

County Poor-Houses on the Cottage Plan.

—BY—

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The Editor of THE MUNICIPAL WORLD has done, and is still doing, a valuable service to the Province by the publication of articles on the construction and management of county industrial homes or houses of industry. Some one has said, and perhaps with as much truth as humour, that the degree of civilization of any country can be very accurately gauged by the amount of soap used by the community. However, this may be, I believe it is a recognized fact that the degree of civilization and enlightenment of a community can be gauged very accurately by the provision made for the care of the destitute poor. It is a pleasing sign of the times that at the present moment a num-

question in this way: We found that in those counties where there is no industrial home, the jail is made to do duty as a poor-house. This is a double evil, firstly it causes over crowding of the jail and prevents a proper classification of prisoners, and, secondly, it is a gross wrong to the indigent poor, many of whom are honest and respectable people. The practice, we believe, to be out of harmony with the spirit of the age, with our common humanity and with the dictates of religion.

Under these circumstances, and especially in view of the fact that several of the counties are just now moving in this important matter, it occurred to me that an article on the cottage system or poor-house construction would be timely, and might be read with interest in those counties where the establishment of an industrial

new home, and also that the construction of the farm house is such that it can be used both as a residence for the keeper and as the executive building, and let us suppose farther, for the convenience of description, that said farm house faces the south, and also that the barn is to the northeast of the residence. In this case, for the purpose of establishing the industrial home, we would proceed as follows, viz.: The cottage for the men would be located to the east of the residence, while the cottage for the women would be located on the west side. The building for the kitchen, male and female dining-rooms, &c., would be located in the rear or on the north side of the residence. This latter building would be 15 or 20 feet distant from the residence, while the cottages would be 25 or 30 feet distant. From the rear of the residence a covered



ber of the county municipalities are moving in the direction of the erection of a county industrial home, "or poor house," as they are called in the United States. In this respect, however, our neighbors across the line are in advance of us in Canada. I believe in nearly all the Northern States, all the counties, with very few exceptions, are provided with poor-houses. Thus, for instance, in the State of Illinois out of 102 counties all but four have poor-houses. In the State of New York all but two of the counties have poor-houses, and in the State of Ohio each one of the 88 counties has a poor-house. In the comparative small State of Michigan there are 71 poor-houses, whereas in Ontario we can boast of only 10.

Our society—that is the Prisoners' Aid Association—became interested in the

home has been decided upon.

Since my attention has been specially directed to this question I have had extensive correspondence with members of the State Boards of Charity and Correction in the United States, and I find that although the cottage system has not yet been adopted, except in one or two counties, the concensus of opinion is decidedly in its favor. In cases where new poor-houses are built, I have no doubt preference will be given to the cottage system. The cut presented herewith does not do full justice to the cottage system, but it was the only one available.

For the purpose of making the matter as simple as possible let us suppose that the county municipality has purchased a farm for an industrial home; that the farm buildings occupy a good position for the

way, one story high, would extend east to the cottage for the men, west to the cottage for the women and north to the dining-rooms and kitchen. The covered way extending north to the dining-rooms would be divided by a partition, and there would be two dining-rooms, one on the east side for the men, and one on the west side for the women. The kitchen would be on the north side of the dining-rooms, and the laundry and boiler-house would be in the rear of the kitchen. The space over the dining-rooms and kitchen could be used as a chapel.

The cottages should be only two stories high, and there should be no basement. My object in designating the eastern cottage (the cottage for the men) is for the simple reason that in the case supposed the barn is located to the northeast of the