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PLEASE RETURN TO
IOWA LIBRARY COMMISSIONPLEASE RETURN
IOWA LIBRARY COMMISSIONORGANIZATION AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE IOWA
COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.*T. F. McCune, Superintendent of the College.*

INSTITUTION BUILDERS.

There is no more sublime spectacle than that of a human life devoted to the good of mankind. So steeped are we in selfishness that it is difficult for us to comprehend the greatness of the unselfish character. Unselfishness means opposition, resistance. It means antagonism of customs and traditions, and opinions of men. It means sacrifice of sympathy, friendship, and even love. When highly endowed mental faculties are controlled and guided by the purest moral forces, and all made impressive and effective by physical vigor, then is found the extraordinary man or woman.

In such a mould was cast Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe. Born in Boston, Nov. 10, 1801, he died there Jan. 9, 1876. Immediately after the completion of his medical studies he gave his services to the Greeks then in struggle for freedom. Returning to the United States he at once became interested in the education of the blind, the deaf, the feeble-minded, in prison reform, hospital sanitation, and in the freedom of the slave. Greeks, Cretans, Poles, received his conspicuous help for wherever Dr. Howe lent a hand he was conspicuous. All nationalities were to him, one humanity. The principles which he unfolded and on which he based the education of Laura Bridgman, are the basic principles of such education today; and even the methods which he employed in teaching this blind and deaf mute have not been improved upon in similar cases since.

Dr. Howe founded the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass., in the year 1832. Those were days when the diffusion of knowledge was not universal. Apostles of light were needed to carry Westward and Southward the lessons taught by the Great New England Philanthropist. Accordingly there sprang up a class of men of constructive intellects, persuasive eloquence, and nobility of character, who impressed their personalities upon legislative bodies and the general public to the end that schools for the blind were established in many parts of the country. These men and their successors, the old time superintendents, were more than mere executive officers. They were moulders of public opinion and leaders in action. There is little call now for superintendents of this creative type.

SAMUEL BACON.

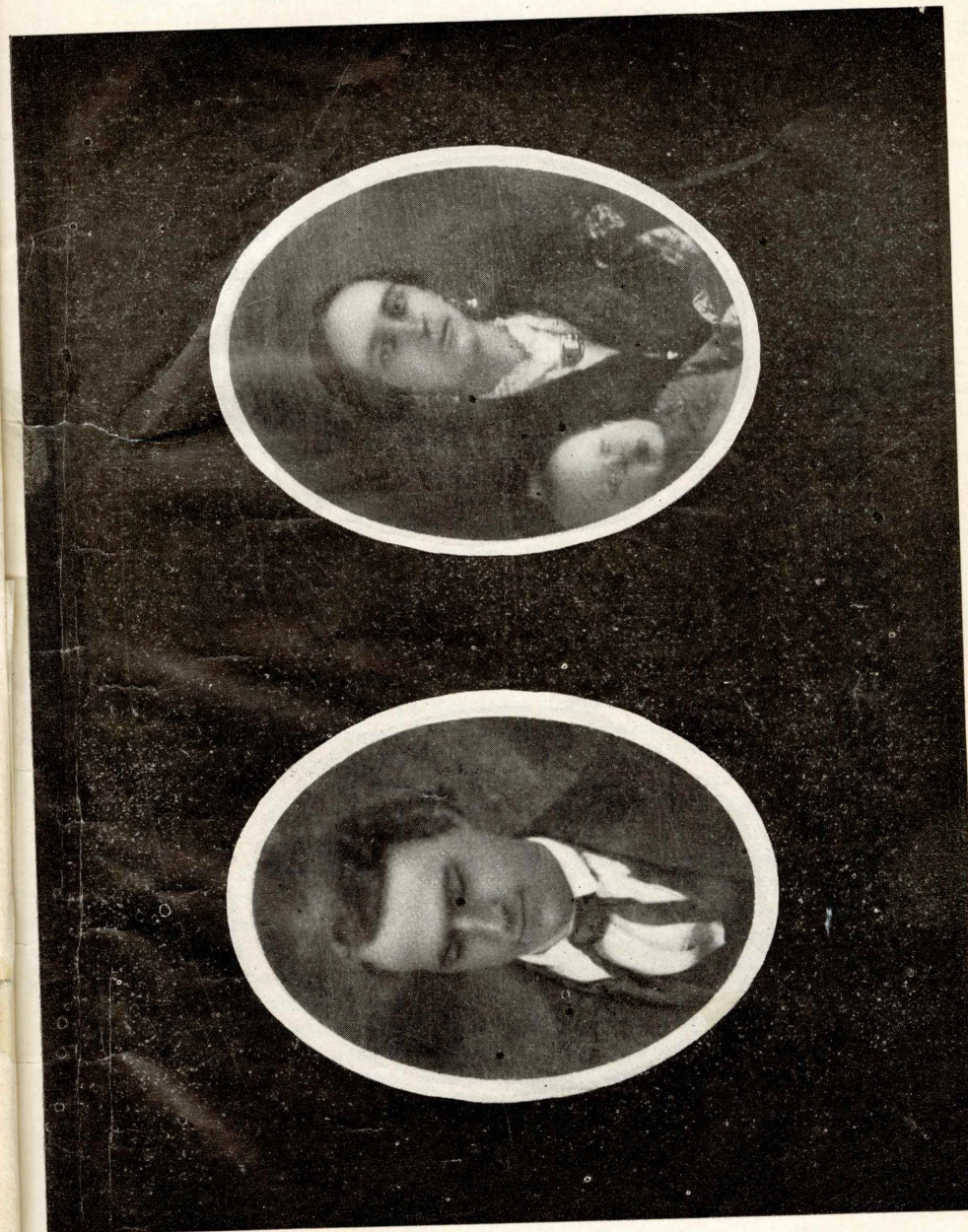
Living today near Nebraska City, Neb., surrounded by wealth, the fruit of his own energy and ability, is perhaps the last representative of the above class of men. Samuel Bacon was remarkable from child-

hood. He was not fond of the restraints of school but he was a lover of the woods and animals. Mathematics came to him as by instinct. He early developed a taste for mechanical contrivances such as water wheels, toy wagons, the molding and baking of clay figures, etc. At eleven years of age he lost his sight, but this calamity did not impair in the least his energy. He became the best swimmer and climber in the neighborhood. In running races, he more than held his own. Placing a board on his shoulder he would ascertain the direction of the wind and would thereby be able to run very straight and swift. He learned to locate objects by sound as he had formerly done by sight. A poor neighbor agreed to read to him, stipulating that the boy gather the wood for the fire. In this way he spent the next four years of his life.

In the year 1840 when about fifteen years of age, he was placed in the Institution for the Blind, at Columbus, Ohio. At that time three men were connected with the institution, who afterward became noted as instructors of the blind. William Chapin, then principal of the Ohio Institution, afterward became superintendent of the Philadelphia Institution. Teachers W. H. Churchman and A. W. Penniman, became superintendents, the former of the Indiana, and the latter of the Ohio institution. These men, especially Mr. Penniman, soon perceived young Bacon's marked abilities and aided him to the extent of their powers. He was placed in Algebra, Geometry and Physics, in which studies he led his classes with the greatest ease. In a short time, accepted as knowing more than his teachers, he was made a teacher himself. Thoroughly aroused, he began to move forward by leaps and bounds. The machinery of the school became too slow for him. In fourteen days, with the help of a reader he had mastered Analytical Geometry.

And now happened a proper thing. The trustees of the institution decided to assist the young man toward the attainment of a college education. They determined to retain Samuel Bacon's name on the register of the institution, but to pay him the \$80 which they were entitled to draw from the state for his support for one year. By this favor he was able to enter Kenyon College in 1844, where after a year's study, mostly of classics, he passed as good an examination as the best of his mates. He remained in Gambier during the vacation continuing his studies with a fellow student. He entered upon his second year's work but his money failing at Christmas he decided to return to Columbus. Leaving Gambier at 9 o'clock at night with only a few cakes in his pockets, he set out on foot for Columbus fifty-six miles away, where he arrived at 1 o'clock in the afternoon of the following day. He now made arrangements with an educated German who lived near the Institution for the Blind, and under his guidance pursued his studies in Latin, Greek, French and German. Finally realizing that his health was impaired by close application, he left the Ohio institution on the 1st day of August, 1847.

He at once embarked at Cincinnati, Ohio, for Galena, Ill. Below St. Louis he became acquainted with a member of the Constitutional Convention then in session at Springfield, Ill., who told him that a large institution for the blind was building at Jacksonville. Arriving in Jack-



SAMUEL BACON AND HIS WIFE.

sonville, Aug. 12, 1847, he discovered that the supposed institution for the blind was intended for the insane; but in no wise discouraged he set about the establishment of a school for the blind himself. Through great labor in travel and correspondence public interest was aroused. On April 1st, 1848, a meeting of leading citizens was called at the office of Brown and Yates in Jacksonville. Mr. Bacon was there advised to open a small school for the blind, to collect statistics, and gather as much information as possible in order that the coming legislature might see the value of such an institution. A subscription list was prepared to meet present needs, in which, among many others, the following items appear: Judge Thomas, \$100; Richard Yates, \$25. The school was opened on June 5, 1848, with four pupils. In the second week of January, 1849, the pupils gave an exhibition before the legislature at Springfield, so acceptable, that a bill was at once introduced and passed locating the school for the blind at Jacksonville and levying a tax of one-tenth of a mill for its support. An appropriation of \$3,000 for current expenses was added. This state school with four pupils was opened April 2, 1849, under Mr. Bacon as principal. By July 10, 1850, the number of students had increased to twenty-three. At this date, Mr. Bacon, overcome with hard work, having travelled more than three thousand miles in the discharge of his duties, and wearied beyond endurance by dissensions in the Board, resigned his position.

On July 12, 1849, Mr. Bacon was united in marriage to Sarah Kemper Graves of Jacksonville, Ill. Judging from all the facts at hand, a no small part of the success that has come to her gifted husband, has been due to her own tact and ability.

THE INSTITUTION AT IOWA CITY.

About the middle of August, 1852, this couple paid a visit to L. Jones in Keokuk, Iowa. Some parties there urged Mr. Bacon to establish a school for the blind similar to the one at Jacksonville. A public meeting was called, the matter discussed, and a committee consisting of Messrs. Perry, Burke and Matthews, appointed to give the project tangibility. State Senator Judge Love promised to bring the subject before the legislature. About the last of September, 1852, a house was rented in the southern part of Keokuk, where Mr. Bacon began teaching practically at his own expense three blind children living in the city. In the following December he went to Iowa City where the legislature was in session, taking with him a pupil, Mary Bushnell. Judge Love prepared a bill, introduced it and secured its passage in the Senate. In the House Mr., afterward Gov. Grimes, moved a reference of the bill to a special committee of which he was chairman. This committee proposed a substitute establishing an Asylum for the Blind, and locating it at Iowa City, which substitute finally passed both houses and was approved January 18, 1853.

Briefly this law provided for a board of seven overseers of which the Governor, Secretary of State, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, were to be ex-officio members. No provision was made for the free education of the blind except through a certificate from the

county court that the applicants' parents were unable to provide for the expenses of education. In such case the overseers of the asylum were entitled to draw from the State Treasury the sum of \$35.00 per quarter for the support of each pupil while in residence in the institution. An appropriation of \$2,000 was made for current expenses.

The law in general was good but it contained two defects. Asylum was not the proper title. The institution was not intended to be an asylum in any sense, as the language of the act plainly indicates. Also the provision making a distinction between the rich and the poor was objectionable.

