

well constructed on stone foundations. Provide plenty of shed space for the storage of farm implements, which should be kept well painted. Lay plank or gravel walks, to avoid bringing dirt into the house. It is economy to keep buildings well painted, fences in good order, and the farm free from weeds. Keep, if the supervisors will let you, the best cows, horses, pigs, and poultry in the country. Plant your gardens and orchards so as to provide a bountiful supply and a variety of fruits and vegetables. Raise sufficient grain to give your inmates abundance of straw for bedding. Change this frequently, and have your beds comfortably made up. Through neglect in this particular great discomfort may result. Provide suitable reading matter; also religious services on Sunday, and burial service for the dead.

#### THE GROUNDS.

The surrounding grounds should be so treated as to develop that which is most attractive in nature, and so kept as to inculcate lessons of order and neatness. Instead of formal beds of flowers, planted in the annual enthusiasm of spring, but frequently left to weeds in the busier season, I prefer broad spaces of green lawn, with here and there a stately tree, affording grateful shade in the heat of summer and friendly shelter against the blasts of winter. I do not object to the cultivation of beets, onions, squashes, etc., on the contrary, I regard large crops of such as desirable, but think their proper place is in the vegetable garden rather than at the front door.

In Europe, green, well-trimmed lawns bordered with shrubbery, and clean, well-raked graveled walks and roads are the rule rather than the exception. These features, in my opinion, have a good effect in disciplining inmates in habits of order and cleanliness, and certainly impress the visitor favorably, even before entering the building. To fully realize how attractive the surroundings of a poorhouse may be made, one should take a look at similar institutions in England and Scotland.

#### VISITORS.

It appears to me desirable that superintendents and keepers should encourage visits of leading and influential citizens to their institutions. Although these visits sometimes interrupt the orderly routine of the establishment, they afford an opportunity for explaining its needs. They are a part of the body politic. The interest they take should be turned in one way

or another to some good account, and their kindly services solicited to relieve the wants of the institution. In this way the public mind may be enlightened, and the means provided for a good administration of poorhouse affairs. If a poorhouse is well managed, the more it is visited by influential citizens the better it is for those superintending it, as faithful service thus comes to be appreciated. If it is poorly managed, then it is due the public that its defects should be fully understood. While such visits should be encouraged, those of idlers and mere curiosity-seekers should be discountenanced. The visits of young men with their girls, who, while taking a pleasure drive, call at the poorhouse with the same motive that would take them to a menagerie, and who expect their horses to be stabled while the keeper's wife or some other busy employee shows the party through the establishment—such visits, so far from being beneficial, are positively harmful.

It rests largely with superintendents whether public morals are improved or lowered; whether those evils which sap the foundation of society are looked into and repressed, or whether, through indifference or love of ease, pauperism and crime increase. This work is laborious, attracts little public attention, and yet, if well performed, is far reaching in its results, especially in the saving of children.

"Such quietly performed, unostentatious deeds are like the drops of dew that gather in the evening shadows. Though they then seem insignificant and unattractive, when the morning sunlight breaks over the hills, there bursts upon the dazzled sight a scene of magnificence beyond the power of language to describe. Every leaf, spray, and tiny object upon which the eye rests, is glorified by these life-saving, life-giving agencies, with a splendor out rivaling the diamonds of India. So, when breaks upon us the morning of the resurrection, the beneficent though oft-seeming trivial deeds of good men, under the approving smile of the universal Father, will become unsurpassingly radiant, and in the glory of another life reflect upon the soul a joy unspeakable."

#### CONCLUSION.

As already stated, this pamphlet is prepared with a view of awakening a deeper interest in the case of the dependent poor of the Province. Up to the present time, only 10 out of the 40 counties of the Province have taken advantage of the generous offer of the

Ontario Government, namely, to pay 25 % of cost of the necessary buildings. To the good people of the remaining 30 counties, where the county house of industry system has not yet been adopted, we respectfully commend the satisfactory evidence in favor of the county poorhouse system set forth in the foregoing pages.

The custom of using the county gaol as a poorhouse cannot, of course, be too strongly condemned, but we feel convinced that this blot upon our rich counties would long since have been removed had the people—the voters—in these counties been made aware of the satisfactory working of the house of industry system in other counties as well as in those counties in our own Province where the system has been adopted. In the State of Michigan, for instance, the system has been adopted in 77 counties. In the State of Ohio every one of its 88 counties has a poorhouse, and in the State of New York all the counties, with four exceptions, have adopted the system. Would it be too much to expect that, by the year 1900, every county in Ontario will either be in the actual possession, or will at least be actively engaged in the erection, of a proper home for the destitute poor of the county?

In some of the counties the number of vagrants and the worthy destitute poor would hardly be sufficient, perhaps, to make the erection of a house of industry necessary. In such cases it is recommended that two or more counties should unite in the erection and the maintenance of a district workhouse.

In the County of York the yearly expenses of the House of Industry is about \$5,000. This amount is about the same as the total amount spent by the townships before the establishment of the county house, but the poor are much better cared for, and the indigent sick have good medical attendance, and many of the latter are restored to health and self-support.

Before concluding, we desire to express our thanks to the Judges of the different courts of the Province for directing the attention of Grand Juries to this question as well as to the question of prison reform generally. To the Clergy and to the Ministerial Associations of the Province we are deeply indebted for bringing these questions to the attention of the County Councils; and to the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Ontario our thanks are specially due for circulating petitions in favor of the county house of industry system.