasper.....	5	2			

ADMISSIONS AND DISMISSALS OF CHILDREN.

June 30, 1891, to June 30, 1893.

<i>No. present June 30, 1891—</i>		
County children.....	202	
Soldiers' children.....	198—	400
Male.....	232	
Female.....	168—	400
<i>No. admitted during biennial period—</i>		
County children.....	106	
Soldiers' children.....	124—	230
Male.....	140	
Female.....	90—	230
<i>No. dismissed during biennial period—</i>		
County children.....	106	
Soldiers' children.....	103—	209
Males.....	120	
Females.....	89—	209
<i>No. died during biennial period—</i>		
County children.....	2	
Soldiers' children.....	6—	8
Males.....	3	
Females.....	5—	8
<i>No. present June 30, 1893—</i>		
County children.....	200	
Soldiers' children.....	213—	413
Males.....	249	
Females.....	164—	413
<i>Average monthly attendance—</i>		
County children.....	204	
Soldiers' children.....	201	

INVENTORY OF PROPERTY.

57 acres of land.....	\$ 11,400.00
16 cottages, with furniture.....	4,000.00
2 cottages, with furniture.....	8,600.00
1 hospital, with furniture.....	6,000.00
1 administration building, with furniture.....	47,600.00
1 school building, with furniture.....	10,000.00
1 engine and laundry building, with furniture.....	9,000.00
1 barn.....	4,000.00
1 ice-house.....	1,500.00
Out buildings.....	2,000.00
Steam plant.....	10,000.00
23 Holstein cows.....	920.00
50 hogs.....	500.00
3 teams.....	750.00
Carrriages, wagons, farm and garden tools.....	850.00
Total.....	\$ 150,520.00

CASH STATEMENT.

Cash Receipts from July 1, 1891, to July 1, 1893.

Support fund, balance July 1, 1891.....	\$ 927.06	
Library fund, balance July 1, 1891.....	16.17	
Fencing and grading fund, balance July 1, 1891.....	74.02—\$	1,018.15
CASH RECEIVED FROM TREASURER.		
Support fund.....	\$ 89,247.89	
Repair and contingent fund.....	3,860.01	
Water supply fund.....	192.70	
Completing general building fund.....	1,285.15	
Connecting water mains, bath tubs, etc.....	486.27	
Water rate fund.....	420.67	
Library fund.....	437.29	
Furniture fund.....	1,386.09	
Addition to laundry fund.....	2,500.00	
Live stock and sundries sold.....	966.25—\$	100,782.32
Total.....	\$	101,800.47

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS JULY 1, 1891, TO JULY 1, 1893.

Support fund.....	\$ 89,262.11	
Fencing and grading fund.....	74.02	
Furniture fund.....	1,386.09	
Completing central building fund.....	1,285.15	
Water supply fund.....	192.70	
Library fund.....	453.46	
Addition to laundry fund.....	2,500.00	
Water rate fund.....	339.51	
Connecting water mains, bath tubs, etc.....	486.27	
Repair and contingent fund.....	3,860.01—\$	99,829.32
BALANCE CASH ON HAND JULY 1, 1893.		
Support fund balance.....	\$ 1,879.99	
Water rate fund balance.....	81.16—\$	1,961.15
Total.....	\$	404,800.47

CLASSIFIED LIST.

July 1, 1891, to July 1, 1893.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR BIENNIAL PERIOD.

For meat and fish.....	\$ 4,334.59
For breadstuffs.....	4,500.47
For fruits and vegetables.....	3,450.01
For coffee and tea.....	525.79
For sugar and syrup.....	2,747.45
For sundry groceries.....	4,704.33
For butter.....	2,878.91
For cheese and eggs.....	739.49
For soap.....	774.12
For mortuary expenses.....	107.00
For medicinal supplies.....	821.65
For dry goods and clothing.....	12,385.16
For postage and stationery.....	798.75
For library and diversions.....	592.03
For furniture and furnishings.....	3,649.12
For hardware and queensware.....	1,328.81
For repairs.....	3,842.13

For contingencies.....	\$ 3,330.91
For farm (seeds, plants, rent, etc.).....	447.26
For fuel.....	6,486.59
For lights and oil.....	368.60
For salaries and wages.....	30,869.91
For school supplies.....	604.63
For tools and implements.....	708.89
For live stock and feed.....	2,478.79
For water rates.....	608.32
For addition to laundry.....	2,832.10
For completing Central building.....	1,285.15
For connecting water mains, bath tubs, etc.....	486.27
For water supply.....	192.70
For insurance.....	844.25
For ice.....	145.24
Total.....	\$ 99,839.32

GENERAL REMARKS.