The first board of overseers consisted of James D. Eads, President; George W. McCleary, Secretary; James H. Gower, Treasurer; Martin L. Morris, Stephen Hempstead, Morgan Reno, John McCaddon. On February 3, 1853, the first meeting of the Board was held at the Capitol building in Iowa City, at which Samuel Bacon was appointed Principal of the Asylum, an appropriation of \$100 made for the purchase of necessities, and the date April 1, 1853, selected for the opening of the school. The second meeting was held in the Capitol building on March 26, 1853, when Ann Gunn was ordered to be admitted from Clinton County, and James A. Gilliland, from Johnson county, the two first pupils of the institution. The Asylum was opened for the reception of pupils on April 4, 1853. The session continued about fourteen months when a recess was ordered until September 4, 1854, the beginning of the second session. During the first session twenty-three pupils were admitted. The sum of \$4,889.50 was drawn from the State Treasury and the whole amount expended. The building first occupied, known as the "Fisher House" stood on the river bank. It contained seven rooms but was so unsuitable that the school was removed before cold weather to a better building on "Cottage Hill" known as the "Land Office." This building seemed satisfactory but at the end of a year the owner desiring his property, the school was removed again to the "Andrews House" near the bridge.

At first the school organization consisted of Mr. Bacon, Principal; Mrs. Bacon, Matron; and Mr. S. J. Gittinger, Professor of Music. Mr. A. Keithley was afterward appointed Teacher of Mechanics but he soon withdrew, his successor being C. M. Lee.

Under instructions from the Board, Mr. Bacon attended in New York City, the 16th, 17th, and 18th of August, 1853, the first convention of teachers of the blind ever held on this continent. Principals from fourteen institutions representing twenty states were present. He improved this occasion to purchase books and apparatus and to solicit such donations of educational material as could be profitably utilized in his own school. The course of study and division of time mapped out in the beginning were substantially followed during the time the institution remained in Iowa City. The pupils rose at half past five o'clock, studied from six to seven, breakfasted and exercised from seven to eight, and attended recitations during the remainder of the forenoon. Dinner was served at half past twelve o'clock. From two until five in

the afternoons, the pupils were engaged in some kind of work; the men in the manufacture of brooms, and the women in sewing, knitting and bead work. Supper was served at half past five o'clock. One hour of the evening was devoted to study. Younger pupils retired at nine o'clock, the older ones at ten o'clock.

Discipline was maintained through mild but firm measures. No corporal punishment was permitted. The plan of instruction was oral, because few books could be procured.

The Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to Establish an Asylum for the Blind," approved January 18, 1853; passed by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, and approved January 22, 1855, took effect on February 1, 1855. By this act the name of the institution was changed to "Iowa Institution for the Education of the Blind." The Board of Overseers was changed to a Board of Trustees consisting of seven men of which board the Governor, Secretary of State, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, continued to be ex-officio members. By act approved January 21, 1857, the Principal was made ex-officio a member of the Board. The same act provided for the sum of \$25 per quarter for the support of each pupil.

On November 19, 1861, Mr. Bacon tendered his resignation to the Board to take effect in the summer of 1862. He was led to this step by repeated misunderstandings, misrepresentations, and the open hostility of some members of the Board. After ten years' service in his Iowa field he withdrew to found another and equally prosperous institution for the blind, in the State of Nebraska. The record of this man covers the founding and organizing and placing upon substantial foundation, three prominent institutions for the education of the blind. In each of them he encountered determined opposition and enmity. It would be strange if one of such positive character did not arouse enmity. Whatever may be said, his impress on the infant Iowa institution was deep and lasting. Through the instrumentality of Mrs. Bacon the sewing machine was introduced into the school, perhaps the first use of the machine by the blind in a Western institution. The school at Iowa City was recognized as the best, and some claim that its merits have never been surpassed in the institution since.

ADMINISTRATION OF REV. ORLANDO CLARKE.

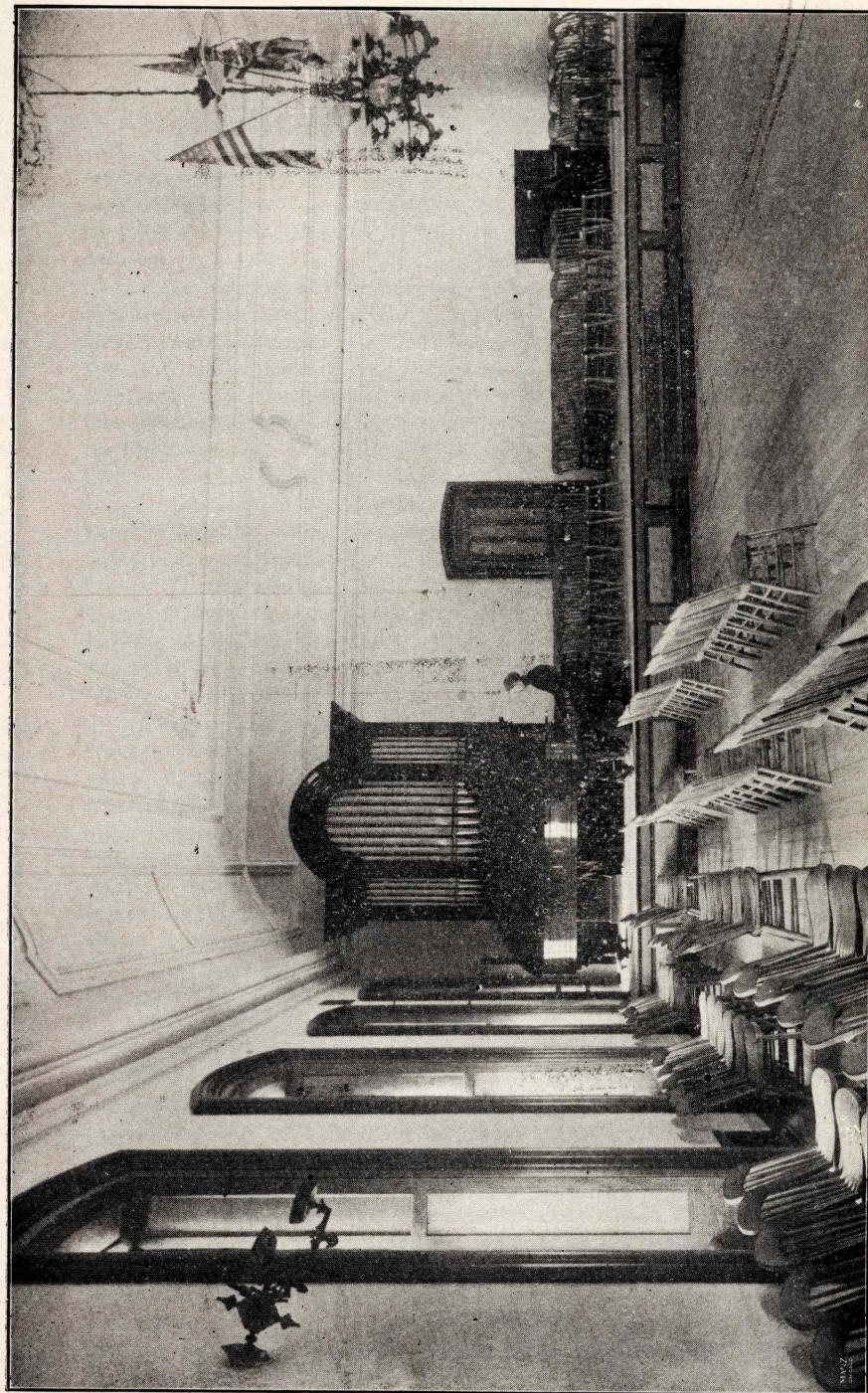
After the resignation of Mr. Bacon the Trustees unanimously elected Oran Faville, of Mitchell County, Iowa, as his successor. The records make no further reference to Mr. Faville. On January 4, 1862, it was moved and seconded in a Board meeting that Orlando Clarke be invited to take charge of the institution as principal as soon as Mr. Bacon's resignation should take effect. On motion of Mr. Bacon the above was laid on the table. At the next meeting of the Board, January 9, 1862, this motion was taken from the table and unanimously carried. Mr. Clarke was voted a salary of \$800.00 per annum, while the salary of Mrs. Clarke as matron was fixed at \$300.00 per annum.

The Seventh General Assembly having provided for the removal of

the institution to Vinton, Iowa, and the new buildings being almost completed in the summer of 1862, the old Board of Trustees held their last meeting July 3, 1862, at which were present Elijah Sells, President; R. Hutchinson, Treasurer; Orlando Clarke, Superintendent; and Trustees Miller, McKay and Gilchrist. On motion the officers of the Board were instructed to deliver to the new Board created by the Ninth General Assembly all books, papers and accounts in their hands pertaining to the business of the Board or the Institution. The new Board, comprising three members, Elijah Sells, James Chapin, and the Principal, Orlando Clarke, ex-officio member, convened in Iowa City, July 4, 1862. Elijah Sells was elected President; James Chapin, Treasurer, and Orlando Clarke, Secretary. On motion the Principal was ordered to dispose of all property of the institution at Iowa City not worth removal to Vinton. He was also ordered to remove the institution to its new location as soon as arrangements could be made. For this purpose and for fitting up the new buildings he was authorized to employ one male and one female assistant. The Board then adjourned to meet on the 18th day of August, 1862, in the City of Vinton.

The transfer was made during August, 1862. Messrs. Finkbine & Lovelace, the contractors, speedily finished such rooms as were necessary for occupancy, but they were not able to complete the building until late in the following November. School opened early in October, 1862, with twenty-four pupils. Mr. Clarke found the new edifice situated on a slight elevation one-half mile from the center of Vinton. The material used was limestone easily chiselled, but which hardened on exposure. The building fronted the East, was one hundred feet long, seventy feet wide, and four stories high, and capable of accommodating eighty pupils. The roof was of pine; the building was warmed by stoves. Heaps of debris were piled about; for want of sewers the rains poured into the basement; but the Trustees bent vigorously to the work. The sum of \$1,000.00 was appropriated to build an area wall, while a further sum of \$4,000.00 was appropriated for the erection of workshops.

A reference to the course of study at this time will show no substantial advancement over the curriculum pursued in Iowa City. The field of the ordinary common and high school was covered. Teachers were now employed for the term and not for the year as the custom had been. The Principal was instructed to admit pupils without reference to the Board, whether or not such pupils had been formerly dismissed. During this administration the President of the Board, Hon. Elijah Sells, proposed the introduction of the Braille System of point writing, which was adopted. The special object of this order was to furnish the pupils with a means of writing their music, but the utility of the system soon became so apparent that the point was employed for all manner of school purposes. The Board ordered on March 2, 1863, that a pupil be procured from the St. Louis Institution to teach the Braille, if the Principal should deem such a course necessary. The St. Louis Institution for the Blind was the first to introduce the Braille System into the United States.



THE CHAPEL—IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

The Tenth General Assembly, by act approved February 27, 1864, appointed Norman W. Isbell, of Linn County; Rush Clark, of Johnson County, and James McQuinn, of Benton county, to be additional members of the Board, their term of office to expire February 1, 1866, after which the term of each trustee was to cover four years. Messrs. Isbell and Clark failing to qualify, Governor Stone appointed Robert Gilchrist, of Benton County, and Joseph Dysart, of Tama County, to fill the vacancies.

