

Charities in Minnesota /

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CHARITIES IN MINNESOTA.*

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BY DANIEL R. NOYES.

The development of a community, or a state, in the higher lines of organized effort, can hardly be better illustrated than in the record of its charities; for they spring from its best motives, and are sustained by the best men and women of any community. Where efficient and wide reaching charities are lacking, the community is surely backward and unintelligent. Where its charities are well organized and sustained, the community is as surely intelligent and large minded and consequently prosperous and progressive.

All early charities were more or less indiscriminate. Giving was impulsive, rather than thoughtful. While often necessary and always kindly, it was usually without system or reference to its effect, further than immediate relief. The science of relief, that is, of wise and helpful aid, promoting self-respect and personal effort of the receiver, as now taught and practiced, at least in our larger towns and cities, was unknown.

The purpose of the New Charity is to communicate strength and courage. Shall material aid be given with our sympathy? Yes, but under wise control. The defective and delinquent, as well as the dependent, are to receive aid; not the "worthy poor" alone, but also the unworthy poor. It is, however, to the children that we most hopefully look. They, as a rule, can be rescued from dependent poverty or delinquency. Child-helping is therefore a most important adjunct in social salvage.

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In the past, little has been known of careful and systematic investigation and registration to prevent duplication of aid. There was no lack of good intention. Warm hearted, generous souls there were, just as indispensable then as now; but institutional charities, 168 asylums, hospitals, schools, and homes, were few and in some degree experimental. Great as has been our improvement in the administration of charity, enlarged as has been our view of this whole subject, we can hardly do more than to define and characterize this science of relief, which now, through the munificent gift of \$250,000 by John Skinner, of New York, is to be taught in a school of philanthropy already in partial operation.

RELIEF WORK OF COUNTIES, TOWNS, AND CITIES.

From the organization of the state, and even before, relief for the destitute, unfortunate, and forsaken, has been a matter of public and private care. In the larger cities, municipal, church, and private charities existed. Organized charities followed as soon as organization was practicable. In our counties there were at least "poor houses" and "county boards;" in our larger towns, superintendents for the poor; and in our villages very practical charities, though unorganized. Always and everywhere our churches have engaged in charitable work, especially within their own lines. Throughout our state today these primitive forms of charity still exist.

In answer to many inquiries, I learn from mayors and town officers that Red Wing, Brainerd, St. James, Lake City, Shakopee, Farmington, Excelsior, and other large towns and small cities, have no organized charity societies, but depend on county boards, churches, and lodges, for this work. Besides these agencies for relief, Winona has a "poor commissioner," appointed by the Council, a city hospital, and a poor farm. Stillwater has a Bethel Home and the King's Daughters' Society. Mankato has two organized relief societies, Protestant and Catholic; Rochester, a Woman's Relief Association; Owatonna, a Benevolent Society; Northfield, a Board of Relief, differing, as I understand, from the usual county board; Cannon Falls, a Ladies' Aid Society; Saint Cloud has St. Joseph's Home; and Moorhead levies a mill tax, yielding about \$1,000 annually, and has a Ladies'

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Benevolent Society. The ladies, as you will have noted, frequently take the lead in charitable work; in Excelsior, "the police" are mentioned in this connection.

In our three largest cities, development of organized charity has been more rapid and far greater than elsewhere in the state.

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Duluth has a board of control, as well as the county board, a superintendent of the poor, the Bethel Star of Hope Mission, and a Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and recently has organized, with great promise of usefulness, an Associated Charities Society. Here, as elsewhere, the churches, secret societies, etc., are abundant in relief work.

ST. PAUL CHARITIES.

The city of St. Paul has the earliest record of organized and systematic charitable work. Beginning with the usual county board, a superintendent of the poor, and the aid of the churches, there has been developed here a very complete system of organized charities, second to none in the West, and ranking with the best east or west. I am unable to state with certainty the earliest organized charity here. Among the earliest were St. Joseph's Hospital, established in 1854; the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in 1856; St. Luke's Hospital, in 1857; and the Young Men's Christian Association, in 1857–8, whose general relief work, however, only dates from 1868.

