

NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL

FOR

IDIOTIC AND FEEBLE-MINDED YOUTH.

BOSTON:

WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER, 4 SPRING LANE.

1857.

N I N T H
A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M A S S A C H U S E T T S S C H O O L

F O R

I D I O T I C A N D F E E B L E - M I N D E D Y O U T H .

B O S T O N :
W I L L I A M W H I T E P R I N T E R , 4 S P R I N G L A N E .
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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth, }
BOSTON, January 10, 1857. }

To the Corporation:—

GENTLEMEN:—The Trustees, to whom you and the Executive of the Commonwealth committed the care of the School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth, respectfully

R E P O R T :

That the school has, during the year 1856, enjoyed a reasonable and a satisfactory degree of prosperity.

It has continued to be under the general superintendence of Doctor S. G. Howe, the President of the Corporation, who has kindly and generously taken this care of the institution from its origin, in 1848, without reward. That faith in the necessity and in the usefulness of such an institution which made him first move for its establishment, has manifested itself ever since in a deep and unfaltering interest in its success and progress.

He has managed all its concerns acceptably to this Board, and advantageously for the children.

The teachers and others are made immediately responsible to him, and his reports to this Board show that their conduct has been highly satisfactory.

The household have, during the year, enjoyed a remarkable degree of health. There has been no death, and only one case of serious sickness, although these children have generally a feeble constitution, a greater susceptibility of disease, and a

lower power of resistance than is the common lot of man. This speaks well for the general diet and regimen.

Within the last year the new buildings on Eighth Street, between M and N Streets, South Boston, have been so far finished, that the scholars were removed to them early in October, and found their new quarters very comfortable.

The report of the building committee, which is herewith appended, will show the kind, extent and cost of the accommodations which have been obtained.

The amount of the means at the disposal of the Trustees for this purpose, including the grant of the legislature, and the money obtained from subscription, was \$30,300. The whole cost of the land, buildings, furniture, labor, &c., has not exceeded this sum, nor has any debt been incurred.

The buildings are not yet quite all finished, but sufficient room is ready and furnished to accommodate fifty children, with the needful officers, attendants, &c., for their care. But there is yet more room inclosed and covered, which may be finished whenever the means of the corporation will permit. When this shall be done, about forty more children can be received and provided for.

As it now is, all accommodations of the house are occupied, and no more can at present be received, although there are many waiting for vacancies to occur; especially is the class of beneficiaries filled even to overflowing.

The condition of the annual grant of the legislature requires that the corporation shall board and train thirty poor children who may be recommended by the governor for this purpose. This Board has never limited its reception of these beneficiaries to the requisitions of the law. They have always taken and supported as many as their whole means would allow; consequently these charity pupils have ever exceeded thirty, and now they number thirty-eight in the school.

The Trustees have not been able to do this out of the five thousand dollars given by the State, for this was barely sufficient for the support of thirty, five years ago, when the grant was made, and when the cost of provisions, labor, and all the other means of supporting the institution, were much less than they are now.

But they have taken private pupils from this and other States, who have paid more than the bare cost of their maintenance, and this profit has been appropriated to the support of an increased number of the poor children of Massachusetts. Besides this, it may be stated, the services of the Superintendent and Physician have been both gratuitously rendered from the beginning, and thereby the means of educating the poor have been still further increased.

Judging by the number of applications for the admission of children into this school, the readiness with which every vacancy is filled, the number of those who are waiting for such an opportunity, and the great inquiry that is constantly being made personally, and by correspondence, relative to the principles and advantages of this institution, there can be no doubt that the faith and interest in the education of such children as these, is growing more and more, and that the demand for it is not only increasing, but it will go on to further increase, until most of these feeble-minded youth, who are or may be in the State, shall be allowed the opportunity of enjoying the privilege of such a school as this.

Our liberal and intelligent Commonwealth, having recognized and established* the principle, that these, the feeblest and the humblest of her children, should receive the kind and measure of education that is appropriate to their condition and power, she unquestionably intends to meet the demand which she has created and admitted, and is prepared to expand her outlay, in proportion to the increase of those who need to enjoy its benefits.

The numbers of those poor children who, in 1852, were supposed to be all that it was necessary to provide for in this way, and whose friends would desire that they be thus educated, has now nearly doubled, while yet the means of supporting remain the same as at first.

The Trustees would therefore recommend that the corpora-

* As the late Report of the Committee upon Public Charitable Institutions, in the legislature of New York, shows want of knowledge of the history of State institutions for idiots in this country, there is appended to this Report a document which shows conclusively that Massachusetts first established her school, and that its success induced the legislature of New York to follow the example.

tion ask of the legislature to increase the annual grant, to enable them to educate a proportionate increase of children. They would advise also that the profits of the private pupils be appropriated, as fast as they arise, to the finishing of that part of the new establishment which is not yet ready for occupation.

Since the last quarterly meeting of this Board, the corporation and the Trustees have met with a great loss in the death of the Hon. Samuel Hoar, of Concord, which took place at his house, on the 2d of November last, at the age of seventy-eight.

Mr. Hoar has been associated with this Board from its beginning, and has at all times, and on all occasions, been a wise, faithful and useful counsellor and co-operator. He was deeply interested in the institution; he made frequent visits to the school, and ever gave his affectionate and cheering sympathy and encouragement to the officers, the teachers and the children.

In his attentions to the duties of his office, he showed his characteristic promptness and devotion; and although his home was twenty miles distant, he never failed to attend every meeting at the hour appointed; he never declined any labor, nor shrank from any responsibility.

Commending the school again to the generous patronage of our enlightened Commonwealth, to the favor of a liberal and intelligent community, and to the beneficent care of that Providence that has hitherto watched over and blessed it, the Trustees would hope for another year of prosperity, and even of increased usefulness.

