

R 10 # 38-109-4

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE COLONY FOR  
FEEBLE MINDED MALES

NEW LIBSON, N. J.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30,

1919

New Jersey State Library

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

New Lisbon, New Jersey, June 30, 1919.

To the State Board of Control of  
Institutions and Agencies,  
Trenton, N. Jersey.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

For the year ending June 30, 1919, the Board of Managers of the State Colony for Feeble-Minded Males, begs to report a satisfactory condition of affairs at the institution.

The superintendent and his assistants have all done their full duty, often under trying circumstances. For instance, the influenza epidemic, the development of tuberculosis. We deem it an unfortunate circumstance that our request for funds to erect an infirmary was not granted.

We urge that legislation be enacted to permit paying employees an increased wage. Our experience the last few months convinces us that competent help cannot be obtained at the rate of wages set forth.

The accompanying report of the superintendent gives a detailed account of the progress of the institution's development during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM E. BENNETT,  
ELIZABETH C. WHITE,  
HETTY L. MILLER,  
HENRY B. COLES.

## STATE COLONY FOR FEEBLE-MINDED MALES.

Report of the Superintendent for third fiscal year ended June 30, 1919

To the Board of Managers,  
State Colony for Feeble-Minded Males,  
New Lisbon, New Jersey.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I beg to submit to you the annual report of the colony for the period ending June 30, 1919.

The wisdom of selecting this location for the colony has been questioned, but to those who have watched the health and happiness of the inmates improve under the conditions here, the location seems in essential respects ideal. The distance from the temptations of any village community makes great freedom permissible, and the pine air is as good for our boys as for the millionaires of Lakewood. An improved road is greatly needed. It would make the colony more accessible, without detracting from its present advantages, and would reduce the cost of delivering supplies.

— Since the colony became a State Institution (July 1, 1916), the number of inmates has increased from forty-five to sixty-eight. During the year the names of 141 applicants were submitted to us by the department. From the very meagre data accompanying these names it seemed clear that seventeen cases were of such low grade that it would be impossible to care for them with our present equipment. To 124 addresses questionnaires were sent. Twelve of these were returned, the Post Office Department being unable to locate the persons. Twenty-one applicants did not reply to our letter, five cases were not permitted to come—the excuse being they had improved; three had died; one was referred to Skillman, and twenty-three were admitted. A final disposition was thus made of sixty-five cases and fifty-nine are still pending.

Among the inmates, every county in the State is now represented except one.

The physical ages of the inmates range from nine to forty-eight years; the mental ages from one to eleven. The average physical age is twenty-two and one-half years, the average mental age is five plus. The cases admitted during the year are not of the grade that we had hoped for either mentally or physically. The majority are small boys unable to do much toward development. Some are of very low mentality, not even able to care for themselves. These tax the time and attention of employees and higher grade boys, since boys of fair mentality are being admitted and committed it becomes necessary to consider proper provision for their education.

They should have mental and manual training of such character as they are capable of receiving. With the higher grades much may be done in the way of improvement and development. Provision of facilities for such training is most important.

All the inmates that are able to do anything are kept busy. So far as possible they are given necessary work which they like to do. The value of such occupation is measurable in dollars and cents and has in addition an immeasurable therapeutic value.

The concrete blocks for the dormitory building, the excavating for all buildings, mixing cement for foundations, grading, wheeling sand and much of the other work for which hired labor would otherwise have been necessary in the construction of the buildings was done by inmate labor. This has reduced the cost of construction by an amount estimated at 12 per cent. of the total cost of the buildings.

During the past year produce of an estimated value of \$1,334.57 has been taken from the tract of land cleared and stumped by the inmates since the establishment of the colony. This does not include the value of the milk, eggs and meat produced.

Large quantities of fruit and vegetables, pork and poultry products should be produced here for this and other institutions. The texture of the land is such that it is especially adapted to growing fruit and truck crops. The location, at a considerable distance from any town, on well drained land, is particularly good for raising chickens and pigs.