Our method of working is very satisfactory in its results, considering our limited means and facilities. Since the State assumed control of the institution, June 9, 1865, nearly four thousand children have enjoyed the comforts, education and training of the Home. Upwards of three thousand six hundred of them are out in the world; over ninety-five per cent of them are leading honest and upright lives. From what is known of the ancestry and natural inclinations of many of the inmates, it is safe to say that a large per cent would have become criminals to be supported in institutions for that class had they not had the discipline and influence of our institution.

NEEDS OF HOME.

I would suggest to your board of trustees that the next legislature be asked to make sufficient appropriations for the following additions and improvements, which I deem necessary:

More land is needed. Allowing for buildings, lawns, play grounds, etc., there are but thirty acres of available land for cultivation. This year we have succeeded in renting about eighty acres in five detached pieces from as many different owners. As the city continues to grow in the direction of the Home, it will be more difficult to rent land, and will require a greater amount of money to purchase it than if secured in the near future. We also need an industrial building where at least the rudiments of trades can be taught.

This building should contain a domestic department where the girls can receive instruction in that line of work. A change or improvement is needed in our steam heating apparatus. As you are aware, our steam plant has been very expensive and unsatisfactory. During the last biennial period the amount paid for fuel was \$6,486.59 or \$3,243.29 per annum, considerably more than it cost the State University or the city schools of Davenport. It is evident that something must be radically wrong.

Your attention is respectfully called to the matter of ventilation of cottages. After careful investigation Dr. Allen estimates that the air in the children's living rooms becomes so charged with carbonic acid gas as to render it harmful, and even dangerous in about six minutes and in the dormitories in thirteen minutes. For many obvious reasons the dormitories should be on the second floor instead of the first where they are mainly at present.

The dormitories on the first floor are much needed for other purposes. An appropriation is necessary to raise the cottages another half story and at the same time put in ventilating shafts.

It is unnecessary to more than call your attention to the electric plant.

A greenhouse is a very urgent necessity. Had we a greenhouse we would be able to start our early vegetables at least six weeks earlier and furnish our children with the supply of food much earlier, and at much less expense we could beautify our grounds with plants from our own greenhouse. In addition to this, it would furnish a pleasant and useful employment to a number of the boys. A generous contingent and repair fund should be asked for, as you know our buildings are getting older and require more repairing each year. We have been drawing quite largely from the contingent fund in finding homes for the children. This is one of the most important features of our work, and ought to be provided for. At least \$1,000 should be appropriated for purchasing books and to replenish the library.

CLOSING REMARKS.

The first of last August I assumed charge of the institution upon your invitation, with Mrs. E. S. Free as matron, to succeed Prof. J. R. Bowman and wife, by whom we were most generously treated. We found as loyal and efficient corps of workers as were ever called together, and evidences everywhere of careful, thorough management. Consequently, but very few changes have been made. The work has simply been pressed forward along the line hitherto pursued.

In conclusion I wish to express my gratitude to the citizens of Davenport for their courteous treatment, also to the employes of the Home for their loyalty and faithful discharge of duty, and to the Board of Trustees for your wise counsel and patient forbearance. I desire to acknowledge my appreciation of the freedom you have allowed me in exercising my own individuality, and your hearty endorsement of my efforts.

Very respectfully submitted,

W. E. WHITNEY,
Superintendent.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

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

During the year ending June 30, 1893, the health of the children has been excellent. We have had no cases of measles, scarlet fever or diphtheria. There have been two deaths from consumption and one from tubercular meningitis.

From October until May we suffered from a severe and obstinate attack of ringworm (*tinea tonsorum*), there being ninety cases, all among the boys; at the same time we had two outbreaks of scabbies; of the latter there were sixteen cases which were easily eradicated. These diseases could be much better handled were the cottages supplied with bath rooms. During the extreme cold weather last winter we had one hundred and twenty cases of pharyngitis and bronchitis, and two cases of pleurisy, all among the small children, and due entirely to the inadequate means of heating and ventilating the sleeping rooms. We have five chronic cases requiring almost daily attention in the hospital, two being of spinal causes, two of hip joint disease and one epileptic. We have, I regret to state, several cases of incipient phthisis among the older girls. If it is impossible to isolate completely such cases, they should at least be given separate sleeping rooms in consideration of the safety of others.