For the Board of Trustees,

EDWARD JARVIS, *Secretary.*

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth, }
 Boston, February 10, 1857. }

To the Trustees:—

GENTLEMEN:—The report of Mr. McDonald, which I have the honor to inclose, sets forth briefly, the history and condition of the institution, during the past year.

The immediate charge of the pupils has devolved upon him, and upon his mother, the Matron. The good order, neatness, comfort, and cheerfulness which characterize the establishment, are owing to them and to the kind teachers and assistants.

The teachers, of course, are women, for this is woman's peculiar work; and in the hands of such gentle and devoted women as Misses Ames and Newton, it becomes a work of beauty, because it is mainly one of love.

Persons who think that a boarding-school for idiotic children must be a gloomy abode of wretched beings, and filled with repulsive sights and sounds, would be surprised at finding here so much to cheer the heart, and so little to offend the sense; so much to inspire courage and hope, and so little to occasion sorrow and despair.

It is, indeed, sad, that there should exist in our midst so many children whose reason has been nipped in the bud, and who are curtailed of human nature's fairest proportions; but looking the fact resolutely in the face, and accepting life with its duties, as well as its pleasures, the visitor of this school will find much to repay him for having overcome the prejudice or squeamishness that at first repelled him. After that, he has only to extend towards the unfortunate inmates a tithe of the

affection which he feels for his own children, and they will become objects of tender regard. As he goes on he will be comforted by seeing the beautiful effects of steady perseverance in a wise system of training, and of reliance upon kindness alone as the only admissible mode of treatment; kindness which forbids even hard words or looks, and which operates like a charm even upon the benighted minds of these poor children, some of whom are so sorely afflicted, that ignorant people would suppose them possessed of devils. But the devils even, are here subject to the influence of love. The scenes so common elsewhere, of scolding and whipping, which beget passion and violence, or stubbornness and deceit, are here unknown. The teacher regards the child as irresponsible, and though she should be struck or spit upon, would manifest no unkind feeling in return. The result is, that not only does the soft answer turn away wrath, but the soft manner prevents the wrath from rising.

Some of these children had been pampered and indulged at home; some continually stormed at and punished; others treated to alternate kisses and cuffs according as the domestic wind blew from south or east, until many became ungovernable, and were declared to be "plagues and torments;" and almost all were of that class of whom folks who lack faith and courage are wont to say, "its no use to try to do any thing with them."

The visitor who knows what these children were, and sees what they are, must have new faith in the effects of enlightened kindness, and in the almost limitless capacity of humanity for improvement, as shown in these, its poor fragments.

Idiots they are, and idiots most of them must remain, but they are human idiots, and if they continue to be wisely and kindly treated, will be happier and better than the poor driveling wretches who are found in almost every town and village, who are butts for some, objects of terror and disgust to others, and who, when left a prey to their own blind instincts, sink lower and lower into brutishness. They do not, however, sink quite alone, for the chain of human sympathy ever holds, and as no man among us can rise into high excellence without lifting others upward, so no one can sink neglected into brutishness without dragging some others downward.

Idiots or imperfectly formed human beings, have existed in all ages, of course, because man's physical condition has never yet obtained the fulness of its perfection. Their very existence implies sin against the natural laws; but the sin implies possible righteousness. Awakened consciousness of sin is the first step toward repentance—repentance to reform. A truly wise and good people, abiding by God's laws, would beget no idiots.

The treatment of this long suffering class in different ages, and among various people, would, if written out, make a dark and sad page of human history. But one may find hope written even there, for men love more than they know. Charity is ever groping ahead, and as fast as knowledge lights the path, she gathers up the outcast, nor longer permits them to be exposed to the wild beasts upon the mountain, or thrown to the fishes in the river.

The very name idiot, implying as it does social isolation and desolation, was given to this class by those polished heathen, whose only standard of worth was knowledge and beauty, and it proves that they were regarded as outcasts from the human family. Christianity took them home; but, not understanding the comprehensiveness of her Master's idea of "little ones" she kept them out of sight, in garrets and sheds, where for the most part, they still are. Now, however, that experience shows them to be capable of improvement, their claim for tender care and nurture will be admitted in all civilized countries; in some sooner, in others later, according as the progress of the people in true Christianity and civilization makes them feel that wealth and privileges imply duties and obligations.

Massachusetts led the way in this country, and having provided for the insane, the mutes and the blind, she made the circle of her charity embrace all classes of the infirm, by establishing a school for idiots, nine years ago. New York followed in generous emulation, Rhode Island lent her aid to us, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Connecticut are moving, and we may hope that soon, wherever any child's claim for instruction and training is admitted, that of the least of the little ones may also be heard.

Respectfully submitted, by

S. G. HOWE.

RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth, }
 BOSTON, January 1, 1857. }

To Dr. S. G. HOWE, *General Superintendent* :—

The following is a summary of the statistics of the school for the year 1856 :—

Number of State pupils, January 1, 1856, . . .	36	
“ “ private pupils, January 1, 1856, . . .	9	
“ “ State pupils admitted during the year, . . .	14	
“ “ “ “ readmitted during the year, . . .	2	
“ “ private pupils readmitted during the year, . . .	1	
	—	62
“ “ State pupils discharged during the year, . . .	12	
“ “ private pupils discharged during the year, . . .	3	
	—	15
		—
Total number present December 31, 1856, . . .		47

Among those classed as State pupils are two who are supported by their friends and the State of Rhode Island ; and five whose friends pay a part of their expenses, making the number supported by the appropriation from the State of Massachusetts alone, or by friends and other States as follows :—

By appropriation from Massachusetts,	33
By friends and appropriation from Massachusetts,	5
By friends and appropriation from Rhode Island,	2
By friends only,	7
	—
	47

The average number of pupils has been nearly 44, viz. :—

Pupils supported by Massachusetts,	33.94
“ aided by Massachusetts,	4.50
“ supported by friends or other States,	5.32
	<hr/>
Average for the year,	43.76

By the above statements it will be seen that while a larger number of State beneficiaries have been in attendance than was required by the legislature when the appropriation was made, an average of 4.50 pupils, belonging to this State, have been supported at a much less cost than they could have been without aid from the institution.

