

Tenth annual report of the New-York Asylum for Idiots : To the legislature of the State of New York / New York State Asylum for Idiots.

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TENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEW YORK ASYLUM

FOR

IDIOTS.

To the Legislature of the State of New York.

ALBANY :
CHARLES VAN BENTHUYSEN, PRINTER.
1861.

1877

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE
LAND OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR
1877

ALBANY, N. Y.
1878

NEW YORK

PRINTED BY
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1878

TO BE FORWARDED TO THE LAND OFFICE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

ALBANY, N. Y.
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1878

TRUSTEES.

JAMES H. TITUS,
HENRY N. POHLMAN,
ALLEN MONROE,
HIRAM PUTNAM,

FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
HAMILTON WHITE,
LYMAN CLARY,
G. H. MIDDLETON.

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HERVEY B. WILBUR, M. D.

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MISS SARAH S. WELD,

MISS ABBY M. ALCOTT,
MISS CHRISTINA ERLAND,
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STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 30.

IN ASSEMBLY,

January 25, 1861.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Trustees of the New York Asylum for Idiots.

To the Legislature of the State of New-York:

In compliance with the act establishing the N. Y. Asylum for Idiots, the subscribers, trustees of the institution, respectfully submit this, their

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT :

The total cash receipts and payments for the fiscal year of the institution, ending September 30th, 1860, as stated in the Treasurer's annual report, herewith transmitted, is as follows :

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury, October 1st, 1859.....	\$734 43
From the State Treasurer, (annual appropriation)	18,000 00
From the State Treasurer, (special grant)	5,500 00
do counties for clothing State pupils.....	1,175 15
do paying pupils board, instruction and clothing	2,924 07
do overdraft	6 65
	<hr/>
	\$28,340 30
	<hr/>

EXPENDITURES.

Provisions, household supplies of all kinds	\$10,892 66
Repairs and improvements.....	790 27
Farm, garden, stable, stock, &c., grain	550 17
Furniture, and furnishing articles	985 37
Salaries of officers and teachers	4,195 83

Wages of attendants, and servants, and extra labor	\$3,796 64
Fuel	2,009 07
Gas	1,434 19
Clothing expenses of children	1,320 33
Savings bank loan and interest	891 44
Rent of land and taxes	292 16
Furnace	125 00
Wagon	130 00
Gas regulator	150 00
Insurance	210 00
Water	100 00
School apparatus and stationery	130 26
Traveling expenses of trustees and superintendent	62 10
Freight and express charges	100 63
Printing	20 94
Postage	27 05
Undertaker's bill	4 50
Expenses of sending children home	30 47
Barber, for hair-cutting	17 00
Expenses for amusement of boys	10 74
Miscellaneous expenses	63 48
	<hr/>
	\$28,340 30
	<hr/> <hr/>

It will be remembered that these expenditures embrace more than the current expenses of the year, by the amount of indebtedness of the Asylum reported a year ago, and to meet which, the Legislature appropriated the sum of \$5,500.

By deducting from the total expenditures of the last year

	\$28,340 30
The sums of (old debt)	\$5,500 00
And the sum of (clothing bills)	1,293 68
	<hr/>
	6,793 68

We have the sum of

\$21,546 62

As the actual current expenses of the Asylum. Dividing this by the number of pupils in the institution for the past year, 140, and we have the average annual expense of a pupil, \$153 88

The institution was in debt on the 1st of October, 1860, the commencement of the present fiscal year.

For sundry balances due on account of salaries, wages and supplies.....	\$2,358 80
Due savings bank, loan, and interest.....	1,526 25
	<u>\$3,885 05</u>

The assets are as follows :

Due from paying pupils' board and tuition.....	\$1,454 50
Due from counties and individuals on clothing account.....	715 71
Amount in superintendent's hand received from paying pupils during month of September.....	472 05
Amount in hands of commission merchant, for sale of fruit.....	261 25
Household supplies, clothing on hand, farm and garden products on hand October 1, 1860.....	2,424 95
Total assets.....	<u>\$5,328 46</u>
	<u>3,885 05</u>
	<u>\$1,443 41</u>

It will thus be seen that the asylum is now virtually free from debt with a small margin in the way of assets towards the current expenses of the present year.

The apparent indebtedness on the 1st of October was due to the fact that the treasurer's account is made up to the 30th of September, and the executive committee met for the auditing of the September bills on the first Monday of October. Of the cash assets on the 1st of October mentioned above, \$2,903.51, \$1,919.94 have been realized at the date of this report.

