

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS' INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1864.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,

No. 4 SPRING LANE.

1864.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, October 5, 1864. }

*To the Members of the Corporation, and to the Legislature of
Massachusetts :*

The undersigned Trustees, appointed by the Corporation, and by the Governor and Board of Visitors in behalf of the State, respectfully report, as follows, for the year closing September 30th, 1864.

The year has been one of peaceful prosperity, and nothing has occurred to interrupt the usual course of instruction and employment.

The several documents herewith submitted will furnish all the information respecting the institution, which is required by law and custom.

The Director's report shows that the number of blind persons received and discharged has been rather larger than usual.

The average number of blind children, who are likely to be sent to the institution, for instruction from the New England States, for some years to come, will not, probably, exceed one hundred. Our institution can easily accommodate so many, and a much larger number is not desirable in one establishment.

The number of adults who are furnished with employment, will probably increase, especially if the laundry for the employment of blind women, which has been established as an experiment, should succeed according to present expectations.

The Trustees ask especial attention to this subject, which is fully set forth in the Director's report.

It is not desirable to encourage those who finish their education at the institution, to remain in the neighborhood ; much less to induce blind persons to leave the country and congregate in the city. On the contrary, it has ever been the policy of the institution to encourage its graduates to find homes in the places where they belong, so that the blind may be dispersed in the community and not form a class apart.

The establishment of a work department for adults, was rather a matter of necessity than of choice. It would have been easy, by an appeal to public charity, to endow that establishment so largely that it could do a great deal in the way of charity, and make the labor of the inmates so light and their comfort so great, that the blind would have flocked to it, and been numbered by hundreds. The opposite course, however, has been followed, so that those only resort to it who cannot well find employment elsewhere ; and they are required to work as industriously as ordinary workmen do, and are paid what they really earn.

The same reasons which called for the establishment of a work department for blind men, now call for a similar one for women. Every year a certain number of young women leave the institution, well-educated in the common branches of school learning, and well-trained in industrious habits. Most of them find comfortable homes among their relatives, and are able to render themselves useful and agreeable members of ordinary households. A few teach music, and gain a livelihood thereby. But here and there is one who needs special aid. The number of these has so increased that an organized effort is needed to help them to help themselves. The experiment of a laundry promises well thus far. It has necessarily been expensive, and will continue to be so yet longer ; but the cost may safely be considered as an investment, which will yield a large income of beneficence in future years.

Interesting statements are made by the Director, concerning the success of pupils who have left the institution, and are earning a good livelihood by teaching music and tuning pianos.

Others are working at their trades in the country, and their work is made more profitable by the facilities which are given them in the way of business by our sales-room.

The policy of the institution is to encourage the blind in every way, to rely upon their own efforts; to live by their own industry, and never to receive alms.

True friendship for the blind is not shown by yielding to emotions of pity, and removing from their path obstacles which they themselves can by care and toil overcome, for in the end they would be stronger and happier for the effort to do so. But it is both wise and humane, by organized effort, to give the blind such encouragement to industry, and such facilities for work, as will counterbalance the real and heavy disadvantages arising from their infirmity, to the extent that they shall be on a level with ordinary workmen. So far, no farther. Help to industry, but no encouragement to idleness.

By such organized effort, the State and benevolent individuals have built up this institution, and they are relied upon to sustain it so long as it merits confidence, and shows good return for the investment.

Such efforts are, however, necessarily costly, and the report of the Treasurer will show that during the past year the expenses have exceeded the income.

This arises from two causes: first, the increased cost of carrying on the establishment, the reasons for which must be apparent to all; second, the enlargement and improvement of the premises.

These improvements have been long called for, and the call has been resisted, partly because the productive fund was so small, and partly because there was doubt about retaining the institution permanently in its present location.

The first objection has been overruled by the hope that "patient continuance in well doing" would secure for the institution the continued patronage of the State; and would, moreover, be rewarded by the sympathy and substantial assistance of good men.

The Trustees, therefore, did not hesitate any longer about reducing the small capital of the institution by making the needed improvements. These are enumerated and described in the report of the Director.

As to the second objection, it has been overcome by the conclusion which has been formed by most of the Trustees, that, upon

the whole, the present location of the establishment can be advantageously retained for some years to come.