Of the number classed as readmitted, one was a private pupil, whose friends preferred to have him remain at home a part of the year; another had been sufficiently improved to be, in a measure, self-supporting; but after being absent some months, was brought back, his friends paying a part of his expenses. The third was discharged as a hopeless case, and has not seemed to improve any since her readmission. Four of those who were discharged were not susceptible of much improvement, being insane, rather than idiotic. Six were greatly improved in their habits and general deportment, and five had learned to read as well as most children ten or twelve years of age, besides being able to do some kinds of work. Of this latter class, three are now at home; one has returned to the school, his friends paying part of his expenses; and a fifth is working for a family, receiving one dollar per week and board, for her services.

The general health of the pupils has been good, there having been but one case of severe illness, which was of short duration. This is particularly gratifying, in view of the fact that there have been many cases of scarlatina in this neighborhood, and an uncommon mortality among children in consequence of its prevalence.

Of the pupils now present, eight do not make known their wants; three do not feed themselves; twelve do not dress themselves; eleven can partially dress themselves; twenty cannot tie a regular knot; seven are speechless; two can pronounce a

few words ; two pronounce words, but do not form sentences ; thirty-one form sentences ; eighteen know the names of several colors ; six can distinguish a few colors ; twelve know all the letters of the alphabet ; eleven read words of two or three letters ; two read simple sentences ; eleven read understandingly ; twenty-one count ten understandingly ; nine perform examples in mental arithmetic ; four perform written examples in addition, subtraction and multiplication ; one performs written examples in division ; eight have a general knowledge of geography ; three have commenced the study of geography ; ten can knit ; six can sew well enough to work on bed linen and towels for family use ; seven sing well and keep good time ; five others sing, but have not good control of their voices ; eleven are subject to fits.

The school exercises have been much the same as in former years, and the object has been to teach such things as will be of future benefit to the pupils.

By means of bathing, gymnastic exercises, careful diet, constant watchfulness and patient zeal, the weak have been strengthened, bad habits broken up, and the classes gradually led on and encouraged to exertion, and at the same time that their bodily condition is improved, their mental culture is not neglected. Probably the greatest improvement is shown in their habits, cleanliness, and behavior at the table ; these things are generally most noticed by the parents while the pupils are at home during vacations, and it often happens that the friends of children will notice some changes for the better, even among those who have been almost given up by their teachers as being hopeless and unimprovable pupils.

Such instances are an encouragement to the persevering teachers, who have labored at times seemingly in vain, and have looked upon the work of days, weeks and months, as so much thrown away ; still more are they encouraged, when witnessing the gradual strengthening of the more pliable minds committed to their care. With how much pleasure the first awakening of intelligence is greeted by the teachers ; how they lay hold of the slightest thread by which to guide their helpless charge, can only be known to the few who are thoroughly conversant with their daily routine of duties and the many trials they encounter.

Several of the pupils are subject to fits, which come when least expected, felling the unfortunate victim to the floor, rendering him stiff, livid, contorted, and, when the severe muscular contraction ceases, leave him writhing in unmistakable signs of intense suffering, often accompanied by piercing screams. These are of daily, and sometimes almost hourly occurrence. Of course, such scenes must leave an unfavorable impression in the minds of teachers and pupils, and they are undoubtedly not only a check to the rapid progress of their victims, but also retard many other members of the school.

One of the first things taught new comers, is cleanliness; though every point is grasped that may afford a chance of awakening the dormant powers, or inciting either body or mind (as the case may demand) to more activity. Next are obedience, regularity, patience and industry; the pupils rise, eat, exercise, study and retire, at stated times, and punctuality is always required. A particular course is pursued in all exercises; each pupil has his or her appointed place, and all (so far as can be) are taught to remember and keep the places assigned to them.

All rise at half past five, and the succeeding hour is devoted to dressing, preparations for breakfast, and gentle exercise. While at the table, they are required to wait for the signal to commence eating, thus giving the teacher an opportunity to see that all are seated, and their food properly prepared, so that when they begin to eat, each may receive the necessary instructions in regard to mastication, without drawing the teacher's attention from other members of the class. By these means, pupils, who when first admitted were almost ravenous, dipping hands and face into their plates, bolting food without regard to quantity or quality, have been taught to use a spoon, a fork, and even a knife; to properly break or cut their food, to use a degree of care in mastication, and in short, to behave like rational beings.

After breakfast they are assembled in the school-room, when a selection from the Bible is read, the Lord's Prayer repeated by the pupils in concert, and a hymn is sung. Some of the smaller children are not present at this time, but all who can be kept quiet long enough are required to be in attendance.

The most advanced pupils now attend to their respective duties in the school-rooms, or about the house, for all who are capable assist in some household duty or out-door labor; one will make beds, another wash dishes, a third will clean knives, a fourth saw and split wood, while others are in the laundry, or assist the nurses in dressing the smaller children for school.

School commences at eight o'clock; a part of the pupils are now in the school-rooms; others in the gymnasium, while a third part are detailed for some simple duty or place of trust. Recess of half an hour at ten, dinner at twelve, recreation till two, school till five, (supper time,) and amusements of various kinds till bed-time, complete the daily routine, which is varied on Wednesday and Saturday, by the whole afternoon being devoted to out-door exercises, when the weather will permit, and on stormy or cold days, by plays of various kinds in the gymnasium.

