

THE
BOARD OF CONTROL
OF STATE
INSTITUTIONS

By J. H. STRIEF, Chairman

DECEMBER 1922

PRINTED AT
THE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS
ELDORA, IOWA

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The Board of Control of State Institutions

By J. H. STRIEF, Chairman

IN GENERAL

The Board of Control law was enacted by the 27th general assembly and went into effect on July 1st, 1898.

The Board is composed of three members, appointed for a term of six years. Not more than two of such members shall belong to the same political party and no two members shall reside at the time of their appointment in the same congressional district. Appointments are made by the governor and must be confirmed by the Senate.

In our offices at the state house, we have 18 employes—11 women and seven men.

At the time the Board of Control law went into effect, there were 14 institutions under its control, as follows:

Men's Reformatory, Anamosa
Cherokee State Hospital, Cherokee
Clarinda State Hospital, Clarinda
Independence State Hospital, Independence
Mt. Pleasant State Hospital, Mt. Pleasant
Soldiers' Orphans' Home, Davenport
Training School for Boys, Eldora
Training School for Girls, Mitchellville
State Penitentiary, Fort Madison
Institution for Feeble-Minded Children, Glenwood
Hospital for Inebriates, Knoxville
Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown
School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs
School for the Blind, Vinton

The two last mentioned institutions have since been transferred to the Board of Education and are at the present time under its supervision.

The hospital at Knoxville, which has for the past two years been leased to the federal government, was purchased by the government in June, 1922, to be used in caring for insane soldiers of the World War.

Since the Board of Control was organized there has been established four additional institutions, viz.: State Hospital and Colony for

Epileptics, Woodward; State Sanatorium for the Treatment of Tuberculosis, Oakdale; Women's Reformatory, Rockwell City, and the State Juvenile Home, Toledo, which makes a total of fifteen institutions under our supervision at this time, with a total population of 10,618 men, women and children.

✓ Each institution has an executive head, appointed by the Board for a term of four years. Officials so appointed must have the qualifications required and perform all duties provided by statute.

At the present time we have fifteen executive officers in charge of the institutions under our control. Of this number, 13 are men and two women. We also have six women physicians on the medical staffs of the State hospitals.)

During the biennial period ending June 30, 1922, 1408 male and 946 female patients were released from the institutions under our control in the following manner:

✓ From the four State Hospitals for the Insane—510 male patients and 565 female patients were paroled.

From the Training School for Girls, Mitchellville—78 girls paroled.

From the Training School for Boys, Eldora—452 boys were paroled and discharged.

From the State Hospital for Epileptics, Woodward—66 male patients and 31 female patients; total—97 patients paroled.

Inebriates—18 male patients and 12 female patients; total—30 patients paroled.

From the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and the State Juvenile Home—Boys 81—Girls 149; total 330 paroled.

From the Institution for Feeble-minded, Glenwood—175 male patients and 101 female patients; total—276 discharged.

From the Women's Reformatory, Rockwell City—16 paroled.

✓ Our Board does not have the parole work in connection with the State Penitentiary and the Men's Reformatory. For those two institutions a separate board of three members has the parole work in charge.

In the management and control of the fifteen institutions there are employed, not including the executive heads, 840 men and 750 women, making a total of 1590 people. This number includes those at the Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, and the State Penitentiary, Fort Madison, where women are not employed, except as stenographers. For their services the institution employes receive approximately \$1,144,442.05 yearly.

In order that you may have some idea of the cost of maintaining the fifteen institutions under control of the Board I have prepared a statement showing the cost of some of the supplies used

and purchased by our department for two year period ending June 30th, 1922:

Flour and Bread	\$ 198,384.70
Potatoes	140,414.10
Meat, fresh and cured	559,019.15
Tea	13,947.18
Coffee	55,623.46
Other Groceries	590,891.78
Dry Goods and Household Stores	390,793.44
Clothing	292,406.99
Total	\$ 2,241,480.80

Farming is carried on extensively at practically all of the institutions. In connection with the institutions we have 11,627 acres of land. The farms are all worked by inmate help under the supervision of the head farmer, except at the Soldiers' Home, State Juvenile Home, Sanatorium for the Treatment of Tuberculosis and the Hospital and Colony for Epileptics.

The value of farm products raised during the two-year period just ended was \$1,322,633.08. A number of the institutions own large dairy herds which have proven very profitable to the state. The dairy report for the period (2 years) and compiled in this office August 31, 1922, shows that during that time 756 cows were milking, producing 12,537,003 pounds of milk, all of which was used at the institutions. Figuring this milk at the market price it had a value of \$337,750.65.

During this same period we expended for feed for the dairy herds \$126,594.36. Taking the amount expended for feed from the actual market value of the milk produced, leaves a net profit of \$211,156.29.

Practically all of the institutions are equipped with slaughter houses, which makes it possible for each to supply their meat at a low cost. Where this is done a saving of 25 per cent, has been effected, as compared with the wholesale price of the meat packers, from whom we would otherwise buy.

The following table shows the quantity of coal used at the institutions for the two year period ending June 30th, 1922:

Iowa Coal	153,908 tons....	\$ 847,919.02
Illinois Coal	38,341 tons....	248,208.98
Indiana Coal	14,977 tons....	62,240.81
Other Coal purchased 7007 tons..		28,949.70
Total amount purchased	214,233 tons	
Total Cost		\$ 1,187,318.51

THE PENAL INSTITUTIONS

We have three such institutions, the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, the Men's Refomatory at Anamosa, and Women's Refomatory at Rockwell City. All inmates are sentenced to serve terms at hard labor.