During the year the inmates have cut for fuel purposes thirty to forty cords of wood, thus reducing the consumption of coal. The Department of Conservation and Development has offered to permit the thinning out of young growth for fuel purposes, but this is not practical for an institution of this size, with inmates of the low average mentality of ours. When we clear all trees from a wooded area the work is sufficiently concentrated for one person to supervise the work of many boys. Four or five inmates are sufficiently intelligent to fell trees safely if told each time just where and how far to cut. Less intelligent inmates under the same supervisor can cut off the branches and pile up the brush. The trees to be thinned out are small and scattered, and because of their small diameter would be of little value in firing boilers. They are so far apart that one person could direct the work of but very few inmates. The cost of supervision would therefore be more than the value of the wood.

At present the variety of work at the colony is limited and becomes very monotonous to the boys. For this reason, great effort is being made to provide recreation. The best results are obtained in the colony community as in larger communities by having the members work for their pleasures. This is managed by paying the inmates a regular amount when they work well. Four boys receive 20 cents each per week, seven receive 10 cents each per week and the others from 5 to 10 cents each per week according to their ability. Every two weeks the superintendent holds "Store" and then the inmates buy candy, peanuts and small trifles with their earnings. Once started, the "Store" is in considerable measure self-sustaining, but from time to time outside money is needed to keep up the weekly payments to the inmates. The higher grade boys especially like to save their earnings to spend on occasional trips to nearby towns. During the past year \$172.04, has been spent for the "Store" and weekly payments. Of this, \$77.27 came from maintenance, having been allowed for the purchase of candy and peanuts. The additional \$94.77 was donated by the visiting board and others. Provision for this most valuable means of discipline should be made in the annual budget.

One inmate has been placed on the pay roll and is now acting as an attendant for some of the small boys recently admitted. He receives \$8 per month. This is in line with our principle of making the neces-

sary work a special privilege and with this particular boy the result is admirable. He does not permit any of the other inmates to know he is on a different footing from themselves, takes the greatest pride and pleasure in the confidence reposed in him and gives the gentlest, most considerate care to his charges.

We expect to install a moving-picture machine within the next few weeks. The funds for this were contributed by persons interested in the happiness and comfort of the boys. The Fern Cottage for fifty inmates has been finished, partly equipped and is occupied. The horse barn is nearly finished and will soon be ready for occupancy. The store-room has been made ready to care for supplies. Cement walks have been laid between the buildings and the grounds in general have had much attention.

The estimated value of inmate labor contributed this year toward these accomplishments is valued at \$1,012. We feel that considering the low average mentality and the inadequate equipment with which we have had to work, good progress has been made in achieving of our ideal of developing the colony with happy and contented inmate labor.

The State Comptroller granted an increase in the per capita, thereby permitting us to earn more of the appropriation available and purchase therefrom \$2,320.35 worth of equipment for the Fern Cottage. Had this plan not been favorably considered, we should not have been in a position to admit any additional cases during the year.

The general health of the institution has been exceptionally good. The epidemic of influenza was the only contagion during the year. Forty-three of the inmates and eight of the employees were victims of the disease. Forty of this number were ill at one time, and at the most critical period the attending physician was unable to continue his visits. This placed the management in a most anxious situation; with no physician, no infirmary and no available space for quarantining or segregating the ill from those apparently well. We were much relieved to secure the services of a physician, Dr. E. P. Darlington, who made extra and special efforts to aid us. There were no deaths and the after-effects were not noticeable except in two cases. One of these became exceptionally dull and the other developed tuberculosis. One other case admitted since the epidemic has also developed tuberculosis.

Of these cases one is in the Burlington County Hospital for Tuberculosis, and the other is bed-fast here. We hope soon to find a place to which to have him transferred for treatment. We are not equipped here to care for any case of disease contagious or otherwise.

A hospital or infirmary is so greatly needed that the coming year will unquestionably see the need filled. The new cases come from all sorts of environment. They arrive needing strict examination and many minor operations. It is essential therefor that provision be made for these, as well as for those who become ill and need daily medical care and attention.

