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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MANAGERS

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CLINTON FARMS

New Jersey State Reformatory for Women

CLINTON, HUNTERDON COUNTY
NEW JERSEY

For the Eight Months Ending June 30th

1918

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Officers and Committees.

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MARY B. HARRIS

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JOSEPHINE A. MARSHALL.....	Matron
DR. A. H. COLEMAN.....	Visiting Physician

Report of Board of Managers

To the Hon. Walter E. Edge, Governor of New Jersey:

SIR:—The Board of Managers of the New Jersey State Reformatory for Women begs to present its sixth annual report.

The problems confronting our Institution during the past year have been both favorably and unfavorably affected by the abnormal war conditions. Good times have not reduced our number, because with women economic pressure is not as powerful a factor in driving to law breaking as with men. On the other hand the prevalence of good wages has been a distinct help in giving us a choice of the best places for our paroled women, and has enabled us to secure for them excellent wages. It has also been easier to remove them, from the class of household drudges to which all graduates of Institutions were formerly consigned, into that of well paid domestics.

The duty of keeping the women who have left Clinton Farms in the class of workers, either in their own households or elsewhere, instead of allowing them to lapse back into the class of drones or parasites, becomes more vital under the stress of war. Yet it is this very drone and parasite temperament which is in many cases responsible for the girl being committed to our care. We are convinced that the methods of treatment which we apply succeed, in the majority of cases, in remedying the very defects which were characteristic of our girls before coming to us. Open air, good plain food, hard work, regular hours, discipline, self government, the test of responsibility, spiritual and religious appeal are our remedies.

Most of our population being young, we have in our favor the immeasurable receptivity of youth, which responds to the suggestions and influence of those who have won their way as leaders. Thus the girls themselves become teachers and guides in a very

true sense. We claim an amount of permanent success proved by the facts we know regarding our graduates, which has been a surprise often to themselves.

The statistics of our institution since its opening are as follows:

Date of opening cottage for white girls, January 8th, 1913. Date of opening cottage for colored girls, June 25th, 1915.

Number of white girls received, 258; number of colored girls received, 79. Total number of white and colored girls received, 337.

Number sent from our institution, 29, as follows: State Hospital, 9; Feeble-Minded Institution, 9; N. J. State Institution, 3; State Epileptic Village, 3; Girls' Home, 1; Almshouse, 1; deported, 2; died, 1.

Number returned for breaking parole, 31, as follows: White girls, 27; colored girls, 4.

Number returned voluntarily, 11, as follows: White girls, 9; colored girls, 2.

Total number of inmates at present in institution, 101, as follows: White, 71; colored, 30.

These figures show that Clinton Farms, during its five years of work, has cared for over 300 girls and women, charged with almost every kind of crime, of varying ages, nationalities and education. We have lost sight of fifteen. If we subtract this number, those at present with us, those who have been transferred and those who have violated their parole, we find that there remain 161 whose lives are a credit to themselves and to the Reformatory as well as a benefit to Society.

We propose to continue and enlarge the scope of the theories and methods which have thus justified themselves. But to supplement them we must have largely increased facilities for the vocational training of our girls. The community needs efficient workers. When we have properly equipped school rooms with laundries, kitchens and sewing rooms, to be used primarily for instruction, we can help to meet this need. Some girls will become nurses, office or farm workers. These also we can prepare. Many of our women have homes of their own. We must return them more efficient wives and mothers.

We have never had a better spirit at Clinton Farms nor a finer group of officers. We do not fear to challenge our right to the confidence and support of the State, relying on the records now being made by our girls. We have been given the inestimable privi-

lege of showing them the way upward. Almost all have responded by doing their "bit," each in her own way, to vindicate the trust which began when it was won by them at Clinton Farms and which they are now justifying through many a bitterly hard temptation and struggle. Are we going too far in claiming that Clinton Farms has become a corner of the world-wide field of Honor, which holds a challenge and an opportunity for all of us, where that Honor is none the less precious because it must be re-won?