Although the population at each of the penal institutions is double what it was a few years ago, our Board has found it possible to provide employment for all, and such employment is of a healthy and beneficial nature. At the State Penitentiary and Men's Refomatory trades are taught in the numerous shops inside the walls including a chair factory, butter tub factory, carpenter shop, tin shop, machine shop, barber shop, stone cutting, shoe making, laundering, rug weaving, tailoring, etc. Also farming, gardening, dairying and cheese making. The four latter pursuits are carried on outside the prison walls and the work is performed by honor prisoners.

At the State Penitentiary we farm 1,028 acres.

At the Men's Refomatory 2,125 acres.

At the Women's Refomatory 220 acres

Schools also are conducted at the three institutions, manned by an efficient corps of teachers. Many prisoners, we find, are unable to read or write when received, a number of whom are foreigners.

There are well equipped libraries at each, containing thousands of volumes of the best books obtainable, and the prisoners do a lot of reading, taking books to their cells, where they are confined outside of working hours, except when in attendance upon amusements, consisting of baseball, football, motion pictures, amateur theatricals, etc. The State Penitentiary and Men's Refomatory both have splendid bands and orchestras, and during each noonday meal the best of music is provided. The band and orchestra membership is made up of prisoners, except the music instructor.

The work at the Women's Refomatory consists of farming, dairying, poultry raising, gardening, floriculture, dressmaking, stenography, art needlework, laundry work, cooking school and grade school.

There are but four men employed at that institution—a farmer, engineer, fireman and chore man.

The women inmates operate tractors, self binders, corn plows, mowers, in fact all kinds of farm machinery, do the milking and look after the dairy and swine herds, assist in filling silos, putting up hay and all farm operations, and most of them prefer the outside work on the farm and enjoy it. A variety of indoor and outdoor amusements are provided.

The Refomatory consists of six buildings—administration building, power house, industrial and school building, this building also houses the library, and three cottoges for inmates with a capacity of fifty each.

The Women's Refomatory is a cottage plan institution, and there are very few like it in other states. Our neighboring state,

Nebraska, is now planning a similar institution, and no doubt will copy the Iowa institution in its entirety.

Our reformatories stand high in the opinion of the federal government and we care for a number of federal prisoners at each.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

STATE SANATORIUM FOR THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

This hospital is located at Oakdale, a few miles from Iowa City. At present we are caring for 259 patients there.

A new medical and laboratory building was completed this year. This building also houses 50 patients, together with employes' dining room, consulting rooms, drug room, as well as offices for the superintendent and medical staff. The cost of the building and equipment was \$150,750.72.

We have now under way an addition to the advance case hospital building, which will cost \$175,000, and will make this Iowa institution one of the most modern and complete of its kind in the United States.

Splendid results are achieved there in the treatment and cure of those afflicted with the dread white plague.

A special line of food is provided by the state for the Sanatorium, and the best medical attention available is given sufferers from tuberculosis.

I wish to call your attention to one article of food supplied. During the two year period ending June 30, 1922, 35,785 dozen of No. 1 eggs were purchased at a cost of \$11,962.75. Eggs and milk are an important part of the dietary.

HOSPITAL AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS

The hospital and colony is located at Woodward, 28 miles northwest of Des Moines. The buildings are on a 1144-acre farm. Originally this institution was intended only for the care of those afflicted with epilepsy, but the increase in the number of feeble-minded in the state moved our Board to present a bill in the last session of the General Assembly making provision for the care of feeble-minded also at that institution. The population of epileptics at that time was small, about 240. The legislature passed our bill, new buildings were constructed,—two—and feeble-minded patients admitted. At present the population numbers 424. Additional buildings must be built there to care for an increasing number of feeble-minded, and appropriations for same will be asked of the next General Assembly.

The institution is complete in every particular, and has in connection an excellent grade school for the children inmates.

THE IOWA SOLDIERS' HOME

This is where our state cares for the old veterans of the civil war, also their wives and widows. Located at Marshalltown, in a beautiful park. The population at this time is: Men 313; women 229. The best of care is given the members of the home, and they are made as happy as possible in their declining years. The average age of the male members is eighty-five years.

A few veterans of the Spanish-American war are at the home, and of course in the years to come more of them will be received and cared for there, as will also veterans of the World war.

The Iowa Soldiers' Home is reputed to be one of the best.

WHAT OUR STATE IS DOING FOR ITS CHILDREN WARDS

In a period of two years about 600 juvenile offenders were committed to state institutions for children. There are twenty-nine private institutions caring for children in this state. The number cared for each year averaging about 3,000.

Iowa at this time has four state institutions conducted for the care of its orphaned, neglected, dependent and delinquent children: the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Davenport, the Training School for Girls at Mitchellville, the Training School for Boys at Eldora, and State Juvenile Home at Toledo, all of which are under control of the Board of Control of State Institutions.

Working in connection with the four institutions we now have seven state agents—five women and two men. The state agent system was inaugurated in 1904, at which time one agent took care of all such work for three institutions. Approximately 4,000 children have been placed in homes since the beginning of the state agent system.