At the meeting of the Board August 1, 1864, Rev. Reed Wilkinson was elected Principal on a motion of James Chapin. As to the cause of this change the records are silent. However, there are indications from time to time in these records that some internal dissatisfaction existed. One pupil was suspended and the Principal was authorized to use his own discretion as to dismissing two others. In their report to the Eleventh General Assembly the Trustees speak of "The condition of affairs such as to require important changes in nearly every department. The position of Principal was tendered to and accepted by Rev. Reed Wilkinson, whose character as a ripe scholar and successful educator had been well attested by eminent citizens in our own and other states. Experience has shown the choice to be a happy one. He immediately introduced order and system throughout, and established a rigid yet parental discipline, which has been well maintained. His zealous and persistent efforts to raise the moral tone of the institution have been crowned with success."

This is pleasant reading for Mr. Wilkinson, but implies serious defects in the work of Mr. Clarke. However, as we will learn later that Mr. Clarke was called, after a lapse of years, to resume his position as Principal of the institution, the inference is reasonable that his disqualifications in the first instance were rather accidental than personal. Mr. Clarke seems to have been a man of good ability and of the highest integrity. He was even tempered, patient, mild, and judicious. Tradition in the institution credits him with many amiable qualities, those that would fit him well for the exacting duties of his position.

ADMINISTRATION OF REV. REED WILKINSON.

A decided disposition to advance seems now to have moved both Trustees and Principal. An appropriation of \$3,000.00 was asked for the construction of a barn, fences, etc. The current expenses for the biennial period of 1864 and 1866 amounted to \$21,970.38. In addition to this the expenses for improvements amounted to the sum of \$5,521.26. Sixty-three pupils were enrolled, five of which finished the course. Six teachers were employed: Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Amelia Butler for literary work; Jacob Niermeyer and Mrs. Josephine P. Cisna for music; John Cisna and Miss A. M. Rittgers for mechanical industries. Mrs. N. A. Morton was Matron. Her services were so appreciated by the Board that a recommendation to the Legislature for an increase of her salary was made. Mr. G. W. Perkins was Steward. W. P. Lathrop, M. D., was the institution Physician. At the Board meeting April 1, 1867, Mr.

Wilkinson read the following paper, given in full, as it clearly reveals the harmonious relations then existing:

"To the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Institution for the Education of the Blind:

"Gentlemen:—In the month of July last, I said to one of your members, Mr. Dysart, 'At the close of another year the way will be open on my part for a successor in the office of Superintendent of the Asylum.'

"What I then said to him, it may be proper for me to say to you now. I did not seek the office I now hold, but consented to take it on the ground that some one was needed and if I did not take it, the office might be vacant when the time for again opening the school should arrive.

"Upon the consideration of this fact, added to the earnest solicitations of some acquaintances whose opinions I valued I came and took charge of the Asylum.

"The necessity which brought me here, I hope, no longer exists. And if now the Trustees can find a man whom they deem qualified to take my place at the beginning of another term I wish them to do it.

"Although I reluctantly consented to come here in August, 1864, yet as things have turned out I am not sorry I came. I have liked my work better than I expected, and I have accomplished more for the pupils than I anticipated doing. Consequently, I think I shall hereafter look back upon these three years of my life's labors with some degree of satisfaction.

"Undoubtedly my work has had its defects, and I have committed errors, but I have done what I could under the circumstances. I have not knowingly neglected any duty or done any wrong.

"My intercourse with you, gentlemen, has been pleasant and I hope we may part as we met, friends.

"Yours, with respect and esteem,

"REED WILKINSON."

Mr. Wilkinson was an elderly man when he took charge of the institution. His training had not been such as to enable him to cope with the many conflicting interests in a state institution. The worry attendant upon his position was too great for him. But he was no laggard. He traveled with horse and buggy throughout the State over 1,100 miles, and thoroughly canvassed seventeen counties in the interest of the institution.

ADMINISTRATION OF GEN. JAMES L. GEDDES.

The Eleventh General Assembly, in 1866, appointed C. H. Conklin, of Benton County, a member of the Board, in the place of Robert Gilchrist. At a meeting of the Board July 1, 1867, Mr. Conklin moved that James L. Geddes be the Principal of the institution from and after September 1, 1867, to hold said office until his successor be elected and qualified, and that he be also Steward of the institution at a salary for both offices of \$800.00 per annum. This was carried unanimously.

The College building at this time was what is now known as the

Main Building. In February, of 1868, the subject of enlarging the institution building was discussed, the Board being of the opinion that an addition of a three-story wing was necessary. Mr. Chapin was directed to recommend the matter to the Legislature. Also in 1868 certain measures were passed that would indicate a desire on the part of the Board and the Principal to correct some irregularities in the institution. For instance, all officers and teachers were required to attend prayers every morning unless prevented by sickness or necessary duties. Also reading works of fiction to the pupils by officers, teachers, or domestics, was strictly forbidden, except with the approbation of the Principal. Some changes, too, were made on the Board, the Twelfth General Assembly appointing John Hodgdon, of Dubuque County; Charles G. Truesdell, of Clinton County, and James Chapin, of Benton County, to succeed himself. The Twelfth General Assembly, by act approved April 6, 1868, having appropriated \$30,000.00 for the erection of a wing to the institution building, we find the Board at their meeting of April 23, 1868, appointing a committee to correspond with Mr. Finkbine, of Iowa City, and invite him to consultation with reference to deciding upon plans and specifications and to advertise for bids. Mr. Finkbine was paid \$550.00 for his plans. He proposed to build the wing according to his plans for the sum of \$29,160.00. This proposition was accepted, the President and Secretary being authorized to make a contract with Mr. Finkbine and that they require him to give bond in the sum of \$10,000.00.

On March 10, 1869, James Chapin tendered his resignation as Trustee of the institution, to take effect from and after this date. It was voted by the Board that S. H. Watson, of Vinton, be appointed Trustee to fill the vacancy consequent on the resignation of Mr. Chapin. Mr. Watson was immediately made Treasurer under a bond of \$10,000.00.

At the meeting June 2, 1869, Mr. Dysart moved that Prof. S. A. Knapp be elected Principal of the institution for the ensuing year. This motion was carried. It was further resolved that Gen. Geddes surrender the entire control of the institution to Prof. S. A. Knapp, on the 16th of June, 1869, retaining, however, suitable rooms for himself and family until the first day of the following September, and that he be entitled to board in the institution and full pay of salary until that date.

Gen. James L. Geddes was a brave and accomplished soldier in the Civil War. He was an efficient superintendent, but his administration lacked in unity owing to certain forces both within and without the institution over which he could not gain control. His military training made him exacting in details, but he seemed not to have learned the cardinal principle of which no executive officer can afford to be ignorant; namely, in questions simply of administrative policy, to stand firm as a rock when there is a rock to stand on; but to be politic and diplomatic when there is only a bed of sand.

ADMINISTRATION OF PROF. S. A. KNAPP.

Mr. C. G. Truesdell resigning from the Board on August 10, 1869, William G. Donnan, of Independence, was unanimously elected to fill

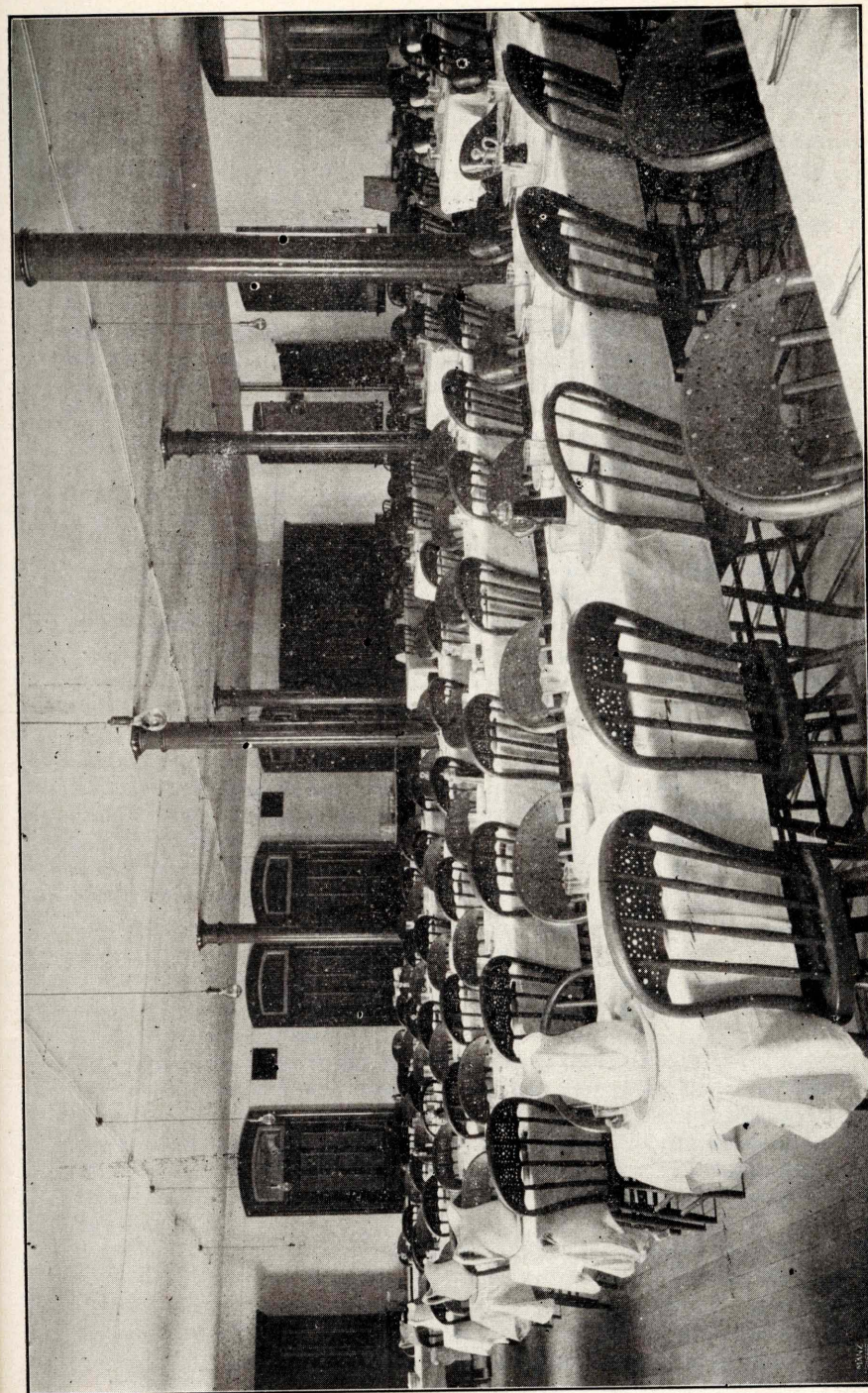
the vacancy. The Secretary was directed to notify Mr. Donnan of this fact and also to notify the Governor of the election.

There is no difficulty now in detecting evidences of a master hand at work. The new Principal was instructed to have printed three hundred copies of the rules of the Board concerning the duties of officers and teachers. It was resolved that the leading idea in conducting the institution should be to make the inmates useful citizens and to prepare them for some occupation through which they might acquire a respectable support. The Superintendent (the legal title of the chief executive officer of the institution is Principal, but the term Superintendent is commonly used) was requested so far as possible to familiarize the pupils in the several departments with the business of instructing, by requiring them when competent to act as assistant teachers. It was also resolved that furniture purchased by the Board for one room should not be changed to another without their direction. The Principal was also authorized to pay pupils for work in the institution industrial department done out of regular hours, provided that at no time should the compensation exceed the net profit of the article. These and many minor items would indicate that a spirit of activity prevailed.