CAROLINE BAYARD WITTPENN,
President of Board of Managers.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. H. Otto Wittpenn, President, Board of Managers, N. J. State Reformatory for Women, Clinton, N. J.

In accordance with the requirements of an act passed during the session of the last legislature of New Jersey, approved February 27th, 1918, changing the beginning of the fiscal year of several State Institutions from November 1st to July 1st, and as the New Jersey State Reformatory for Women comes within the requirements of the above act, I beg herewith to submit for your consideration my report as Treasurer covering the eight months from November 1st, 1917, to July 1st, 1918, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

NEW JERSEY STATE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

November 1st, 1917, to July 1st, 1918

Appropriations.	Expenditures.	Balance Not Used.
\$22,000.00 Maintenance		
898.02 Maintenance earnings	\$19,320.94	\$ 3,577.08
6,500.00 Maintenance farm	4,604.38	1,895.62
10,000.00 Salaries	6,747.23	3,252.77
300.00 Manager's expenses	201.45	98.55
2,500.00 Roads, gutters and grading.....		2,500.00
1,500.00 Electric current	1,207.70	292.30
2,500.00 Repairs, replacements	2,497.44	2.56
1,800.00 Medical treatment	1,117.16	682.84
1,000.00 Insurance	448.45	551.55
1,000.00 Silo	447.50	552.50
<hr/> \$49,998.02	<hr/> \$36,592.25	<hr/> \$13,405.77

Appropriations carried forward from 1914-15:

Appropriation for land.....	\$120.13
On contract	120.13

Expenditures to date on contracts:

Contracts.	Payments to Date.	Bal. Due.
\$ 1,450.00 Roads	\$ 1,445.00	\$ 5.00
22,875.98 Building Reception Cottage.....	22,875.98	
3,844.00 Plumbing Reception Cottage.....	3,844.00	
2,142.00 Heating Reception Cottage.....	2,142.00	
1,173.00 Electric work Reception Cottage.....	1,173.00	
1,820.15 Furnishing Reception Cottage.....	1,820.15	
2,108.31 Furniture and equipment Colored Cottage.....	2,107.35	.96
120.13 Land		120.13
3,933.00 Building disciplinary wing and root cellar.....	3,330.00	603.00
295.00 Plumbing disciplinary wing and root cellar....	250.75	44.25
450.00 Heating disciplinary wing and root cellar.....	450.00	
302.00 Electrical work discip'y wing and root cellar	178.50	123.50
3,000.00 Extension and repair to water supply.....	3,000.00	
<hr/> \$43,513.57	<hr/> \$42,616.73	<hr/> \$896.84

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. ENNIS,
Treasurer.

Morristown, N. J., October 3, 1918.

Superintendent's Report

To the Board of Managers:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—The fact that I am making my first report to you after only five months of service has the advantage of enabling me to speak from a somewhat detached point of view, while my first impressions of Clinton Farms are still fresh in my mind, and while I do not feel fully responsible either for the commendable features of the Institution or for those in which it can be improved.

First of all, I wish heartily to congratulate you on the fundamental soundness of the work which has been done at Clinton Farms. You yourselves have held, and have kept before the minds of all connected with the Institution either as instructors or inmates, the one central idea that the purpose of Clinton Farms was to repair and rebuild lives that were falling into ruin. You have conceived this as the first duty which the Reformatory owed to the State, and no considerations of policy have turned you aside from this purpose.

The results of this adherence to your ideal, as I find them in the traditions of the place, are truly remarkable. Especially noteworthy is the *Student Government*, which, begun in 1913 when such treatment of penal cases was almost entirely experimental, has been carried to a higher development at Clinton Farms than at any other institution with which I am acquainted.

This feature I regard as the great contribution which Clinton Farms has made to the history of penology. It is the more remarkable when we consider that the women who are committed here are all convicted on State Prison offences. Even the article by Miss Elizabeth Case, a former teacher at the Farms, in the *New Republic*, March 30, 1918, does not adequately describe the wholesome results attained here through Student Government, though it gives a vivid picture of the problems and difficulties that lay in the way of this development.