The pecuniary means of the institution are so limited, and the cost of carrying on its necessary operations so much increased, that some works of great interest, but not of immediate and pressing need, have been interrupted. Printing books in raised letters has been suspended for two years. This was a very useful work, and a source of great pleasure and improvement, not only to our pupils, but to all the institutions for the education of the blind in the country. They were mainly supplied with our books; and there was an increasing call for them in England. The cost of the printing office, however, was considerable, because, although the books were sought for, the cash sales were very limited, the blind being generally too poor to pay money; and therefore the work was suspended. It is to be hoped that the hearts of those who have the power of doing good may be moved to furnish the means of resuming it. This form of charity is not only manifestly a good one, but it presents features which render it peculiarly attractive to some minds. The seed silently planted will bear fruit through many seasons; increasing, perhaps, with the lapse of time. He who causes a book to be printed for the blind, may convey his gift of knowledge in such form as best suits his taste. This has sometimes been done very happily. Perhaps the name of Peter C. Brooks will be read by the fingers of the blind, upon the title-page of Pierce's Geometry, after the inscription upon his tombstone has become illegible to the eye.

The policy of the institution has been liberality in all matters which touch the real and permanent interests of the blind, but economy, even to parsimony, in everything else. During more than thirty years, not a repast has been served for the Trustees, nor a penny spent for their carriage-hire. Their services are strictly gratuitous.

While large outlays have been made for improvement of the grounds and buildings, and thousands of dollars annually expended upon books, apparatus, musical instruments and the like, the utmost frugality has pervaded the household. A large corps of teachers has been maintained; but the domestic service has been upon the most economical scale, and the fare of the simplest and cheapest kind, consistent with health.

The report of the Treasurer will show the general condition of the finances ; and that of the Director will exhibit the details of expenditure.

The several inventories required by law are herewith submitted.

The Trustees close their Report by commending the interests of the institution to the corporation and to the legislature, in the hope and belief that whatever additional aid may be needed, will be cheerfully and promptly granted.

Adopted by vote of the Board, October 5, 1864.

THOS. T. BOUVÉ,
 THEOP. P. CHANDLER,
 STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,*
 JOSEPH LYMAN,
 JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.,
 WM. B. ROGERS,
 BENJ. S. ROTCH,*
 GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
 JAMES STURGIS,
 JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.,*
 JOHN H. STEPHENSON,
 ——— ———,†

Trustees.

SAM'L G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

* Trustees appointed by the Governor.

† One vacancy, occasioned by the lamented death of WM. D. TICKNOR.

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,

1864-5.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.

THEOPH. P. CHANDLER.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

JOSIAH QUINCY.

WILLIAM B. ROGERS.

BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.

GEORGE R. RUSSELL.

JAMES STURGIS.

JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.*

* Two vacancies to be filled by the governor.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

The number of pupils reported, September 30th, 1863, was one hundred and nineteen; admitted during the year, twenty-three; discharged during the year, twenty-five; present number, one hundred and seventeen.

This is made up of eighty-one in the junior department, or the school proper; three teachers; two in domestic service; twenty-three adult men and women in the workshop, and eight women in the laundry.

Of these, thirty-six are on pay; and the aggregate amount earned and received by them in cash, during the year is \$5,726.02.

Besides these there are several blind men who learned their trade here, and who are supplied with tools and stock, from our workshop, and work at home, in the country. They either sell their goods in their own neighborhood, or send them to us to be sold on their account.

The monthly reports which have been made have kept you informed of the current events. None of them are important enough to need special mention here.

The general health of the inmates has been maintained at its usual average. Among the pupils proper, there have been but few cases of sickness, and none of death. The nursery has been occupied but little.

Several of the pupils have been under treatment by oculists, with a view to the restoration or improvement of their vision. A hope, and almost an expectation, has been excited in some of them that they should be cured; but those hopes and expectations have not been realized.

This is no new thing. There is a frequently occurring, and almost periodical excitement upon this subject;—a sort of revival of buried hope which cannot be reasoned with, and which

it seems almost cruel to repress. This sort of revival is occasioned sometimes by reports, (whether well or ill founded,) of a blind person being restored to sight; sometimes by a young and sanguine oculist who honestly believes that he can restore or at least improve vision in cases where others have failed; but occasionally by a dishonest pretender, who wishes to get notoriety, which to him is capital, by practising upon the blind. He has nothing to lose, and hopes he may make a lucky hit, careless of what harm he may do, or what painful disappointment he may occasion. While one patient is under treatment, and is encouraged by false hopes, others conceive them also, and there follows a feverish excitement upon the subject.

There have been many such revivals in our institution; during all of which the hopes of one or two have at first run high, and soon been shared by many others, until there followed a general excitement on the subject. It is sometimes painful to see those come forward in whom there is evidently no possibility of sight, and who, having become resigned and even happy in their darkness, are again excited and disturbed by false hopes. It is painful too to record that hitherto all these periods of excitement and hope have been followed by disappointment. Some few have seemed to be improved for awhile, but out of many hundred cases, only two are remembered in which any considerable benefit was received, and in only one of those has it been permanent.

