

Houses of Industry.

Continued from January Number.

BUILDINGS.

After a site has been purchased, no expenditures should be made in the direction of building until the whole property has been surveyed, a map made of it, and the location fixed, not only of the present, but of future buildings. When it becomes necessary to erect any new buildings on the grounds of an old poorhouse, if a map has not already been made of the premises, one should be prepared from an accurate survey. The map should show the farm and grounds immediately surrounding the poorhouse, also the location of all the buildings including the most trivial, and the floor plans of each. It should also show the location of all sewers, drains, and water and other pipes. From thenceforth, all extensions and improvements should be made on a general plan in accordance with principles governing the building and arrangement of these institutions, so that the incongruities and inconveniences that have originated in consequence of not having followed a general plan from the outset may be overcome as much as possible.

Poorhouse architecture has received less attention than that of almost any other class of public buildings, and it is difficult, if not impracticable, to find poorhouses that meet the entire approval of the officials superintending them.

In planning a poorhouse the following considerations are to be kept constantly in view: sanitation, convenience and economy in administration, protection against fire, and a proper classification of the inmates, including a complete separation of the sexes. It is assumed that those requiring poorhouse provision are the sick and infirm, and those, in one way or another, incapable of self-support. We see the term "able-bodied paupers" sometimes used in connection with public relief; but as the statute does not recognize such a class, they will not be considered in dealing with this subject. In attempting to classify the inmates of a poorhouse properly, it will be found that the character and condition of dependents differ so materially in different counties that no one plan will answer all localities. In sections of the province where homes are established by private benevolence for the respectable aged and infirm, no special provision is required for this class in the poorhouse. In districts where there is much intemperance and licentiousness, the class of dependents are more degraded, and larger hospital accommodation is required. A poorhouse in the average county should accommodate from eighty to one hundred inmates. The fluctuation of numbers incident to a poorhouse population ought not to be overlooked, and buildings of a sufficient capacity should be provided to meet emergencies.

The plan of a poorhouse including

a partial basement with one or at most two flats above is considered by many to be preferable. The physical condition of the inmates in the majority of cases renders them unable to climb long flights of stairs such as are at present to be found in some institutions. Provision for the escape of inmates in case of fire favors a low building.

The plan should provide for the complete separation of the sexes for bath rooms, for hospital wards and facilities for the isolation of a greater or smaller number in case of an epidemic. Ample room must also be provided for a large kitchen, convenient storerooms and cooking apparatus of sufficient size. The dining rooms should be near the kitchen, and in the basement. The laundry should be separated from the main building and have proper drying rooms attached. Cottages or separate buildings for the isolation of certain classes of inmates are necessary.

The heating apparatus should be placed in the institution when it is erected. This should be constructed in the best possible manner, and care taken in accepting the lowest tender, to see that the work is to be done equally as well. If constructed in a first-class manner, it will be economical, while, if on the other hand, a first-class job is expected for a third-class price; the repairs and improvements that will continually be required will, sooner or later, increase the price to what it would have been had a tender at an amount sufficient to pay for first-class work been accepted.

It is desirable that we should build our county poorhouses so that they may have, as far as practicable, the character of real homes. Whatever material may be used and whatever plan and style of building may be adopted, true economy will be reached by building well and requiring that everything be done in a workmanlike manner.

In locating buildings it should be seen that the situation is dry, the ground free from secret springs, and the spot sufficiently elevated to afford good drainage. It is desirable to place them so as to secure sunlight as far as practicable in all parts of the buildings at some period of the day. They should be placed so as to afford plenty of lawn space in front of them.

The best material for building, all things considered, is doubtless brick. Stone buildings for poorhouses are not desirable on account of their liability to dampness, which cannot be overcome without increased cost in construction.

Buildings containing so many sick and infirm should not exceed two stories in height, in case of fire, egress is more difficult, and the difference in the expense of constructing a two-story building and one that is higher is not so great as one would suppose, notwithstanding the cost of the roof is the same for both, because the substructure for a building exceeding two stories is more expensive than it is for a two-story one. The higher a building is carried the more it is exposed to the wind,

which takes hold of it as at the end of a lever, bringing greater strain upon the various parts, thus requiring greater strength throughout.

HEATING AND VENTILATION.

There should be numerous flues for ventilation, with registers in the rooms, both near the ceiling and the floor. The chimneys in all cases should have their foundations on the ground, and be carefully laid. In a building of brick, the partition walls should, as far as practicable, be laid in the cellar and extend to the attic. In this way the structure will be better protected against fire, and it will be stronger. The floors should be constructed so as to deaden sound and be slow in burning in case of fire. Hall, dining-room, dayroom, kitchen and other floors that are much used should be of maple or other hardwood. All stairs should be of good width, with low risers, broad treads, and plain, strong balusters. Square landings are also highly desirable. Easy stairs have much to do with the comfortable use of such buildings and the safety of the inmates. Both the upper and the lower window sashes should be made to raise and lower by means of weights, cords and pulleys. In the upper flats, the windows, unless sufficiently high from the floor, should be protected by a wire screen to prevent infirm inmates from falling out. Convenient outside iron stairways and platform landings, should be provided for the second stories of the buildings, as a means of escape in case of fire. The stairways and platforms should have railings and be accessible through doors opening outward.

In dormitories where there are numerous beds there should be not less than fifty superficial feet of floor-space to each bed. This is the minimum fixed by some standard authorities when the ceilings are twelve feet high. For an ordinary poorhouse the ceilings ought not to be higher than this nor less than ten feet. In many of our public buildings the ceilings are too high. In order to secure the requisite amount of air-space it is better to increase the superficial feet of the floor than to have very high ceilings. While it is important to provide sufficient floor-space in single rooms, not more than a liberal allowance should be given; otherwise, when the institution is crowded, an abuse will creep in by placing two beds in rooms designed only for one. As to the amount of air-space required in a hospital, authorities greatly differ. It is safe to say, that, with the most perfect arrangements possible for ventilation, there should be more than double the quantity per bed that is necessary for each inmate in an associate dormitory.

To be continued.

The ratepayers of the township of King at the January elections, defeated a by-law to commute statute labor at 60 cents per day. The by-law also provided for two inspectors for each concession, and one inspector for each incorporated village of fifty inhabitants or over, the inspector to be paid \$1.25 per day for each day actually spent on the roads.