The trustees derive much satisfaction from the exhibit of the garden and farm operations of the institution, as made in the Steward's report to the Superintendent, and desire to call the special consideration of the Legislature to the same; wherein it will be seen that the total of expenses in that line of operations was \$1,341.26, and yielded a return in various products valued at \$3,220⁰²/₁₀₀; leaving a balance to the credit of farm and garden account of \$1,878⁷⁶/₁₀₀.

The experience of each succeeding year adds to the conviction of the trustees, heretofore stated in their annual reports, that the farm is not only of value for the products it affords for domestic use, but is of the greatest importance as an efficient auxiliary in

promoting the prominent object of this institution,—*the training of idiots*; in fact so much importance is attached to this branch of the system by some of the trustees, that they would dispense with the school-room rather than with the farm, so far as the boys are concerned. On this head we take the liberty of presenting the following extract from our last year's report: "A large portion of the land (35 acres) is held by a lease, which terminates when the owner shall sell the same. He is now fully determined to sell, and the benefits heretofore derived from that land will be lost, unless the State shall see fit to purchase it for the Asylum. The location, the required facilities and character of the soil, afford exactly the opportunity for those farming operations which the trustees consider so advantageous for the enterprise under their charge; they therefore submit for the consideration of the Legislature the expediency of securing the same by purchase."

The Legislature will find in the accompanying report of the Superintendent an instructive statement of the practical workings of the institution, and an interesting view of this novel field of human culture, showing that it is neither hopeless nor profitless, as was formerly supposed, by the most earnest of philanthropists.

The time has come when it seems desirable to collect, in a single act, all previous acts in relation to the institution that are now applicable, with such amendments and additions as past experience shows to be necessary. For this purpose a committee has been appointed to prepare a bill to be presented to the Legislature for enactment.

It affords the trustees peculiar satisfaction to be able to present this report free of the feature of debt, ^{and} to add and that the customary annual appropriation will be sufficient for the wants of the institution.

JAMES H. TITUS,
HENRY N. POHLMAN,
FRANKLIN TOWNSEND,
HAMILTON WHITE,
HIRAM PUTNAM,
LYMAN CLARY,
GEO. H. MIDDLETON,
ALLEN MUNROE,

E. D. MORGAN,
D. R. FLOYD JONES,
ROBERT DENNISTON,
H. H. VAN DYCK.

Ex-Officio Trustees,

Trustees.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Trustees of the N. Y. Asylum for Idiots:

The undersigned, submits herewith, the following report of the affairs of the Institution during the past year. It relates to the school year, terminating at the close of the annual vacation, or upon the first of September, 1860. Some changes were made at that period among the inmates, by filling vacancies, resulting from the removal or dismissal of pupils. These changes will be referred to again.

There have been in the Institution during the past year, 140 pupils, or an increase of twenty-seven over the preceding year. This addition to the number of pupils, was provided for, by the Legislative appropriation of 1859. During this period, there has been an entire exemption from disease in the Institution. The only inmate of the hospital, during that time, was a child with a scrofulous affection of the knee.

Besides this exemption from actual sickness, there has also been an improvement in the general health of the pupils. They manifest increasing physical vigor.

One only of the number died, and that within a fortnight of his admission. He had been in feeble health for some time previous, and his death was only hastened, by his journey to the asylum.

Another removed just before the vacation, at the request of the Superintendent, on account of failing health, died a few weeks afterwards, of consumption.

Of the pupils removed or dismissed, twenty-two in number, a few words may be said.

Five were dismissed after a residence of longer or shorter periods, as having obtained the amount of education anticipated in each case, when they were admitted. They were able to read and write to some extent, and intelligent enough to engage in useful occupations of a simple character. They had been trained on the farm, and in the workshop, as well as the school-room, and had been shown capable of productive labor.

Two pupils from other States, who had made good progress while in the Institution, were removed, to be placed in institutions nearer home.

Two were dismissed who were confirmed epileptics.

Three were removed on account of feeble health.

One dismissed on account of insanity.

Two were removed for family and pecuniary considerations. And six were dismissed as insusceptible of any considerable degree of improvement; but not till after a fair trial of our educational system.

Again classifying these twenty-two pupils, removed or dismissed, it may be stated that nine of them were improvable cases. That is, they left the Institution, either having received radical benefit from the course of instruction to which they had been submitted, or in a condition to be still farther benefited under similar circumstances elsewhere.

Thirteen were unimprovable cases, or at least were insusceptible of sufficient improvement to warrant their longer retention in the Asylum.

Of this last number, it should be mentioned that every one was a case of idiocy resulting from diseases in infancy, and not congenital. In all but four cases, there had been acute disease of the brain at some period of childhood, and two of these exceptions were confirmed epileptics, and with other symptoms of organic cerebral disease.