The rule of our school is to receive those only who are considered as incurably blind. If among the applicants there are any whose blindness seems curable, or which even presents a feeble chance of being improved, they have the advice of our best oculists. If any treatment is deemed desirable, it is to be made before the applicant is admitted to the school. This rule ought to be adhered to more strictly than it has been hitherto.

Recovery of sight, or even improvement of what little vision a person may have, is a matter so highly desirable to all parties, and it is of such vital importance to the sufferer, that no pains or expense should be spared to bring it about. But, during the treatment, the patient can seldom be a fit subject for a school. Even if the treatment did not prevent observance of the studies and the discipline, the moral condition of the patient would do it. The issue is of vast moment to him. It involves hopes so

exciting,—fears so depressing,—doubts so tormenting, that there is no room for anything else. If he ever saw, or if he even perceives a faint glimmer of light, he anticipates more exquisite pleasure from sight than those who securely possess it ever realize; and he fears that its total loss will bring more lasting suffering and sorrow, than the blind themselves experience.

Among the adults connected with the institution, there has been during the year, more sickness than among the pupils; and two cases have been fatal. There is always a higher rate of sickness and mortality in this class than in the junior department, for reasons set forth in our twenty-eighth report.

The school proper, in the juvenile department, has been attended during the year by about eighty pupils. Their general conduct has been very satisfactory. They are docile and industrious, and no severity of discipline is required in their government. The school has been conducted with marked ability and success, by the same young ladies who have given us proof, in years past, of their skill and fidelity as teachers.

The general course of instruction has been the same as in former years. The object is to give to all the pupils the same kind and degree of instruction in the common English branches, as is given in our best common schools; and this object has been attained in as great a degree as could be expected. A few pupils pursue successfully the branches taught in our High Schools.

BOYS' WORKSHOP.

Besides a knowledge of the English branches, our course of instruction includes daily exercise and training in simple and easy manual work. This gives physical exercise, increases dexterity and self-reliance, and prepares the pupils for whatever trade or calling they may afterwards follow. Even those who aspire to become teachers, and those who will never be obliged to work for a living, are benefited by this kind of training. As a laundress or a broom-maker is better fitted to follow successfully a mechanical calling, by having had mental culture in youth, so a teacher is better for possessing that bodily culture and dexterity, which training in some manual art gives so effectually. It is good for every one, but especially for the blind,

for it improves their gait and carriage, and lessens that awkwardness of appearance which those who are untrained almost always present.

It is in view of the importance of this, and of early habits of self-reliance, that we require our pupils to do everything for themselves that they can do. Even the boys make their own beds and take care of their own rooms. They learn to run and jump and wrestle and bowl. The gymnasium is considered to be an important adjunct to the school-room; and the rapid wear and tear of solid bowling-alleys, and of hard wood apparatus, gives proof of the vigor and force of their operations. They are kept out of doors as much as possible. In the summer they bathe in the sea, and many of them can swim, and can row a boat.

The girls are employed daily in household duties, and are taught to sew, to knit, and to do various kinds of fancy work.

This kind of training, though not so agreeable to them, or so much prized by their friends, is nevertheless of service to all; and to many is more useful in the end than listening to poetry, or practising on the piano.

The boys spend two or three hours every afternoon in a workshop, where they learn simple trades. They make brooms, seat chairs, and braid mats. The work is under the management of a former pupil, who has a small salary, (\$150,) and makes what he can out of the business. He purchases the stock, and sells the goods, or they are sold on his account, at our store. This arrangement has many advantages over any other which we have tried. It secures vigilant attention to business; economy of stock and of time, and prevents slovenly work, which is always unprofitable work. It trains at least one person to close business habits; and his example helps others. If there is any profit, it cannot be better disposed of than to one of that class whose prosperity it is our business to promote.

Almost all the pupils devote some time each day to the study and practice of music. This is in pursuance of our uniform policy which requires that the pupils should receive instruction and training in vocal and instrumental music, with a view to general culture, and to that familiarity with the art, which is so desirable for all youth, but especially for the blind.

A few of the most advanced pupils, who show special talent for music, with such general mental ability as is essential for excellence in any art, devote as much time to the study as can be done advantageously. They receive careful instruction, and have excellent instruments for daily practise.