On November 9, 1869, the addition designated South Wing was accepted from the contractors, Messrs. Finkbine & Lovelace. The foundation of this building was laid in the fall of 1868. The wing was built of cut stone 32 by 60 feet, with a rear projection 19 by 48 feet, the whole three stories above the basement. The entire cost of this wing was \$29,921.50.

This period of institution history shows great activity in material improvements. The pipe organ which had been purchased under Gen. Geddes was ordered repaired. Stairways were partitioned off and large rooms were divided. Verandas were built, the grounds were improved, musical instruments, books, and school apparatus purchased. Twenty-three thousand, eight hundred dollars were appropriated by the Thirteenth General Assembly, approved April 14, 1870, for a steam heating and ventilating plant, slate roof of main building, and minor improvements. From November 1, 1869, to November 1, 1871, the amount of current expenses, including salaries and clothing furnished pupils, was \$49,007.47.

Equal energy was manifested in education matters. The Fourteenth General Assembly changed the title of the institution to "Iowa College for the Blind." The course of study continued to cover the ordinary public school work, but with an expansion and strengthening of the high school or academic course. The Braille system was superseded by the New York Point, which has continued ever since in the College to the exclusion of the other. In 1873 the literary teachers were M. L. Ward, Miss Mary McFarland, G. W. Tannehill, Miss Angeline Harrington, and Mrs. L. J. Walker. The musical department was under the direction of H. J. Proctor and John Langer. John Cisna continued to be in charge of the industrial department. A printing press, with all necessary type and apparatus, was purchased for the purpose of supply-



DINING ROOM—IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

ing point reading matter to the pupils. The whole number of pupils during the term of 1873 and 1874 was 112.

The Thirteenth General Assembly made an appropriation of \$2,000.00 to establish a home for the industrious blind in connection with the institution, to be governed by the same Board of Trustees. Mr. Knapp soon became convinced that this act was a mistake. The law proving to be impracticable was allowed to fall by its own weight.

When the Twelfth General Assembly in 1868 made an appropriation for the erection of the South Wing it was thought that sufficient had been provided for years to come. Three years later, however, the institution had outgrown its accommodations. The usual energy of the administration rose to the occasion, in evidence of which the Fourteenth General Assembly, in 1872, appropriated the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars to be expended in the erection of a North Wing, which was not to cost more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars. The Board of Trustees, April 30, 1872, employed George Josselyn, of Independence, as architect, with instructions to prepare the plans as soon as possible. On July 18, 1872, sealed proposals were received from four firms, the lowest bid, that of Messrs. Finkbine & Lovelace of Iowa City, being \$64,860. The contract was awarded to this firm which filed a bond in the sum of \$25,000 to complete the work according to the specifications, on or before Dec. 31, 1873. On November 25, 1873, the work was completed and approved by the Board, Trustees E. B. Kephart, J. L. Gay, and Jacob Springer being appointed a committee with full powers for this purpose. It should be mentioned here that the Fourteenth General Assembly appointed as trustees E. B. Kephart of Linn County, and Jerimiah Gay of Blackhawk County to succeed Messrs. Hodgedon and Donnan, and that Samuel Watson was reappointed. On January 7, 1873, James McQuin having removed from the state, Jacob Springer of Benton County was elected by the Board to the vacant place in pursuance of the powers conferred upon that body by statute.

On January 6, 1874, Mr. Knapp read a communication to the Board, of which the following is the essential part:

"I take this occasion to express my continued desire to be released from the position of Principal of the Iowa College for the Blind at the close of the present term.

My purpose to sever my relations to this institution at the earliest practicable moment, was formed more than two years since; but the execution of it has been delayed for important reasons with which you are conversant. That no one may suppose that my resignation is occasioned by a lack of harmony between any member or members of this Board and myself I will state in substance the reasons that control my resignation.

1st. Subjecting the Principal to an annual appointment by a Board of Trustees, the character of which may be changed biennially by the General Assembly, renders the position so uncertain that no thoughtful man can regard it as anything more than a temporary arrangement.

2nd. The residence of the Principal in the institution subjects his

family to constant excitement and annoyance and deprives his children of some of the most beneficent influences of home.

3rd. You have allowed me such compensation as you deemed liberal and justified by the means under your control. Knowing that your actions were influenced by the highest motives I have accepted it in the same spirit.

It would not however be justice to myself were I not to state that propositions have been repeatedly submitted to me offering much higher inducements.

Permit me to express my deep sense of obligation to you for the uniform kindness and forbearance with which you have treated me. I do not know of a single unkind word or unjust criticism upon the part of any member of this Board, from the commencement of my work till the present time. Trusting our friendship may continue under changed circumstances, I am,

Respectfully,

S. A. KNAPP."

Rev. S. A. Knapp was without doubt the strongest man who ever presided over the institution. He came of a race of teachers. He was by profession a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was both scholar and orator, a man of literary accomplishments as well as a skillful manipulator of men and affairs. The institution superintendency was indeed a temporary arrangement for him as he passed to the chair of Practical and Experimental Agriculture of the Agricultural College at Ames, then to the control of great interests in the South, then to the fulfilment of an important agricultural mission in China and the Philippines. The field of institution work is generally too narrow for such men.

SECOND ADMINISTRATION OF REV. ORLANDO CLARKE.

On April 27, 1875, the Board elected Orlando Clarke Principal for one year to commence July 1, following. Two new members had been appointed to the Board by the Fifteenth General Assembly: Christopher L. Flint and Herman C. Piatt. Mr. Clarke's second administration was uneventful. On the 2nd day of April, 1876, he died in the College after a brief illness. That he enjoyed the confidence of the Board is evidenced by the resolutions adopted from which we make the following quotation: "2nd. That we cherish a deep and abiding sense of the shining talents, high and scholarly attainments, pure and unsullied character, noble and elevated sentiments, distinguished ability in his late position as Principal of the College for the Blind, and the warm and generous heart which so prominently marked the deceased, and which so much endeared him to us as a man and a friend."

ADMINISTRATION OF J. B. PARMLEE.

On April 4, 1876, J. B. Parmlee, Assistant Principal, was elected Principal of the College to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Clarke ending July 1, 1876. On June 13, 1876, he was elected for another year.

During this administration we find evidences of unrest. An order of the Board states "The teachers and instructors in all the departments of the College be employed upon the express condition that if they do not prove acceptable to the Principal and Board of Trustees, and give satisfaction in their departments that they are subject to be dismissed at the close of any month." Also the committee on schools, January 3, 1877, reported that "They have sought and apparently had a free and full conference with the Superintendent, Assistant, and with a number of the teachers connected with the institution as to its success and prosperity. That your committee regret to report that there is a factious spirit exhibited by some of the teachers toward the management of this institution, which is bad in its tendency and spirit and disapproved by your committee. That your committee insist that the management of this institution must be maintained and supported. That Superintendent Parmlee's commands and authority must be respected and enforced during his term of office." Also June 14, 1877, H. C. Piatt, C. L. Flint and P. F. Sturgis, constituting the same committee, reported, after citing many things to be commended, that "Your committee deeply regret the fact that quite a number of the present corps of teachers have not so labored, but have to a great extent disregarded the best interests of the school as well as the welfare and general prosperity of the College, by engaging in a protracted gossiping, scandal peddling warfare among themselves which has been more or less damaging to the pupils and school as well as disagreeable alike to themselves and this institution. The fact is probably known to every member of this Board of Trustees, that every honorable means have been resorted to in the last year to restore and maintain harmony among the faculty (without which no College can be successful) and that all such efforts have proved entirely unavailing; and it is the opinion of your committee after long and due reflection that no principal, however efficient he might be, could possibly make this institution what it should be made, with the present full corps of teachers continued as such."

After the acceptance of this report of the committee on teachers and schools, part of which is quoted above, the Board on motion of P. F. Sturgis elected Rev. Robert Carothers Principal for the year beginning July 1, 1877.

Mr. Parmlee passed to the superintendency of the Nebraska Institution for the Education of the Blind, Nebraska City, where he remained several years finally retiring on political reasons. Such radical measures were taken by the Board with the election of Mr. Carothers to restore harmony in the College, that the close of Mr. Parmlee's term of office may properly be regarded as terminating the early history of the Iowa College for the Blind.

From twenty-three pupils and a total expenditure for current expenses of \$4,889.50 in 1853-1854, the institution had grown to one hundred and thirty-five pupils and an expenditure for current expenses of \$58,013.28 for the biennial period closing November 6, 1877. The course of study had expanded until liberal opportunities were open for the

study of music in all its branches the acquirement of a generous common and high school education, and a complete knowledge of all the trades recognized as practicable for the blind.

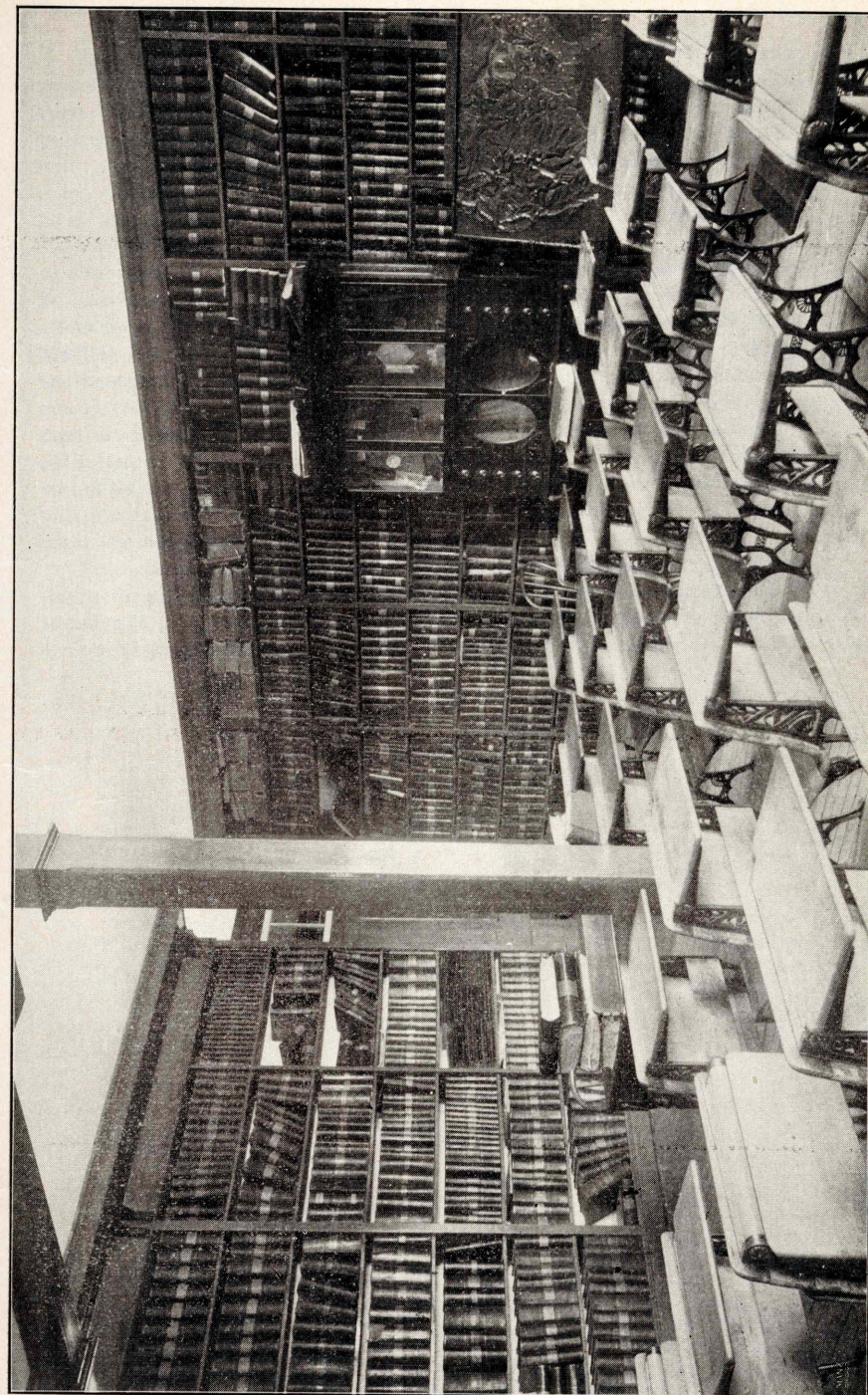
This institution has always been peculiarly fortunate in the character and abilities of those who have influenced, guided, or controlled its existence. Such men as John P. Irish, Stephen Hempstead, and George W. McCleary were always alert in their efforts to foster the infant institution. Governors Grimes and Kirkwood, ex-officio members of the Board in the early days, gave freely of their time and counsel for its benefit. As to the Trustees of the institution after its removal to Vinton, they might all be called representative men. Samuel Watson was during his whole life the most prominent business personality in his own community. C. H. Conklin was perhaps the most brilliant man ever connected with the Benton County bar. Elijah Sells, Joseph Dysart, James McQuin, H. C. Piatt, P. F. Sturgis, were all more than ordinary men.