In regard to the food used at the home, I have only to state that the character, variety, and cooking of the same, have been so uniformly excellent that there has not been a case of indigestion requiring treatment.

Respectfully,

MEDICAL OFFICER.

Davenport, June 30, 1893.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

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

In accordance with law, I herewith submit the biennial report of the receipts and disbursements of the Home, from July 1, 1891, to June 30, 1893, inclusive:

J. G. BROWN, Treasurer, in account with the State of Iowa:

SUPPORT FUND.

DEBIT.

July 1, 1891, to balance last report.....	\$ 854.51
To warrants from Auditor of State on account of soldiers' orphans.....	48,389.44
To warrants from Auditor of State on account of county children.....	40,958.48
To amount from sale of live stock and sundry receipts.....	1,900.46
Total.....	\$ 91,102.89

CREDIT.

By warrants for supplies and other expenses.....	\$ 89,222.90
Balance.....	1,879.99
Total.....	\$ 91,102.89

COMPLETING MAIN CENTRAL BUILDING FUND.

DEBIT.

To warrants from Auditor of State.....	\$ 1,285.15
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CREDIT.

By warrant.....	\$ 1,285.15
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ENLARGING LAUNDRY AND BOILER ROOM FUND.

DEBIT.

To warrant from Auditor of State.....	\$ 2,500.00
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CREDIT.

By warrants.....	\$ 2,500.00
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CONTINGENT AND REPAIR FUND.

DEBIT.

To warrants from Auditor of State.....	\$ 3,860.01
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CREDIT.

By warrants.....	\$ 3,860.01
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FURNITURE AND STEAM HEATING FUND.

DEBIT.

To warrants from Auditor of State.....\$ 2,471.20

CREDIT.

By cash and warrants.....\$ 2,471.20

LIBRARY FUND.

DEBIT.

To balance from last report (\$16.17) and warrants from Auditor of State.... \$ 453.46

CREDIT.

March 3, by warrants.....\$ 453.46

GRADING AND FENCING FUND.

DEBIT.

To balance from last report.....\$ 74.02

CREDIT.

To warrants.....\$ 74.02

CONNECTING WATER MAINS, PLUMBING, ETC., FUND.

DEBIT.

To warrants from Auditor of State.....\$ 486.27

CREDIT.

By warrants.....\$ 486.27

WATER SUPPLY FUND OF 1890.

DEBIT.

To warrants from Auditor of State.....\$ 5,856.14

CREDIT.

Cash and by warrants.....\$ 5,856.14

WATER RATE FUND.

DEBIT.

To warrants from Auditor of State.....\$ 420.67

CREDIT.

By warrants to Davenport Water Co., and by balance (\$81.16).....\$ 420.67

MAIN CENTRAL BUILDING FUND OF 1890.

DEBIT.

To warrant from Auditor of State.....\$ 10,000.00

CREDIT.

By cash to John Turner.....\$ 10,000.00

FUNDS ON HAND.

Support.....\$ 1,879.99
 Water rate.....81.16
 Total.....\$ 1,961.15

UNDRAWN APPROPRIATIONS.

Furniture fund	\$ 305.97
Contingent and repair fund	2,064.90
Library fund	306.05
Connecting water mains, plumbing, etc., fund.....	513.73
Completing main central building fund	1,214.85
Electric light fund.....	1,730.00
Water supply fund of 1890.....	143.86
Total.....	\$ 6,475.45

Respectfully submitted,

June 30, 1893.

I certify the above statement is true and correct.

J. G. BROWN, Treasurer.

J. G. BROWN, Treasurer.

STATE OF IOWA, }
 MARSHALL COUNTY. } ss.

On this 14th day of August, A. D. 1893, before me, P. S. Balch, a notary public in and for said county, personally came J. G. Brown, Treasurer, personally to me known to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the above statement, and acknowledged the execution of the same to be his voluntary act and deed for the purposes therein expressed.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal on the day and date last above written.

P. S. BALCH, Notary Public.