About 1,500 children are now receiving after care through our department. The state, through the placing agents, at all times is in close touch with the children and their welfare—they are thus looked after carefully. Of this number 500 were returned to the homes of parents.

Of the 4,000 children before mentioned that have been placed in homes, 1,500 were from the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, 1,700 from the Training School for Boys and 800 from the Training School for Girls. All were placed in good homes and a large number on farms.

From the two training schools there were paroled into homes in a two-year period, 553 children, 447 of whom had been in the schools less than three years, and 100 for a longer period than three years. The remaining population in the two training schools at the close of the biennial period ending June 30, 1922, totalled 570—465 having been in the schools less than three years, and 105 longer than three years.

The average stay of children at the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, is less than three years. You will note the children are kept in the institutions only a sufficient time for proper training and placement in suitable homes. Our placement contracts provide that the children are to be trained, loved and educated, and fitted for the ordinary requirements of life.

We also have the School and Home for Feebleminded Children at Glenwood and the children's department of the State Hospital and Colony for Epileptics at Woodward.

Iowa as well as all other states has the same problem to deal with, to properly care for these unfortunates and educate

those mentally deficient, in order to make them self-supporting when they reach mature years and fit them for useful citizens.

The majority of children who are state wards are such because of divorces, death of one or both parents, or the latter's inability or unfitness to care for them. The total number of child dependents is constantly increasing, and this is true also of juvenile delinquents. It is the duty of the state through legislative enactment to provide ways and means for such children to receive adequate training for life's service. This was recognized long ago by the good people of our great state, and the citizenship of the state can well be proud of the fact that we have such institutions for children's care. We are not proud that they must be placed in such institutions, but it is a splendid thing for unfortunate boys and girls who have wandered into wrong paths that, in the establishment of such institutions, the state has provided a foster parent.

Very often I wish the state had an institution to which the neglectful parent could be committed. It is the parent who needs helpful training just as much as the unfortunate boy or girl who has fallen.

The Iowa law governing the board of control provides for supervision by the board of all institutions or associations, public or private, that receive children or place children in foster homes. All such institutions are subject to inspection and indorsement by the Board. The Board is required to pass upon the manner in which the wards of such institutions are cared for, and also to examine into the system employed in the admission and discharge of children and their placement in homes. All such private institutions are inspected by the Board of Control twice yearly and a complete record of such inspections, financial reports, etc., are kept at the Board's office. The state institutions are visited and inspected more frequently.

State supervision, to be constructive, must be systematically exercised. Any investigator can find abundant opportunity for criticism in the best ordered institutions. It becomes therefore a task necessitating unusual tact and discretion to secure needful correction without dissipating the altruistic activities of others. In connection with this I wish to quote as follows from a report of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor:

"The State is as greatly concerned in the conservation and development of the initiative of managers and trustees as it is in the correction of the abuses of their institutions. It is therefore necessary to employ in this service only such persons as are able to maintain a properly balanced perspective, who have an understanding of children, and who understand the technique of case work and family rehabilitation and at least the fundamentals of institutional administration. The investigators must have a profound sympathy for the children concerned, and a vision as to the possibilities of their future. Such investigators will readily impress the officials in charge of the institutions of their desire to be of real service in the solving of the institution problems. They will be able to advise with the superintendent sensibly concerning the creating of a normal atmosphere in the institution. They will be able to secure for the children the recreational, the vocational, the physical, the social, the educational and the religious opportunities so frequently

denied. If the low standards of the institution have been due to ignorance, the investigator should remain in the institution long enough to work out a program consistent with available resources. If the institution's standards are sacrificed because of the necessity of keeping within a low per capita support fund, it becomes the privilege of the investigator, through the development of educational propaganda, to secure for the institution needful financial support. The state will make a serious mistake if, in the exercise of its police function, in the elimination of bad agencies it forgets its greater opportunity in rendering helpful and constructive service to the weaker agencies under its supervision."

A child committed to a state correctional institution should be permitted to remain there a sufficient time to be reasonably certain of the elimination and correction of old habits, formed previous to commitment. Many cases are the result of environment and not all can be cured of vicious habits.

Parents constantly are pleading for the return home of children. Many of the homes, we find upon investigation, are unfit places to send a child and such requests are denied. Some parents seek the return home of children because the children are capable of earning a few dollars. It is the dollars they crave more than the company of the children. These requests also are denied.

After a child is once placed in charge of the state, the state is interested then only in the welfare of that child, and whatever can be accomplished for its best interest and welfare will be done.

I wish now to outline in a condensed manner some things that are being done for the children in state institutions.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS

I know of no better explanation of what Iowa is doing to make good citizens out of bad boys than to quote from an article by a writer of international note who spent several days visiting at the Training School for Boys at Eldora and making a careful inspection. As an introductory to the article the writer said:

"Far away from the maddening crowds of the congested cities, almost hidden amongst mounds and hillocks in a sequestered spot, the State of Iowa is doing a most beneficent work. Here it has built a factory where warped timber is being straightened for use in erecting a glorious national edifice. To this mill the bad boys—youths who are wild and mischievous and who have been caught at thieving and other crimes—are sent from cities and townships. Here they are trained to be good, to abide by the laws, and to perform their duties to God and man, in a careful, conscientious manner. Here they are taught the banes of feeding on human society like so many leeches, and through a sane and practical education of the head, heart and hand, are prepared to lead a life of usefulness. The State of Iowa takes in hand what, until lately, would have been considered waste material and transforms it into a worthwhile productive substance. To understand the workings of the Training School for Boys at Eldora one must grasp the vital principles upon which it is planned."

The Training School is in no sense a penal one, this fact I wish to impress upon you. It is a cottage plan institution. Seven good sized cottages provide living quarters. No meals are served in the

cottages. A large congregate dining room, seating 500, is provided in the administration building. In this building also is the dining room for officers and employes. Adequate kitchen and a bakery are located in the same building.

The cottage system thus provides a home rather than an institution.

The institution consists of a group of 35 buildings, situated on a farm of 950 acres a mile west of the town of Eldora.

Excellent educational facilities are provided. All grade work, same as in the public schools, is carried on. Each year work done by students is entered in competition at both the Hardin County and State fairs, and premiums on such work have been awarded each year, including a number of first prizes.

About fifty boys graduate each year from the eighth grade and receive diplomas from the Board of Control, also high school admission certificates from the county superintendent, admitting them to any high school in the state.

Each department is in charge of an intelligent, interested and sympathetic man or woman. They are instructors. The cottages are in charge of a man and his wife designated as family managers—the father and mother of the cottage, and they do father and mother the boys and see that they conduct themselves like gentlemen; also train them in the particular line of work they have in charge. We have in Iowa today some successful lawyers, bankers and other business men who have been inmates of this school. And many former inmates that we know are holding responsible places of employment.

Not all who are committed to the Training School make good upon parole or discharge. It is not to be expected. But the great good accomplished for a large percentage of the commitments is very gratifying.

Agriculture, floriculture, gardening, dairying and stock raising are among the most important vocations taught.

In well equipped shops, each in charge of an experienced artisan, the following trades are taught: Baking, Barbering, Blacksmithing, Bricklaying, Carpentering, Cooking, Buttermaking, Electrical Engineering, Harness Making, Laundering, Painting, Plastering, Plumbing, Printing, Shoemaking, Stationary Engineering, Steam Fitting, Stone Masonary, Cement Work, Tailoring.

Boys are permitted, as far as possible, to choose the trade or occupation they take up.

Whether or not they are finished mechanics when leaving the school, of course, depends on how long a time they remain there. They learn the fundamentals necessary at least to earn a living while completing their apprenticeship away from the school.

Each day is divided in two parts during the school year, four hours being devoted to academic work and four hours to manual labor. The small boy as well as the large one has some task, carrying a certain responsibility, to perform each day and thus develop an ability to do things. And the boys who have failed along such lines at home manifest an interest in the school work and manual labor that is indeed surprising. And why, simply because of proper handling and encouragement, proper food, regular hours for work, play and sleep, clean surroundings and wholesome en-

vironment. Before breakfast each morning thirty minutes is devoted to military drill, supervised by the family managers and a competent military instructor, following which you can rest assured the boys have appetites for breakfast. They have a dress parade each Sunday and Butts Manual of rifle drill (rifles made of wood at the school) is executed by the seven companies in unison to music.

For entertainment a splendid band composed of members of the school gives concerts on the campus each Sunday evening, under the supervision of the bandmaster and instructor in music.

Each cottage is supplied with a phonograph and a list of circulating records. Motion pictures are shown in the chapel each week during the fall and winter months. Each Christmas the band company puts on a cantata, the parts assigned for girls are taken by the boys, of course, in girl's attire. The singing and acting are very clever.

Athletics consist of two football teams and several baseball teams. An up-to-the-minute gymnasium and swimming pool proves a most delightful feature of the school life. This building also contains a fine billiard room, equipped with several good tables and two bowling alleys.

In the matter of directed play we find there basket ball, volley ball, indoor baseball, bowling, swimming contests, track meets, etc. The Training School is a member of the State High School Athletic Association and has regularly scheduled football games and takes part in the state field meet.

The school library contains 3,000 volumes and a large list of circulating current literature. Forty of the best magazines and periodicals are kept circulating in the different cottages. The boys do a great deal of reading, much more than they were in the habit of doing at home.

One of the most important departments is that wherein band music is taught. The best music is supplied and the band always makes a hit when playing in public. Sixty to 70 boys are in training for the band throughout the year.

The population of the school is now under 400.

For the biennial period ending June 30, 1922, the value of the farm, garden and dairy products totaled \$62,933.03, netting a good profit of the institution.

The large acreage of farm lands connected with all of our state institutions, and the profits made therefrom, is the reason for the low per capita support, as compared with other states, necessary for the operation of the institutions and care of the wards.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

No state can boast of a better institution than this for the proper training, education and care of unfortunate, misled and neglected girls.

How fortunate that our state has such a splendid school and home in which to care for those so heedlessly neglected in their own homes.

Many parents are apparently so careless or so shiftless they do not see their child is being led into trouble until the evil is actually forced on their attention. Did the parents give proper

thought as to the child's associates and habits away from home and confer with the child as they should and give her words of good advice and proper care before the age of forming real evil habits we would not have examples of neglect in this respect, such as occurred in one of our courts when the judge completed a fatherly lecture to a girl brought before him. He asked the girl if she thought the rules of conduct as authorized by him were right and good for girls to follow. She replied: "Yes, but if I had a daughter I would tell her such things before she was sixteen years of age." Too late, that is the story of many cases which results in the child being committed to our training schools.

The Training School for Girls is located on the edge of the town of Mitchellville, has a very beautiful grounds and a farm comprising 175 acres. The school is conducted on the cottage plan. There are six cottages, a large chapel building, a hospital building and a modern laundry. Three of the cottages are old but comfortable, two are more modern and a few years old. One cottage is of the most modern and fireproof construction. The inmates of each cottage are termed a family and are in charge of a family manager.

The population at this time is 201. One state agent is constantly employed in parole and placement work for this school.

The day school includes all classes to and including the eighth grade. An efficient corps of teachers is in charge of this branch of the work.

There are a number of departments of learning, other than the day school, as follows: Dressmaking, art needle work, cooking school, laundering with up-to-date equipment, gardening, floriculture and dairying. The milking is done by inmates. The school has an abundance of good cream and milk for consumption by the school population. Cooking, baking, sewing, mending, darning, preparing seed for garden planting, picking strawberries, gathering fruits and vegetables in season and preserving and storing same in commodious root cellars, and other domestic duties are taught in a practical way.

Classes from the Domestic Science department are graduated several times each year; also classes graduate yearly from the eighth grade. All graduates are presented with diplomas. The eighth grade graduates plant a class tree each year.

Music is an important part of the instruction received by the girls. A complete orchestra is in training all of the time. In the winter months concerts are given in the chapel, while in the warm months open air concerts are much enjoyed on the lawn.

Other amusements furnished at the school consist of motion pictures, plays in the cottages and chapel, volley ball, basket ball, croquet, lawn tennis and indoor baseball.

Each Saturday the girls receive lessons in folk-lore games, dancing, drills, etc., by a competent teacher.

The girls appreciate all the state is doing for them. They learn to love the school. For many it is the only decent home they ever had. The condition in which some of the girls reach the school beggars description. It is sufficient to say that some of them arrive badly diseased, poorly clothed, covered with vermin and poorly nourished. The appreciation shown by many of the girls going out from the school is best told by dozens of letters

received from them. I wish to quote from such letters as follows:

"Dearest Friend: Somehow I feel just like I am one of your girls and I rather lean on you. I feel now and always will that I am your girl and belong to the school. The best days of my girlhood were spent there and I realize now it was the molding of womanhood and motherhood. I am very happy to think God has gifted me with being a mother. I love my babies dearly and I am going to raise them right and do better by them than my mother did by me. They are wonderful children. They are so good and so innocent. When I'm doing my work I think of the girls at the school. It won't be long till they will be like me doing their own work in their own homes and they will look back to when they were at the school and wish they had been better and done better. I did not learn as much as I should have but, had I not been sent there, I would probably be as low as they go. I have never regretted that I was sent to the school, for now I have a good honest husband and my babies and that is all I care about. I know you are as much interested in my well doing as if I was that same girl on parole, so if my mother forsakes me another mother cares for me. I surely would love to have you meet my husband and see my babies. I know you would like my husband and love my little ones. I have my garden all in except tomatoes and cucumbers. I have about sixty-five chicks and they are doing fine. Will close with love to all the girls, I remain your girl_____."

A paroled girl writes: "I like it here fine. Seems like starting my life all over again. It is not one bit hard for me to do what is right now. I used to wonder, when I was at the training school, if it was so hard for the girls to go out and make good. It seems good to know how to cook and do things nicely. I was so proud of my diploma". This girl graduated from the school domestic science department.

The following is from a girl on parole and is indicative of the class of homes the state finds for its wards: "I am well and happy and have one of the best homes in Iowa. Everyone is so good to me and I appreciate their kindness. And Mr. _____ is so good and kind to everyone in the family. He reads out of the Bible and we have prayers every morning, and the good people I am with are going to make me better".

Seventy-five percent of the girls committed to the Training School for Girls make good upon parole and final discharge.

INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLEMINDED CHILDREN

This is the largest of the Iowa State institutions, having an inmate population of 1,540 which, together with the large list of employes necessary to carry on the work and care for the large number of inmates, makes a total population of about 1,700 at this time. The institution is located at the edge of the corporate limits of the town of Glenwood. The only thing separating the institution grounds from the town proper is the tracks of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway.

Feeble-minded boys and girls are very happy and contented when congregated in groups of their kind as they are at the Iowa institution. The general plan and design of the buildings are such as to indicate that it is not intended for a penal institution. It is

wholly educational and for custodial care of inmates of such low mentality that they are unable to care for themselves, some of whom are unable even to feed themselves, let alone dress and keep themselves clean. It has been and is now a place of safety for many hundreds of such children.

The school system at Glenwood is a very extensive one. In fact the original law governing this institution intended that it should be primarily an adjunct to the public school system, to teach in the best possible manner children of the state whose mental or physical peculiarities made it impossible for them to secure an education in the common schools. Twenty school teachers are employed.

The kindergarten classes are composed of children whose chronological age averages nine years. The work carried along does not differ from that in the public school kindergarten, consisting of singing in chorus, singing games, folk lore dances, cutting paper designs and figures, free hand sketching and sense training consisting of color work, balance walking, etc.