As the Young Men's Christian Association is unique in its attempt to do the relief work of this city, and in its history, I give it mention first and here. When it entered upon its general relief work, Rev. Mr. Chase was its missionary and relief agent. Mr. E. W. Chase, long known in relief work here, succeeded him as secretary. During the Civil War, this Association, whose rooms were then in the Ingersoll Block, worked efficiently with the United States Christian Commission.

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In 1876 the St. Paul Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor, on the basis of the New York society, was formed to relieve the Y. M. C. A. from relief work and to enlarge and systematize it. Since then this society has been the most important factor in our general relief work, and has been known as the St. Paul Society for the Relief of the Poor. It is still the only society here for general and applied relief. Further reference will be made to it.

As to municipal relief, our city Board of Control, organized in 1872, was, so far as known, the first of its kind. Possibly it is the only one where the appointment is made by the judges of the District Court; but originally it was not so here. It has in charge the City 170 and County Hospital, of which Dr. Arthur B. Ancker has long been the head physician. In 1903, the number of patients was 2,412; and for some parts of the year an average of about two hundred was reached daily. The expense item was about \$65,000. Its contagious ward, a new building, is admirably adapted to the purposes of isolation.

The city alms house has about seventy-five inmates, and with it is connected a well managed poor farm. The amount expended annually is about \$11,000.

In "out of door relief" about \$8,000 was expended in 1903, and 1,871 cases were reported.

In connection with the City and County Hospital, a state department for crippled and deformed children was established in 1897, since which time 205 children have been treated. This work is under the care of the Board of Regents of the State University.

A state Detention Hospital for the insane was also here established in 1897, and is under the Board of Control. Thirteen cases were cared for, at the City Hospital, last year.

St. Luke's Hospital was chartered in 1857 as the Episcopal church hospital and orphans' home for Minnesota. It was reorganized and more fully established in 1873. After two removals, the hospital, as Saint Luke's, found a home at No. 43 Eighth street, and thence removed to its fine new building in October, 1892. It has accommodations for a hundred

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patients or more, and about 1,000 patients make use of it annually. Its staff and force have been remarkable for devotion and efficiency, and its training school for nurses is very successful.

St. Joseph's Hospital, established in 1854, being, I think, our oldest organized charity, shows no loss of energy or ability. On the contrary, its last report, which is the 51st annual, is its best report. The number of patients treated in 1903–04 was 2,595. It was among the first to establish a training school for nurses, and to give them systematic instruction in materia medica. More than two hundred Catholic sisters and about fifty lay nurses are here employed.

Bethesda Hospital, founded in 1892, received and treated 819 patients in 1903. It is well equipped, and has an able staff. It has also deaconesses' and nurses' training classes.

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Luther Hospital, founded in 1904, received and treated 106 patients last year.

The Cobb Homœopathic Hospital is the only homœopathic hospital in the city. A hundred and six cases were treated last year. Eight assistants are employed.

Excellent as are many of our city charities, none are more nearly fundamental than the St. Paul Society for Relief of the Poor, already referred to. It was organized in 1876, and was incorporated in 1881, as the "St. Paul Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor." It was founded by Daniel R. Noyes. Henry M. Rice, H. R. Bigelow, and Alexander Ramsey, have been its presidents; E. W. Chase, Rev. Richard Hall, and Morgan L. Hutchins, its secretaries. Over 50,000 applications for relief have been received and acted upon. An average of nearly 1,000 annually have been aided. There were 908 cases last year, of which 394 were new. Besides the main work of general and applied relief, its loaning fund has proved of great value, and its loans have been generally paid. The charter legislation for a loaning bank has been secured. Its industrial school, the largest in the city, has about 350 girls in attendance, under the management of Mrs. T. L. Blood. This society owns its

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building, 141 East Ninth street, and has a small endowment fund, the gift of Judge Henry Hale. It has saved the city many thousands of dollars by its work, and the city last year contributed a small amount for its support. A much larger amount could be well used.

