3 24 2m

BOARD OF CHARITIES.

Continued from First Page. additional department should make the whole institution available for at least double the amount of good which has been possible in the past. The "delinquent" need not become a "criminal" by exposure to a contaminating example. The "criminal" will have less en-couragement to inculcate his immoralities, and an incentive to amendment will be always before him, in the opportunity he will have to gain the larger privileges and the nearer freedom which the higher grades will enjoy. We believe that the closer the "class of honor is allowed to approach personal liberty (under such judicious oversight as every parent or guardian should exercise over his child) and to enjoy the privilege of going beyond the walls of the Refuge, either for proper visiting or proper work, the more will the higher sentiments of the youth be stimulated and encouraged, and a reform which is truly founded upon moral growth, and which will be of a more self-sustaining character, be effected. Although the first sound the "committed" child hears in a Refuge is "this place is not a prison," the echo of that voice is returned in the click of the key to every door n the establishment-the play-room, the schoolroom, the eating-room, and the sleeping-room; repeated, as to the last, by the double lock. Practically, therefore, it is a prison to him; and although the domestic management may be parental, and the educational discipline such as we accept for our own children, the ubiquitous key and the impassable wall are equally barriers to a sense of the possession of personal trust and confidence, as they are to egress from the unattractive premises. Just so far, therefore, as this offenders can be trusted (and we think that "reformatory influences" can and should be made effectual to create a spirit of docility and obedience), we think that care should be taken to manifest confidence by the bestowal of such privileges as will prove to the restrained spirit that the road to personal freedom is becoming more and more open for such as deserve to pass over it. Constrained obedience is no proof of moral amendment; and the practice of good principles, as well as faith in their possession, is, as a general rule, advanced in the ratio that they help to realize the happiness and fulfil the wishes of their possessors. It would seem difficult to conduct the "family"

system in the Refuges of at least the great cities, and it is not our purpose to discuss now this subject, either on this ground, or on the ground of comparison with that which obtains in such extensive communities as our own. The merit of judicious classification is not, in either system, open to dispute.

PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

This institution is situated at the northwest corner of Pine and Broad streets, in the city of Philadelphia. It is owned and controlled by a corporate association. Its direction consists of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and twenty-four directors. The act of incorporation bears date of February 8, 1821, and makes provision also for the education of the indigent pupils of the Commonwealth for a term not exceeding three years, at the rate of \$160 each. The present law limits the age at which the beneficiaries may be admitted to the period between ten and twenty years, and the term of tuition to six years.

The appropriation per pupil in 1869 was \$259. which was reduced in 1870 to \$225, but the managers represent that the cost has exceeded both these appropriations, respectively, and claim from the State reimbursement for the reason that appropriations are not made to the institution, but for the education and maintenance of the Commonwealth's wards, and that no money is drawn from the public treasury except for the State pupils actually in the insti-

It is interesting to note that of 479 cases of dearness, not congenital, received into the institution, 33 per cent. were attributed to scarlet fever; and of 522 cases, not congenical, or under the head of "infancy," 95.78 per cent. occurred under the age of seven years. The first "asylum for the deaf and dumb" in this country was the "American Asylum," at Hartford, Connection, which owes its existence to Gallaudet, famous for his philanthropy and for his successful administration in this particular field. It began its career April 15, 1817, with seven pupils, and becameat length the school for deaf mutes in all New England. On the same day that the Hartford asylum was opened the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb was incorporated. The number of pupils in the latter, in last October, when visited by a member of our board, was 520. The legislation of other States, with respect to this other states. spect to this class of beneficiaries, is not so rigid as that of our own, which we think really might be relaxed with advantage. The deaf mute is admitted to be equally capable, with other children, of mental development and children, of mental improvement, and under the re-ceived idea that these classes of the Com-monwealth's wards should, as regards education, be placed on an equality with other children, they should have the opportunity of enjoying the advantages of the institution, when it might be productive of the best results. There are cases under 10 yeers of age, and over 20, where the capacity and the need are indisputable, but for which, under the present legislation, there is no relief. In other States the law is flexible in another aspect. Pupils are received for a given term; and if, in the judgment of the di-

THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE IN-STRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

This seems to be a very judicious regulation.

rectors of the institution, the term of instruction

should be prolonged two or three years, in in-

dividual cases, they are empowered to extend it.