Building on the foundation which you and my predecessor, Miss Caughey, had laid, I have reorganized the Student Government in a somewhat modified form but with essentially the same spirit. In doing this I have been fortunate in having as an adviser and helper Miss Robson, who, having been in the institution from its opening, knew the discouragements incident to the establishment of any government, and yet had the optimism and faith to persevere.

From the day a girl enters Clinton Farms, she is made to feel that the purpose of her being here is to help her regain her self-respect and fit her to play a useful part, first in the life of the institution and later in the life of the State. She is told in simple language that she must behave herself and work, and if illiterate, learn to read and write English. If she does all this, she will be eligible at the end of three months for membership in the Honor Group, the governing body of the institution.

To take a concrete case: Sarah is admitted June 1st, and is at once taken to the Hospital, where after being bathed and examined, she is placed in quarantine for two weeks as required by law. If the physician decides that she is not a menace to others, she will be used for work in the quarantine quarters. In any case she will be taught while in quarantine to make a bed properly, to clean a room thoroughly, and the fundamental requirements of personal hygiene. During this time she is under the close scrutiny not only of the nurse in charge, but also of the Student Officer on duty in the hospital.

At the end of two weeks, June 15, Sarah comes down from the hospital and becomes a member of the Reception Cottage group as a probationer. She still has restricted privileges, is under strict surveillance, and has her door locked at night. She is assigned to a working group under a Student Officer—either in the Kitchen, Laundry, Sewing or Farm group; and, as she is illiterate, is told that learning to read and write English is required of her. When ten weeks of probation have passed, her name is brought before the Honor Group, where a thorough discussion of her qualifications takes place. Her work, education and conduct record are reviewed. In particular, her sense of honor and trustworthiness are discussed; for the essence of the Honor Group is the fact that the Honor Girls are trusted to keep their pledge not to run away.

If Sarah passes the acid test, she is placed on two weeks' formal probation, with a caution to mend her ways in whatever particular the discussion has shown her to be weak—it may be temper, loud voice, coarse language, poor work or impertinent manner. At the end of the two weeks, if she has shown improvement, she is elected to the Honor Group, reads the pledge and signs it in her own handwriting (hence the requirement of English), dons the garb of her rank, and is a full-fledged citizen.

The Honor Group elects the Student Officers and Health Commissioners. It also has the power of Recall and exercises it relentlessly if its officers are found to be lacking, or fall short of the high standards demanded. Demotion from the Honor Group or from Officership is the keenest punishment in the institution, and even suspension is a great humiliation.

The development of openness of discussion and the self-control which characterizes these Honor meetings is most gratifying, and the best possible preparation for life in the larger community outside.

If in time Sarah is elected Student Officer, she takes another pledge to be worthy of the responsibility, and puts on the blue dress which marks her office. If she is in charge of the laundry group of her cottage, she is responsible to the matron for the order and good work of her department. If difficulty arises between two of the laundry workers, she is immediately summoned, and calls the matron or Superintendent only in case the dispute is beyond her power and that of the other Student Officers to settle.

The personal code of the Student Officers is that a Student Officer must not lie, or steal, use bad language or quarrel with another girl, must always be neat and polite, and must never lose her temper. One offence shall demote her.

If Sarah is impertinent or disobedient to a Teacher or Matron—which rarely occurs—the Superintendent hears the case and decides the penalty, referring to the Student organization only the question of Sarah's conduct as measured by their standards. In no case has the Student organization upheld conduct that the Superintendent disapproved; and this solidarity of sentiment arrayed against improper conduct is a most potent disciplinary agent. It is not fun for Sarah to do wrong if the other girls do not stand by her.

I am making you this detailed report of the Student Government because many requests come to the institution for information concerning it. I should add that the Superintendent or her representative attends and presides at the Honor meetings, and that no demotions are made without a hearing before the Superintendent.