The liberal expenditures which have been made within a few years for musical instruments, give us very great advantages, such as were not formerly enjoyed, and which can hardly be found elsewhere. There is a beautiful organ, built at great cost, and with great care, and which is so constructed as to give a great variety of practice. It is an instrument which ranks amongst the first in the country.

There are twenty-six piano-fortes, all in excellent condition, and so arranged in commodious rooms that both teacher and pupils can work advantageously.

Besides these advantages, our students of music have opportunities of hearing the best masters and the best music which the city can furnish. The professional musicians of Boston, and the musical societies, show great liberality and kindness in this matter; and they deserve our thanks, as well as the gratitude of the blind.

The object in giving special instruction and training to a few pupils is, that they may become good musicians, good teachers, and good tuners of pianos.

Care is taken, however, to avoid the common error of mistaking great sensibility to musical sounds, and marvellous powers of imitation, for real talent. The blind musical prodigies, of whom the country has seen so many, prove for the most part, to be prodigious failures. The most marvellous instance of all is that of Tom, the blind slave boy, whose performances created such a sensation in this country three or four years ago. After making all allowance for exaggeration, it must be admitted that his case proves that delicate sensibility to harmonious relations of sound, and marvellous power of memory and of imitation, *may* exist in one who is in other respects hardly above an idiot. The case of this blind and imbecile boy is so interesting, and in some respects so instructive, that an account of it should be preserved. A careful and minute account of it by a competent observer, would be a valuable contribution to science.

The lack of sufficient care in the selection of pupils to be trained for musicians, and other causes, (which it is hardly time yet to set forth,) have contributed to what we must acknowledge to be a failure of the hopes and expectations raised among the blind, and in the public mind, by former reports of this and other institutions.

The graduates who have gone forth as musicians, teachers, and tuners, have not, as a general thing, done so well as it was predicted they would do. We now see many reasons for the disappointment, and we may set them forth in due season; but, in the meantime, we shall try to profit by them; and, as out of the nettle, danger, is plucked the flower, safety, so out of failure try to pluck success.

A comparative degree of success has been obtained during the past year as the result of more careful selection of pupils, more thorough drill, and longer persistence in work than was formerly required.

The following extracts of letters from graduates who have recently left will show in their own language the degree of success they are now obtaining:

“It is now two years since I left the institution, and I am happy to say that during that time I have been able to support myself almost wholly by my own exertions. I commenced teaching music in this city, (Boston,) and although it is crowded with superior musicians and teachers, yet I have had a moderate share of patronage. The greatest number of pupils that I have had at any one time, was fourteen; the smallest number, two; the average about ten.

“Most of them have taken more than one quarter, and several have continued their lessons more than a year. I have tuned the pianos of all my pupils, and as many more as I could find. I have usually had one a week, and often two or three. ALONZO CARTER.”

“I have tuned twenty-two pianos, and I now have twelve scholars under instruction, and another that will commence soon.

“AARON BLAKESLEE, *New Haven.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I have a situation as organist, in the Episcopal Church, with a salary of \$60 a year. I had eight scholars the first quarter. They commenced to take lessons at different periods.

“I have received \$92. The prospect is that I shall have more scholars.

JEANNETTE ANDREWS, *Salem, Mass.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I commenced teaching April 4th. The first quarter I earned and had paid in, \$65, but had two scholars who were taking lessons once a week, for which I had not then received anything. I have now seven scholars, at \$15 per quarter; three of the number taking but one lesson a week.

LYDIA AMES, *Malden, Mass.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I commenced teaching here in April last, with a class of six, which has increased to ten. I shall probably retain this number until December, and hope in the meantime to add thereto.

“I have been able to defray all my expenses, which have been large, with a small surplus.

THOMAS ROCHE, *Lynn, Mass.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I left the institution hardly knowing what to do, but wishing to take up the first thing that promised the most money. Tuning being a new business for the blind, that is in Boston, I was doubtful how I might succeed with it. Very few of the piano makers were willing to own that a blind man could tune a piano. Beginning under those circumstances, I could but be slow. From that time till the first of January, 1864, I earned from \$175 to \$200. Since then I have earned from \$350 to \$375, and have every prospect of as much for the next four months.

JOSEPH WOOD.”

“Immediately on graduating, I came to Bangor with the view of teaching piano or organ music, or to engage in the tuning of pianos. I chose piano teaching, and my friends obtained about a dozen scholars for me to commence with, four of whom lived in Old Town, twelve miles from the city, which place I visited semi-weekly.

“At first I did some tuning, but the number of my scholars soon increased so that I was obliged to give up that branch of the business.

