CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL

FOR

Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth.

BOSTON:
CROSS & FREEMAN, PRINTERS.
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An Act to incorporate the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Sect. 1. S. G. Howe, Samuel May, Stephen Fairbanks, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Youth, for the purpose of training and teaching such persons, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, restrictions, and liabilities, set forth in the thirty-eight and forty-fourth chapters of the Revised Statutes.

Sect. 2. Said corporation may hold, for the purposes aforesaid, real estate not exceeding in value one hundred thousand dollars, and personal estate, the income of which shall not exceed ten thousand dollars.

[Approved by the Governor, April 4, 1850.]

Resolved, That there be paid, annually, out of the treasury of the Commonwealth, to the treasurer of the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Youth, the sum of five thousand dollars, to be devoted to teaching and training indigent idiotic children belonging to this Commonwealth: provided, that the board of trustees, having the direction of the said institution, shall be composed of twelve persons, four of whom shall be appointed by the governor and council: and provided, that the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, president of the senate, speaker of the house, and the two chaplains, shall constitute a board of visitors, whose duty it shall be to visit and inspect the said institution as often as they see fit; to examine the by-laws and regulations enacted by the corporation; and, generally, to see that the object of the said institution is carried into effect: and provided, further, that the said institution shall gratuitously receive and educate thirty idiotic persons, to be designated by the governor: and provided, further, that other applicants, of proper age and condition, children of inhabitants of this Commonwealth who are not wealthy, shall be received at a charge not exceeding the actual average cost of the inmates: and provided, further, that the members of the Legislature for the time being shall be, ex officio, visitors of the institution, and have the privilege, during the sessions, of inspecting the same; that the governor be authorized annually to draw his warrant for the sum of five thousand dollars, in four equal quarterly payments of one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars each, in favor of the treasurer of the said school, whenever he shall have satisfactory evidence that the terms and conditions of the foregoing resolve have been fulfilled.

[Approved by the Governor, April 30, 1851.]
BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

TITLE.

The corporation shall be composed of the persons named in "An Act to incorporate the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Youth;" of such persons as may be elected members by ballot at any legal meeting; and also of all such persons as shall pay the sum of twenty-five dollars or upwards; and of such persons as shall annually pay the sum of five dollars.

ARTICLE II.

MEETINGS.

There shall be an annual meeting of the corporation on the second Thursday of January in every year, at which the following officers shall be chosen by ballot, namely:—A President, a Vice-President, eight Trustees, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, to serve until the
ARTICLE VII.

SECRETARY.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify and attend all meetings of the corporation, and to keep a fair record of their doings, and to furnish the treasurer with a copy of all votes of the corporation or of the trustees, respecting the payment of monies to be made by him.

ARTICLE VIII.

TREASURER.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and have the custody of all monies and securities belonging to the corporation, which he shall keep and manage under the direction of the trustees. He shall pay no monies but by their order, or the order of their committees, duly authorized. His books shall be open to the inspection of the trustees. He shall make up his accounts to the first day of January, in each year, together with an inventory of all the real and personal estate, and of the debts due to and from the corporation, and present the same to the corporation at their annual meeting. He shall give such bonds for the faithful discharge of his duties, as the trustees shall, from time to time require.
ARTICLE IX.

ALTERATIONS.

These By-Laws may be altered at any meeting of the corporation—provided, that public notice of the intended change has been given at any former meeting, regularly called, not more than three months nor less than three weeks previous; provided also, that the secretary give a written or printed notice to each member of the proposed alteration previous to such meeting, and, that two-thirds of the members present approve it.
RULES AND REGULATIONS.

TRUSTEES.

A meeting of the Trustees shall be held monthly.

QUORUM.

The presence of three members shall constitute a quorum.

VISITING COMMITTEE.

Two of the Trustees taken in rotation, shall form a Committee, one at least of whom shall visit the Institution each week, during the space of two months. These shall be so arranged, that one shall go out and another go into the committee, at the beginning of each month.