To give the Institution government broader meaning, it is treated as a preparation for Parole. You have wisely decided that if Sarah makes a perfect record as an Honor Girl she is better and sooner fitted for Parole than if she had not, and that if she performs her duties as Laundry Officer satisfactorily, she has shown that she has control of herself and is better fitted to go out into the larger community. That is, you have eliminated the "time" basis for parole, and more logically created a "conduct, work and health" standard, thus giving permanent significance in the minds of the girls to their endeavors to lead a law-abiding and useful life while here.

Of the part which *work*, of the various kinds necessitated by the farm and institution life, is to play, I subscribe to the plans and policies outlined in the previous Superintendent's reports. Self-control gained through work, education and legitimate amusement will continue to be the goal of the institution life.

The danger at the present time is that a wrong conception of patriotism may urge institution heads to regard work as the end of the institution instead of as one means of rehabilitation of the inmates. Our largest service to the country in war as in peace is to restore to the community as many self-respecting, law-abiding, economically independent citizens as possible. Many of our girls go back to their own homes. If we send them back trained to cook properly, clothe their families economically and keep sanitary homes, we have prepared them for community life, and have done our duty to the State. If they are going out to household service, a thorough training is necessary to make them an economic asset to the State, and we have failed if we have not given them this equipment. It is not by our farm produce record that our success must be measured, but by our Parole report. Let us show satisfactory results in both if possible; but if one or the other must be sacrificed, there should be no doubt in our minds as to where lies our obligation to the State.

The *needs* of the farm are unfortunately almost the same as those reported last year—notably a cottage for a farmer, and a dairy barn. The water system, also, must be enlarged if there is to be any extensive provision made for a larger population.

Two cottages, one for white and one for colored girls—the latter to be connected with a well-equipped laundry where the laundry of the entire institution could be done—are also needed if any further development is to take place. Clinton Farms should be doing a larger work in the State, and bringing a larger number of women under its influence; but first it must have the housing facilities necessary to do the work well. These I trust will be supplied in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY B. HARRIS,
Superintendent.

Report of Medical Department

The State Laboratory equipping themselves to do the Wasserman test has made it possible for us to make it a rule to have a Wasserman taken on every girl.

Each positive Wasserman is followed with the Salvarsan and mercury injection treatment during their stay in the Institution. Three months after parole they return for another Wasserman and again at six months. If at either of these times a positive reaction is found they are returned to us for further treatment until we feel that it is perfectly safe to allow them freedom without fear of contamination.

Although our operating room is not finished for work, the increased room in comparison to our other hampered quarters gives us the opportunity to expand and do more thorough and better work.

Physical Examinations—All new cases are examined on admission, quarantined for two weeks and then re-examined.

New cases, 63; parole violators, 10; babies with cases, 4. Total, 77.

WASSERMAN REPORT TO DATE.

White—Negative cases, 55; positive cases, 24. Total taken, 79.

Colored—Negative cases, 12; positive cases, 22. Total taken, 34.

Total Colored and White—Negative cases, 67; positive cases, 46. Total taken, 113.

Mercury injections given, 210; gynecological treatments given, 744; douche treatments given, 8,464; salvarsan treatments given, 16.

CASES RECEIVING SPECIAL MEDICAL ATTENTION.

Deaths, 1, at Mercer Hospital. Total cases treated.

BABY REPORT.

Number of babies November 1, 1917, 5; babies admitted with mothers, 4; babies born in institution, 1. Total, 10. Babies sent out with mothers on parole, 2; babies sent out for adoption, 1. Total, 3. Number of babies July 1, 1918, 7.

SPECIAL CASES.

gynecological, 2; surgical, 6; general, 7.

Summary—Head, 61; thorax, 66; abdomen, 6; skin, 11; extremities, 3;

CASES ADMITTED SHOWING SURGICAL CONDITIONS.