The sexes are segregated in the grades. The first grade work is equivalent to the first and second grades of the public schools and consists of reading, writing, number work, geography, history, language stories and gymnasium work.

The second grade is equivalent to the second and third public school grades, a continuation of the work from the first grade with books for language, arithmetic and history, plus supplementary reading, gymnasium and chorus work.

In the third grade they have reading from books, arithmetic, as far as fractions, hygiene, history, language, gymnasium and chorus work.

The same schoolwork is provided for both boys and girls.

Then there are special classes. For the boys—basket weaving, woodwork, physical training, toy whittling, games and music, both vocal and instrumental, including an orchestra and band. For the girls—plain sewing, loom work, rug weaving, lace making, and all kinds of fancy work, domestic science, physical training, also music, both vocal and instrumental. All the above comprise teaching for morons and imbeciles.

About one-half of the total number of inmates are receiving daily instruction in one of the various schools maintained at the institution. After having passed through the school period the inmates are employed in useful work, such as they prove fitted for.

There is little hesitation on the part of parents of children subject to commitment to this institution in sending their children there to secure such education as they are capable of receiving. Many of the children later are taken from the school and live useful lives in the care of parents or other interested relatives and friends. The higher grade of inmates much resemble any normal children acting and living under normal conditions. The majority of the inmates are under sixteen years of age. The institution has 1,015 acres of land, 900 acres of which are tillable, 115 acres being devoted to grounds and parks.

The profit from the products of the farm, garden and dairy for the biennial period ending June 30, 1922, amounted to \$62,668.03. The total credit from farm products was \$120,164.47. This includes a large supply of milk from a splendid dairy herd

which produced 1,779,960 pounds of milk, all of which is consumed at the institution.

A very large majority of the inmates of the home for feeble-minded need and should have the care of the institution as long as they live.

HOSPITAL AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS

The institution is caring for a boy and girl population numbering about 100 in addition to a larger population of adult patients. The best medical care and attention is provided. Nutritious and proper foods are supplied which aid in the reduction of epileptic seizures. Treatment and care are given these children which it would be impossible to duplicate in any private home, and the children are more happy and contented than they could be in their own homes.

The colony for epileptics is provided with a school building and both scholastic and industrial features are included in the school program. It is the aim of the officers and teachers at the colony to cover the work usually done in the grade schools throughout Iowa. The colony is located on a splendid 1160-acre farm adjoining the pretty village of Woodward, in Boone county.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME

This home was the first public institution of its kind established in the United States. It originated in an appeal from Iowa soldiers in southern hospitals at the time of the civil war and was the result of the work, late in the year 1863, of the Women's Soldiers' Aid Societies. It was first established as a refuge for soldiers' orphans. Iowa soldiers in the field at that time contributed \$45,262.62 toward the home, and large sums of money for the institution were otherwise raised. The first home was established at Farmington, Iowa, with branches at Davenport, Cedar Falls and Glenwood. In the year 1865 the home at Farmington was abandoned and the inmates transferred to the Davenport branch, the present Soldiers' Orphans Home. All of this was accomplished without financial aid from the state.

The state, at the session of the legislature in 1866, took over the home as a state institution and has since maintained it, the benefits of the home being then granted to all juvenile unfortunates under the age of fifteen. Any child mentally efficient and good morally, destitute and without means of support, is admitted. It is a cottage plan institution. There are eight cottages for girls and nine for boys. Each cottage is presided over by a matron and the children are graded as to age.

It is a fine institution and has in connection 413 acres of farm land, 333 acres owned by the state and 88 acres of rented land. The total value of farm products last year was \$55,255.03, bringing to the home a fair profit.

Four state agents are employed in the placement department of the home. These agents devote their entire time to finding good homes for the state wards and making frequent visits to such homes to ascertain that children are well cared for. In these homes the children complete their education and are fitted for useful citizenship. The boys and girls are placed in homes under properly executed contracts, approved by the Board of Control, and remain un-

der supervision of the state agents. All provisions of such agreements must be lived up to or the child will be returned to the home.

The school includes all grades from kindergarten to the eighth grade, consisting of such work as will be found in the graded public schools. A well trained and competent school teaching staff is employed. Special instruction in music is given all scholars attending the music classes. A very creditable band and orchestra are maintained, composed of both boys and girls.

The domestic science and household arts department is a most creditable one and a splendid feature of the school work. The girls are taught gardening, laundry work, how to prepare, cook and properly serve foods. The girls are also taught canning and preserving, the making of beds, how to sweep, dust and do general housework.

The boys, in addition to the day school instruction, are taught gardening. Each cottage has a small piece of land where vegetables are grown and there is some rivalry as to which garden shall prove the best, resulting in splendidly kept gardens.

Under the direction of a skilled dairyman the boys learn to efficiently care for the dairy cows, of which there is a first class herd of Holsteins. The boys take great interest in their work and some of them are placed on farms where large droves of cattle and hogs are raised and are very happy in such homes. The boys are also taught floriculture. They also assist the institution baker and many learn that trade.

Classes in manual training are conducted by competent instructors and very creditable work is done. Both boys and girls do laundry work. The former operating washers tumblers and extractors, the latter the electric irons. Both become quite expert and some follow the trade for a livelihood later.

And religious teaching is not overlooked in this home or in the the other state institutions referred to. Sunday School lessons are taken care of each Sabbath day in the cottages, the cottage matron or mother having charge of same. A short devotional service is conducted in the cottages at bedtime each evening. Religious services are held each Sunday afternoon in the spacious chapel building. These service are in charge of some one of the ministers of the city of Davenport and are non-sectarian. Selections by an orchestra and chorus singing compose the musical program at the Sunday services.

Well directed play also is an important feature at the Soldiers' Orphans' Home. Three acres are devoted to and equipped as a playground. There you will find swings, slides, teeter boards, turning poles, trapeze, etc. In connection with the playgrounds there are tennis and basket ball courts, also baseball and football fields. Also a complete gymnasium and swimming pool.

The principal of the school accompanies the boys on hikes semi-monthly, also they have two and three-day camps away from the institution, for which tents are provided.

The girls have all the privileges of the playgrounds until nine o'clock each evening. Under supervision of a woman director folk-lore dances are indulged in.

They have all the pleasures and many more than do the children of well-to-do families living in their own homes, and as for the moral and mental training I question the ability of any home

to beat it. A happy, contented, properly clothed, well fed and cleanly group of normal children and an institution it is a pleasure to visit.

Many of the children come to us afflicted with diseased tonsils, adenoids, serious skin diseases and other physical ailments. All such cases that need the attention of other than the institution physician are sent for special treatment and operations to the Perkins Hospital, connected with the State University at Iowa City. It would be difficult to estimate the value of benefit to the children from treatment given them by the physicians in charge of the various departments of the Perkins Hospital.

STATE JUVENILE HOME

On the first day of October, 1920, the Board of Control of State Institutions opened a new home for state care of boys and girls—the Juvenile Home at Toledo, at present equipped to care for 150 children. This institution provides a home for dependent, neglected or destitute children, under the age of fifteen years, that should not be committed to the Training Schools at Eldora and Mitchellville.

Also it provides a home for such wards free from the stigma that now seems to attach to the children committed to both the training schools. Iowa should be proud of the fact that we have such homes for unfortunate children where they can secure a common school education and proper training for placement later in a good, respectable home, there to develop and become worthy men and women.

The educational department of the home includes all of the grades of the public schools; also music, kindergarten and primary school work are important branches.

Vocational training is an important part of the work, owing to the fact that the children being wards of the state must be fitted very generally for industrial work for self support. Sewing, baking, cooking, housework and home keeping is a first consideration for girls. For boys, manual training, agriculture and trades are taught.

Through the home finding department good homes are procured for the children, but no child is placed in a home until properly trained and prepared to enter such. Moral and religious instruction and training are given every attention. No commonwealth in this country better provides for its orphaned, neglected, dependent, delinquent or mentally deficient children than does Iowa.

STATE'S ACTIVITIES

The state's interests and activities are varied and large, and exceedingly few of our citizens have any conception thereof. In fact only a very small portion of our citizenship appear to take a sincere interest in such matters.

The state's big problem and greatest responsibility, I believe is in connection with the management of the various state institutions.

In the four hospitals for the insane we have a population totaling 4,982. That population being about equally divided between the four state institutions.

At this time in 64 county homes there are 1,426 insane persons, 733 men and 693 women.

In private institutions for care of the insane there are 582 patients, 224 men and 358 women. Making the total number of insane cared for in Iowa, 6,990.

June 30, 1921, the State Hospitals contained 4,701 insane, while on June 30, 1922, the number was 4,982, an increase during the year of 281.

During that year there were 1,007 new admissions, and there were 879 persons discharged.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE

Among all the Institutions under supervision of the Board of Control of State Institutions the four State Hospitals for the Insane, located respectively at Mount Pleasant, Independence, Clarinda and Cherokee occupy a predominant position. This is on account of the grievousness of the affliction and the large number afflicted. Insanity is without doubt the gravest and most distressing misfortune that can befall any person, any family and any community. It, unlike any other disease, strikes the individual in his most precious possession, in that priceless part of him which only gives, and only can give, content and value to his life, makes him dear to his friends and a useful unit in his community, his mind. No other disease, painful, distressing, serious and even fatal though it may be, robs the sick one of his intelligence, his will, his self control, his ability to take pleasure in the past and to plan for the future, his capacity for enjoyment of what is good and beautiful in this world, and to detest what is evil.

Insanity, unlike any other disease, robs the individual of his civil rights, his liberty, his choice of surroundings and his freedom of action.

Insanity brings chagrin, sorrow and grief unspeakable to his friends.

To the commonwealth it brings heavy burdens and cares; it removes a unit from the plus to the minus column; an asset be-

comes a liability, and a positive producer is converted into a negative consumer.

To mitigate and relieve this sore evil the State has made generous provision.

Four large, beautiful, splendidly equipped and maintained hospitals are kept up for the cure and care of the insane.

Please note the order in which I state the aim and purpose towards which the spirit and the activity of these hospitals is directed.

The foremost and prominent function of the hospital is remedial. To this end every possible effort is made from every direction.