The location of this institution is in the city of Philadelphia. It is a private corporation, governed by twenty-three managers, elected annually by the corporators. They meet monthly for deliberation and action on the general interests of the institution. Special duties, however, are assigned to six committees, to whom the principal is required to report in writing concerning the condition and progress of the pupils, and the financial and other affairs of the nstitution. The very precise and careful method of inspection and investigation pursued here, is worthy of high praise, and furnishes an example that should be followed universally.

The act of incorporation bears date January

27, 1834, although an organization had occurred a year before the charter was obtained, a house rented and pupils received for instruction. The first grant by the Legislature, which was contemporaneous with the act of incorporation, allowed \$160 a year for each indigent pupil of the State, and limited the term of it instructo three years. The per-allowances have been increased in successive years, and reached the sum of \$300 in 1869, but were reduced last year to \$375, which was inadequate for the service rendered. The present term of instruction is eight years. New Jersey and Delaware, which send their eneficiaries to this asylum, restrict the time to five years, unless the Governors think it judicious to prolong the term, in individual cases, which they are authorized to do to the extent of three years additional.

There were in the institution at the time of our visit, 175 pupils, males and females, of whom 126 were from Peansylvania. The whole family numbered 202 persons, which was more than the accommodations could properly provide for, and reduced, necessarily, the class-rooms. The whole number of pupils, December 1, 1870, was 181—males 101, females 80 of whom 149 were from Pennsylvania. The list of studies extends to the higher branches of an English education. Music is also taught, and n numerous instances great excellence has been attained. The industries of the establishment are, for the males, brush and broom making, carpet weaving and cane seating: for the females

sewing, bead work, cane seating, etc. The aggregate salaries of the entire staff of employes is \$12,700 per year. The average yearly excess of expenditures over receipts has been, for six years, about \$1600. The deficiency in the department for work has been \$8142 in

The expensiveness of text-books for instruction is severely felt in all institutions of this

kind, and is greatly to be deplored. It necessi-tates a resort to oral teaching to an extent which is wearlsome, and it restricts the number and s wearlsome, and it restricts the progress of variety of these so much that the progress of wariety of these so much that the progress of variety of these so much that the progress of variety of of the pupils is proportionably impeded. When it is understood that the plainest Bible costs from \$35 to \$45, according to the type, it will be evident how difficult it is for these schools, which are barely sustained in any place, to possess themselves of the efficient means of instruc-

tion which the raised-letter books turnish. The blind population of the Common wealth is supposed to be nearly 1600. This estimate is based upon their enumeration in the census of 1860, which made the ratio of 1 in 2448. The State supports only 110 pupils, and these, with the beneficiaries from other sources, crowd the institution unduly. Applications for admission are from necessity continually rejected, and to such an extent as to cause great discourage-ments. The board is satisfied that the institution should be removed to the near country, where these people may enjoy the healthfulness of a purer atmosphere, and where larger opportunities for industrial pursuits may be secured: and we hope, also, that in effecting this change a liberal view may be extended towards the future, and ample provision made for an increased number of admissions. It should be borne in mind also, in this connection, that the slowness which marks the acquirements of the blind in every species of handicraft, and the extreme sensitiveness of their nature, which exposes them to unusual suffering under hardship and deprivation, render it expedient, as well as humane, that some arrangement should be made to pro-vide employment for the destitute blind after they have completed their course in the institution, and to supplement what they have learned there with such further knowledge and skilfulness as will increase their chances of supporting themselves without the help of charity. There exists, in connection with this asylum, a home for the "industrial Blind," the inmates of which are occupied in a variety of industrial pursuits, and some of whom teach in the institution, where they also board. They all receive compensation for their services, and pay a moderate sum for their sub-sistence. The State has never contributed towards the support of this Home.

