

for the first ten years of his life was kept in a room with adults. He never received advantages in connection with his training.

In some cases the men and women are not separated—a bad arrangement.

One home with a population of 85 fairly evenly divided as to the sexes, contained at least six epileptics as well as insane persons, mental defectives and paupers. They lived and slept in the same rooms, ate together, etc.

Another institution with only 40 inmates, houses 20 insane, 6 aged and dependent men and 10 children. Two of the latter were imbeciles, 2 were crippled, and 4 had hereditary nervous disorders.

Three other small homes caring for 23, 33, and 17 persons numbered among these 10, 8, and 15 children respectively.

In one of the places where care was taken to segregate the insane in separate dormitories from the others, the children, however, had sleeping quarters in the same rooms as adults.

BUILDINGS

The buildings are with few exceptions of wood or frame construction, antiquated, primitive in their equipment and in many cases in a disgraceful state of repair. In many institutions the sanitary arrangements are hopelessly inadequate and the lighting is done by oil lamps and lanterns.

One old wooden farm house lacked even a telephone. The nearest being 4 miles away and the place is thus handicapped in case of fire and also from the standpoint of receiving medical attention when urgently needed.

In another building the heating system is obsolete and in winter the place is so cold that the patients have to be huddled into a few rooms.

The dreariness of some of these houses is indescribable, the wretchedness of the atmosphere heart breaking. Dining rooms unattractive and not always clean. Floors sometimes rotted and full of holes. Walls dirty, unornamented, and with the plaster broken. In one county asylum some of the rooms are so small that partitions divide the windows and the rooms are little better than boxes. Sitting rooms exist which are small, dark, and cheerless. The patients sit on benches next the walls (the benches being devoid even of backs) and are quite unoccupied.

Sleeping accommodation is often in keeping with other conditions in these institutions. At one poor farm the bedrooms are shocking. One typical room was measured and had about 300 cubic feet of air space, and was occupied by two patients.

In another place the beds were poorly made, most untidy and vermin in evidence, a most inexcusable state of affairs. In some dormitories two patients slept in one bed.