“The average number of my scholars during the year was sixteen, and the number of lessons per week about twenty. My terms are sixteen dollars per quarter, which is the most that any teacher of music has in this city.

“I go to the houses of my scholars to give them their lessons, without a guide except the first time, and I find no difficulty in travelling to any part of the city.

“At this time I have twenty-five scholars, which are as many as I can do justice to, and I have been obliged to refuse several applicants of late.

“My scholars are of the first families in the city, and a large number of them are quite advanced in piano playing; some of them being teachers.

THOMAS REEVES.”

Graduated March, 1863.

The musical department has been under the charge of Mr. F. J. Campbell for about seven years; and it is owing to his skill, and to his zeal that such satisfactory progress has been made. He has inspired his pupils with an ambition for real excellence; and has convinced them that it cannot be attained by haste.

THE WORK DEPARTMENT FOR ADULTS

Has been conducted on the system which was adopted about fifteen years ago, and it continues to be prosperous and successful.

The whole number of men and women employed during the year was 27.

The amount of earnings paid to them in cash was \$3,560.02.

The amount of receipts at the sales-room was \$18,604.65. A large proportion of this was for work, such as making over old mattresses, bottoming chairs, making and repairing mats. The balance sheet shows a small profit. No allowance, however, is made for interest on the capital, \$13,756.96, originally invested in the shop, from the general fund of the institution.

The successful establishment of this department is very gratifying, because it proves that with a little indirect aid in the disposal of their wares, adult blind men and women may earn their livelihood, and yet not be gathered in an asylum, not subjected to any restraint, and not considered as objects of charity; but may live just as they desire to do. It proves also that they desire to live in families, as other people live, and not in asylums, however named.

For reasons set forth in former reports, it is not desirable that the number of those immediately connected with this department should be greatly increased. But beside those so connected, there are several blind men who have been supplied with tools and stock, and who work at home in the country, either disposing of their goods in the neighborhood, or sending them to our store for sale on their account. This is the best arrangement upon the whole, that can be made for adult blind persons; and it is very desirable that it should be extended to

as many as possible. It has various advantages. It keeps up the ties of family and neighborhood. It establishes and strengthens social and civic relations between the blind and others. It keeps them distributed equally in the community. It relieves the cities from undue numbers of infirm people. It prevents the growth of that spirit of caste which is apt to be engendered where the blind congregate together. Finally, it accords with the idea which has guided our efforts, that the education of the blind should fit them for intercourse with those who see; and it reduces to its minimum the difference between them.

The history of this department shows that it may fairly be regarded as a success, financially.

The institution appropriated, at various times, \$13,756.96, as capital to carry on the business. The last appropriation was \$2,500, in 1855. Besides the debt to the institution for this capital, the department owes to sundry individuals for goods, \$1,412.80, or in all \$15,169.76. But it has stock on hand which is fairly valued at \$7,471.03. It has cash on hand, \$1,865.66. It has debts due to it, \$4,674.22; total, \$13,986.11. Assuming that we lose all the doubtful debts, and twenty per cent. of the good ones, the balance against the shop will be about \$3,000.

This balance has been growing less during several years, and if it continues to do so a few years longer, will be cancelled, and the institution will get back all its capital. The only loss will be of the interest, and the difference between the cost of the building and its actual worth. But should the business be closed up now, the loss could not exceed \$5,000, and would probably not much exceed \$3,000.

In the meantime the department has paid out in cash, to blind men and women, the sum of \$59,185.24.

But if we reckon more strictly, and take only the time from 1850, when the workmen and women left the institution and provided board for themselves, and if we make allowance for the clerk hire, which was at first paid from the general fund, we shall find that the work department has paid to blind men and women, in cash, the sum of \$54,521.14. This surely is a good return for the loss of interest on \$13,986.11, and of part of the principal.

THE LAUNDRY.

Mention was made in the last report of the experimental laundry for the employment of blind women, upon the same system as that adopted in the men's work department.

This has gone on successfully during the year, and eight women have been employed. They have earned wages barely enough to pay their board and scanty personal expenses.

Besides doing all the washing for the institution, and for the School for Idiots, they have taken in washing from many private families, and their work has given satisfaction.

The experiment may be considered a success; and since, by a vote of your Board the laundry has been adopted as a branch of the work department, it will be so conducted, and a separate exhibit made of its expenditures and income.

The receipts have not equalled the expenses as yet; but there is a nearer approach to it every month.

It is desirable that a fund of a few thousand dollars should be set apart to constitute a working capital, as in the case of the men's work department.