By the laws of New York, in relation to its support of State pupils of this class, the chil-dren of those who died in the military service of the United States during the Rebellion have a preference in the order of admission, and each county is entitled to admission for its indigent blind in the proportion which the whole number of this population bears to the blind population of the State. There are 67 blind persons in the almshouses of Pennsylva-PHNNSTLVANIA TRAINING SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE

MINDED CHILDREN. This institution was incorporated April 1863. The Legislature, at the same time, made provision for the admission of twenty State pupils, at \$200 each, and for the term of five years. The term has been increased to seven years, and the appropriation has been advanced to \$250, and provision made for the training and maintenance of one hundred children, to be apportloned to the representative districts of the

The school was originally established at Germantown, and was conducted there until Sep-tember 1, 1859, when the family was removed to the new buildings erected expressly for this purpose near Media, in Delaware county. Its present situation is on a fine elevation, one

mile southwest from Medha, in the midst of a farm of about eighty-nine acres; and is all that can be desired for such an asylum. At the time of our visit there were present one hundred and eighty-seven imbecile persons, of whom eighty-

five were State pupils.

Idiots and imbeciles are held to be such from the imperfect physical organization of the race, or they are such from infantile disease or other accidental cause. They are legitimate objects for the same public provision and Christian charity which, in civitized countries, are accorded to the insane in every community. They are always repulsive, and sometimes dangerous and contaminating. Repelled and misunderstood in public, burdensome at home, they are seen to be happy

in the institution provided for them. The exwho are teachable—the appliances for amusement and simple industry for those too eld or unsuited for such training, and the unmistakable evidences of kindness and sympathy which exist among afflicted ones and their care-takers, are strong proofs that this class is best cared fer in such institutions as this.

In England four large asylums, with their attendant schools and gymnasia, are in most successful operation. The largest of these, at Earlswood, twenty miles from London, is in the midst of a domain of 350 acres, accommodating at this time four hundred and seventy inmates, with additions nearly completed that will increase its capacity to eight hundred. There are numerous smaller establishments invarious parts of Great Britain, and no public charity elicits a warmer support or higher agpreciation.

In our own country the Legislatures of seven leading States have recognized the justice of providing for this class by the erection, in whole or part, of suitable buildings, and appropriating annually means for the support of cer-tain numbers of indigent cases. Other States have made a similar recognition by sending their imbecile children to adjacent States where institutions exist.

But the work here is comparatively new, dating back less than twenty-five years. American superintendents and teachers are largely dependent upon their own observation and tact for its development. They have encountered many difficulties, but it is believed that the success of their labors has met the reasonable expectations of the friends of this charitable enterprise. Our statistics of idiocy and of the improvement under culture and training agree, in most respects, with those of England. Our own State institution reports the necessity of a considerate guardianship over those who shall be sent out from it as self-supporting, there remaining, in the case of almost all who have enjoyed its benefits, that lack of judgment and forecast which makes the best use of the present, and anticipate and provide for the needs of the future. With such guardianship secured, in some instances, with families who have adopted these children after five or seven years residence in the institution, 80 out of 500 individuals have been made capable of earning their own support in domestic service; of the remainder, 140 are too uncertain for a real dependence, and yet might be rated as capable of earning a half support; 118 perform very little service of an appreciable value, and 162 are hopelessly and totally dependent.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' SCHOOLS. Wisdem and humanity were happily blended in the conception and creation of this noble institution: a charity which has a strong hold upon the public heart, and which has been sustained by the Legislature from its inception with unstitted munificence. Our so-called benevolence towards these wards of the State might well have been dictated by the most politic consideration of her own interests, for there can be nothing plainer to the minds of those who have observed the influences of these schools not only upon the bodily and mental development of their in mates, but, in most cases, upon their moral development and heart cultivation, than that their inmates are to become strong and influential sources from which the Commonwealth will draw a wealth of respectability and power, which will repay her a hundredfold for what she has expended in preparing them for the duty of advancing her best interests.

This subject is too familiar to the minds of all who will care to read this report to make it necessary to enlarge upon it further than to present a few brief statistics, and to append certain resolutions which the board have adopted in relation to these schoo's.

