

Middlesex House of Industry.

The institution is situated in the township of Adelaide, adjoining the corporation of the town of Strathroy. It was opened in the year 1880. The question was advocated in the county council for two or three years before this, the principal point in dispute being as to location. The building is constructed of brick, three stories and a basement. The centre part is 50 feet by 58 feet, with two wings 40x50 feet, one occupied by the men and the other by the women. The basement of both wings is used as dining and day rooms for the men and women respectively. A wash room fitted up with fourteen basins is situated in a small room near the entrance to each dining room. Off the kitchen are located two pantries and two cellars, convenient for the storage of supplies and utensils required in the culinary department of the institution. In the kitchen is one large seven-hole, wood-burning cook stove, and sinks with hot and cold water connections. The second flat provides four bedrooms, parlor and dining room for the keeper, and office for the physician in the centre, and in each wing are located four bedrooms with four beds each and a bath-room. On this floor, as on the next, a wide hallway runs through the centre and full length of the institution, dividing it into four sections. The third flat is divided into four bedrooms of four beds, and two bedrooms of six beds each, with a bath room in both wings. The fourth flat contains four bedrooms, which are for hospital purposes, and while providing for the isolation of the patients placed therein, it has been found very inconvenient to wait on them there, owing to the distance from the kitchen and keeper's departments. The laundry is built of brick, situated in the rear, and is connected with the main building, and, besides providing for the wash room, containing six tubs in which the water is heated by steam, the drying room, a room for storing clothes, and six automatic water closets for the use of the inmates, there is also a meat room with large refrigerator.

The building is heated throughout by steam, and there is located in a brick building at the rear of the east wing a boiler house containing two boilers and a steam pump, used for supplying water direct to a large tank situated on the fifth floor of the institution. From this the water used in the different departments is taken.

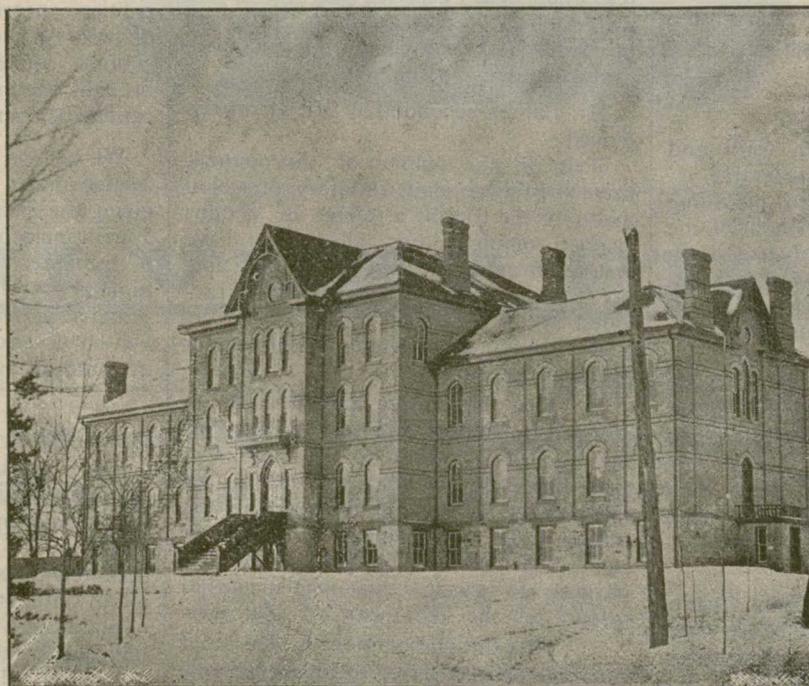
An excellent system of fire protection has been placed on each flat, which with the fire escapes make ample provision for the protection of the building and the escape of its inmates in case of fire.