The visiting physician has rendered aid and been a source of much comfort during the year. His report is herewith accompanying. The visiting dentist has cared for the teeth of the inmates and done such work as was necessary for their health and welfare.

The Department of Animal Husbandry tested the herd of cows and found two reactors. These were disposed of at once and were replaced by two that were tested before purchasing and again after they were received—thus assuring us against any infection. The herd has been placed on the accredited list of the U. S. Government. The cost of replacement was met from the earnings of the colony.

The rented farm and three other tracts comprising a total of about sixty-five acres of cleared land of good quality, adjoin the colony reserve and can be purchased at a reasonable price, probably \$6,000 for all. Acquirement of this land would be of great value to the institution. More of the crops needed for house and farm purposes could be produced during the next year and would effect a great saving.

The deer, which are protected by law, have destroyed this year, as nearly as can be estimated, \$225 worth of field and garden crops. Unless the deer are killed it will be necessary to fence the entire tract upon which the crops are planted.

We have been greatly embarrassed by the failure of the Budget Commission to grant the amount requested for fencing and farm tools. The necessity of asking employees to work without proper tools has increased the difficulty of securing and retaining help.

In spite of difficulties our employees have been exceptionally faithful and loyal during a period when other employment offering much higher wages was available. I most cordially commend them

and recommend that their wages be increased in recognition of their excellent services.

Our efforts have been to meet as nearly as possible the wishes of those in charge, and it is with pleasure that I submit to you this third annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

J. FRANK MACOMBER,  
Superintendent.

## ATTENDING PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

July 1, 1919.

Having been attending physician to the State Colony for Feeble-Minded Males at Four Mile since October 5, 1918, it might be well to submit the following report. During the stress of the influenza epidemic, Doctor Daniel F. Remer, of Mount Holly, was unable to continue in attendance, and my services were solicited.

On October 5, I found all but three of the boys confined to bed with influenza, five later developed pneumonia, and one was committed to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at New Lisbon, on June 9, 1919.

A small infirmary would be of benefit to the colony. Many new boys are being admitted, and the risk of introducing a contagion is increasing. It would be well to isolate suspicious cases until the physician can see them.

Regarding the case of tuberculosis mentioned above, it was several weeks before a positive diagnosis could be made, and during that period isolation was difficult. A similar case is now under observation.

Respectfully,

EMLÉN P. DARLINGTON.

## STATISTICAL REPORT.

Number of patients treated since opening Institution.....	75
Number of patients treated from June 30, 1918 to January 1, 1919.....	46
Number admissions during the past six months.....	23
Number of deaths .....	None
Number of escapes .....	1
Average daily number patients under treatment.....	49.33
Population December 31, 1918.....	46
Increase of population as compared with that of June 30, 1918.....	23

## HEALTH REPORT.

Influenza .....	43
Pneumonia .....	5
Tuberculosis .....	2
Minor illnesses .....	26
Total number patients confined to bed during the year.....	76
Teeth treated and extracted.....	18
Eye treatments, glasses fitted, etc.....	5
Ears treated .....	10
Dressings .....	383
Total .....	492

No deaths.

In addition to above eight employees were ill with influenza during the epidemic and were cared for at the Institution.

\* Corrected reported Aug 25-1933  
by New Lisbon

Population June 30, 1918 -	45
Admissions during year	23
Escaped	1
Deceased	1
Population June 30, 1919	66

Population June 30, 1919, 68. *(Including one on visit + one on escape)*  
 White, 64.  
 Colored, 4.

AGES.		COUNTIES REPRESENTED.	
9 Years.....	1	Atlantic .....	1
10 ".....	1	Bergen .....	3
11 ".....	2	Burlington .....	9
12 ".....	6	Camden .....	3
13 ".....	2	Cape May .....	1
14 ".....	3	Cumberland .....	2
15 ".....	1	Essex .....	11
16 ".....	1	Gloucester .....	2
17 ".....	6	Hudson .....	13
19 ".....	3	Hunterdon .....	1
20 ".....	3	Mercer .....	4
21 ".....	4	Middlesex .....	2
22 ".....	5	Monmouth .....	1
23 ".....	3	Morris .....	1
24 ".....	4	Ocean .....	1
26 ".....	3	Passaic .....	4
27 ".....	2	Somerset .....	1
28 ".....	5	Sussex .....	1
31 ".....	1	Union .....	6
32 ".....	2	Warren .....	1
33 ".....	2		68
34 ".....	2		
35 ".....	1		
36 ".....	1		
39 ".....	1		
40 ".....	1		
44 ".....	1		
48 ".....	1		
	68		