By the last report of the State Superintendent it appears that there were in the schools and homes on May 31, 1870, 3530 children, viz., in advanced schools, 3137; primary schools, 794; homes, 599. Of these, 1971 were white boys, 1399 white girls, 91 colored boys, and 69 colored girls. The number of applications for admis-

sion has been, to June 1, 1870, 6346, of which 5624 have been received. The discharges have numbered 1475. The total appropriations for these schools since their inauguration have been 92,553,131.67.

As the maximum number of scholars has been reached, the expenses for their support will, of course, diminish in a ratio corresponding with their decrease is number.

COUNTY ALMSHOUSES.

The General Agent has visited almost all the almshouses in the State; and has, in many instances, been accompanied by one of the commissioners. His report will give his impression of them individually; and will expose, to some extent, their deficiencies. He has reserved a more full and comprehensive exposition until all have been visited, for which the law allows two years. The board desire to call attention to some of

their obvious defects, frequently involving not

only deprivation of health and comfort, but contamination of the morals of the inmates. More especially do we wish to denounce the cruel wrongs which the insane suffer who are inmates of almshouses. These institutions are generally wholly unsuitable for their care or even detention; or, if suitable, are presided over by persons who are entirely ignorant of the needs of this class of the sick and infirm, whose administration is based upon the crudest ideas of mental disease: it is limited to the discovery of the most available methods of preventing them from harming anything or any person but themselves. We could instance the most glaring abuses; not, as we believe, intentionally inflicted, but the results of incapacity and ignorance. The time has gone by when a disturbed imagination or a disordered intellect should be held to have converted its human victim into a distempered brute; whose home should be akin to the sty or the stable; and whose lightest restraint should be perpetual incarceration within the limits of a cell. These wrongs demand prompt redress. No hospital for the insane should remain without the constant supervision of a medical superintendent. The stewards of almshouses are never selected from any consideration of the needs of the insane.

We would recommend that no recent case of insanity be received into an almshouse; that all curable cases be provided for in State hospitals for the insane, and that these institutions be adequately extended. With respect to the township poor, we need to make forther investigation. We know that the system is not approved by many excellent men in the districts where it prevails; and we have observed instances of insufficient provision for this class. We do not doubt that their comfort, as a general rule, would be promoted by the adoption by these districts of the county poorhouse.

These institutions have been but partially visited, and we do not propose to remark-upon them at length. As there are well-planned and well-conducted poor-houses, so are there jails, creditable in construction and administration. But many of them are deficient in the same-particulars which we have noticed in almshouses in ventilation, light, heat, water, conveniences for comfort and cleanliness.

There is also, in many of them, a great deficiency of work for the prisoners. In some there is an entire absence of employment, in which cases we have observed a prominenous intercourse of the sexes during the day, and of the untried with the convicted, no keeper remaining within the precincts of the jail. We believe that the cultivation of industrious habits, the certainty of steady, continuous, selfsupporting labor, are essential to a true reform. It is craved by the prisoner who desires amend-ment, and should be a boon to all, as it would surely prove a blessing. In this connection, also, we would recommend more attention to the secular and religious instruction of the prisoners. We need bardly suggest that it is a gross-abuse to subject the untried prisoner to intercourse with the felon, or to regard him or treats him as a convict until he is pronounced guilty by a court of justices. Some better provision should be made for the

discharged convict. He is eften turned out into the world desitute of clothing, a repulsive and self-condemned object, whose very appearance THE INSANE.

Besides the full descriptions of the State hospitals for the income which appear in the appendix, we give those of three private establishments, which comprise all asylums for the insane within the State, exclusive of those connected with almshouses. By reference to the proper tables it will be found that the ratio insane to the whole population of the State is estimated at one in eight hundred.