Provision is also made in two tanks on the fourth floor for supplying hot and cold water for the bath rooms, and, as in the kitchen and wash room, the water is heated by steam. The system is found to work well, and to be economical. Wood is used for fuel. The sewage is carried to a brick cistern constructed near the barn, and is from there conveyed by a tank and distributed over the farm. At other times it is pumped out and absorbed in a compost heap prepared to receive it; this is also used on the farm.

The farm occupies forty-six acres, divided into four fields. The house which is situated about forty rods

eight cows, two horses, and large box stalls. This building will be enlarged during the present year. There is also a tool house and pig pen. The farm stock consists of a team of horses, six cows, one heifer and twenty-nine pigs. The keeper makes a specialty of raising pork for sale, and believes that it is profitable in connection with an institution of this kind. The dietary of the inmates is usually, for breakfast, porridge, milk, bread, molasses and tea; for dinner, soup, meat, bread, tea, vegetables in season, and fish on Friday; for tea, rice, milk, bread, molasses, tea. Twice a week sauce, twice a week butter, and once a week eggs. The number of inmates at the present time is seventy-one; forty-one men and thirty women. The highest number ever in the institution at one time, 100, with an average of eighty-five. The average cost per inmate is twenty-two cents per day, or \$1.45 per week, considering interest on investment, and every expense connected with the institution. The total cost of the farm, buildings and furnishings is placed at \$33,000; the Government grant of \$4,000 has been received.

The contract system has been adopted for the purchase of all supplies required. When tenders are received, samples of the articles accompany them, and when a tender is accepted the sample is kept and compared with the goods furnished. All supplies are ordered by the inspector, and when delivered the contractor receives a receipt from the keeper for the same. The control of the institution is entirely in the hands of the county council, who appoint a committee of five to supervise the management; the committee meets quarterly to pass accounts. The inspector has the general charge of every department, visits the institution weekly, and orders supplies. The keeper and matron have the immediate charge of the inmates, and its success is owing to their careful management. The salary of the inspector is \$100 per annum. The keeper and matron \$525, one assistant for the matron \$10 per month. The engineer, who has full charge of the heating and water supply, receives a salary of \$400 per annum. There is also a physician



HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

from the road on high ground, is approached by a lane with a row of fruit and evergreen trees on either side. The soil of the farm is sandy loam and well adapted to the necessities of the institution; thirty-five acres are at present under cultivation. It has not been found necessary, owing to the character of the soil, to do much drainage. There is a small orchard occupying about one acre in extent; it is hardly as large as one would expect to find in connection with the institution. The farm utilizes the labor of the inmates, which, with the assistance of the keeper is sufficient to work it to the satisfaction of the management. In the year 1890 the produce raised was valued at \$2,450, of which \$500 worth was sold, the balance was consumed on the premises. The water supply is unlimited, and is derived from thirteen drive wells from fifteen to twenty feet deep. A spring creek also rises on the farm close to the institution.

The barn, situated about 150 feet in the rear of the wash house, is small, being only 30x38 with a brick basement. It will provide accommodation for

appointed by the county, who visits the institution weekly, and whenever the circumstances require.

The bedrooms are furnished with wooden bedsteads throughout, straw mattresses, and ordinary clothing. Every apparatus required for the economical management of the institution seems to have received favorable consideration from the various committees. One thing noticeable was a small mill used for crushing bones, thus supplying one of the most valuable fertilizers for use on the farm, at a minimum cost. There is also connected with the boiler house a complete apparatus for making all the soft-soap used, and arrangements have been made to supply that article for the use of the gaol in London. Another improvement in connection with this institution would be larger yards for the inmates, two cottages for use in special cases, and owing to the location of the hospital wards the erection of an elevator, as a means of access thereto, has been suggested.

In addition to this expenditure, on behalf of the poor, this county provides for destitute insane in other ways, and last year paid over \$800 for that account.

Taking all things into consideration, the house is well kept, a benefit to the county, and may be considered one of the best institutions of the kind in the province.