The "Associated Charities" was formed by Rev. Dr. Samuel G. Smith and others, largely connected with the Relief Society, after a failure some years before by others in the same line. It was formed to act as a bond of union between all the charities of the city. It investigates applicants for relief, and keeps a complete register of them and of their need as ascertained, for reference to prevent duplication of aid. It aims to promote information by public conferences. It conducts friendly visiting, and has a visiting and advisory nurse for needy cases. Its Provident Savings Fund for children in the public schools, and for others, has been successful. Although giving no direct or applied aid in money or material, its work is of the greatest value, and the association is a source of pride to St. Paul. The city Board of Control use this association for practically all their investigations.

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The St. Vincent de Paul Society was organized by the late Bishop Cretin in 1856. Its plan is to form a working body in each Catholic church, called a conference. These conferences united form a society. There are more than twenty such conferences in St. Paul. Visitation, friendly aid and counsel, have made this society a support to the churches, and a power for good in every community where it is established.

The Hebrew and Jewish relief societies, and the sisters of Beekoor Cholim, work within special lines, but are doing excellent work. The Jewish Relief Society of St. Paul was organized in 1871, under the name of the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society. The sum of about \$1,400 was expended last year, contributed by a membership of about 200.

The King's Daughters, a society of young ladies, was organized in 1888. Aid and counsel, in connection with visitation, are given; 1,242 visits were made last year, and 82 cases aided.

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The Ladies' Needlework Guild have for years past made and furnished to the various distributing charities a great number of garments, and thus have rendered valuable aid in the work of relief. This is sometimes made a double charity, by the employment of poor women to do the sewing, under the ladies' direction.

The Salvation Army Industrial Home for Men, on upper Third street, has twenty-eight men "employed," as they call it. Meals and beds are furnished. Old clothing given to the Home is sold at a nominal price to the needy. Some kind of employment is sought, and generally is found, for those under their care.

The Protestant Orphan Asylum was founded in 1865, and was incorporated the same year. An average of about forty children cared for is reported in 1904. Since this asylum was established, 160 children have been placed in homes. Its present building was occupied October 22, 1885. The management is by a Board of Lady Directors, serving each one month in charge of the work.

The Catholic Orphan Asylum reports 152 received during the last year, 65 of them girls. Employment was found for twenty-eight. Children from two to fourteen years are received. The infants' department, under the same management, received during the same time seventy children. Homes were found for thirty-four. Eighteen infants at this time are in this department.

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The St. Joseph's Catholic Orphan Asylum has 138 children under its charge. It is a fine and deserving institution.

The Women's Christian Home was organized in 1871 as the Minnesota Magdalen Society, under a state charter. Its work is necessarily quiet and unostentatious, but is an important one. Twenty-five were admitted during the year, and ten at present are being cared for.

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The Salvation Army Rescue Home does a similar work, although its requirements are less strict. Twenty girls and four officers are on its roll, with eight babies and one boy somewhat older.

The House of the Good Shepherd is a female reformatory under charge of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and has about 200 inmates.

The Little Sisters of the Poor conduct an admirable Home for the aged and infirm poor, supported by general solicitation. Last year an average of 146 were cared for.

The Home for the Friendless (a suggestive but unfortunate title) was founded in 1867 for aged women who have no other home. It has at present twenty inmates, aged from sixty-eight to eighty-eight years.

The Church Home, for old and homeless women, was founded in 1895 and incorporated in 1897. It has about a hundred inmates.

The Deaconesses' Home for many years did a good work in training young women for the care of the sick, but ended its work about a year ago.

The Neighborhood House, on the west side, is the only "settlement house" in St. Paul. It has a sewing school of about two hundred; and about fifty, mostly foreigners, are in its classes. It is an experiment, as yet, in settlement work.

Of the Nugent Institute I can get no report; and the Babies' Catholic Home has been absorbed into the Catholic Orphan Asylum.

The Day Nursery, at the Relief Society building, cares during working hours for children of working women, to enable the mothers to earn the daily wage. Last year 691 children were cared for one day or more. The nursery was open 287 days, with an average daily attendance of sixteen.