Conspicuous among this body of representative citizens was Hon. Jacob Springer of Benton County, twenty-five years a trustee of the institution. Mr. Springer is a type of those men who to abilities and attainments of a high order, unite a most generous and sympathetic nature. That his influence in the Board was dominant in the sense of wisely unfolding fundamental principals for the guidance of his colleagues, few persons cognizant of the circumstances, would call in question. That he left behind him in the College an affectionate memory on the part of the older students and the little children as well, to whom his monthly visits always meant some little gift, no one would call in question. His home was always open to the blind many of whom even at this late day draw freely upon his generosity. Mr. Springer retired from office on June 30, 1898.

Nor has the school been less fortunate in teachers. Many of course were of ordinary ability but a goodly number were far above the ordinary. M. L. Ward is now a prominent lawyer in California. C. O. Harrington, teacher, afterward a trustee for many years, and regarded as one of the safest and most conservative Treasurers the institution ever had, is now one of the substantial bankers of the state. Prof. S. A. Price was a musician and composer of more than state wide reputation.

Among those who have been educated by the institution and who afterward gave their lives to the work of building up that institution, three persons stand out with great distinctness. John Cisna entered the institution on October 29, 1853. He was elected teacher of mechanics at a salary of \$100 per annum, September 7, 1858. This position he retained until his death in the College for the Blind, April 6, 1888.

These annals are short and simple but they cover the life of a rare man. He was always at his post, always patient and industrious, always wise and prudent in his life with teachers, students, and the whole institution family. From his meagre salary he saved a competency and by judicious investment was able to leave a handsome estate to his family.



A SCHOOL ROOM—IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

Equally prominent but in another sphere is G. W. Tannehill who was allowed \$100 for services rendered as teacher, by act of the Board June 7, 1867. Through his physical disability Prof. Tannehill's life has been passed within the narrow confines of the school room; but he was built and planned for a wider field. A fine mathematician, a well read man, a good disciplinarian, a strong mind in a strong body he would have gone to the front in any business or professional calling but for the loss of his sight in young manhood.

On April 23, 1868, it was voted by the Board that Lorana Mattice be appointed teacher in the Female Mechanical Department to take effect from the 1st of April, 1868, in place of Miss Ritgers resigned. Miss Mattice has been a member of the faculty ever since that date first in the mechanical department afterward as one of the most valued teachers in the literary department. She was appointed trustee of the Industrial Home for Adult Blind, at Knoxville, and had her counsels prevailed in many cases of executive policy that institution doubtless would have attained a better standing before the public. Miss Mattice is a forceful woman, able and accomplished, and sincerely loyal to the class she represents.

The influence of the last three persons all of whom are blind, on the character and growth of this institution, cannot be overestimated. Their impress is to be found in every department and upon the lives of pupils who have gone from the institution to every part of the state.

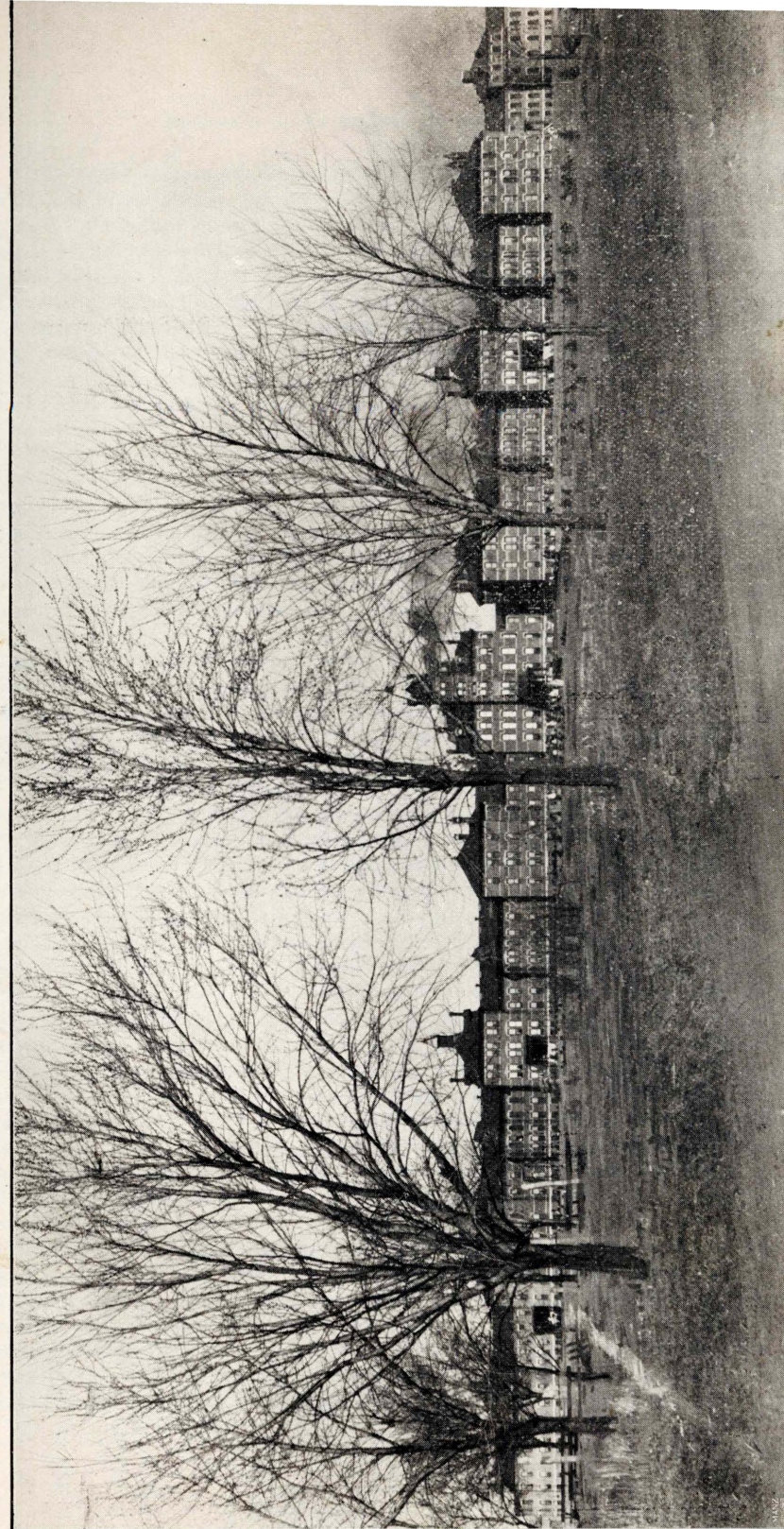
HISTORY AND CONTRACT OF THE HOSPITAL AT CLARINDA.

By Hon. T. E. Clark.

The Hon. Buren R. Sherman was the Governor of Iowa, and Orlando H. Manning was Lieut.-Governor at the convention of the Twentieth General Assembly on January 14, 1884. The new Capital was practically complete, this assembly being the first to occupy it. It was the pride of the State. The Hon. John A. Kasson delivered the dedicatory address in the rotunda under its resplendent golden dome, where the State officers, General Assembly and thousands of visitors were gathered to witness the memorable ceremony. Perhaps no more notable body of men ever assembled in Iowa.

The whole state was alive with the all absorbing question of prohibition. Both sides had selected its ablest advocates to engage in the great combat. Without being invidious, let me name some of them. John C. Bills of Davenport, Benton J. Hall of Burlington, Benjamin McCoy, of Oskaloosa, William Larrabee of Clermont, H. Y. Smith of Des Moines, Charles E. Whiting of Whiting, Alfred N. Poyneer of Tama, John J. Russell of Jefferson, Gifford S. Robinson of Storm Lake, J. H. Sweeney of Osage, Henry W. Rothert, of Keokuk, Enoch Eastman of Eldora, William G. Donnan, of Independence, Joseph G. Hutchison of Ottumwa, George Carson of Council Bluffs, Julius K. Graves of Dubuque, Preston M. Sutton of Marshalltown, and John L. Kamrar of Webster City, and all these and other able men of the senate. I need not say that the writer was proud to be an associate of such giants. In the House were such men as Lemuel R. Bolter of Logan, Cyrus C. Carpenter of Fort Dodge, Cyrus S. Ranck of Iowa City, Gen. Tuttle of Des Moines, S. M. Weaver of Iowa Falls, Albert Head of Jefferson, Welcom Mowry, William P. Wolf of Tipton, B. F. Clayton of Macedonia, William Butler of Page, Washington I. Babb of Mt. Pleasant, James A. Lyons, John A. Story and many others of note.

The state officers were also men of high character and intellect. Capt. John A. T. Hull was Secretary of State; John L. Brown, Auditor; Edwin H. Conger, Treasurer; John W. Akers, Supt. of Schools; Smith McPherson, Attorney General, George E. Roberts, State Printer; Matt Parrott, State Binder; William L. Alexander, Adjutant General; E. R. Hutchins, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, ect. The state government was never in better hands. The character and personnel of these statesmen are given for the reason that they were the real architects and founders of Clarinda hospital, each and all by influence or vote had a hand in laying its legal foundation, and putting the project on foot.



MAIN BUILDING—CLARINDA HOSPITAL.

The initial step was taken on February 8, 1884, when Senator Gillette of Boone introduced a bill for an additional hospital to be located at Boone. A number of other bills followed seeking its location in many other places. All were referred to the appropriate committee, so numerous were the bills, and so ardent the supporters, that the committee reported them back to the Senate without recommendation.

After a spirited contest on the floor of the Senate, Senator Gillette's bill passed that body by a small majority fixing its location at Boone, much to the chagrin of the senator from Page, who at that time was too much occupied with the propaganda of cold water to thwart the insidious movements of Gillette.