This committee shall examine the state of the Institution; the condition, &c. of the pupils; and of all the rooms in the establishment, and receive and examine any report of the superintendent, and make a record of their visit and impressions.

This committee may report on the state and condition of the Institution at any monthly meeting of the trustees.
The Trustees shall appoint annually two of their number as auditors. They shall examine all the accounts of the Institution and treasurer. They shall aid the treasurer in the investment of any funds belonging to the Institution. And no money shall be paid out by the treasurer without their order.

SUPERINTENDENT.

It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to reside at, and give his whole time to, the service of the Institution.

He shall select and employ all subordinate officers, assistants, servants of the Institution, subject to the rejection of the trustees.

He shall have the general superintendence of the whole Institution, and have charge of all the pupils and direct and control all the persons therein, subject to the regulations of the trustees.

He shall regulate the diet, regimen, exercises and employments, and the whole course of education and training of the pupils.

He shall, from time to time, give to all persons employed in the Institution such instructions as he shall deem best to carry into operation all the rules and regulations of the same, and he shall cause such rules and regulations to be strictly and faithfully executed.

He shall make a record of the name, age, and condition, parentage, and probable causes of idiocy, or deficiency of each pupil, and of all the circumstances that may illustrate his or her condition, or character; and
also keep a record, from time to time, of the progress of each one.

He shall purchase fuel, provisions, stores, and furniture, and shall be responsible for the safe-keeping and expenditure thereof. Provided however, that if the trustees think it best to appoint a Steward, he shall perform these duties with the concurrence of the Superintendent.

He shall collect and receive all the monies due from the pupils, and deposit the same with the treasurer.

He shall keep a separate account with each one of the pupils, or with the parents or guardians of such of the pupils as are not beneficiaries of Massachusetts, charging them with all expenses of board, instruction, &c., and with all the moneys expended for clothing, and other necessaries, or proper indulgences.

He shall make monthly reports to the Trustees of the condition of the Institution, and make such suggestions as he may think the interests of the Institution require.

He shall prepare for the trustees and the corporation, an annual report, in which he will show the history, progress, and condition of the Institution, and the success of the attempts to educate and improve the idiotic or feeble-minded youth.

The teachers, assistants, and pupils, shall be under the immediate direction of the superintendent, and no orders shall be given to them except through him.

No officer, assistant, or pupil can absent himself from the Institution without the permission of the superintendent.

The hours for work, for exercise, for study, and for recreation, being established by the superintendent,
each teacher, assistant, and pupil, will be expected to conform strictly to them.

VISITORS.

Persons may visit the Institution under such regulations as the trustees and superintendent shall establish.

TOBACCO.

The use of tobacco, either in smoking or otherwise, is prohibited in the Institution.

BENEFICIARIES.

Candidates for admission must be over six, and under fourteen years of age.

Beneficiaries must produce a certificate from the selectmen or the overseers of the poor of their town, stating that their parents and immediate relatives are unable to defray the expenses of their education.

They must be provided with suitable changes of raiment for winter and for summer, and especially with thick shoes or boots.

The boys must have at least six good cotton shirts, and six pairs of socks or stockings; two coats or jackets, two pairs of trousers, two waist-coats, and an overcoat, two pairs of shoes or boots, six pocket handkerchiefs, and a good cap or hat.

The females must be provided with at least the same quantity of linen, and with three gowns and dresses. The clothing must all be of good serviceable material.

It must be renewed from time to time, as may be necessary—by the parents; any thing more than com-
mon mending will not be done at the expense of the Institution.

All the articles of clothing must be marked with the name of the owner—at full length.

**PUPILS NOT BENEFICIARIES.**

Any suitable persons may be admitted to the Institution, on presenting to the superintendent, sufficient evidence of their fitness for it, on such terms as he or the standing committee shall determine, according to the responsibilities and difficulties in each case. Payments are to be made quarterly in advance or sufficient security therefor given.

Beneficiaries must be provided with at least two decent suits of clothing, and sufficient changes of garments of all kinds, for winter, and also for summer.

They will be required to observe strictly all the rules and regulations of the Institution.