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The Young Women's Friendly Association, founded in 1888 by J. M. Lichtenberger and wife, was incorporated in 1892. It attempts, and very successfully, to ameliorate the conditions of employed women, supplying attractive rooms, with library, music, etc., and serving warm coffee and food for lunch, at nominal cost, and providing a dormitory for young women alone in the city. Kind consideration and advice, with friendly service, have made this association a blessing to thousands. From 700 to 1,600 visit the rooms daily; 26,000 the first year, and 200,000 the last year. Hundreds of sick young women have been supplied with warm and nourishing food sent out by this society, in connection with the work of the Relief Society and the nurses of the Associated Charities.

The Free Medical Dispensary, established in 1896, is admirably housed and equipped, and is a dispensary of the first class. It is served without charge by the best physicians and surgeons of the city. Some income, from those able to pay, comes for medicines and service; but the larger part of the work is free. Last year 8,097 were treated; 661 free prescriptions were given; and 3,008 persons paid ten cents each for prescriptions.

The Child Saving and Prison Association was organized in 1896, D. T. Wellington being the founder and secretary. It succeeded the Newsboys' Home Association. Visitation of jails and prisons, and rescue work for children and discharged prisoners, are its special work; and to prevent juvenile delinquency is its general object. During last year 336 boys and 224 girls, making a total of 560, were reached and aided.

The "Bethel," was organized in 1872 for river boatmen and workers on the levee. Robert Smith, well known as a Christian worker among them, was its chaplain. Rev. David Morgan has enlarged and developed the work most successfully. In 1888 the Bethel Boat was purchased, and in 1891 was dedicated. For many years the boat was anchored at the foot of Robert street and used as a friendly inn. The Bethel has now a hotel on Wabasha

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street, somewhat on the "Mills plan," with reading rooms, lecture courses, industrial school, nursery, etc. It is one of our best and most practical charities.

The Humane Society is doing a good work in preventing cruelty to children as well as to animals.

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The Children's Home Society of Minnesota was organized in 1889, under a state charter, and is not merely a local or even Twin City charity. It has received and cared for 2,160 infants and children, up to December, 1904, besides some eighty or more temporary cases. Before the new and beautiful "Jean Martin Home" was received through the generous gifts of the building by Captain John Martin and of the lots by Mr. Joseph Elsinger, the children were cared for in rented houses in the two cities. By far the greater portion of the children received have had homes found for them through the efforts of this society. Last year 160 found homes, and 232 were cared for. Thirty-five are now in the Home, seventeen being babies under one year, four from one to two years old, and fourteen ranging in age from two to sixteen years. The receipts for 1904 were \$17,251.11, and the expenditures, \$16,904.-81.

An Industrial Mission, maintained by the colored people at 741 Mississippi street, is doing a good work, having a reading room, night school, restaurant, etc.

Several industrial schools have been already mentioned. Those connected with the People's Church and the Hope Mission are among the best in the city.

The churches, one and all, make some provision for their own poor members.

Minor charities, maintained by small circles of people, and in some cases by firms, help many. Individual charities also help to swell the grand total of charity here and throughout the state, but these cannot be recorded. The charitable work of the masonic societies, the Elks, etc., is referred to elsewhere.

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I cannot close my reference to St. Paul without mentioning the great and very exceptional fund of nearly \$3,000,000 for the poor of the city, known as the "Amherst H. Wilder Charity," under the wills of Amherst H. Wilder and Mrs. Wilder and of their daughter, Mrs. Cornelia Day Appleby. When available for the purposes designated, a charity of vast resources and immense possibilities for good, indeed of unsurpassed usefulness within its own lines, will under wise direction be developed. Just what will be undertaken, what the plan of operation will be, are undetermined. That the trustees will enter upon the work of direct and applied relief, such as now is done by the Relief Society, seems hardly probable.

If this great charity should lessen the personal interest of good and charitable citizens for their own poor, it could hardly be considered a blessing to the community. Better and cheaper homes for the poor, employment agencies, loaning funds, hospitals for the sick, and even industrial training schools, would seem to be legitimate and wise uses for such a fund.