MENTAL AGES.		PLACES OF BIRTH OF PARENTS.	
1 Year.....	1	United States .....	46
2 ".....	5	Germany .....	5
3 ".....	12	Russia .....	4
4 ".....	12	England .....	3
5 ".....	10	Ireland .....	2
6 ".....	10	Scotland .....	2
7 ".....	8	Hungary .....	2
8 ".....	4	Poland .....	2
9 ".....	4	Austria .....	1
11 A.....	2	Italy .....	1
	68		68

Average physical age, 22 1-2 years.

Average mental age, 5 years.

Number custodial cases admitted during the year, 11.

## FARM REPORT

For Period Beginning July 1, 1918, and Ending June 30, 1919.

49 1/2 bask.	Lima Beans	1.12	\$ 53.88
28 "	String Beans	.60	16.80
12 "	Beets	.52	6.24
15 bbl.	Cabbage	1.63	24.49
2 qts.	Gooseberries	.10	.20
2 bask.	Carrots	.50	1.00
2 bbl.	Cauliflower	4.00	8.00
16 bask.	Cucumbers	.83	13.28
5 "	Egg Plants	.90	4.50
6 "	Lettuce	.45	2.70
33 "	Musk Melons	.80	26.40
125 "	Watermelons	.44	55.00
18 bunch	Onions	.03	.54
15 bask.	Onions	1.25	18.75
8 "	Peppers	.55	4.38
15 "	Peas		23.28
131 1/2 bu.	White Potatoes	1.38	181.47
222 bask.	Sweet Potatoes	.66	146.52
1,000 lbs.	Pumpkin		15.00
147 bunch.	Radishes		9.80
35 qts.	Raspberries		4.50
683 "	Squash		27.32
127 bask.	Tomatoes	.53	67.31
5 "	Green Tomatoes		2.50
4 "	Turnips	.75	3.00
10 "	Spinach		1.65
328 qts.	Strawberries		94.90
13,376 lbs.	Green Alfalfa		133.76
179 bu.	Corn	1.40	250.60
8,000 lbs.	Cow Peas		60.00
1 ton	Green Corn		10.00
1,600 lbs.	Green Rye		5.50
29,307 "	Milk		1,379.77
1,284 doz.	Eggs		745.68
523 lbs.	Chicken		156.90
2,151 "	Pork		430.20
250 "	Lard		60.00
1,342 bdls.	Corn Fodder		62.10

\$4,045.82

In addition to above 646 quarts of berries were canned, which were picked in the woods surrounding the Colony.

## FINANCIAL REPORT.

Maintenance Appropriation .....	\$28,275.00
Earnings from Appropriation.....	25,109.40

Lapsed on Appropriation,	3,165.60
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### RECEIPTS.

Balance on Special Appropriation on hand	
July 1st, 1918 .....	\$14,155.19
Earnings from Appropriation.....	25,109.40
Sale of Cows, Calves, and Payments on	
Account of Maintenance.....	722.46
Special Appropriations .....	9,950.00
	\$49,937.05
Total receipts,	

### DISBURSEMENTS.

Food .....	\$4,556.82
Clothing .....	1,652.87
Fuel and Power .....	1,500.00
Household Supplies .....	583.17
Farm, Stable, Grounds .....	4,252.16
Medical, Surgical .....	286.45
Sundry Supplies .....	830.27
Incidentals .....	1,131.98
Salaries and Wages.....	7,605.33
Cows .....	390.00
Dormitory Equipment .....	2,320.35
	\$25,109.40
Total	
Expenditures on Special Appropriation..	20,662.57
Earnings to State Treasurer.....	722.46
Lapses on Appropriations.....	.77
Balance on Special Appropriations.....	3,441.85
	\$49,937.05

## DIRECTIONS FOR ADMISSION OF CASES.

The State Colony for Feeble-Minded Males is located in the pine belt of Burlington County, six miles from New Lisbon, on the Long Branch Division of the P. R. R. Persons applying for admission of a case will fill out certain blanks, which will be forwarded to any address on application to the superintendent.