FINANCES.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the total receipts during the year were,	\$32,896 19
Deduct cash on hand at the beginning of the year,	1,566 77
Net receipts,	<u>\$31,329 42</u>

Ordinary Receipts.

From State of Massachusetts,	\$16,000 00
beneficiaries of other States, and	
private pupils,	4,127 97
dividends on stocks,	1,762 70
	<u>\$21,890 67</u>

Extraordinary Receipts.

From sales of stocks,	\$6,438 75
State of Massachusetts, balance	
of last year's appropriation,	1,000 00
legacy of Susan Hurd,	2,000 00
	<u>9,438 75</u>
Total,	\$31,329 42

He paid out on orders of the Auditor,	\$31,742 37
And had a cash balance on hand,	1,153 82
	<hr/>
Total actual payments,	\$30,588 55

The Steward's account shows that the ordinary expenses for the year, excluding laundry expenses and including bills due October 1, 1864, were, as per schedule annexed, \$24,282 70

Extraordinary expenses for construction, &c.,	5,789 30
	<hr/>
Total,	\$30,072 00

This gives an apparent excess of income over the expenditures, but in reality there was an excess of ordinary expenses over ordinary income, amounting to, \$2,392.03.

The excess of ordinary expenditures is not in reality quite so great, because payment from the States of New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut, which should have been made during the year, was delayed.

In making estimates for the current year, we must consider that there will be repairs necessary, and that the number of pupils will be greater; and we must assume that the cost of all articles of consumption will be at least as high as during the past year.

Our ordinary expenses will then be about \$25,000.

The ordinary income will be,—

Appropriation from State of Massachusetts,	\$16,000 00
Dividends on investments,	1,000 00
Income from beneficiaries and private pupils, about,	7,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$24,000 00

Thus there will be a deficit, which should be provided for in some way. Three methods suggest themselves.

1. To ask for an additional appropriation from the State of Massachusetts.

2. To charge higher rates for beneficiaries from other States.

3. To ask authority from the legislature to require a small payment from the parents or friends of our own State beneficiaries.

The first seems undesirable while the number of beneficiaries remains as small as it now is.

The second method, or that of raising the charge for beneficiaries from other States, would be attended with some difficulty, for it would require the action of the several legislatures. Whenever this matter is broached we meet with objections, arising from the fact that beneficiaries are received at the School for Deaf Mutes, in Connecticut, at a very low rate, much less than actual cost; while another fact is not generally known, namely, that that institution has a large fund, given by the United States Government for the benefit of that class. Still, doubtless, something might be gained in that way.

The third method, or that of requiring a small payment from the parents of State beneficiaries, would seem to be not only just, but, in some respects, advantageous to all parties. We have always opposed whatever measures tend to make people consider blind children as belonging to the class of paupers. We have advocated the doctrine that they have the same right to instruction at the hands of the public as other children have, and that instruction should be special and adapted to their condition. The public places its common school within the reach of every ordinary child; but it cannot place a special school within the reach of each blind child, and therefore compromises by building up one central school and maintaining the children there. Any indigent person having a blind child, may send it to the State institution, without feeling that in the matter of schooling he is any more a recipient of public charity than are his neighbors, who send children to the common school. It ought not to cost him any more to send his child to school than it costs his neighbors to send theirs; but, on the other hand, if he has means, it ought not to cost him any less. By the present arrangement it does cost him less, because he has not to pay his child's board. Would there be any unfairness, then, in requiring him to pay what it would actually cost him to board his child at home—say \$50 a year. Or if the parent were really unable to pay this sum, would there be any injustice in requiring payment of the town in which the child properly belongs?

There would be some advantages in the arrangement; among others that of making the benefit which the child receives more highly prized by all parties.

It is probable that in the case of at least forty of our State beneficiaries \$50 a year might be paid by the parent without embarrassment.

The inventories of property, real and personal, with full details, are submitted herewith.

The Steward's accounts have been duly audited each month, by the Auditors, Messrs. Fairbanks and Thaxter.

Respectfully submitted by

SAM'L G. HOWE.

APPENDIX.

[No. 1.]