The bill went to the House in which body Clarinda had a friend in the person of a man who never slumbered, forceful, energetic, and thoroughly imbued with a love of his home town and with the Jacksonian doctrine of "To the victors belong the spoils." It is also proper to state that at that time he never diluted his beverage and wasted no time on water. Hon. William Butler arrested the bill in the House, emasculated it of the Boone feature and sent back to the Senate, a bill which finally passed into chapter 201 acts of the 20th General Assembly. This act authorized the appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the purpose of establishing an additional hospital for the insane. It provided that the Governor should select three commissioners with power to locate the site for said hospital somewhere in Southwestern Iowa.

This act went into effect April 23, 1884. The Clarinda hospital was on that day conceived. It was some months before it was delivered.

Hon. Lafe Young of Cass County, and Hon. William Butler of Page County, watched over it during gestation with admirable devotion. The act provided that not less than three hundred and twenty acres of land should be purchased in the name of the state with perfect title, so selected as to insure an abundant supply of good pure water and susceptible of proper and efficient drainage. The act wisely provided that no gratuity or donation should be offered or received from any place as an inducement for its location. That the commissioners should, as soon as the location was fixed, secure and adopt plans and specifications, and estimates for the buildings to be erected. All buildings to be fire proof, the exterior plain and of brick and that the system known as the Cottage plan must be adopted. The board to invite bids after publication for thirty days in Des Moines newspapers, the contract to be let to the lowest bidder complying with the requirements of the commissioners. They were to employ a competent architect and superintendent of construction, appoint a secretary and keep accurate minutes of their doings. The General Assembly adjourned April 2, 1884, and the great contest was immediately on. Red Oak, Atlantic, Creston, Corning, Clarinda and other places began active operations. The campaign was hot, energetic and accrimonious. From the outset it was apparent to the writer that the real issue was between Atlantic and Clarinda. The aspirants all seemed to feel that the strategic point of vantage was to be found in the personnel of the commission. Every energy was bent and

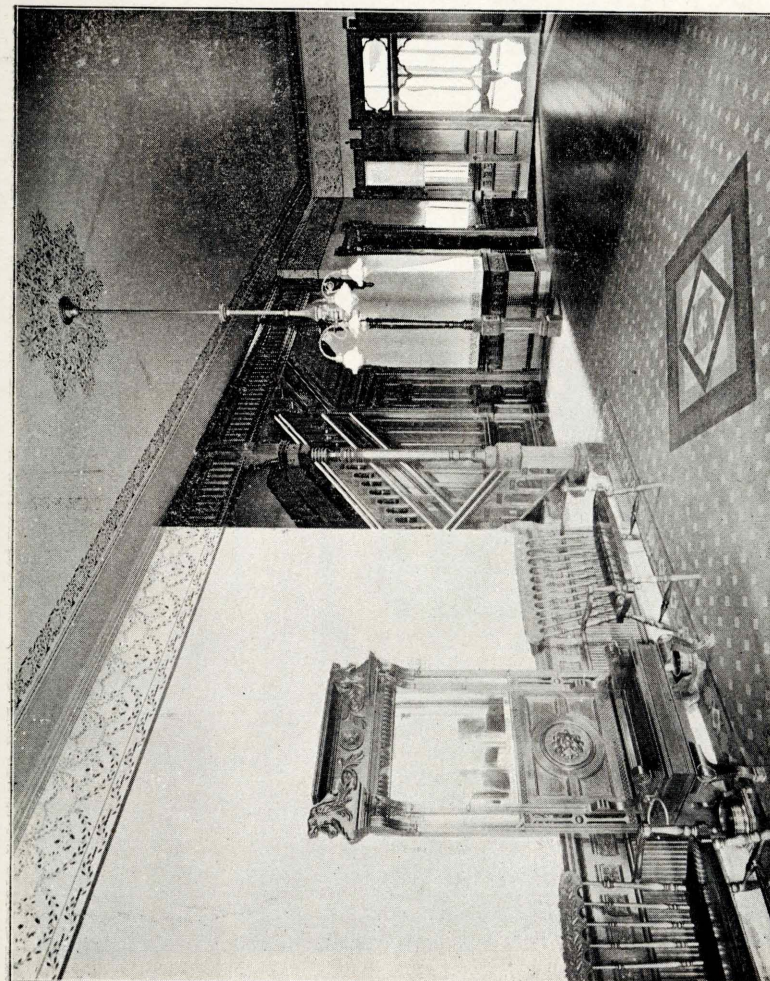
every resource exhausted to procure the appointment of men who might be friendly to the location desired by the ardent aspirants. No astrol- oger of old ever watched the sky of Arabia more devoutly for a sign, than did many men scan every movement of Governor Sherman. Dele- gation after delegation waited upon his excellency at all hours of day and night. We thought in this section that he was the most attrac- tive gentleman on the earth.

Pickets were stationed at the seat of government and upon the slightest signal by wire, "Bill" Butler, as he was called, summoned the "Posse Comitatus" of excited and intensely interested partisans and off they went sometimes "half cocked" to reinforce the Des Moines outposts by buggy, freight train, and on foot pell mell—they started in any old way to get there. But we of Clarinda were never able, no matter how early we arose to get there ahead of "Lafe Young," the redoubtable warrior from Atlantic. He gave Clarinda no end of trouble and anxiety and at this late day we take off our hat to the editor of the Iowa Capital as a "foeman worthy of our steel" and can commend him to any one wanting a good fighter.

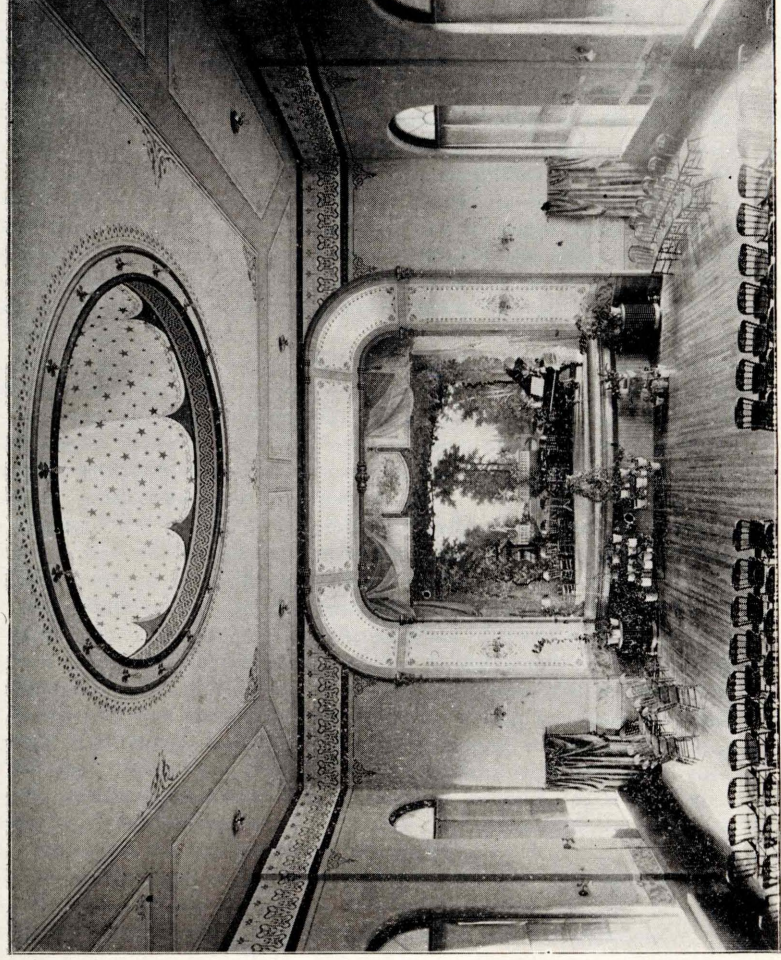
Charges of fraud, undue influence, corruption, and bribery were strewn "Thick as Autumn leaves in Vallambrosa." But the writer be- lieves nothing unlawful was done by any of the excited and over wrought partisans.

After all had been done that could be done to influence the Gover- nor in favor of the appointments, his excellency discharged the un- pleasant and delicate function of his office, in the selection of Hon. E. J. Hartshorn, of Palo Alto County, Hon. J. D. M. Hamilton of Lee Coun- ty, and the Hon. George W. Bemis of Buchanan County as commis- sioners under the law to locate the site of the new hospital. These gentlemen met at Des Moines on May 21, 1884, and organized. George W. Bemis was elected President of the Board, Hon. E. J. Hartshorn was elected Treasurer, and Hon. J. D. M. Hamilton was elected as the Secretary.

On the 16th day of July, 1884, the Commissioners met again at Des Moines for the purpose of deciding upon the situs of the New Hospital. They had already visited and carefully inspected every place that was seeking its location. After two full days of deliberation these gentle- men by a majority vote selected Clarinda as the place combining in the fullest degree the requirements of the statute under which they acted. Mr. Young and Mr. Butler were both present to witness the decree of the august body. Clarinda got the news that same afternoon. Every- thing in town "broke loose" at the receipt of the message announcing that the heated and long combat was over. There were enough crazy people in Clarinda that night to people two such hospitals. Some got drunk, everyone was intoxicated, men even hugged their own wives in the exultation of the moment; many citizens stayed up all night. Next morning thousands met the train to welcome their delegation with the new hospital; steam whistles sounded, bands played, poems were re- cited, speeches made, and the earth was promised to the victors—the



FRONT HALL OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING—CLARINDA HOSPITAL.



THE AMUSEMENT HALL—CLARINDA HOSPITAL.

promise has only been partially fulfilled—but the town was happy for once.

Mr. Bemis resigned his position after Clarinda was chosen as the site of the hospital and thereby progress was impeded until in August when Governor Sherman appointed George B. Van Saun of Cedar Falls to the vacancy thus created. On August 29 following the new Board convened at Clarinda and reorganized with Mr. Van Saun as President.

October, 1884, the commissioners purchased 513 acres of land one half mile north of Clarinda; upon this charming site commanding a beautiful view of the Nodaway valley the hospital was built. It is well drained and there is an abundant supply of as fine water as the earth affords. The cost of the land was \$29,425. The Pfeifer Cut Stone Co. bid \$10,788. The Dearborn Foundry Co.'s bid on the iron was \$22,100. G. W. Parker, roofing and cornice, \$3,100. These bids were accepted and were the beginning of the expenditures on this magnificent structure. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Co. at its own expense laid a switch from its St. Joe branch line just east of the Hospital down to the hospital which was of the greatest value to the state for which kindness the trustees and Board of Control will ever be grateful. The brick of the first buildings were made within a quarter of a mile of the foundation of the hospital.

Shortly after being organized and securing the land aforesaid the next important duty of the board under the powers conferred by law upon them was to procure plans and in this matter the commissioners acted wisely. They did not fall into the usual error of advertising for competitive bids with the usual result of obtaining impracticable plans by often impracticable and incompetent men. They quietly investigated the architectural talent of the state and fortunately secured the very competent and well known firm of Foster & Liebbe of Des Moines. This firm was engaged to design and supervise the entire structure. These men determined in the outset to enlighten the commissioners and themselves as well in the latest and best methods of hospital building. To this end they suggested an extensive tour of this country. Accordingly the commissioners in company with their architects visited nearly all the latest and best institutions of America, noting the good and bad features of all places inspected by them, rejecting the bad and adopting the good; upon their return the outline plans were projected, submitted, criticised, remodeled and a plan was adopted. It is now pronounced by many able artists who have studied the completed structure to be one of the best of its kind in the world.