Nine were entirely dumb. Three completely deaf as well as dumb. Of the four who spoke at all, only one did any more than repeat a few simple words, as an act of imitation. In short, they were of a low grade of idiocy, resulting from serious organic disease of the brain. It might safely be predicated of two-thirds of their number, that they would not reach the age of twenty.

Of the remaining pupils of the Asylum, nearly 120 in number, it may be affirmed, with a few exceptions, that they are making good progress under the system of management and instruction applied to them. This is manifested, as has been reiterated in former reports, by an improvement in their physical health and bodily habits; in the greater use of their senses; in increased powers of observation; greater dexterity; in the development of the reasoning faculty; in an awakened consciousness of surrounding relations; in an increase in the activity of the intelligence, and in the greater self-control. It is manifested in the resultant

of all these thus enumerated, in a developed capacity and willingness to engage in any continuous useful occupation.

My report as superintendent might end here, were it to meet only the eyes of the trustees to whom it is officially addressed, in compliance with the by-laws of the Institution. They have, for the most part been cognizant, from personal observation, from time to time, of the results thus briefly indicated, and they also appreciate the relation of all this improvement, to the future comfort and happiness of the pupil, and its effects in the relief and blessings conferred upon those related to them, and responsible for their ultimate management and care.

But the public mind is still quite unenlightened in relation to this Asylum, the circumstances which called it into existence, and the special objects embraced in its plan of operations. Our success as an institution has been so quiet, (without even a carping dissatisfaction to give us notoriety,) and our appearance in official reports so unfrequent, that we have been almost forgotten in a bustling community. We cannot well advertise ourselves by exhibitions, as is done by some kindred institutions, for this in our case would involve great inconvenience, and the danger of deceiving the public as to our average results; and at the same time would fail to convey a just idea of what is actually accomplished by our labors. It becomes, therefore, a matter of some importance in this, our almost only opportunity of communication with the public, who are interested, and the Legislature, who are its legal guardians, to discuss more at length the various relations of the institution.

It is now more than nine years since this Asylum was founded, and this after five or six years of active endeavor on the part of its projectors. It has had on its list more than 280 different pupils, and during a portion of the time, nearly 140 within its walls. The facts obtained, and the experience acquired by those engaged in its management, can hardly fail to be of service in estimating the necessity for such institutions, their true function, and the results that may be reasonably anticipated from their establishment.

In one of the early reports of this Institution, the number of idiots, of all ages and grades, was estimated, from facts within the cognizance of its officers, at about 2,800, or one to every 1,070 inhabitants. Facts accumulated since, confirm the opinion then expressed, of the numerical relation of the idiots of the State to the whole population.

That the general wretchedness of their condition, without any efforts for its amelioration, and the annoyance, and the distress they occasioned in the neighborhood, and the family, were not then exaggerated, I can of my own personal knowledge testify.

Situated as I have been, as it were, in the focus of a whispering-gallery—for there are some afflictions in the world that the sufferers, will always strive to conceal, except where a clear hope of relief constrains an opposite course—I could not fail to be convinced, that the public need for institutions for the relief of idiocy was a pressing one; nor to appreciate the blessings that this State, by a wisely conceived charity, is bestowing directly upon the inmates of this Asylum, and incidentally upon a multitude of individuals and families within its borders.

It is an easy matter to find a stand-point, if one is so disposed, from which the highest results as yet attained in any institutions for idiots may be viewed as very meagre. And such results may be even undervalued by those actually engaged in their accomplishment, if such institutions are regarded only as schools for the instruction of feeble-minded children in the rudimental branches of education. But this question of the education of idiots has broader relations than such individuals may assign to it; and institutions for idiots embrace a wider scope than can be properly defined by the word schools.

Social science, only just now assuming an organized form, lays down these principles as fundamental: that duty and interest, the highest obligations and the lowest calculations, concur to make it imperative upon society to strive to meet and master the most formidable of social evils; that there can be no danger of an excess of public beneficence where the means of its liberality are derived in due proportion from the constituent members of any social organization, and judiciously applied, so long as there remains in it one human being unrelieved, who is incapacitated by disease or infirmity from caring properly for himself.

The application of these principles in the case of idiocy is not difficult.

First, then, the public mind needs to be enlightened as to the extent to which idiocy prevails in the community. It needs to be awakened to a realization of the amount of misery thus occasioned; not only what is endured through the positive deprivation of physical comfort and pleasure, intelligent action and social enjoyment in the direct subjects of it, but also that more

acute suffering, that radiates from them in circles wider or narrower, and is limited only by the number of their care-takers, relatives or friends. It needs to be informed as to the causes of idiocy, so far as they are known: so far as they are capable of remedy, and especially when resulting from a gross infraction of natural and physical laws; for at this bar of violated natural law, the plea of ignorance can secure no abatement of the penalty.