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR.	PERKINS' INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, in account with W. CLAFLIN, Treasurer.		CR.
1864. Oct. 1,	To amount paid on drafts of Auditor of Accounts for current expenses, from October 1, 1863, to September 30, 1864; drafts numbered 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 200,	\$31,842 57	
			By balance from page 3, cash, \$1,566 97
			By cash from following sources during year, at dates as per book: Three quarterly payments State of Massachusetts, \$3,000 each, 9,000 00 Extra allowance, State of Massachusetts, 3,000 00 Cash, State of Massachusetts, 5,000 00 Amount received for beneficiaries from State of Maine, appropriation, 1,281 09 Amount received on account of J. Penno, 100 00 Amount received on account of Laura Bridgman, interest on Mrs. Loring's legacy, 60 00 Amount received for dividends on stock, as per memo., 1,762 70 Legacy of Susan Hurd, 2,000 00 Sale of shares in Worcester Railroad, 2,246 25 Sale of shares in Western Railroad, 4,192 50 Cash from Steward, for board, sales, &c., as per statement, 2,686 88
	To balance to new account,	1,053 82	
		\$32,896 39	\$32,896 39

BOSTON, October 5, 1864.

The undersigned, a committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1863-4, have attended to that duty and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast and cash balance to be one thousand fifty-three dollars eighty-two cents. The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the institution :

16 shares	Columbian Bank,	\$1,600 00
9 "	New England Bank,	900 00
17 "	State Bank,	1,020 00
30 "	Tremont Bank,	3,000 00
20 "	Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642 50
30 "	Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942 00
60 "	Western Railroad,	5,801 46
25 "	Concord Railroad,	1,250 00
		<hr/> \$18,155 96

Deed of land in South Boston, June, 1860,	\$755 68
" " " " March, 1847,	5,000 00
" " " " September, 1845,	5,500 00
" " " " January, 1850,	1,762 50
" " " " July, 1850,	1,020 25
" " " " May, 1855,	3,710 00
" " " " August, 1855,	450 00
" " " " April, 1855,	1,311 50
	<hr/> 19,509 93
	<hr/> \$37,665 89

Signed by

JOSIAH QUINCY,
 FRED. W. G. MAY,
Committee.

[No. 2.]

Statement of Receipts by Steward paid to Treasurer.

1863.			
Aug.	8.	Am't rec'd, sale of books, writing boards, &c.,	\$5 00
	8.	“ “ sale of admission tickets, . . .	12 00
Oct.	1.	“ “ Horace Thomas, account of board, &c., of son,	50 00
	1.	“ “ sale of books, type, &c., . . .	31 31
Nov.	2.	“ “ sale of old iron,	2 10
	2.	“ “ A. H. Robinson, account of board of daughter,	50 00
	6.	“ “ laundry work to date,	24 84
	6.	“ “ sale of books,	2 50
Dec.	22.	“ “ sale of books to Ohio Institution,	65 25
	22.	“ “ sale of books to Philad'a “	28 00
1864.			
Feb.	11.	“ “ sale of flour barrels and grease, .	8 50
Mar.	7.	“ “ A. H. Robinson, account of board of daughter,	50 00
	7.	“ “ sale of bread, sundries,	82 20
	7.	“ “ sale of bread to Idiot School, .	881 22
	7.	“ “ sale of books, &c.,	24 50
	24.	“ “ Horace Thomas, acc't of son's board,	100 00
	24.	“ “ sale of books,	1 50
	27.	“ “ E. F. Duren, account of clothing bills paid for Freddie Crocker, .	29 30*
			<hr/> \$1,448 22
Aug.	5.	Am't rec'd, sale of books to Penn. Institute, .	\$35 50
	5.	“ “ sale of books to sundry individuals,	35 00
	5.	“ “ Mr. Trafton, for board of daughter,	50 00
	5.	“ “ Mr. Harris, for board of son, .	50 00
	5.	“ “ on account of Sarah Redcliffe, .	100 00
	5.	“ “ Idiot School, account of laundry, .	500 00
	5.	“ “ sundry individuals “ “ .	85 00
			<hr/> \$855 50
Aug.	26.	Am't rec'd for board of blind woman at l'ndry,	\$35 60
	26.	“ “ interest on legacy of Mrs. Loring, for Laura Bridgman,	50 00
	26.	“ “ cash for work at laundry,	209 50
Sept.	6.	“ “ for b'd of blind women at laundry,	35 00
	6.	“ “ cash for work at laundry,	47 00
	6.	“ “ sale of old iron, barrels, &c., .	6 06
			<hr/> \$383 16
		Total,	<hr/> \$2,686 88

[No. 3.]

General Abstract of the Accounts of the Work Department.