The school exercises are necessarily of a simple character, such as teaching the names of familiar articles either by signs (as with mutes) or by enunciation; printed words are made use of at this time, so that while a child is learning the name of an article, he may become familiar with the written characters used to designate the same thing; these words are again made use of in teaching the alphabet, and in spelling. The different colors are taught by means of a set of cups and balls, a present from Dr. Wilbur, Superintendent of the New York School for Idiots; these are painted with bright colors, each cup having a ball of its own hue, and the pupils are taught to arrange the balls in their respective cups, and, at the same time, the name of the color is taught with the letters which compose that name.

The more advanced classes are taught to read, write, spell and define words, then to arrange them in sentences. Arithmetic, geography and drawing also form a part of the studies.

Gymnastic exercises are of much importance, not only in the increase of muscular strength, but in the amount of confidence which is acquired by constant practice of what at first seemed an impossibility. Some of the pupils have, at the end of their first month in the gymnasium, ascended a ladder upon which they had, at the commencement of their exercises, refused to put one foot. The stiff, awkward jump of the first week, is now

giving place to a more elastic spring, and there is a desire to excel on the part of some who, for a long time, were unwilling to undertake the arduous task of raising the weight of their bodies from the floor.

Music is a good incentive to activity for this class of persons; even the most sluggish natures will feel its influence, and start for the moment with new vigor. Many of the children who would follow very awkwardly, if at all, the military exercises without a drum, will, when it is present, pay some attention to their instructor, and others will march with a firmer step and more animation to the beat of a drum, than they could otherwise possibly be induced to.

Though most of the pupils have been greatly benefited, there are some in the school who do not make any perceptible improvement, and who are, perhaps, destined to remain in their present deplorable state during the remainder of their lives; and though all has been tried that could be thought of to benefit them, they still remain in about the same condition as when they were admitted. Nearly all, however, are improving, and we still hope to better their condition, so that they may become useful members of society, instead of a tax on their friends or family.

Respectfully yours,

ALEX. McDONALD.

Oct. 25,	Notes receivable on account,	5,000 00
25,	William Ross,	100 00
25,	P. Dickinson,	75 00
25,		6,425 00
25,	Mr. Carpenter,	\$154 57
25,	J. J. Boardman,	33 33
Nov. 12,		187 90
Dec. 4,	Notes receivable on account,	1,000 00
4,	C. Smith,	\$150 00
4,	Mr. Dickinson,	75 00
4,	Mr. Carpenter,	66 00
24,	Notes receivable on account,	1,500 00
24,	J. C. Perry,	200 00
24,	Notes receivable,	1,000 00
1857.	Interest on above notes, to Jan. 1,	632 38
Jan. 3,	Commonw'th of Mass., 1st quarterly payment,	1,250 00
		4,873 33
Jan. 6, 1857.	Balance to new account on deposit in Globe Bank,	\$25,343 92
		\$25,343 92

* Being money loaned on interest.

BOSTON, Jan. 7, 1857.

E. & O. E.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, Treasurer.

Boston, Jan'y 7, 1857. I have examined the foregoing account, and find the same to be correctly vouched and cast.

J. A. ANDREW, Auditor.

R E P O R T

Of a Committee of the Trustees appointed for the purpose of reporting the cost of the new establishment, and the annual expenses of the same.

*Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth, }
BOSTON, March 4, 1857. }*

To the Trustees:—

The undersigned have the honor to report as follows upon the general financial condition of the institution, during the years 1854-5-6. The Treasurer's account shows that he has received during that time the gross sum of \$52,655.86 from the following sources:—

Three annual appropriations from Commonwealth, \$5,000 each,	\$15,000 00	
Special appropriation from Com'nwealth,	25,000 00	
Special contributions from individuals for furniture, &c.,	5,100 00	
Private contribution,	300 00	
From private pupils,	6,421 92	
Interest,	833 94	
		\$52,655 86

The amount of expenditures has been as follows:—

Amount paid out upon Auditor's orders, \$50,530 28	
Interest,	34 33
Incidental expenses,	32 25
Balance on hand January, 1857,	2,059 00
	\$52,655 86

This will be found to conform to treasurer's account, except in the single item of a loan of \$16,000, which he charged and afterwards credited.

It appears that the gross amount of expenditures for three

years, according to the accounts of the treasurer and steward, has been,	\$51,683 05
The amount actually drawn has been, \$50,530 28	
Balance due the steward,	1,152 77
	51,683 05

This money has been paid out by the treasurer upon orders drawn by the auditor, who has examined all the vouchers, which were countersigned by the Superintendent and Steward.

They are regularly entered in a book, and the vouchers placed on file. As the books have not been kept by double entry, and as some of the vouchers are for articles purchased partly in one year and partly in another, the Committee have found it more convenient and more satisfactory to take three years together. The gross amount of expenditures in three years has been \$51,683 05 Deduct from this the appropriation for land, new

building and furniture,	30,000 00
Leaves a balance of	\$21,683 05

as the expenses for three years, or about \$7,200 per year.

The ordinary income has been from—

Annual appropriation from the State,	\$5,000 00
Average annual income from pupils,	2,140 64
“ “ donations,	100 00
	\$7,240 64

Schedule for Three Years, 1854-5-6.