It needs to be acquainted with the fact that no social condition is exempt from this affliction.. Quite a fraction of the idiots of the State are from birth dependent for support and care upon the ordinary provisions of public charity. A still larger number are in families to whom the special care they require is a very serious burden; and besides these, no small number are the children of quite wealthy parents.

All this is to be repeated from time to time, till from some source or other, public or private, adequate relief is furnished for this pressing public need. So, too, the present cost, in time, in labor, in anxiety, and expense of the care of all these unfortunates (no matter by whom incurred), should be presented with equal persistency.

Society needs to be made acquainted with the results of measures for the amelioration of the condition of idiots, both in the way of education and management. Experiments, both here and elsewhere, have practically demonstrated that a large proportion of the class of idiots can, by proper training, be made capable of simple industrial occupation; thus diminishing the care and trouble they would otherwise make; and that their condition in all cases can be sensibly ameliorated by kind and judicious management, and, at the same time, with a reasonable expense. It is evident that if these persons can be made capable of any useful occupation by a few years' training, whether to the extent of self-support, under judicious management, or only to be able to minister to their most urgent wants, society is repaid for the trouble and expense involved in the effort.

Certainly if all these facts are clearly seen and properly appreciated, a political economy not rising above mere material considerations, but viewing the productive industry actually created, as well as the industry released from a burdensome care of others, may readily see that well devised and systematic measures for the amelioration of the condition of idiots will, in time, be actually compensating.

To considerations like these, this institution owes its existence; although its projectors had a clear conviction of the duty that society owed to this class, whether or not the efforts in their behalf would stand this test of remuneration.

But the first measures of relief for any evil so wide-spread, must, of course, be limited, partial, and only preparative of more enlarged provision. In this case it was proper that the educational institution, as more manifestly remunerative, should precede any custodial establishments.

Occasion was taken in the last annual report to present briefly the objects of this institution, as also the limitations in the reception and retention of pupils that its peculiar aims involved. This was done by quoting from our by-laws and commenting upon them, as follows:

"The design and object of the Asylum, as established by the action of the Legislature, are not of a custodial character, but to furnish the means of education to that portion of the youth of the State, not provided for in any of its other educational institutions. Those only will, therefore, be received into the Asylum who are of a proper school-attending age; and for such periods of time as shall, in the estimation of the board of trustees, suffice to impart all the education practicable in each particular case, and in conformity with the regulations hereinafter specified.

"Children between the ages of seven and fourteen, who are idiotic, or so deficient in intelligence as to be incapable of being educated at any ordinary school, and who are *not epileptic, insane or greatly deformed*, may be admitted by the superintendent, with the advice and counsel of the executive committee. Applications in behalf of others shall be referred to the action of the board of trustees."

Some limitations, in the reception of idiots are manifestly necessary on the part of the trustees, who are only the agents of the State in carrying out the design and object of the institution, with the pecuniary means appropriated by the Legislature annually.

Other limitations were implied in the original plan of the founders of the Asylum.

The N. Y. Asylum for Idiots was established to meet a public want. There were within the borders of the State, judging from the statistics of other countries and States, under similar circumstances, and of analogous population, more than 3,000 idiots, em-

bracing every shade of mental endowment below the common standard of intelligence, and subjected to every variety of social influences.

They were thrown, by the very nature of their infirmity, beyond the pale of that common school education which the State provides for every child of average intellect within its limits.

Any rational and practicable project for the amelioration of their condition, or the furnishing of any permanent relief to those who were burdened with their care, would look beyond the mere ministering to their physical wants, or the simple substitution of the State's care and maintenance for that of parents, friends, or local authorities. It would afford them opportunities for development. It would give them all the education that they were susceptible of. It would attempt to qualify them, by proper instruction in practical matters, to be returned to their friends capable of sustaining and providing for themselves with the least possible care and anxiety of others. And it would do this in accordance with the policy, long established in reference to those other children of misfortune, the deaf-mute and the blind.

It would seem to lie outside the province of the State's charity in this direction, to provide a public institution for such of the number as could be as well cared for under family or other influences at home. Nor is it the policy of the State, at present, to adopt any of these unfortunates. It only assumes their guardianship and maintenance during the period of education. It will be understood then, that the institution is an educational one, and is not custodial in its character. All admitted therefore to its privileges, should be of a teachable age and of a teachable condition. As to the first point, our general rule (the admission of pupils from 7 to 14 years of age) seems to be practically a just one. At all events, as it can be suspended, for proper reasons, in any individual case, by the action of the board of trustees, it can do no harm. Whenever, in the farther experience of the institution, it shall be deemed advisable to extend the limits of age in the reception of pupils, it can be done.

As to what constitutes a teachable condition, in the case of idiots, is a point not so easily determined. On the one hand, it had been universally supposed, till a few years since, that education was of no service in any case of idiocy. On the other hand, there have been but a very few cases, that have been submitted to a judicious course of training, for any length of time, either in

this Institution or any other of similar character, elsewhere, in which those most interested in the welfare of the parties, have not seen a very decided improvement, as the result. The only exceptions to this rule, have been those cases, in which the idiocy was apparently dependent upon an active organic disease of the brain.

In certain classes of cases, however, there will not be much difficulty in deciding to exclude the parties, for whose admission to the Asylum, application is made.

Cases of idiocy, accompanied with confirmed epilepsy, are to be reckoned among these. The presence of the two conjoined, (whichever manifestation preceeds the other,) usually indicates the existence of a common cause in organic disease of the brain or spinal cord. In such instances, the epilepsy is generally incurable. Each recurring paroxysm impairs the more, the intellectual faculties, till complete dementia and death are the result. Even when, in the intervals between the convulsions, a marked improvement in all respects has rewarded the persistent efforts of training and instruction, a single recurrence of the disease will destroy the labor of months. Under such circumstances, an institution offers no very essential advantages over a home ; and its accommodations should be preserved for those, who can be radically benefited,

Again, where insanity is complicated with idiocy, (not a very common complication however) it is not deemed advisable to receive them into this institution. We have no provision for confinement, in fact, for restraint of any kind. The very means employed to arouse the attention and stimulate the sluggish intellectual operations of our ordinary pupils, tend to excite and aggravate the peculiar mental condition of this class. The admission of the insane, therefore, would subject us to very great trouble and inconvenience, without any corresponding benefit to those received, if not a positive injury to them.

It has not been the policy of this institution to receive cases of very marked deformity, nor where the subjects are hopelessly crippled, from permanent contractions of the muscles and tendons, or from irregular and spasmodic muscular contractions, preventing the application of our elementary physical training, nor yet the numerous cases of idiocy connected with a depraved and diseased physical condition ; proper subjects for a hospital of incurables, and not for an educational establishment. These are

often very troublesome cases at home, which induces the friends to make application for their admission here. In some instances, where there has been a loss of one or both parents, they are urged upon the officers of the Asylum with great persistence, even when it is supposed that they are coming here to die. In fact, a large percentage of the deaths that have occurred in the establishment, since its foundation, have been cases that have come hither with fatal disease already at work upon them.

There is another class of cases usually admitted on a proper application, but who are dismissed after a fair trial and examination, if the result confirms the opinion of the officers as to their probable condition. I refer to cases of *dementia*, in distinction from idiocy, when a gradual obliteration of the mental faculties has supervened, after an organic disease of the brain, and the disease is still active and progressive. These are dismissed as incurables.

Excluding, then, all cases coming within the classes thus enumerated, the institution, according to the language of our by-laws, affords to that portion of the youth of the State, not provided for in any other educational establishment, and who are of a proper school-attending age, all the education practicable in each particular case. "The education furnished by the institution will include not only the simpler elements of instruction usually taught in common schools, where that is practicable, but will embrace a course of training in the more practical matters of every-day life; the cultivation of habits of decency, propriety, self-management and self-reliance, and the development and increase of a capacity for useful occupations."

It is designed, in other words, to receive all children of a teachable age hitherto shut out from educational privileges, by reason of a defect or infirmity of their mental powers. This includes a much wider range of natural endowment than would at first be supposed, and within this range there exists a great variety of manifestations."

The experience of this institution would not induce any radical change in the character of the aims of the institution thus defined in the by-laws. The only modification it would suggest, if any, would be the more complete subordination of all the other features of the system to "the development and increase of a capacity for useful occupations."

It needs no very elaborate statement of the principles and
[Assembly, No. 30.]

methods employed to accomplish the objects thus briefly indicated, to convince any intelligent person that much may be done to ameliorate a condition that must be regarded, if not deplorable, at least as unfortunate, in every case within the range of intelligence mentioned.

It may be assumed, from the very nature of the affliction, that, at their homes, bad management is the more common accompaniment of their lot, even with the best intentions upon the part of their care-takers. Those who are in the local pauper establishments are often exposed to a wanton neglect. One of the present pupils of this Asylum was found naked in a county poor-house, and had been in that condition for two years. He had not only been without clothing by day, but he had slept in the straw, like a dog, at night.

In a State Institution, designed for the amelioration of their condition, on the contrary, the presumption is otherwise. The aim is a higher one than mere custody. If possible, the persons received, are to be improved. The conditions upon which improvement may be predicated, must be therefore regarded. Some of these, in the case of this institution, may be suggested.

The location is most healthy; the buildings are convenient and comfortable, at all seasons; they are well ventilated, and well provided with facilities for bathing; the grounds for out-door exercise, are not only ample, but attractive; a large gymnasium is provided for exercise in inclement weather.

The pupils are warmly clad; they are supplied with wholesome and nutritious articles of food, both in abundance and variety. This last particular, variety in diet, that modern physiology has shown to be requisite to the highest degree of health, in ordinary individuals, is especially, to be regarded in the case of individuals, or of classes of feeble or peculiar bodily organization. The profuse yield of the orchard and garden, connected with the Asylum, has furnished this variety, and at an inconsiderable expense.

The pupils are strictly classified at night, at meal times, and in their hours of relaxation, that they may receive no detriment from improper associations; and yet at certain periods in the school room, and under the eye of the teachers, they are allowed to mingle, that they may feel the stimulus, furnished by the example of those above them in intelligence. With these provisions for their physical comfort and improvement, they are submitted to a progressive series of educational exercises, under the care of ex-

perienced teachers, trained to patience, and with all appliances desirable for their special work.

These exercises commence at the lowest possible point that can well be conceived of; the exciting in an inert mind, incapable of self-determination, in response to suitably applied stimuli, the feeblest voluntary action, and end with those that constitute the lessons of an ordinary elementary school.

To each class of pupils, as far as they can be classified, a series of intellectual exercises is adapted; and each series of exercises is so intertwined with, and so overlaps the next series above, that the subject of them, may be easily led along from the one to the other. It should not be affirmed or understood, that this will be done in all cases. Still a visitor, who observes the gradual progressive character of these successive series, may readily see, that a pupil, entering at the right point in the educational course, might be conducted, from the lower to the highest, without encountering any very difficult steps, or serious obstacle.

Finally, it may be remarked, that all these exercises, are made subordinate to, and to terminate in a capacity, and disposition, for some form of industry. If these exercises are not always wisely adapted to developing the highest degree of usefulness in the pupils, it is not for the want of the best intentions of those who have devised them.

The question always should be, in canvassing the value of any proposed measure of instruction, what is its relation to the practical aims of the institution, and will it, in any wise, subserve those aims? Occupation, be it remembered, in the case of idiots, is valuable, not only for its productiveness, but because it substitutes a normal direction, and a spontaneous exercise of the various human faculties, with which they are endowed, for a blind subserviency to mere habit, or the mis-direction of these same powers, by appetite and passion. Mingled with the proper intellectual exercises, are the various measures adopted to break up disagreeable and vicious habits, by substitution, or otherwise.

Besides this subsidiary function of the school-room to the other features of the institution, it has other and most important ones. Here they are taught obedience; they are taught to know their particular place, and to be quiet in it; to persist in an allotted task till it is accomplished; but highest of all is the elevating and refining effect of the varied intercourse with teacher and companion in a well-ordered school-room. So, while experience

more and more leads to the conclusion that the chief end of all instruction and management is the practical result already dwelt upon, yet it also teaches that the school is an essential means for the accomplishment of this end.

How far these expectations have been realized of the preparatory relation of our system of training and instruction to a few departments of applied industry; how far the various exercises of the gymnasium have resulted in a moderate degree of dexterity; how far the strictly intellectual exercises of the school—the education of the senses, the cultivation of the powers of observation, comparison and judgment, as applied to surrounding relations, till their exercise has become habitual—have contributed to endow them with the intelligence and judgment necessary for simple industrial pursuits, may be seen in the various domestic duties performed by our pupils, and may be learned by the report of the steward of the institution, herewith annexed.

True it is, that the school acquirements of our pupils are very moderate at the best. True it is, that the industry of our boys upon the farm is but moderately productive. True it is, that the manufactured articles of our work-shop indicate but a moderate degree of skill in handicraft. And yet, comparing even these results with the stupidity and ignorance, the utter incapacity and unwillingness for work, from which they have been developed, may they not be regarded as a clear success.

Accompanying this report will be found one from the steward; this is commended to your attention, for reasons already suggested. It clearly shows the desirableness of acquiring, by purchase, some adjoining land, that we now occupy, by a short lease. The land now owned by the Asylum has cost the State but \$2,800, the remainder of the purchase money having been contributed by the citizens of Syracuse.