After the stormy period of acute disorder is over, if the patient is allowed to drift there is great danger of deterioration. To avoid this every means is employed to stimulate the prostrate mental faculties into healthy interests and channels. For this purpose diversional amusements and especial interesting occupation is employed. In ways of diversion by amusement there is a weekly dance, moving picture show, victrola concert and often a social, a concert and a theatrical performance. For vocational remedial measures there is employment on the farm, in the vegetable and flower garden, including the beautiful hospital grounds, in the orchards, with the dairy herd of pure bred Holsteins, with the swine herd, and on the poultry ranch. Besides this there are various little industries in the workshop, such as making and repairing furniture, shoes, brooms and mattresses, and printing. For women we have dressmaking and repairing of clothing, a school for physical culture, and primary education; a school for art needlework, lace making, rug weaving and basketry. A choice and well stocked library is maintained for the pleasure and improvement of all.

The result of all this is only secondarily for profitable economy, though this is large, but primarily and most important is the beneficial influence exerted on recoverable and even only improvable patients. No one is obliged to work, but is encouraged to employ himself in some interesting and congenial occupation.

The result of all this is gratifying. One third approximately of all those admitted recover and go to their friends and place in life mentally whole, many who do not recover completely improve so that a large number may be at liberty. The old and those afflicted with mortal disease die, and the residual remnant remains behind in the hospital with life rendered as comfortable as their condition will permit it to be made.

The hospital at Mount Pleasant was opened for work in 1862, that at Independence in 1876, that in Clarinda in 1888, and that at Cherokee in 1902. The need of either a fifth hospital or the enlarged capacity of those already existing looms up in the near future.

But there is another great responsibility for the state and that is the care of the feebleminded.

With the facilities at hand our state is doing a most excellent and thorough work in the care of such unfortunates. But there are a great number that should be in a state institution for proper care of this class, which cannot be admitted owing to the fact that there is not room for them.

We have two institutions now for care of the feebleminded,

one at Glenwood and the other at Woodward, and both are filled to capacity. The Glenwood institution at this time has a population of 1,550, and at Woodward the number of feebleminded is 100.

During the year ending June 30, 1922, there were 144 new cases admitted at Glenwood and 50 new cases at Woodward.

It is urgently necessary that the state provide additional buildings at both Glenwood and Woodward.

While there are no actual figures available as to the number of feebleminded in Iowa, the best that we can do is to take the estimates made regarding that portion of the state's population. For general purposes the total number is estimated at one to every 400 of the state's population which would give a total of about 6,100, of which number, at present, a little more than one-fourth are receiving state care and supervision, and a very large number of those outside the institution now should be in, to receive the special type of training adequate for each one's mental development.

The moral inefficiency of this class is one for special consideration from organized society. Child birth control in connection with this class can best be brought about through institution custodial care by the state. This must be done if we expect in future to reduce the number of feebleminded that will necessarily have to be cared for by the state, otherwise we can only look forward to a larger population of such year by year.

We have now on file at the Glenwood institution applications for the admission there of 225 children and no room for them, and were it not for the fact that it is pretty well understood the institution is overcrowded there would no doubt be three times that number of applicants. Nearly all of these are considered very urgent cases.

I might also mention there is one private school in the state caring for about 60.

I wish now to dwell just briefly on the number of inmates of our penal institutions.

June 1, 1921, the three penal institutions, State Penitentiary, Fort Madison; Men's Reformatory, Anamosa; and Women's Reformatory, Rockwell City, had a combined population of 1,392, while on June 30, this year, the combined population showed 1,800 an increase for the year 408. During that year there were 852 new admissions and 549 were discharged from the three institutions.

At our Training School for Boys and Girls, Eldora and Mitchellville, there was a decrease of 23 in the number at Eldora and an increase of 23 in the number at Mitchellville.

There was spent, during the biennial period ending June 30, this year, for the care of the wards of the state the following sums:

For maintenance	\$ 6,333,000.00
For new buildings	490,700.00
For new equipment	306,000.00
For extraordinary repairs	330,000.00

A total of\$ 7,459,700.00

In totals the foregoing figures represent large sums, but to the state as a whole it is a small item, and I dare say that very few of our taxpayers notice at all the state tax when settling their obligations at the office of the county treasurer, it is

so small. The state levy was 8.75 mills last year, this was increased recently about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill. Iowa's institutions are handled on a much less per capita cost than in many other states. One reason for this is the large farms in connection.

But we must care for those who come to our institutions, both state and county, in the best possible manner. We cannot escape that responsibility. The strong must bear the infirmities of the weak. And we must go farther than merely caring for them. We must learn more of the causes of mental disease and mental defectiveness; of crime, pauperism and child dependency. We are continually making progress along that line in this state and year by year dealing more intelligently with our important social problems.

Our penitentiaries, reformatories and training schools do not make criminals. They are made before going to prison.

Delinquency begins usually with children. Statistics show that a large proportion of reformatory populations—more than one third—are mentally subnormal, that from 15 to 20 per cent cannot read or write. And statistics set out that 50 percent are from homes broken up by desertion, separation and divorce. More than 50 percent did not attend church or Sunday school, and about 50 per cent were unemployed at the time the offense was committed.

Without question, the following are important causes of crime: Mental defectiveness; no schooling, or very little; entire lack of home training, idleness and its accompanying results; undesirable company, and little or no church influence.

These facts must and do challenge our attention and we should make practical use of them in our several communities and work to reduce to a minimum the number of recruits for the army of state institution wards.

The personnel of the present Board of Control follows: J. H. Strief, Chairman, of Sioux City; A. M. McColl, of Woodward; J. B. Butler, of Fort Dodge.

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