In some violation of the strict letter of the act creating the hospital the plan and design adopted is what is known as the Corridor Connected Pavilion plan, consisting first of a Central Administration building containing the official and executive departments of the institution connecting by a rear corridor to the hospital system to the right, left, and rear. At the right to the female wing, at the left to the male wing, and at the rear to the maintenance and operative sections. While the general plans of the hospital were agreed upon originally, yet like most all of the earlier state institutions the appropriations were so

limited that only a part could be erected during any biennial period. But instead of attempting to lay the entire foundation and then waiting for additional appropriations for the superstructures and so attempting the whole group at one and the same time, the wiser policy was pursued of first erecting the Administration building and one wing. These were finished in advance with temporary arrangements for heating and culinary work. Thus earlier accommodations were provided for patients sadly needing relief from the poor houses of counties which were worse than prisons. It was made useful much in advance of the completion of the present superb structure.

After much preliminary thought and labor, came the solemn dedication. On the 4th day of July, 1885, the corner stone was laid by the Iowa Grand Lodge of Masons with imposing ceremonies and amid great rejoicing the noble edifice provided by noble men of a great state was solemnly consecrated to the relief of the most unfortunate of all of God's creatures on this earth. The governor was present with many other distinguished men of the state, Hon. J. S. Clarkson among them, all of whom were greatly impressed with the beauty of the site and the fertility of this rich valley in the lap of which sits Clarinda with its happy homes and contented people.

By December, 1885, the Central building and Supervisors department were under roof and one wing nearly so.

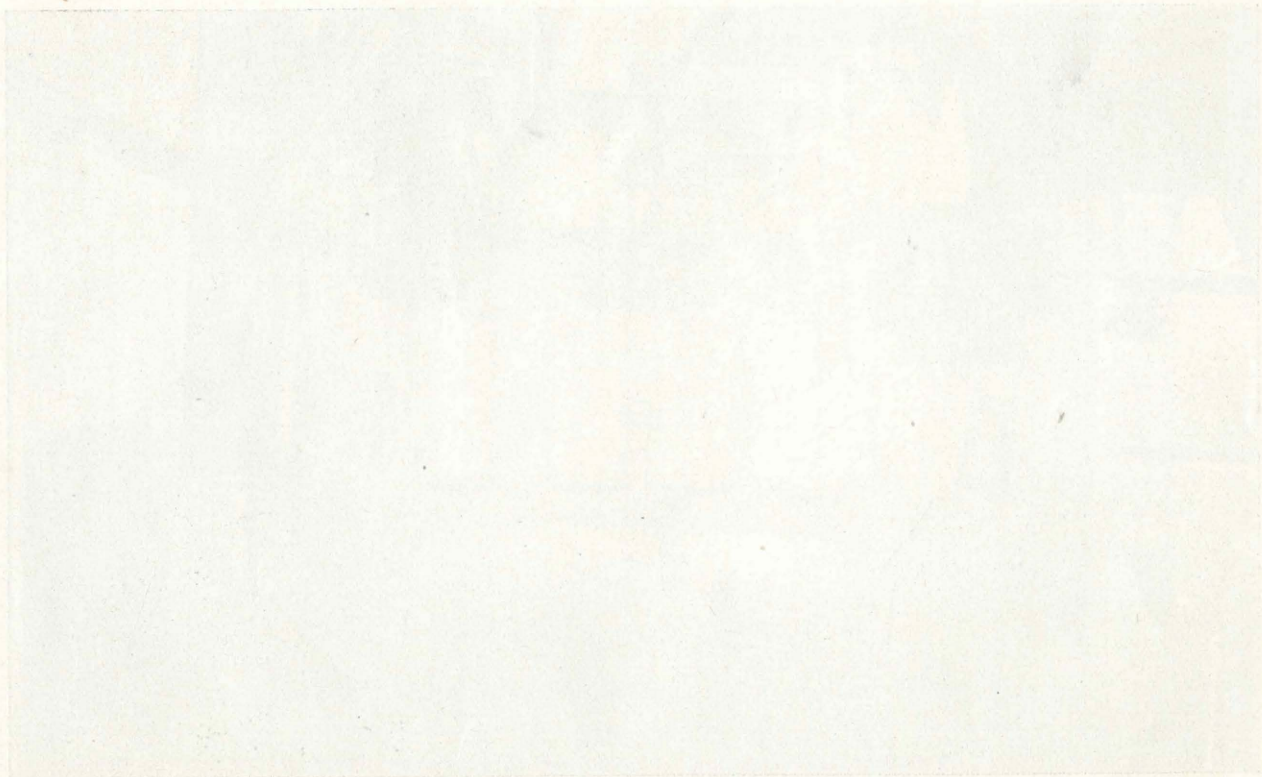
Owing to the intenseness of the strife for this prize, a great deal of hostile criticism was created. The press teemed with unfounded and damaging rumors so much so that the legislature, elected in the fall of 1885, was much prejudiced against the institution. When appropriation was sought for completing the hospital in 1886, another dangerous crisis was on us. Much talk was indulged in of abandoning the location and boxing up the plant. It is needless to say that a very arduous winter's work was done by all of the friends of the enterprise. The writer still represented the Seventh Senatorial District and Hon. William Butler was still the member from Page. These two members worked day and night for the life of the hospital. The author of this article will ever hold in grateful remembrance the great aid of Hon. J. A. T. Hull, Lieut.-Governor at the time, honest Ben. McCoy of Oskaloosa, Governor Larrabee and a host of other members from the Senate in securing the appropriation of \$103,000 with which to carry forward the work. This contest was prolonged and bitter but it put an end forever to all controversy and settled the question as to the future of the hospital.

Clarinda people will never forget the great service in all the struggles for this hospital of Hon. J. D. M. Hamilton who was a member of its board of trustees from the first to the last, nor will it forget any of the host of friends including especially Governor Larrabee, Rev. T. Mc K. Stuart, Edwin Hunter, E. J. Hartshorn, J. H. Dunlap and George B. Van Saun and last but not least, Gov. Buren R. Sherman.

The hospital was first opened for occupation December 15, 1888, with 222 male patients received from Independence, Mt. Pleasant and Mercy Hospitals.



A WARD ON THE WOMAN'S SIDE—CLARINDA HOSPITAL.



PARTIAL VIEW OF AN INFIRMARY WARD—CLARINDA HOSPITAL.

The commissioners filed their final report and were dissolved by operation of an act of the Twenty-second General Assembly which at the same time created a board of five trustees. The first board consisted of E. J. Hartshorn, President, Emmetsburg; L. B. Raymond, Secretary, Hampton; J. H. Dunlap, Clarinda; J. D. M. Hamilton, Fort Madison, Ed. H. Hunter, Des Moines. These officers came into power March 14, 1888, assuming the duties and powers of the commission dissolved by the act aforesaid. The Board elected L. E. Darrow of Corning, Treasurer. The Board also elected the Hon. P. W. Lewellen, M. D. of Clarinda as the first Superintendent who selected Dr. J. M. Aikin of Clarinda assistant physician, M. T. Butterfield of Fort Madison, Steward and Mrs. Alice W. Lewellen of Clarinda, Matron.

With occupation came activity. Patients were set to work, grading, sodding, tree planting and farming. Thus finally the whole scene was transformed from corn fields into a Highland Park. "A thing of beauty which will be a joy forever."

Additional appropriations were made from session to session and in like fragmentary manner wings and wards were added year by year until in 1897 the Hospital stood complete and the trustees in the proud consciousness of having done their work well surrendered the keys to the state of one of the best Hospitals in the world. When we walk about her walls and admire the grand structure it creates wonder that the work was so well done and in such harmony of its parts, it can only be explained in the perfection of the architectural plans and designs so carefully executed that through more than a decade no succeeding Board of Trustees either criticised or changed them. While it would appear to have been better from an architectural point of view to have have constructed the whole connected group at one and the same time, yet the strict adherence to a well formulated plan resulted in harmony and success not otherwise attainable. The first building erected was the Administration building with its connecting corridor, the Supervisors' section and the east wing. Next the kitchen and help departments, then the west wing and cold storage buildings. After this the permanent boiler house and east infirmary wards and at last the west infirmary wards.

It is difficult to give an intelligent pen picture of this ample structure. It must be seen and studied to be fully appreciated. Its total frontage is 1128 feet. Its total depth 840 feet, with a length of extended walls of one mile and a quarter covering many miles of floor space. An elegant and enduring house, the home of fully 1000 souls providing comfortable apartments for every want and need. A place to sleep and for refreshment; a place for amusement as well as for worship. A shelter from storm, sun, and heat, surrounded by shade trees, and beautiful lawns, adorned with flowers, gardens, fountains and evergreens and scenery as pleasing as our golden west affords. As you pass about and go through it, you can but marvel at the ignorance and stupidity of those who wish to still maintain their unfortunates in the disconsolate and forbidding poor house prisons on the county farms.

The style of the buildings is what is called "Modern Gothic," most appropriate for the material used in its construction, brick and stone with steep, slated roofs and such variety of outline and form that from all points of view there is harmony with contrast, a light and shade that ever pleases the eye. The height of the building is generally three stories though the Administration building is four.

SPECIAL FEATURES.

First the structure is fire proof composed everywhere of brick, stone, steel, plaster, tile, and cement as all state institutions should be made.

Second, the hospital is especially noted for its light, secured by a judicious separating and spacing of its wings and sections. The shade of one wing does not darken the windows in the adjacent wing, a serious defect in some other late copies.

The fenestration is such that this structure stands without a rival in this or any other country. Affording light without a parallel, light everywhere; there is not a dark place in it. Thousands of generous large windows admitting God's glorious sunshine, the best sanative on earth. This feature runs from basement to roof.

SANITARY FEATURES.

Of course no hospital would deserve the name without ample provisions in toilet and lavatories and their proper installation. No pains therefore were spared in this direction especially in the newer and later wards.

VENTILATION.

There is not in all the land a hospital better supplied with pure air. Thousands of air flues and ducts facilitate a constant circulation of pure air and by these means carry out all impure air, the latter being accelerated by numerous electric fans. The common remark of visitors is, "You don't seem to have the Hospital odor." This is true, for the great house seems to have lungs, breathing in pure and exhaling the vitiated air.

We think the ventilation of this institution is almost perfect.

HEAT.