Our experience has shown that agricultural labor is the best employment for a class of subjects like those for whom this institution was designed. It is more healthful than any other. It can certainly be made to contribute more towards reducing the current expenses of an establishment than any other. Its various details, from the simplest work of the farm up to those of the garden and orchard, requiring the exercise of considerable skill and judgment, are so gradually progressive, in the degree of intelligence required, as to prove quite educational. Coming also, as so many of the pupils do, from the rural districts, when

they enter the Asylum, and returning to the same on leaving it, education in agricultural employments would seem the best adapted for them, if for no other reason. In general, it may be said of the pupils who leave our institution, and others like it, that in the country, on the farm, and away from the village even, is the best place for them. Instruction in practical agriculture will make them useful and happy there. On the other hand, instruction in trades, if it were practicable, would have the tendency to draw them, after leaving the institution, towards the town, village or trade's centre, where, for manifest reasons, they should not go.

In looking back upon the experience of the past year, we have much to be thankful for. An unusual exemption from sickness has marked the whole year. The trustees of the institution have continued to manifest the same deep interest they have hitherto felt in its object and its success, and also their confidence in the officers to whom the immediate work has been confided. There has been a hearty co-operation of all the officers and teachers of the establishment with the Superintendent in all his plans and efforts. Industry, fidelity, and a spirit of kindness, have uniformly been exhibited by the attendants and servants in all their duties and relations.

To the same kind Providence that has watched over us and blessed our labors during the past, we may safely confide all our interests for the coming year.

H. B. WILBUR, *Sup't.*

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

HAMILTON WHITE, *Treasurer of the N. Y. Asylum for Idiots, in account current with the State of New York, for cash received and expended for the general supplies and the salaries and wages of officers, teachers, attendants and servants of said Asylum, during the year ending September 30th, 1860.*

Dr.

1859.		
Oct. 1st.	To balance in treasury.....	\$734 43
6th.	To cash from State Treasurer.....	4,500 00
Dec. 8th.	To cash received from paying pupils board and instruction	493 79
1860.		
Jan. 4th.	To cash from State Treasurer	4,500 00
Feb.	To cash from counties for clothing State pupils	1,175 15
April 5th.	To cash from State treasurer.....	4,500 00
19th.	To cash from State Treasurer (special grant).....	5,500 00
26th.	To cash from paying pupils, board and instruction	1,200 86
June 29th.	To cash from State Treasurer	4,500 00
July 18th.	To cash from paying pupils, board &c..	836 14
Sept. 14th.	To cash from paying pupils	393 28
Balance	6 65
		<hr/>
		28,340 30
		<hr/> <hr/>

Cr.

1860.		
Jan. 1st.	By cash paid out on bills, audited by executive committee, for quarter end- ing December 31st, 1859.....	\$5,431 49
April 1st.	By cash paid out on bills audited by executive committee, for quarter end- ing March 31st, 1860.....	5,859 77

1860.

July 1st. By cash paid out on bills audited by executive committee, for quarter end- ing June 30th, 1860.....	\$10,842 31
Sept. 30th. By cash paid out on bills audited by executive committee, for quarter end- ing September 30th, 1860	5,452 36
July 31st. By cash paid out on Savings Bank loan and interest.....	754 37
	<hr/>
	\$28,340 30
	<hr/>
Oct. 1st. By balance	\$6 65

HAMILTON WHITE.

STEWARD'S REPORT.

The following report of the farming operations of the last year is hereby submitted :

The entire farm, under the management of the steward of the institution, contains sixty-nine acres. Of this, eighteen acres is the property of the State; the remainder is leased from parties owning adjoining land. Seven acres are occupied by the buildings and out-buildings, the ornamental grounds, and the playgrounds for the children. There are about eight acres of wood land, and also one acre of waste land on the banks of the Harbor brook.

Deducting these portions of the land occupied, and there remain fifty-three acres with which the productions of the farm are to be compared.

The stock upon the place consists of four horses, five cows, and ten swine.

The several fields or sections of the farm, allotted to different crops, were carefully measured, and with the following results :

Pasturage,.....	13	acres.
Mowing	12	do
Corn,	9.6	do
Oats,	6.5	do
Potatoes	4.9	do
Turnips	2.7	do
Carrots	1.	do
Garden	3.5	do
Total	53.2	acres.

An accurate daily account was kept of the various products of the farm and garden, as they were gathered or harvested, and the following list has been made up from such records.

The prices annexed to each product are the average prices for a series of years in this region. Those relating to the farm pro-

ducts are given as estimated in the agricultural report of this county, made to the State Society, in 1859, by Hon. George Geddes.

The prices of the garden products were estimated by a produce dealer in Syracuse, and are the wholesale market prices. As we furnish our own market for all such articles, by consumption in the institution, these estimates are under estimates.

It will be observed, also, by reference to the table of expenses of working the farm, that the productive quality of the soil has not been impaired by the crops removed; on the contrary, it has been so supplied with fertilizing materials, in the form both of liquid and solid manure, as to be in very much better condition than a year ago.

Amount and value of farm and garden products.

30	tons of hay, at \$10	\$300 00
620	bushels corn, at 75 cents	465 00
350	bushels oats, at 40 cents	140 00
6	tons of straw, at \$5	30 00
	Corn-fodder	60 00
	Pasturage of five cows twenty-six weeks	65 00
694	bushels of potatoes, at 40 cents	277 60
1,102	do turnips, at 20 cents	220 40
466	do carrots, at 20 cents	93 20
132	do beets, at 25 cents	33 00
46	do parsnips, at 37½ cents	17 25
12	do onions	4 50
1,300	heads of cabbage, at 3 cents	39 00
200	do cauliflower	6 00
1,350	do lettuce	40 50
750	do celery	22 50
1,705	pounds of squashes	34 10
10	loads of pumpkins	10 00
13	bushels of string beans, at \$1,50	19 50
28½	do green peas, at \$1	28 50
10	do spinach, at 25 cents	2 50
8	do cucumbers, at \$2	16 00
6	do white beans	9 00
78	do tomatoes, at 37½ cents	29 25
5½	do peppers	8 25
243	do green corn, at 40 cents	17 20

276	bunches of asparagus, at 5 cents.....	\$13 80
190	do rhubarb, at 4 cents.....	7 60
57	do radishes, at 6 cents.....	3 42
200	bushels of apples, at 40 cents.....	80 00
83	barrels of pears, at \$7.....	581 00
460	quarts of strawberries, at 10 cents.....	46 00
6	bushels of cherries	12 00
26	do grapes	54 00
	Other fruit, gooseberries currents, raspber- ries, &c.....	26 20
38,000	gallons of milk, at 16 cents, deducting the price of keeping 5 cows one year, and depreciation	265 00
2,100	pounds of pork, net weight, at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents..	141 75
		<hr/>
		\$3,220 02
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Expenditures on farm account.

Rent of land and taxes.....	\$400 00
Twenty-seven days' work of man and team, plough- ing.....	54 00
Six days' work of man and team haying	12 00
Fourteen do do harvesting	28 00
Nine-hundred and seventy-two loads of manure, at 33 cents	320 76
Seven months' wages; board of gardener.....	210 00
Six months' wages; board of hired man.....	144 00
Extra labor, cradling, mowing, and harvesting....	16 50
Depreciation and repairs of wagons, sled, tools and harnesses	70 00
Seed	62 00
Drawing manure from yards, man and team, twelve days	24 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,341 26
	<hr/>
Balance to credit of farm account.....	\$1,878 76

The past season has been a very productive one everywhere. The crops on this farm, however, show more than the average productiveness of land in this vicinity, even this year. This has resulted from high cultivation. The land has been thoroughly en-

riched, and the abundance of labor, (the larger pupils of the Asylum,) has enabled us, not only to keep down the weeds, but to harvest the crops just in the right time.

Besides the work necessary to cultivate and secure the crops of all kinds, much has been done towards the general improvement of the grounds. Many loads of stone have been collected, piled up, or laid in blind drains. A portion of the wood land has been freed from roots and stumps, and brought into the condition of a park. Hedges have been planted, and ornamental trees set out. A large well has been excavated, and a stone reservoir, holding 10,000 gallons, has been built. The fruit trees upon the place have also had good care.

In addition to the farm work, the larger boys were employed, for five months last winter, in a shoe shop. The result of this experiment, with boys entirely unused to tools, and engaged only long enough, in this branch of mechanical industry, to just begin to be useful, is as follows. The value of the articles manufactured was more than the cost of the materials employed, and the wages of the shoemaker, and sufficient to cover the expense of fitting up the shop, and providing the necessary tools.

In estimating the productive industry of the pupils of the Asylum, it is to be borne in mind, that the age for the admission of pupils is from seven to fourteen.

There were but twenty-four boys, during the last year, connected with the Asylum that were fifteen years old, and upwards, and some of these too feeble to accomplish much, in the way of work.

On looking at the expenses of the farm, it will be seen that there were but two hired men employed. It may be added, that the services of these two men could hardly have been dispensed with if no farming operations had been undertaken. The care of the ornamental grounds, the garden, and the stable, would have made them necessary. From this it will appear, that the profits of the farm, above given, have been really much under-estimated.

R. FRISSELLE, *Steward.*

