

In the garden and the fields. For the purpose of extending employment in winter, I have known of sheds being erected, which were comfortably warmed, and in which such of the men as could do some work were required to break a certain amount of stone daily. This arrangement greatly reduced the number of inmates in the poorhouse. When a pauper finds that he must, to the extent of his ability, render compensation for his support, though required to do but little, he frequently becomes disgusted with poorhouse life and will manage to earn an independent living.

CLASSIFICATION.

One of the great evils in our poorhouse system grows out of an incomplete separation of the sexes. In the investigation made into the causes of pauperism by the State Board of Charities, pursuant to a concurrent resolution of the Senate and Assembly (of New York State) of 1873, it was found that many families of hereditary paupers had sprung from marriages consequent upon acquaintanceship formed between debased persons while inmates of the poorhouses. There are other serious evils springing from this source to which it is needless to refer. I am clearly of the opinion that poorhouses should be so planned that separation of the sexes does not depend upon the administration, but is absolute from the internal construction and arrangement of the buildings. Means should also be provided for classifying the inmates, as far as practicable, according to their peculiar mental and physical condition. Separate rooms ought to be provided for certain of the respectable and worthy poor, who are sometimes compelled in their old age to seek refuge in the poorhouse. It does not seem right to force this class into constant and intimate association with the degraded and mischievous. In the plan presented,* a complete separation of the sexes is effected, and classification of the inmates may still further be maintained by inclosing the yards in the rear of the men's and women's departments with suitable fences.

Formerly, little attention was given in the management of a poorhouse to the classification of its inmates. Both old and young, the debased and respectable, those suffering from repulsive and communicable diseases, and the insane, were indiscriminately commingled. This was largely owing to faulty plans and arrangement of buildings—faults that still exist in some poorhouses, the evils resulting from

which are a constant source of anxiety to keepers and their wives. These can be reduced to the minimum only by the exercise of some ingenuity and the enforcement of rigid rules.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

A room in which religious services may be conducted ought to form a part of every poorhouse. To some inmates the opportunity for divine worship is necessary for their peace of mind, and it certainly should not be denied to any. Upon all, its influence is beneficial, and is helpful in the preservation of orderly deportment and good discipline.

THE GROUNDS.

After the buildings are completed the grounds should be properly graded, care being taken to keep the good soil on the surface, also to see that there is a quick descent for a little distance on all sides of the building. The grounds should be planted with a limited number of clean-leaved, large growing shade trees. These should not be planted so near the buildings as to shade them or obstruct the free entrance into them of sunlight, or prevent the circulation of fresh air. In the treatment of grounds a few flowers are admissible, as they give pleasure to the families of the officers and to the better class of inmates; but a superfluity of them should be avoided, for they require more or less attention, and are likely to be neglected at certain seasons. Fine patriarchal trees affording refreshing shade, and a broad, green, well-kept lawn are a good set-off to the plainest buildings, and give satisfaction to every beholder. A grove or belt of evergreens planted in the quarter from which come prevailing winds will prove not only a protection in winter, but a pleasant retreat in summer. In laying out the grounds and mapping the farm, an extensive orchard with the best kind of fruit should not be overlooked, as also a large vegetable garden convenient to the buildings, through which might be laid a pleasant center walk bordered with flowers.

THE BARN.

The barns and stables should be rearward from the men's side of the institution, and the men's side should be towards the town, or the side by which the buildings are generally approached, in order to secure greater seclusion for the women inmates. Too little attention is usually paid to the matter of providing good buildings on poorhouse farms for the storage of grain and fodder, for the proper care of stock

in winter, for the preservation of farm machinery and tools and for the storing of vegetables and fruit. In some of the populous and wealthy counties in the State, the out-buildings would be a disgrace to any thrifty farmer, and yet they remain in their unimproved, unpainted, sometimes ruinous condition from year to year, a standing monument to the parsimony of the county authorities.

ADMINISTRATION.

The first thing to be thought of in administering the affairs of a poorhouse, is to reduce the number of its inmates to the minimum. To this end the obligations of relatives should be looked into, and enforced. The best medical treatment should be extended to restore health or remove disabilities, and suitable employment sought for those sufficiently recovered to be able to work for hire. An examination should be made, on entering, of the physical and mental condition of every pauper committed; also an inquiry into his personal history and habits. The facts obtained should be recorded in the books provided for the purpose. The ends aimed at may thus be more easily attained, while the keeping of these records will facilitate other studies into the causes of pauperism and crime.

Dependents belonging to other localities should be transferred to the care of their friends or to the proper authorities. In this way individuals may, many times, be saved from becoming chronic paupers; besides, each locality is thus made to bear its own legitimate burdens, and attention is thereby directed to local abuses that are sources of pauperism.

Watchfulness should be exercised over those defective classes for which the State in its bounty has made special provision. Young persons, blind or deaf and dumb, should be promptly transferred to institutions provided by the State for their education and training. Idiotic and feeble-minded young women should be sent to a custodial institution, where they may be protected from the reckless and depraved of the opposite sex, and society thus saved from an increase in their number.

CHILDREN IN POORHOUSES.

In no way can superintendents lessen prospective taxation and promote the best interests of society more than by keeping their institutions free of children. No child over two years old should be admitted to a poorhouse; and those born in the poorhouse, after arriving at that age, should be promptly

* The cottage plan.