October 1, 1863, the Department owed—

To the institution for loan for original capital,	\$13,756 96	
To sundry individuals,	1,631 82	
		\$15,388 78
The assets were—Stock on hand,	\$6,878 44	
Cash on hand,	1,979 15	
Debts due,	3,346 23	
		12,203 82
Balance against the Dep't Oct. 1, '63,	\$3,184 96	

The amount of wages paid in cash to blind workmen during the year Oct. 1, 1862, to Oct. 1, 1863,	\$3,366 31
The amount of sales, was,	12,983 38

October 1, 1864, the liabilities of the Department were—

Debt due to institution for original loan,	\$13,756 96	
Debt to sundry individuals,	1,412 80	
		\$15,169 76
The assets were—Stock on hand,	\$7,471 03	
Cash on hand,	1,865 66	
Good debts due,	2,674 22*	
		12,010 91
Balance against Department,	\$3,158 85	

Net gain this year, \$26 11

The amount of wages paid in cash to blind persons was	\$3,560 02
which is \$213.79 gain over last year.	
The amount of sales was	\$18,604 65
which is a gain of \$5,621.27 over last year.	

The undersigned, Auditors of Accounts, have examined the cash account and vouchers of the shop of the institution, from September 30th, 1863, to October, 1864, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched, and the balance on hand to be \$1,865.66.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, } *Auditors.*
J. B. THAXTER, }

* The charges on the books amount to \$4,674.22, but by carrying every doubtful debt to profit and loss account, it is reduced to \$2,674.22, and made quite reliable.

[No. 4.]

List of Books printed at the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

	No. of Vols.
Lardner's Universal History,	3
Howe's Geography,	1
Howe's Atlas of the Islands,	1
English Reader, First Part,	1
English Reader, Second Part,	1
The Harvey Boys,	1
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1
Baxter's Call,	1
English Grammar,	1
Life of Melancthon,	1
Constitution of the United States,	1
Book of Diagrams,	1
Viri Romæ,	1
Pierce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1
Political Class-Book,	1
First Table of Logarithms,	1
Second Table of Logarithms,	1
Principles of Arithmetic,	1
Astronomical Dictionary,	1
Philosophy of Natural History,	1
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1
Cyclopædia,	8
Book of Common Prayer,	1
Guide to Devotion,	1
New Testament, (small,)	4
New Testament, (large,)	2
Old Testament,	6
Book of Psalms,	1
Book of Proverbs,	1
Psalms in Verse,	1
Psalms and Hymns,	1
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1
The Spelling-Book,	1
The Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1

	No. of Vols.
Howe's Blind Child's First Book,	1
Howe's Blind Child's Second Book,	1
Howe's Blind Child's Third Book,	1
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1
Milton's Poetical Works,	2
Diderot's Essay,	1
	<hr/>
Total number,	60

[No. 5.]

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Young blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, etc. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the institution. The friends of the pupils have every reasonable facility for visiting them.

Persons who wish to make a special study of music, and to have extra instruction, will be charged higher rates.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the governor for a warrant.

The following, is a good form, though any other will do :

“ *To his Excellency the Governor :*

“ SIR,—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Institution for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“ I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$200 *per annum* for his child's instruction. (Signed) _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“ I certify that, in my opinion, _____ has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he (or she) is free from epilepsy or any contagious disease.

(Signed) _____.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to "The Secretary of State, State House, Boston, Mass."

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed, without expense to the institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

The pupils are required to attend public worship on the Sabbath, at some of the churches in the neighborhood, and the parents will designate the particular church.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind," care of the Secretary of the State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the institution, are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions :

1. What is the name of the applicant ?
2. Where was he [or she] born ?
3. State the year, month and day of the birth.
4. Was he [or she] born blind ? If not, at what age was the sight impaired ?
5. Is the blindness total or partial ?
6. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
7. Has he [or she] ever been subject to fits ?
8. Is he [or she] now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin ?
9. Has he [or she] ever been to school, if yes, where ?
10. What is the general moral character of the applicant ?
11. Is he gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary ?
12. Has he any peculiarity of temper and disposition ?
13. Of what country was father of the applicant a native ?
14. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father, was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary ?
15. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula ?
16. Were all his senses perfect ?
17. Was he always a temperate man ?
18. About how old was he when the applicant was born ?
19. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant ; that is, were any of the grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins blind, deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind ?

20. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder?
21. Where was the mother of the applicant born?
22. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant, strong and healthy, or the contrary?
23. Was she ever subject to scrofula or to fits?
24. Were all her senses perfect?
25. Was she always a temperate woman?
26. About how old was she when the applicant was born?
27. How many children had she before the applicant was born?
28. Was she related by blood to her husband, if so, in what degree, 1st, 2d, or 3d cousins?
29. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder?
30. Was there any known peculiarity in her family, that is, were any of her grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children, or cousins, either blind, or deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
31. What are the pecuniary means of the parents, or immediate relatives of the applicant?
32. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant?