

Location, Construction, and Management of Poorhouses.

By Hon. H. H. Giles.

Pauperism burdens society in all parts of the land. In insulated localities where alcoholic beverages are excluded, it bears most lightly. How to minimize pauperism is an important problem. The organization and management of poorhouses enter into its solution to a greater extent than at first appears to the superficial observer, since great care must be exercised so as not to encourage the growth of dependent classes. While it is proper to encourage the sentiment of benevolence, mere sentiment might increase the burdens of society. While to supply the needy and administer to human comfort in general is the dictate of humanity, to tolerate unthrift and encourage idleness is a great wrong done to society. We shall aim to keep these principles in view in the discussion of this subject.

A poor-farm should be located near the principal town of the county or at a place easily accessible. It should not be near a town, as it might become the resort of idle loafers, and the paupers will be more liable to leave the farm to loaf in town. From one and one-half to three miles we should advise as the proper distance.

A variety of soil, and adapted to grain and grass, is desirable for the farm. A good orchard is also an object, and if not purchased the fruit trees should be planted at once. As a rule, farm buildings are of little value for the purpose of a poorhouse, and it is generally a waste of money to pay for them.

We would emphasize our advice not to go far from town or from a railway station. Too often false economy, leading to waste, begins in going to some out-of-the-way place because land is cheap, and perhaps cheap because poor. Such a location increases the expense of visitation and of getting supplies to it. Then, what is quite as important, it is away from under the public eye. An important point in the location of all public institutions is to place them where the prying eyes of the people will be upon and into them.

The size of the farm will depend upon the number to be cared for. It should be large enough to grow all the vegetables to supply all the household, with pasturage and meadow to furnish feed for a number of cows equal to the wants of the population to be supplied with milk and butter, with grain land to grow grain for hogs and stock, and in addition a tract of woodland to grow fuel would be a profitable investment. It is not profitable to grow farm produce for the general market if doing it involves the expense of hired help. As a rule, we are of the opinion that the care of a vegetable garden and of the stock and swine is quite as much as the average population of our poorhouses is capable of.

The buildings should be constructed with special reference to their use as a poorhouse. The special points in a good

poorhouse are complete separation of the sexes, plenty of water, with bath-rooms and bath-tubs, warmth and ventilation. The separation of the sexes can best be secured in a building consisting of a centre or overseer's residence and wings upon each side. In the rear of the residence should be the common dining-room, or two dining-rooms, and still farther in the rear the kitchen. This plan is recommended where the pauper population does not exceed fifty; where it exceeds that number it might be well to erect separate cottages for the paupers.

The buildings should not be over two stories in height. As a rule, paupers are old people and feeble in body, and a third story is of little use. The chimneys should start from the basement, and be solidly constructed, with the flues well plastered. Brick or brick-veneered buildings are preferable to wood.

The ventilation should be automatic, and out of the control of the paupers, as they will, as a rule, shut themselves in and every breath of pure air out. An elevated and dry site should be selected, so as to secure good drainage and sewerage; if near a stream of running water, so much the better. The dwelling should be surrounded with shade trees but not near enough to interfere with the circulation of the air and the admission of the sun's health-giving rays.

Substantial structures should be erected and plainness should be studied by spending no money in architectural embellishment. The partitions should be brick, and should extend from basement to attic. This will lessen the danger from fire as well as render the buildings more substantial. The floors should be deadened with mortar, as an additional precaution against fire as well as to shut off noise. In our opinion, poorhouses, as well as all other public buildings, should be at least partially fire-proof. The increase of expense to do this would not be felt, and the saving in insurance would in time pay the additional cost.

The basement should be divided into separate apartments, to correspond with the rooms above, to be used for the storage of supplies, for furnace, fuel and laundry, if desired. No vegetable should be stored in basement rooms; at least, under living rooms or dormitories. The bottom should be cemented all through, and the ceilings lathed and plastered. The dryest and best ventilated place should be taken for a milk-room, and used for no other purpose.

In addition to closets, each dormitory for one or two lodgers should have corner cupboards, to give each pauper a place for his or her personal clothing and effects. This will obviate the necessity of driving nails and spikes into the ceilings upon which to hang their clothing when not in use.

Light bedsteads with wire mattresses should be used, the better to keep out vermin.

(To be continued in next issue.)

Publications Received.

Voters' List Townships of Dalhousie and North Sherbrooke. W. Geddes, clerk.

Municipal Affairs (published quarterly by the Reform Club), 52 William Street, New York. Price, \$1.00 per annum.

In the second number, issued during June, the department of leading articles covers a vast field of periodical literature and boils down for busy readers the best of everything appearing recently in our magazines and reviews on the subject of city government.

The bibliographical work begun in the first number is continued by a compact, well-arranged index to the literature on city government and conditions that has appeared during the past six months.

The Dominion Conveyancer (second edition), by William Howard Hunter, B. A., of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law, The Carswell Co., Publishers, Toronto.

It is much enlarged from the former edition, and is now a compilation of forms that will cover the needs of all ordinary work in the way of conveyancing, etc. It will be of special assistance to the conveyancer in the outlying districts, as it contains all conceivable forms for use in connection with the Crown Lands Department. We would, however, caution the users of it not to place too implicit confidence in it. We notice that the forms given with reference to that very delicate and much litigated act, "The Bills of Sale and Chattel Mortgages Act," do not appear to have been revised with reference to the present act, 57 Ont., cap. 37, although the forms in the schedule to that act appear in it.

Take, for instance, the affidavit of execution of chattel mortgages. The present act requires that the affidavit of execution shall also contain the date of the execution of the mortgage. The form, however, given by Mr. Hunter makes no provision for this, which some confiding conveyancer may find a serious matter. It is also misleading, as the heading of the forms of bills of sale and chattel mortgages have the old act cited in the head note, although it was repealed some three years ago and a new act substituted. This should have been noticed in a work brought down to date.

Mr. George Eakin, county clerk of York for twenty-five years, died on the 29th June, aged 67 years.

The Absent-Minded Doctor.

A charming North Side matron, the wife of a rising young physician, is responsible for the statement that when she received her engagement ring the doctor took her hand, and, putting the ring in place, remarked, absent-mindedly: "Ah, pulse very rapid! Let me see your tongue, please."—*Chicago Times-Herald.*