Lacerated cervix, 20; lacerated perineum, 16; rectocele, 1; cystocele, 1; salpingitis, 2; ulcerated cervix, 6.

DENTAL REPORT.

All cases admitted since May, 1918, have not had dental attention. All other cases were finished to that date.

Cases seen, 98; amalgams, 114; porcelains, 34; cements, 34; extractions, 199; treatments, 57; cleaned, 84; work paid for personally, 1 porcelain cap.

OCULIST REPORT.

Cases on hand, 89; glasses not needed, 19; glasses needed, 36; not seen, 25; previous prescription, 9; 64 cases seeing oculist; 45 cases wearing spectacles.

Report of Parole

Before a woman is paroled from Clinton Farms a careful investigation is made of each individual case, her home and family history. If her home seems the proper place for her, and temptation not too strong in the particular locality where it is located, she is permitted to return there. If the home is in a part of a city where there are many moral dangers, the family is urged to move to a different locality. If the home conditions are not the proper sort, a position is secured for the woman, where she will have every opportunity to be uplifted. One of the things we insist upon in placing a girl out at service is that no mention be made of her past life, and that she be given every privilege that is possible under the circumstances. Each girl is given the necessary wearing apparel before she leaves here, so there is no reason for her to become discouraged because she hasn't proper wearing apparel, and give this as an excuse for falling again. I have learned from my work and the investigations I have made that most of the women committed here have never had a chance in life, and have never known the right way of living. It is marvellous that they have not gotten into more serious trouble than they have, for their home conditions and heredity are appalling.

To effectively supervise the paroled women, we visit them in their homes, require them to report to us, aid them in finding suitable employment, and endeavor in every possible way to help them in their efforts to lead honest lives. In case they fail they are returned here. Visits to their homes enable us to know the helpful and harmful factors in the girl's environment and to take such action as is necessary to improve conditions; they reveal whether or not the paroled woman is working steadily and returning to her home each night; they help us to know how and where the girl is finding her recreation and who her companions are; they enable us to establish a more friendly and sympathetic relationship with the girl and her family and to make a wiser constructive plan for the

girl's future. We are often called upon during our visits to the home, to assist in having sick members of the family taken care of at the various hospitals in the town, assist in procuring employment for a member of the family, give advice as to seeking redress through the Domestic Relations Court, etc.

One of our greatest responsibilities is that of finding employment for our paroled women. Our problem is chiefly to discover the kind of work they desire and are best fitted to do, and to place them as satisfactorily as possible. If we can help them to realize an ambition to do some particular kind of work, our efforts are far more likely to meet with success. We are most careful to guard against work for which the girls are utterly unsuited. A woman may be eager to be a trained nurse, but unfitted for it; and in a case like this we endeavor to place her as an attendant or ward-maid in a hospital, or as a child's nurse. Whenever possible we place girls at work where they will receive a training. Girls whom we place at service with carefully chosen private families we feel are under close and excellent supervision.

In previous years if a paroled woman violated her parole in any way, or found temptation too strong for her in the locality where she was, she would disappear rather than return here; and this meant much extra work in trying to locate her. This condition, we are happy to say, has been greatly overcome through the meetings of the Exit Club. During the meetings of this Club, we have tried to impress upon the women the fact that we are their friends and know their weaknesses. We have urged them to write to us if they find they are weakening under special temptations. We have assured them that such a message would receive immediate attention, and that we would arrange to place them elsewhere. Our women have responded in great numbers to this request, and they practically all either write or telephone us when they are in any trouble. In several instances they have returned here themselves, when there was immediate danger of their getting into trouble.