	1854.	1855.	1856.
Labor and Salaries,	\$3,020 04	\$2,338 72	\$3,544 68
Subsistence,	3,761 82	4,355 77	3,960 39
Stable,	66 74	60 66	301 66
Furniture,	201 13	1,256 71	1,277 19
Expense Account,	134 75	472 30	1,319 11
Building Account,	102 37	9,735 89	13,155 68
Notes and Interest,	—	744 33	—
On account of Pupils,	172 65	221 21	289 24
Totals,	\$7,459 50*	\$19,185 59	\$23,847 95

* The amount due to the Steward in 1854, \$481.51. The amount of bills for 1853, paid in 1854, is not shown in this Schedule.

Particulars of Bills in preceding Schedule.

	1854.	1855.	1856.
Advertising and Printing,	\$35 00	\$99 87	\$70 64
Books, Stationery, &c.,	34 82	66 58	44 32
Building, (cost) materials and carting,	-	1,250 00	170 24
Building, (plan, moving,)	-	1,000 00	1,700 00
Board of Pupils, Travelling Expenses,	-	265 85	564 50
Carting, (stone and dirt,)	64 93	1 75	604 32
Carpentry,	-	135 24	4,460 25
Crockery Ware,	9 37	29 88	43 61
Cedar Posts,	-	-	49 42
Carriage Hire,	-	38 25	-
Dry Goods,	87 91	82 78	63 11
Fuel,	853 05	362 08	Unpaid.
Furniture,	91 50	926 03	386 82
Gas and Fixtures,	-	216 13	165 15
Glass,	12 17	7 51	128 88
Grounds, Gardening, &c.,	-	-	238 04
Groceries, (Ice, \$20,)	1,230 84	1,374 58	1,382 68
Grain,	152 22	9 45	-
Hanging Bells,	-	-	10 50
Hardware,	8 92	56 41	73 38
Iron Works and Repairs,	47 49	60 66	655 27
Insurance,	-	-	175 00
Land,	-	7,738 31	-
Lumber,	-	146 29	380 34
Labor,	1,076 50	96 25	1,698 60
Linden Trees,	-	-	24 00
Masonry,	3 75	30 00	3,370 28

Particulars of Bills—Continued.

	1854.	1855.	1856.
Medicine,	\$9 96	\$10 54	—
Note and Interest,	—	744 33	—
Provisions,	562 04	885 95	\$680 78
Painting and Glazing,	—	117 56	595 79
Paper, Hanging, &c.,	10 61	47 24	436 52
Plumbing, Tin, Copper, &c.,	49 60	163 74	659 67
Piano-Forte,	—	180 00	—
Rent of House,	595 00	1,000 00	1,042 50
Sundries,	145 26	197 50	332 43
Sundries for Pupils,	172 65	221 21	289 24
Stone,	—	—	459 65
Slating, \$120.72; Tin Sheeting, \$15.08,	—	—	135 80
Shades, Blinds, &c., Repairs,	—	—	68 67
Travelling Expenses for Pupils,	—	—	35 33
Wages,	1,943 54	2,242 47	1,846 08
Water,	29 75	18 00	18 00
Horse,	—	—	225 00
Wagon, Harness, &c., Repairs on do.,	66 74	60 66	76 66
Well Digging and Stoning,	—	—	170 80
Wood, Coal and Hay,	—	—	200 34
Work, (Blacksmith,)	—	15 54	43 05
Wheelbarrow, \$9.27; Horse Post, \$5.50,	—	9 27	5 50
Buffalo Robe,	—	—	30 25
Missellaneous Bills,	86 42	168 88	31 79
Platf'm Scales, &c., \$24; Bricks, \$26.24,	50 24	—	—
Silver, Rubber Sheeting, \$8.75,	29 22	8 75	3 75
	\$7,459 50	\$19,185 59	\$23,847 95

For a particular account of the expenditures of the appropriation for land and buildings, the Committee would refer the Trustees to the accompanying Report of the Building Committee.*

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed, for the Committee,)

JOSEPH LYMAN, *Auditor.*

* It is to be observed that this Report, being intended to give precise information of the *annual* payments for costs and expenses of this institution, gives only the expenses and payments for the three last years, ending on the 31st December. The Report of the Building Committee is made up to the middle of the present month. Hence some additional payments are therein given, not included in the above.

J. L.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth, }
 BOSTON, March 28, 1857. }

To the Trustees:—

GENTLEMEN,—The undersigned have the honor to submit the following Report of their doings as Committee on Building.

It was concluded, for various reasons well known to your Board, to locate the new establishment in South Boston, if possible. As the appropriation for erecting and furnishing the building amounted to only \$30,000, and as the cost of the land was \$8,443.33, the Committee saw, at the outset, that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to erect new buildings of sufficient dimension, without exceeding the appropriation. They were very glad, therefore, to avail themselves of an opportunity of purchasing from the city of Boston, the large wooden frame building known as the Boylston Asylum, and the large building used as a barn for the House of Industry, for the sum of \$1,250. These buildings were moved upon the lot, which had been selected and purchased between Eighth and Ninth, and M and N Streets, on the south side of the peninsula, and the work of adapting them to their future use was commenced as early in the spring of 1856 as the season would allow.

One great advantage of the purchase was, that we obtained, besides the building, a large quantity of faced stone and brick, from the cellar walls and the foundations. Another advantage was, that the great amount of room under the roof, especially of the barn, which was 100 feet long by 40 feet wide, enabled the Committee to make an estimate for finishing off such parts of the building as could be done with the funds on hand, enough at least, to accommodate the family and fifty pupils, and leave the rest to be finished when the means could be had.

The buildings are of capacity enough for from eighty to one hundred pupils. After carefully planning out the improve-

ments, the Committee obtained from Mr. Jonathan Preston, architect, a regular working plan and specifications. Having decided upon the plan, the Committee proceeded to obtain bids for such parts of the carpenter-work and mason-work, as could be advantageously let out. The Committee feel under obligations to that gentleman for his wise counsels, and for the interest which he has uniformly manifested in the welfare of the institution. It was found, however, from the nature of the work, that the largest part of it could be best done by day's work. The carpenter-work was taken by Messrs. Holbrook & Bail, for \$4,526.99, and the contract for mason-work was taken by Mark Morse, for \$3,374.91. The rest of the work was done by men hired by the day, under the direction and supervision of Mr. Daniel Bradford.

After making all proper arrangements for thorough drainage, a spacious and convenient cellar was excavated, and built up with good faced stone, under the entire extent of both buildings.

The school building was elevated, and an entire new story was constructed of brick in the most substantial manner. Apartments were obtained for the family, by building up a wing on the north side. The work was driven through with diligence, and with as much dispatch as was consistent with faithful execution. The whole was finished early in the autumn, and the front building, with ample room and accommodations for fifty pupils and the family of teachers and attendants, was ready for occupation.

It was impossible, in the same space of time, to put the grounds in order, even could they have been freed from the encumbrance of lumber, bricks, lime, and all the litter necessary in erecting a large building.

It was impossible to finish the rear building, and carry out the whole plan, for the sum that was appropriated. The Committee claim, however, that they have, while keeping within the very moderate appropriation, secured for the institution an establishment which combines, in a rare degree, the various advantages required for carrying on the school.

The building is on a dry knoll, which slopes southerly towards the sea. It is well drained, and well lighted. It is provided with large and safe apparatus for warming and ventilating, and with necessary conveniences for cooking, bathing, &c. It has a spacious kitchen and dining-room, school-rooms and dormitories; and is

abundantly supplied with water in every part. There is all that is wanted for the present number of pupils, and there is room under roof for making arrangements that will accommodate nearly as many more.

By an expenditure of \$6,000, the rear building can be finished, the plan carried out of connecting the two by glass covered way, and the grounds put in good order. The whole amount expended by us thus far, has been,—for buildings and land, \$26,071.58; for furniture, \$1,470.36; total, \$27,541.94. There remain unsettled claims, about \$400.

The mode of disbursement of the money was as follows:—Mr. Bradford was employed to make contracts and purchases; all bills were first certified by him, then examined and approved by the chairman of the Committee; then entered in the Steward's books of the institution, and regularly audited by the Auditor appointed by your Board.

The Auditor then gave drafts upon the Treasurer for the amount found actually expended.

In this manner the Committee avoided the responsibility of having any money belonging to the institution in their own possession.

The vouchers for their expenditure, 283 in number, are herewith presented, and will be found duly copied and recorded in the books of the institution, beginning at No. 726.*

The following is a summary of the general expenditures:—

Advertising,	\$7 93
Cost of old buildings,	1,250 00
Carpentry, as per contract,	4,526 99
Carting,	293 23
Cedar posts,	49 42
Furniture,	1,470 36
Glass,	136 39
Grounds, labor upon,	70 06
Hardware,	114 38
Hanging bells,	10 50
Insurance,	225 00
Iron, tin work and plumbing,	1,258 04

* These are filed in the Treasurer's Office, but not printed.

Land,	\$8,443 33
Lumber,	617 00
Laborers and mechanics,	2,093 35
Linden trees,	24 00
Mason work, as per contract,	3,374 91
Moving building,	1,700 00
Painting and glazing,	693 43
Plan for building, (Mr. Miller,)	100 00
Paper and papering,	214 72
Stone mason work,	474 79
Slating,	120 72
Tarred sheeting,	15 08
Varnishing,	10 03
Well,	162 00
Watching,	65 28
Interest on Jones' note,	21 00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$27,451 94

We next present a memorandum, setting forth the number and date of every bill, the person by whom it is made, and the articles purchased.*

The Committee cannot close without expressing their sense of obligation to Mr. Daniel L. Bradford, who superintended every detail of the execution of the work with zeal and ability. It was by availing themselves of his mechanical talent, and his practical acquaintance with all branches of building, that the Committee were enabled to dispense with the services of a regular architect. Mr. Bradford has made no charge for his services, but the Committee recommend that the Trustees will not only pass a vote of thanks to him, but authorize the Committee to make him a satisfactory compensation, either in money, or in some other form.

(Signed,)

S. G. HOWE,
JOHN FLINT,
EDWARD JARVIS,
Building Committee.

* This is filed in the Treasurer's Office, but not printed.

APPENDIX.

[A.]

EXTRACT

From the Annual Report of 1855, pp. 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The school had its origin in that feeling of respect for humanity, which is pained by the thought that any who bear its image are left unembraced in the common bond of brotherly love, and outcast from the common family, however low in the scale, or however deformed and infirm they may be.

This feeling lies deep in the hearts of the people of Massachusetts, and has never been appealed to in vain, whether for the insane, the deaf, the blind, or the infirm of any class; and it led the legislature promptly to embrace the idiot in the circle of the State's bounties, when asked to do so.

There was no question about cost and return. There was no hesitation arising from the prevailing belief that idiots must always remain idiots. There they stood, their infirmity their only claim; but that claim was admitted instantly, and all the more readily because of their own inability to urge it. Be their chance of improvement greater or less, still they were human, and, as such, entitled to every possible opportunity and aid for developing to the utmost their capacity for knowledge, virtue, and happiness.

Such were the feelings and views of those who, nine years ago, asked the legislature of Massachusetts to ascertain the number and condition of the idiots of the Commonwealth; and, two years afterwards, to provide for their proper care and instruction; and such was the spirit in which they were met. Provision was made immediately for an experimental school, which, proving successful, was made a permanent one, and to which additional aid was granted. That school has now been in uninterrupted and successful operation more than seven years. During all this time it has been properly a State school,

because the State provided the principal means for its existence. That existence has not been the less real, or less historical, because the establishment has been carried on in a building not expressly constructed for it. It is a shallow notion that wood and stone, put together in a particular form, constitute an institution, or even its essential features.

During all this time, the school has been performing its work of beneficence, and its effects have been felt at home and abroad. Not only was the public heart and conscience quickened and improved by making an effort in behalf of these unfortunates, as a matter of manifest duty, though with ever so small prospect of success; but a conviction was produced in the minds of thousands who had despaired of any good practical results, that those results were most evident and valuable. The conviction is becoming common in Massachusetts, that idiots are educable to a considerable extent; and the duty of providing for their instruction and training at the public expense is generally admitted.

This change has not been effected here alone, but it has extended to other States. In New York, where Dr. Backus had been the early, able, and zealous champion of the cause, the legislature, which he had earnestly but vainly urged to make provision for a school for idiots, was at last prevailed upon to do so, mainly in consequence of an exhibition in their hall, of pupils from our school.

The following letter from the Hon. Christopher Morgan, then Secretary of the Board of Education, is an interesting historical document:—

ALBANY, March 23, 1852.

Dear Sir,—I remember with great satisfaction your visit to Albany with the idiotic pupils under your charge. Previous to your visit, I had regarded the institutions for the instruction of idiots rather as asylums for the improvement of the physical condition of the idiots, than for educational purposes.

A very attentive examination of your pupils convinced me that their physical defects might be in a great measure remedied, and their minds cultivated and enlarged to an extent far beyond any thing I had imagined. The exhibition before the legislature was eminently satisfactory and convincing.

Dr. Backus, recently a State Senator, and an enlightened and philanthropic citizen of Rochester, labored with zeal and fidelity, though unsuccessfully to establish an institution for idiots in this State. Very soon after your visit to Albany, a law was passed for the establish-

ment of an Institution for Idiots; an appropriation of six thousand dollars a year, for two years, was made, and the institution is now in successful operation in the vicinity of the city, under the judicious management of Dr. Wilbur.

It may now be regarded as permanently established, and to your visit, more than any thing else, are we indebted to this noble charity, so creditable to the liberality and benevolence of the State.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN.

To the Superintendent of the School for Idiotic Children, Boston, Mass.

The New York school was organized very soon after at Albany, and put under the charge of a citizen of Massachusetts, Dr. Wilbur, who had gained valuable experience in a private school for imbecile children, founded and conducted by himself. He conducted the new State school with eminent ability and success. In consequence of this success, the State has made generous provision for the permanency of the institution, by laying the foundations of a large and commodious edifice at Syracuse, to be devoted forever to the training and teaching of idiotic children, and granting one hundred and eighty dollars a year for each poor child who is recommended by the governor and educated there.

In Pennsylvania, too, the impulse has been felt. Another citizen of Massachusetts, Mr. J. B. Richards, who had been the successful teacher of our experimental school, went thither, and devoted himself to the cause. A school has been established there, which will doubtless soon grow into a large and permanent State institution.

Rhode Island, too, has recognized the claims of the idiot to participation in the common blessing of instruction, and made provision for sending some to this school.

The impulse thus given will not stop here. It will be felt in other States and communities, and they will recognize the Christian duty, not only of providing nurture for the ninety and nine, but also of going out to seek the one that has so long been lost, and great shall be the joy over its recovery.

[B.]

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION,
1857.

President, SAMUEL G. HOWE, Boston.
Vice-President, EMORY WASHBURN, Cambridge.
Treasurer, STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, Boston.
Secretary, EDWARD JARVIS, Dorchester.

TRUSTEES.

JOHN A. ANDREW, Boston.
 O. PUTNAM BACON, Dorchester.
 JOHN FLINT, Boston.
 E. ROCKWOOD HOAR, Concord.
 ROBERT W. HOOPER, Boston.
 SAMUEL G. HOWE, Boston.
 EDWARD JARVIS, Dorchester.
 JOSEPH LYMAN, Boston.
 WILLIAM MINOT, Boston.
 JOSEPH REYNOLDS, Concord.
 STEPHEN M. WELD, West Roxbury.

General Superintendent, SAMUEL G. HOWE, Boston.
Resident Superintendent, ALEXANDER MACDONALD.
Matron, Mrs. M. MACDONALD.

VISITING SUB-COMMITTEES.

1857. February, . . . Messrs. ANDREW and HOOPER.
 March, . . . Messrs. HOOPER and LYMAN.
 April, . . . Messrs. LYMAN and FLINT.
 May, . . . Messrs. FLINT and REYNOLDS.
 June, . . . Messrs. REYNOLDS and WELD.
 July, . . . Messrs. WELD and MINOT.
 August, . . . Messrs. MINOT and HOAR.
 September, . . . Messrs. HOAR and HOWE.
 October, . . . Messrs. HOWE and BACON.
 November, . . . Messrs. BACON and JARVIS.
 December, . . . Messrs. JARVIS and STORER.
 1858. January, . . . Messrs. STORER and ANDREW

[C.]

*Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth.
Eighth, between M and N Streets, South Boston.*

BOSTON,

185 .

Form of Questions to be answered by the Parents or Friends of Applicants for admission to the School; the answers to which are for the use of the Superintendent, and not for publication. Neither the name of the applicant, nor his family, will be published.

Where was the applicant born, and when?

Were the father and mother related by blood? and if so, in what degree?

Have there been any cases of insanity, epilepsy, idiocy, blindness, deafness, or of any infirmity of body or mind, in the family of the father or of the mother, or any among his near relations? If so, please to state what they were.

Do you know of any peculiarity of constitution, or of bodily condition, in any of the relatives of the father or of the mother? For instance, are the members of either family consumptive or scrofulous, or subject to salt-rheum, or eruptions of any kind?

What manner of man was the father bodily? That is, was he strong and healthy, or weak and puny?

What was his age at the time of the birth of the applicant?

Was he a person of average mental ability?

What was his business or calling?

What were his habits with regard to temperance?

What manner of woman was the mother bodily?

What was her calling?

What were her habits with regard to temperance?

At what age was she married to the father of the applicant?

Was she a person of average mental ability?

How many children has she had?

How many before, and how many after, the birth of the applicant?

How old was she when the applicant was born?

Was there any thing peculiar in the bodily or mental condition of any of the other children?

What was the state of the mother's bodily health during the time she was pregnant with the applicant?

Was she subject to any bodily injury, or disease, or to any extraordinary mental emotions, as fright, grief, &c.?

Was the child born at the full period of gestation?

Were there any extraordinary circumstances attendant upon the delivery? If so, describe them.

What has been the general health and the bodily condition of the applicant?

Has he been injured by any fall, blow, or other accident, severe enough to be followed, as a matter of course, by serious consequences?

At what period was it first observed that there was any thing peculiar about the applicant?

Has there been observed, at any time since birth, any thing peculiar in the shape or condition of the head?

Does the head now differ in shape or condition from the head of ordinary persons of the same age?

What is now the general health of the applicant?

Is the applicant now subject, or has he ever been subject, to epilepsy?

What is now the weight of the applicant?

Is there any infirmity of body, or any striking peculiarity?

How is the appetite for food and drink?

Is the applicant active, vigorous, running about and noticing things, or the contrary?

What is the state of the sense of sight? Is the eye bright or dull?

What is the state of the sense of hearing? Is it quick or sluggish?

Does the applicant show any sensibility to musical sounds?

What is the state of the sense of smell?

What is the state of the sense of taste? Is the applicant particular about what he eats; or will he swallow things without regard to taste?

Is he gluttonous?

What are the habits of the applicant with regard to personal cleanliness?

Can the applicant talk, and if so, like a person of what age?

Can he make a regular sentence, containing nouns, verbs in the conditional mode, adjectives and adverbs, &c.?

Does he use understandingly such words as *or* and *if*?

Please give several specimens of his mode of talking, and be careful to put down the words exactly as he uses them.

Can he dress and undress himself?

Can he feed himself?

Does he use a spoon, or knife and fork?

Can he tie his shoes in a regular knot?

Can he do any work, and what kind?

What are his personal habits?

Does he hide, break, or destroy things?

Does he get up in the night and wander about?

Is he obedient?

Does he come when called?

Does he go astray?

Is he passionate?

Is he given to self-abuse, or masturbation?

Has there been such watchfulness, that you can be sure, that he is free from all habits of self-pollution?

Please state any facts that may show the peculiar character of the applicant.

TERMS OF ADMISSION, &c.

The best age for admission is between six and twelve years.

The institution is not intended for epileptic or insane children, nor for those who are incurably hydrocephalic or paralytic, and any such will not be retained, to the exclusion of more improvable subjects.

Children will be received upon trial for one month, at the end of which time a report upon the case will be made to the parents.

Children must come well provided with plain, strong clothing, and stout shoes for walking in any weather. They must be renewed as often as is necessary, at the expense of the applicants. Those who tear and destroy their clothing must be provided with garments made expressly for them, and of such form and texture as not to be easily torn.

The children of indigent parents, in Massachusetts, will be received gratis. For others, a charge will be made proportionate to the trouble and cost of treating them.

Sufficient surety will be required for the removal of the pupils whenever they may be discharged.

Persons applying for the admission of children as beneficiaries of Massachusetts, should address the Governor. They must also fill out certain blanks, the form of which is as follows:—

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

185 .

To His Excellency the Governor:—

SIR,—The undersigned, citizen of Massachusetts, and inhabitant of the town of _____, respectfully represents that his son [or daughter],* named _____ and aged _____ years, is so deficient in intellect that he cannot be taught in the Common Schools, as other youth are; and he therefore requests that your Excellency would recommend him for admission as a pupil to the Massachusetts School for teaching and training Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Persons, as a State beneficiary.

Respectfully yours, _____

The application should be accompanied by two certificates, in the following form: †—

I.

185 .

I, _____, one of the selectmen of the town of _____ hereby certify, that, in my opinion, _____ is not wealthy, and could not well afford to pay \$150 per year for the instruction of _____ at the School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Persons.

(Signed,) _____

II.

185 .

I, _____, citizen of Massachusetts, physician, and practitioner in the town of _____, hereby certify, that I have examined _____ and find that he is not insane, but is so deficient in mental ability that he cannot be taught in the Common Schools, as others of his age are.

His bodily health is _____, and he has no cutaneous or contagious disorder.

(Signed,) _____

* If a town pauper, the overseers of the poor may apply as for their ward.

† The same may be used in Rhode Island.

N. B. The physician is earnestly requested to state, in writing, his opinion of the *cause* of the person's mental deficiency; to state whether he is or has been epileptic; also, to mention any organic or functional peculiarity that he may have observed. It may be greatly for the advantage of the person, that the physician should send in writing a full and minute account of the case, with his own thoughts and suggestions in regard to it.

If the applicant is admitted as a beneficiary, he must be provided with a paper signed by two responsible persons, in form of a guaranty for removal, as follows:—

185 .

We, the undersigned, citizens of Massachusetts, and householders in the town of _____, respectively pledge ourselves, that, should _____ be received into the Massachusetts School for teaching and training Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth, he shall be kept properly supplied with decent clothing, that he shall be removed during vacations, (if his removal be required,) and that, whenever he shall be discharged, he shall be removed at once, and the institution relieved from all responsibility for his support.

(Signed,)

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. HOWE, Boston.