### METHODS OF COMMITMENT.

In all cases where the condition of the case is such that immediate temporary admission to an institution is not necessary pending a judicial hearing and on final order of commitment (Section 410 of the Act of 1918, designated as "Class A"), application must be made to the Judge of the Circuit Court, Court of Common Pleas or the Juvenile Court in the County where the boy resides or may be, for an order instituting an inquiry into the boy's mental condition, which inquiry shall be determined before confinement of the case.

If, in the judgment of the certifying physicians, immediate restraint in an institution is necessary and where an order of temporary commitment can be obtained prior to the boy's admission (Section 411, "Class B"), the applicant must obtain such order from a judge of any court of record in the County before the boy is taken to the institution. Where a District Court exists, a Justice of the Peace is not empowered to issue such order. The order of temporary commitment is returnable before the Judge of the Circuit Court, Court of Common Pleas or of the Juvenile Court of the County.

In all cases where in the judgment of the certifying physicians, the boy should be placed under immediate restraint and confinement in an institution, and where it is impossible to obtain an order of temporary commitment prior to the admission of the boy (Section 412, "Class C"), the boy may be admitted on the application papers alone, but the application must contain a statement of the applicant's inability to secure the order of temporary commitment.

#### PAPERS REQUIRED ON ADMISSION OF CASES.

In "Class A"—Certified copy of the Judge's final order of commitment.

In "Class B"—Original application papers and order of temporary commitment.

In "Class C"—Original application papers.

(For several classifications see Section 409 of the Act.)

#### PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATES.

The certificates of the physicians must be based on a personal medical examination of the case, made by two physicians who are permanent residents of this State and who have been in actual practice of their profession for at least five years. The examination must be made not more than ten days prior to the admission of the patient (in "Class A", not more than ten days prior to the making of the application).

In "Class B" and "Class C" the physicians' certificates must state the conditions which in their judgment render the immediate restraint or confinement of the case in an institution necessary; otherwise the judicial officer will not issue the order of temporary commitment and the patient must be discharged.

#### WHO MAY MAKE APPLICATION.

The application may be made by a relative, preferably the next of kin, or the person having the care and charge of the person alleged to be feeble-minded; also the sheriff, overseer of the poor, any chief of police or police captain of any municipality in this State where the case may be, by the warden or other head officer of any public or private charitable institution or hospital in which the case may be.

All blank spaces in the printed forms should be carefully filled in to insure proper certification of facts sufficient to give jurisdiction of the courts.

#### COMMITMENT IS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.

No patient can be removed until discharged by the Board of Managers. The Superintendent shall have the custody and control of every person admitted to the Colony until properly discharged.

Cases should come to the Colony provided with plain, strong clothing for summer and winter. Each article of clothing will be plainly marked with the name of the boy and a record made of same. A list of clothing necessary will be furnished upon request.

No person afflicted with a communicable disease can be admitted to the Colony.

Parents and friends wishing boys to write will provide them with writing material and stamps.

The regular visiting day is Thursday. Visiting hours from 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. No visitors are admitted on Sunday.

Occasional visits by parents and friends are encouraged; an opportunity will always be given for an examination of the Colony and it will be a pleasure to extend all reasonable courtesies, but as the aggregate of visitors is increasing, they must provide their own transportation to and from the station and arrange for meals outside of the Colony.

When writing about inmates give their full name and address EVERY TIME YOU WRITE, and enclose postage for reply.

Express packages and telegrams should be prepaid. The name and address of the sender should accompany every package so that it may be properly recorded.

Address all communications to the Superintendent.