One very interesting instance of this was the case of a girl whose chances in life were very slight. Her father was a brute, who neglected and abused both his wife and family. As a result of the treatment the wife received she became violently insane, and was committed to an insane asylum, leaving the children to take

care of themselves as best they could. As a result this girl was committed to us for a sex offence, and while here she became a mother. When she was paroled from here, she was placed at service, with her baby, in the home of a physician, who knew the family history, and who was interested in the welfare of the girl and her baby. She did well for a time but finally became discouraged and left the physician's home, taking her baby with her; before leaving, however, she stole a sum of money from the physician and went back to her old haunts. She remained there only one night and the next morning she telephoned us, asking that we come and get her. I left on the first train and found her at the address she had given us. I asked her why she left her place and the reason she gave was that she didn't like it there any more. I asked her about the money she had stolen and she confessed that she had stolen it, but said they had only spent carfare and showed me the balance which she had in her pocket. I insisted that she accompany me to the physician's home and return the balance of the money, telling her she had committed a new offence, and assuring her I did not know what the outcome would be. She went with me without demurring, returned the money, and agreed to work there until she would make up for the amount of money she had spent. After she had done this she returned here of her own accord, until other arrangements could be made for her.

Our failures, we are pleased to say, have been fewer this year in proportion to the number paroled than any previous year.

Following are the parole statistics:

Girls placed at service.....	31
Girls returned home	34
Work on parole violations (visits).....	53
Miscellaneous parole work	178
Girls returned from parole.....	8
Parole visits	357
Girls transferred to other institutions.....	6
Deaths	1

Following are the statistical tables:

Commitments by Counties—Atlantic, 2; Bergen, 6; Burlington, 4; Camden, 1; Essex, 17; Hudson, 7; Monmouth, 5; Mercer, 2; Middlesex, 4; Morris, 1; Passaic, 6; Salem, 3; Somerset, 3; Sussex, 2; Union, 4.

Charges—Illegal sale of liquor, 1; attempted suicide, 2; concealing birth of child, 1; street walking, 1; adultery, 12; white slavery, 1; open lewdness, 8; larceny and receiving, 8; larceny from person, 9; fornication, 4; false pretense, 1; manslaughter, 1; disorderly house, 3; neglect of children, 1; neglect and cruelty to children, 1; assault and battery, 4; embezzlement, 1; breaking and entering, 1; abandonment, 1; grand larceny, 2; defrauding hotel, 1; bigamy, 1; second degree murder, 1; receiving stolen goods, 1.

Nationality—American, 52; Swedish, 1; Italian, 5; Polish, 1; Russian, 3; East Indian, 1; Canadian, 1; Scotch, 1; Swiss, 1; Austrian, 1.

Ages—Below 20 years, 11; 20 to 30 years, 35; above 30 years, 21.

Religions—Protestant, 44; Catholic, 21; Jewish, 2.

PRODUCTS OF THE FARM.

CASH EARNINGS.

1 calf sold, \$5.00; 1 calf sold, \$7.00; 1 boar sold, \$25.00; 2 calves sold, \$10.00; pork sold, \$319.66; skins sold, \$11.30; 2 calves sold, \$10.00; 200½ bushels wheat at \$2.10, \$421.05; 23 quarts milk sold, \$1.61; 40 pounds chicken at 55c, \$22.00 (less express, 51c; returned coop, 16c; commission, \$1.10; total, \$1.77; leaving balance received of \$20.33). Total cash earnings, \$830.95.

Milk—72,658.5 pounds, or 33,792 quarts.

Eggs—1,463¼ dozen.

Meat—Lamb, 301½ pounds; chicken, 558 pounds; pork, 1,472½ pounds; mutton, 85 pounds; veal, 200½ pounds.

Butter—1,245½ pounds.

Vegetables, Berries, etc.—Rhubarb, 550½ dozen; asparagus, 202½ dozen; radishes, 110 dozen; onions, 232½ dozen; lettuce, 18 pecks; strawberries, 196 quarts; spinach, 7 pecks; turnips, 3 pecks; beets, 10½ pecks; beet tops, 2⅞ bushels; peas, 40¼ pecks; beans, 8½ pecks; parsnips, 114 dozen; cauliflower, 31 heads; carrots, 137 bushels; cabbage, 76 heads; potatoes (late), 2 bushels; rutabagas, 89 bushels; field corn, 756 bushels.