This calculation fixes the whole number at ... Almshonses..... 1284 Prisons...... 8 ___2404

Leaving unprovided for in all the institutions...1971 The hospital now building at Danville will hardly, when completed and occupied, find this number lessened. The pesuliar afflictions of this class of the State's wards have elicited substantial expressions of sympathy from past Legislatures, and the grants made in their behalf are as just and honorable as they have been liberal. They are also wise and statesmaplike. We do not hesitate to recommend further provision of the same character. we contrast the condition of the patients of these hospitals, cared for by expert allenists, and provided with every appliance for comfort, classification and scientific treatment, with that of the inmates of almshouses, for the most part caged in cells, indiscriminately associated or wholly neglected, burnanity and economy combine to determine our conclusions on this

The policy which the State has pursued of establishing insane hospitals of moderate capacity upon fertile farms with attractive surroundings, central as to population, and convenient as to railroad travel and supplies for mainte nance, meets with general approval

We recommended last year to the Legislature the propriety of establishing an additional hospital for the insane for the accommodation of the northwestern portion of the State, and, after the lapse of a year we perceive stronger reasons for expressing the same opinion.

GENERAL REMARKS. It has been our endeavor, in this the first year of our existence as a board, to acquire accurate

information concerning the institutions in this State which have come legitimately under our purview, and, to some extent, concerning kindred establishments elsewhere. The Secretary and General Agent bas, on his official errand, travelled over 11,000 miles within the bounds of this Commonwealth, and has, in the ardor of his pursuit and in his fidelity to the behests of the law, almost forgotten that he had a family and a home.

A member of the board has travelled nearly 3000 miles on the same errand; has devoted to the work sixty-six whole days, taken from private pursuits of an absorbing nature, and has made 110 visits to institutions or meetings of the board. Indeed, it would seem that no private interest has been allowed to interfere with the fulfilment of his duty in this matter by any member of the commissi

There are demands upon the board, under the law, of a more abstruse and complex nature than those we have referred to; but in the words of the able Commission of State Chari-ties in Massachusetts, in their sixth annual report, "To show how the dustrial and material interests of the commonwealth are affected by the existence of pauperism. Insanity, disease, and crime is an immense task." And "this report will be confined to these matters more directly concerning charity, reform, and correction." It is possible that a bureau, charged with the prosecution of the work now committed to a board of "unpaid philanthropists," might gather an array of formal statistics which would exceed in a given time what is possible under the present system. But in the estimate of the character of this beneficent work, the quality of its attainments should not be disregarded.

We presume that the Legislature was perfeetly aware of what experience has made every man conscious, that "what the hand findeth to

co, it will do with its might," rather through an 1 impulse of intelligent love of the human brother-hoed, than by a perfunctory service, which measures itself according to its own stinted esti-mate of pecuniary recompense. We have per-fect faith in the wisdom of that world-wide legislation which confides some of the most important interests of the State to an unrecom pensed service.

All which is respectfully submitted. By order of the board. GEORGE L. HARRISON, President.

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ESTATE OF JOHN ROMMBL, DECEASED, payment and those having claims against the same will present them without delay to the arrival the same will present them without delay to the undersigned to whom Letters Testamentary have been only

JOHN ROMMEL, JR., J. M. ROMMEL, W. J. MANN, Executors. Philadelphia, March 28, 1871. 3 23th6t* IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of DAVID VICKERS, decras

The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the account of PETER L. VOORHEES, Administrator of the estate of DAVID VICKERS, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interasted for the purpose of his approach of of his pointment on MONDAY, April 10, 1871, at 4 o'clock P. M., at his office, No. 32 South THIRD Street, P. M., at his omee, in the city of Philadelphia. JOSEPH J. DORAN, Andite 3 30 thstu5t

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OFFICE,
PHILADELI-ELA, Feb. 25, 1871.
All keepers of hotels, taverns, restaurants, and others selling liquer by less measure than one quart are hereby notified that if they refuse or neglect to

make application for license, and procure the same, within the tirge prescribed by law, and who continue to seil, will be promptly proceeded against, as required by the provisions of the act of Assembly.

FURMAN SHEPPARD, District Astorney. CITY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.)

No. 212 S. FIFTH STEER,
No. 212 S. FIFTH STEER,
PHILADELPHIA, Fels. 25, 1871.

The act of Assembly approved April 20, 1808, requires that all keepers of hotels, taverns, restaurants, and others solling liquor by less measure than one quart, shall make application at this office for lifense in the month of March only. The law in this respect will be arrictly enforced. this respect will be strictly enforced.

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