MINNEAPOLIS CHARITIES.

The following outline history of charities in Minneapolis has been furnished by the secretary of the Associated Charities in that city.

Previous to 1868 the few poor were provided for by neighbors. The Young Men's Christian Association in 1866 aided a few young men to obtain employment.

In 1868 the Women's Christian Association, formed from several "Ladies' Aid Societies," was first organized. There was a deeply felt need of organization, and a desire to prevent duplication of relief. Its objects are, first, to aid the poor, including support of a visitor among the poor; and, second, to provide homes for the homeless and friendless. Its results have been to establish, in the year 1877, a Women's Boarding Home, and in 1901

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a Girls' Home and the Jones-Harrison Home for Aged Women. Until 1901 this association also partly supported the matron of the city lockup.

March 1, 1871, the St. Barnabas Hospital, an Episcopal institution, was established by Bishop Knickerbacker, being the first hospital in Minneapolis.

In May, 1875, the Sisterhood of Bethany was organized as a branch of the Minnesota Magdalen Society of St. Paul. Its object is the promotion of moral purity. In 1876 it established the Bethany Home, as a lying-in hospital and retreat, in which the children born there are cared for temporarily.

In 1877 a Coffee House was established, Chiefly through the efforts of Mr. George A. Brackett, having for its object the solution of the tramp problem by religious services, meals at low rates, etc. Various ministers of the city aid in carrying on the religious services.

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The Plymouth Congregational Church in 1879 founded its Bethel settlement; in 1880, a free kindergarten; in 1883, a day nursery; in 1895, the Girls' Club; and in 1899, the Boys' Club.

In 1880 the Board of Supervisors of the Poor was established by an ordinance of the City Council, as required by the city charter. In 1891 the Poor Department was placed under the Board of Charities and Correction, by an act of the state legislature. This Board has supervision of the City Poor House and Farm and of the City Hospital.

In 1882 the Ladies' Benevolent Society (Reformed Hebrew) was organized, and the Sisters of Peace Relief Society (Orthodox Jewish).

October 1, 1883, the Women's Industrial Exchange was founded to relieve distress due to general depression following the "boom." It endeavored to help women to self-support by

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expert cookery and handiwork. An upper room was used as a rest room. Practical failure was caused by stores offering better opportunity for sales and by other restaurants taking away patronage from the lunch room.

In 1883–84 the St. Vincent de Paul Society was formed in connection with the Church of the Immaculate Conception, to do the usual charitable work of such societies.

In 1883 the Sir Moses Montefiore Relief Society was founded.

In 1885 the Friendly Inn was founded by George A. Brackett. It took up the tramp problem, and applied to it a work test, the sawing of wood for meals and lodging. Bath and laundry were connected with it. After three years, later work in this direction was carried on by the Associated Charities, into which the Friendly Inn was merged.

December 16, 1884, the Associated Charities was organized, though little work was done until it was reorganized December 14, 1885, with George A. Brackett as president. Its object is the cooperation and correlation of charitable agencies, with registration and careful records. During last year 1,051 cases were investigated by paid agents, assisted by volunteer visitors. Self-help is promoted by an employment bureau, friendly visiting, and a provident fund. The sick poor are cared for by a visiting nurse; and for tuberculosis patients a special nurse is employed, to guard against the spreading of that disease.

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The News Boys' Home was founded by Mrs. Farr in 1886, to provide meals and lodging for homeless boys. It was discontinued in 1890.

In 1886 the Salvation Army began its work in Minneapolis. It is mainly religious, but does some relief work. In 1892 it established a Working Men's Home, a lodging house; in 1903, a salvage store; and in 1904, a gymnasium. Its furniture repair shop, library, and club rooms, are in the Old City Hall.

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The Eighth Ward Relief Association was formed in 1887, and did good work for some time within the limits of that ward, in which saloons were prohibited.

In November, 1888, the House of the Good Shepherd was founded by Catholic sisters; but in 1903 it was merged into the institution of the same name in St. Paul.