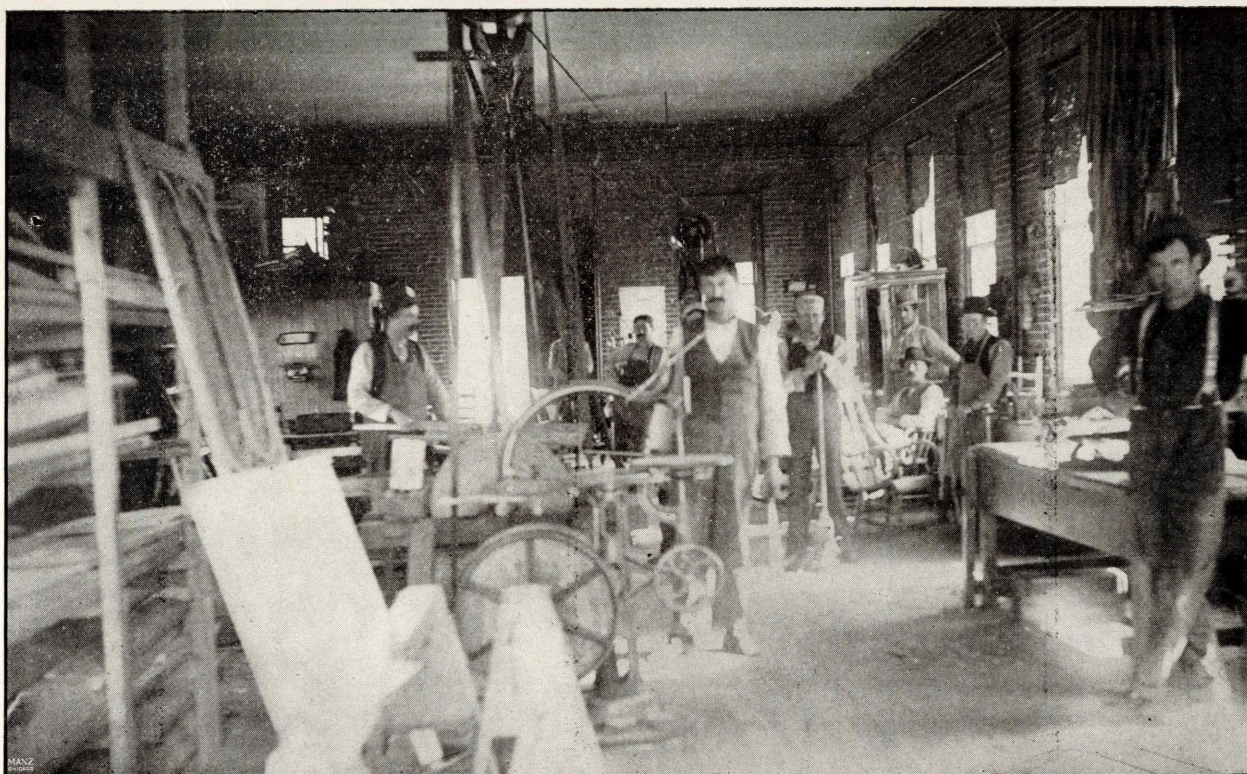
Notwithstanding the exposed situation of the institution, the mammoth structure is amply warmed in the winter season by low pressure steam, all from the boiler room at the rear, where many huge boilers afford all needed steam both for heat and power.

ILLUMINATION.

The vast expanse of window surface is brilliantly illuminated at night by the thousands of incandescent electric lamps, and the whole interior is made as bright as day. This is generated and controlled by the engines in the dynamo room at rear.



A WARD DURING REVIEW - CLARINDA HOSPITAL.
DINING-ROOM



PARTIAL VIEW OF INDUSTRIAL SHOP FOR MEN—CLARINDA HOSPITAL.

WATER.

Good wholesome water is obtained by a steam driven deep well pump and a chain of storage cisterns, besides numerous soft water cisterns, so that this important article is now to be had in abundance both for culinary purposes and fire protection.

INFIRMARY WARDS.

"While all is good," we cannot forbear mentioning the new infirmary wards. These with their mammoth circular bay dormitories, large open fire places and toilet arrangement are admitted to be the finest in the United States.

And now that this institution is under the fostering care of the most excellent Board of Control, we may surely predict that many unfortunate creatures will live to bless the day when their fevered brains are cooled, and their distorted minds restored to mental balance, and go home, back into the activity of life, fully restored as proofs of a great state's beneficence, a token of man's love for man, and so long as this hospital shall stand, it will be a monument to the Architects, Foster & Liebbe, and the Boards who put forth their best efforts for its establishment.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENTS.

Various industries have been a prominent feature in the economy of this hospital, and this for a two fold reason; in the first place furnish agreeable and stimulating work and occupation to convalescing patients, and secondly to effect a saving to the state. Thus, there has been continuously in operation for a number of years, a department for the manufacture of clothing. Here all clothing worn by the patients, both men and women is made, with the exception of white dress shirts for the men, and hose and hats. Cloth and material are bought in large quantities by the bolt, and are cut by a tailoress and made into clothing under her supervision, by several assistants and a number of patients helping. Clothing not sufficiently worn to be condemned is repaired and put in a suitable condition for further use. A second very satisfactory industrial department is the shoe shop, where all the foot wear for both men and women is manufactured under the direction and supervision of a shoemaker who is assisted by patients who have a liking and aptitude for that class of work. Another pleasing industry is that of wood working, wherein the furniture of various kinds is made and repaired. This is located in a separate building, and here under the supervision of a foreman some twelve to twenty-five convalescing or mildly disordered patient may be seen every week day busily engaged in planing, scraping, matching, and manufacturing all sorts of wooden articles and useful pieces of furniture. A simple, modest equipment of machinery is installed in this place and is used to good advantage. An industrial building of twice or three times the capacity would still better meet the need of the institution.

As a matter of fact, the convenience and advantage of this industrial building is not so much displayed in the manufacture of new fur-

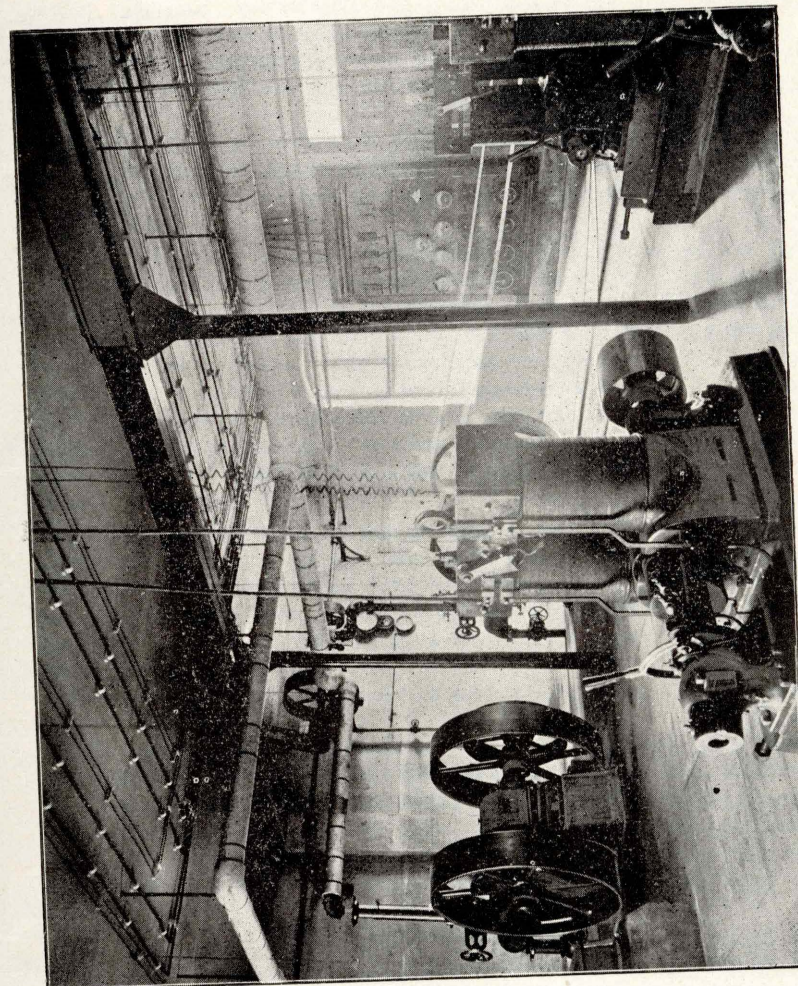
niture as the repairing of old. From the nature and character of the hospital population breakage and wear to furniture as well as to other articles of equipment are inordinately great as compared with that of the average home, and it is in keeping up repairs of this that the industrial building shows to its greatest advantage. In connection with this industrial building is a broom making department, where all the brooms needed for the hospital are manufactured. The only thing bought is the twine wire and occasionally broom handles, which, however, are used over and over again until practically worn out. Broom corn is raised on the farm, and usually a two year supply is laid in stock.

A mattress making department is also connected with this building, where all the new mattresses used in the institution are made in a separate room. Mattress hair is bought and also a good quality of material for the case, which is made up in the sewing room and afterwards filled by some patients, who have become quite expert in the making of mattresses and who work under the supervision of the foreman of industrial building. Soiled or worn mattresses in which the hair has become packed are taken apart, thoroughly renovated by steam, dried, thoroughly picked and the hair used over again. Part of the time a tin shop is operated in connection with the industrial building, although it is located in a different building and the needed repairs in the tin ware of the institution are made, but the manufacture of new tin ware has not been attempted to any considerable extent.

These various industries have afforded a pleasant occupation for patients who would otherwise find time heavy on their hands, and in a vast number of instances the work has operated as a decided remedial agent by diverting the patient's attention from himself and his troubles and stimulating and directing his interests in healthy and pleasant grooves. The economical feature of these industries has also been very prominent and, as indicated elsewhere, the greatest advantage is in the readiness with which repairs can be made and the hospital population be made comfortable. The institution has always had good facilities for the amusement of the patient. We have one of the finest halls in the country where chapel services are held each Sabbath and frequent plays performed for the benefit of the inmates. Then performances are put upon the stage by the talent of the institution. The medical staff below the superintendent frequently participating and the attendants nearly always take some part. There are frequent dances in this elegant hall to exhilarate and enliven the many patients who engage in the amusement. The hospital band has for years been the pride of the Hospital and of the town as well.

MANAGEMENT.

Subjoined will be found a list of the officers of the hospital. It will be noticed that it has had three superintendents; Dr. P. W. Lewellen was the first. His home for nearly forty years has been at Clarinda. He is an accomplished and scholarly gentleman, a physician of wide



PARTIAL VIEW OF ENGINE AND DYNAMO ROOM—CLARINDA HOSPITAL.

experience and learning in his profession, having been in the active practice here for 37 years; a man of noble heart and exalted sentiment. He had the most difficult task of organizing the institution in its crude condition. With limited facilities and under great embarrassments, heating, lighting, ventilation, sewerage and everything of a temporary character. Yet he was found adequate to the great demands upon him, so arduous were his duties and so devoted his labor that his health gave way under the strain, which to this day we are sorry to say he has not regained. On December 31, 1892, he resigned his position.

Dr. Lewellen had been state senator from this district and also member of the State Board of Health prior to his incumbency and is beloved by all who know him as a most humane man and as a most excellent citizen.

Dr. Frank C. Hoyt, now superintendent at Mount Pleasant was his successor. The Board brought him from St. Joseph, Mo., where he had found wide experience in the Hospital of that state. He is a cultured and accomplished scholarly gentleman and well up in his profession, a tireless worker and one of the most exact and well posted business men of the state. A natural born organizer, and under his superb control the hospital made great strides and was in all of its service brought so high as to make it the admiration and pride of the state. The state will ever be indebted to him for six years of faithful and efficient service.

Dr. Hoyt resigned his position on Sept. 30, 1898, in order to take up a cherished project in Chicago and the Board selected Dr. Max E. Witte of Mt. Pleasant as his successor. Since Oct. 1, 1898, Dr. Witte has filled the place with marked ability and to the satisfaction of the state. Dr. Witte has served the state for nearly a quarter of a century at Mt. Pleasant Hospital for the insane. No man in Iowa is better qualified for the superintendency of such a place than Dr. Max E. Witte.

His learning upon all diseases of the human mind and upon the treatment of the insane is broad and comprehensive. He is an authority upon such questions, which, added to his wide experience, makes him an invaluable servant of the state. He is practical, plain, and most genial and kind. We are all grateful that the unfortunate people of the hospital have such a competent friend to control and heal them.

TRUSTEES.

The following named gentlemen have served upon the board of trustees.

E. J. Hartshorn, Emmettsburg.
 L. B. Raymond, Hampton.
 J. H. Dunlap, Clarinda.
 J. D. M. Hamilton, Fort Madison.
 Ed. H. Hunter, Des Moines.
 M. N. Spencer, Red Oak.



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