In 1891, the Rebecca Deaconesses (Methodist) began their work.

The Union Mission of Minneapolis was founded in 1896. Its work is mainly religious. It runs the St. James Hotel, which supplies meals and lodging at low rates, and is self-supporting.

The Volunteers of America, beginning here in 1896, do mainly religious work, with some relief to the poor at their Helping Hand Home and Working Girls' Home.

The Unity settlement, founded in 1898 by the Universalist Church of the Redeemer, maintains a free kindergarten and an industrial school.

The Northwestern Hospital was founded in 1882 by Mrs. T. B. Walker. Its object is to provide medical and surgical aid for women and children by regular physicians and women surgeons, and to train nurses.

The Maternity Hospital was opened November 30, 1886, for married women who have no means for payment, and for girls of previous good character.

St. Mary's Hospital (Catholic) was founded in 1887. It receives patients of all classes.

The City Hospital was established July 1, 1887, by the City Council. It has been under the control of the Board of Charities and Correction since 1891.

In 1888 the Deaconesses' Institute was founded as a school for nurses and as a hospital.

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In 1891 The Homœopathic Hospital was founded, and in 1892 the Asbury Hospital and Deaconesses' Home (Methodist).

The Catholic Orphan Asylum was established in 1877, providing in Minneapolis a home for boys, and in St. Paul a home for girls.

In 1882 Bishop Knickerbacker founded the Sheltering Arms, an Episcopal home for destitute orphan and half orphan children.

The Stevens Avenue Home, for children and aged women, was opened in 1885, resulting from work of the Children's Home Society of Minneapolis, begun in 1881.

The Washburn Memorial Home, for orphans, was founded in 1886 by Gen. C. C. Washburn.

The citizens of Minneapolis have always been charitably inclined. In the early years all cases of destitution were speedily aided by neighbors and friends. As the city grew, the same methods were followed, though the agents were the churches and small organizations, often social, which led to duplication and indiscriminate aid. The Associated Charities proposed to remedy this evil, but found it hard to change the generous impulses of the people and for some time did little but relief work. When it again took up the endeavor of wisely directing aid, it found co-operation very hard to secure. At the present time it may be said that cooperation is increasing, in spite of the fact that a large number of organizations whose main purpose is religious or social grant relief as a side issue.

Charity is not limited to alms. The tendency is to cause material relief to be restricted in amount, but to be more effective for good in its administration. Some evidence of an awakening to the need of preventive charity is seen in the establishment of an Anti-Tuberculosis Society, which is creating general interest; in care for the physical condition of children, the neglect of which may be a cause for pauperism; in providing public play

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grounds; and in the restriction of child labor, the public schools requiring investigation to be made before a labor permit is granted.

CHARITIES OF THE STATE.

Minnesota state charities, instituted and supported by the state, are, with few exceptions, under the financial direction of the State Board of Control. This Board, modelled after similar boards 180 in Iowa and Wisconsin, was created under a legislative act of April 2, 1891. It is doubtful whether the State University and the State Normal Schools were intended to be included in this act, and steps are now being taken to free them from such control. Both the Board of Control and the University desire separation and a single control.

This state is unique in taking entire responsibility in cases of insanity. This lessens our pauper population, but is of doubtful expediency in cases of patients who are not poor. Legislation to secure a half payment in such cases is being now introduced. The cottage system is partially adopted, as well as larger buildings, and asylums as well as hospitals.

Our hospitals for the insane and cottage asylums are at St. Peter, Rochester, Fergus Falls, Anoka, and Hastings. The first of these hospitals, established at St. Peter in 1866, had during last year an average of about 1,000 patients. The Rochester Hospital, established in 1878–79, has about 1,100 patients. The Fergus Falls Hospital, founded in 1887, has over 1,300 patients. The Anoka Asylum, opened March 14, 1900, has 120 patients; and the Hastings Asylum, opened April 26, 1900, has 125 patients.

All these hospitals and asylums are well and ably managed, and are supplied with the best modern appliances. Although they are capable of further improvement by use of larger means, they rank with the best in any state of the Union.

Until recently the older hospitals were crowded. It is a question whether insanity and imbecility are increasing in Minnesota. Probably they are not increasing proportionately to

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the population, although a more general knowledge of our State School for Imbeciles has led to increased attendance there. The cost to the state for the insane at the hospitals and asylums differs slightly, but averages about \$150 per annum per capita at all of them.

This country leads all others in the care and instruction of the deaf and dumb; and the Gallaudet College crowns the whole system of such instruction. Our School for the Deaf at Faribault, founded in 1863, has about 250 inmates, the cost of whose care averages about \$200 per annum.

Under the same management, the School for the Blind, which was established at Faribault in 1866, now has an attendance of 77, at an average cost of about \$260 per annum.

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The School for the Feeble Minded, also at Faribault, was established in 1882, and has now about 750 in attendance, showing an apparent increase during recent years. The cost per annum per capita is about \$150. The first consignment of feeble-minded pupils from the Hospital for the Insane at St. Peter was made in July, 1879, as a department connected with the School for the Deaf, and three years later this separate school was provided.

The State Public School for dependent and neglected children, at Owatonna, on the Washington plan, was organized in 1885 and opened in 1886. It is a marked feature of advance along this line of our state charities. The number of children cared for up to 1900 was 538, of whom 293 had been placed in permanent homes. At present this school has about 250 scholars, 178 boys and 80 girls. The average age is eight years, and the cost per capita per annum is about \$160. Separation of the sexes in two schools is now recommended.

Prior to 1897 no attempt, so far as I know, had been made in this state or any other to relieve crippled children at the public expense, although many private institutions existed. As a state, Minnesota seems to have been the leader in this work. New York and other

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states have followed. The facilities of the St. Paul City Hospital were secured, and the work was put under the care of the Board of Regents of the State University.

The State Training School at Red Wing has an enforced attendance, for reformation, averaging 387, at an annual cost for each of about \$145.

The State Reformatory at St. Cloud is a continuation of our graded penal system. Its average of inmates is 155, at a stated cost of \$300 each per annum, which seems excessive. A reformatory for women prisoners should also be provided.

The State Prison at Stillwater can hardly be classed as a charitable institution; yet in its manual training, its libraries, and other educational features, it does charitable work. Its parole system is commendable; of 566 out last year, only 62 violated their parole. Its good behavior recognition is also excellent. With an average of about 520 prisoners, only 50 of whom are women, it is more than self-sustaining through well organized labor, and ranks among the best prisons in the country, and its influences have been helpful to many.

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The State University deserves mention, since the state provides so largely for the instruction there, small fees only being required from students. About 3,800 students are now in attendance. Larger appropriations are needed to develop its vast interests. Its president, its faculty, its fine buildings and campus, are the pride of every Minnesotan.

Our State Normal Schools, at Winona, Mankato, St. Cloud, Moorhead, and Duluth, also come under the head of beneficial and indeed charitable institutions, as the state thus aids very largely in giving an education to the teachers for its public schools.

The Minnesota Soldiers' Home, at Minnehaha Falls, is beautifully situated, well managed, and is one of the best in the country. When the new building for the wives and children and widows of old soldiers is erected, this institution will be even more complete. It now provides for about 380 veterans, including 64 in the hospital. The cost per capita per

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annum is about \$200, and in addition some government aid is received. A relief fund of great value also exists, so that all who prefer to remain at their own homes can do so and have aid there. This institution is not under the State Board of Control.

The masonic, fraternal and beneficial societies, throughout the state, have been already referred to, but their charitable work deserves special mention. In almost every town and village of Minnesota lodges and societies exist, whose highest and best work is the relief of sick and dependent members and their families.

The Odd Fellows' Home and Orphan Asylum at Northfield has a fine new building and some 120 acres of land, together valued at \$70,000.

Although no separate exhibition of the charities of Minnesota was made last year at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition by our Board of Control, some showing was made indirectly, and not without favorable notice. If a complete exhibit had been made, it would have demonstrated that this state is in the front rank among the states of the Union in respect to its system of charities.