

# EIGHTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

# Home for the Friendless

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

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FROM APRIL 14, 1899, TO NOVEMBER 30, 1900.

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LINCOLN, NEB. :  
STATE JOURNAL COMPANY, PRINTERS.  
1901.

Hon. W. A. Poynter.....Governor

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Lenore Perky, M. D.....Physician  
Mrs. W. H. Hunter.....Matron  
Ernestine Lyons.....Teacher

# REPORT.

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To His Excellency, Governor W. A. Poynter, and the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to herewith submit for your consideration the report of the management and condition of the Home for the Friendless from April 14, 1899, to November 30, 1900. The number of inmates at that time was 43—males, 25; females, 18. Number admitted to November 30, 1900, males, 161; females, 139; total, 300. The institution at that time was in a deplorable condition. As I look back now I wonder my heart did not fail me in the attempt to right such a dilapidated mass of property. My first work was to replace ninety broken window panes, the next was to send for the plumbers, as every water pipe in the building was leaking, and the sewer pipes clogged in five different closets. The sanitary condition can better be imagined than described. Many of the ceilings were wet and falling, and a musty, mouldy atmosphere filled every room. The children were in an unhealthy condition, from being crowded into a small dormitory on the third floor.

## THE HOSPITAL.

The cottage used for a hospital was heated with soft coal stoves, which have been changed for steam heat; also one room converted into a drug room, where all the supplies for the hospital are kept. In the west ward the floor was badly worn. This has been replaced with a new one, and all the walls papered or kalsomined and the floors polished.

## GREENHOUSE.

The greenhouse was a total wreck, as it had been abandoned and the plants all gone and almost all the glass broken out of the

roof; the beds were filled with weeds, the floor covered with empty boxes and tin cans. This has been repaired and is now in excellent condition, filled with a collection of choice plants.

#### SIDEWALKS.

The back walks were entirely gone, and the front walks were in a condition to be unsafe to walk on, as almost every board was loose and many entirely gone. These have been replaced with white cement walks.

#### LAUNDRY.

All the machinery in the laundry was out of repair or broken so the washing had to be done with a tub and board for nearly two weeks. The holes in the floor were so large that one of our help came very near going into the boiler room below and was only saved by being a large woman. The floor has been replaced with a new one, and all the machinery repaired, and three new stationary tubs put in. The sleeping rooms above the laundry had been abandoned; these have been repaired by plastering, painting, and papering, and are now pleasant and attractive rooms occupied by our help.

#### BOILER HOUSE.

The boiler house under the laundry could hardly be called a boiler house, as it was simply a hole in the ground to accommodate one boiler, without wall or floor. The condition of boiler and machinery I will not attempt to describe, as some of you visited it before improvements were commenced. Excavation was made, and it is now a large square room with brick walls, and one new boiler has been added, and one automatic feed pump. The old boiler has been reset and all is now in splendid working order.

To make the improvements necessary the institution was a confusion of plumbers, plasterers, painters, and paper-hangers for many weeks. To do all of this and still keep within the limited appropriation has been my ambition, and at the same time to clothe, feed and care for our family in a creditable manner. How well I have succeeded the following figures will verify:

## DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS,

From April 14, 1899, to November 30, 1900.

Officers' salaries .....	\$4,966 00
Employees' wages .....	4,989 39
Maintenance .....	10,767 74
Paid for labor on repairs and material for same....	4,885 15
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Total .....	\$25,608 28
Total appropriation .....	\$32,000 00
Total expenditure .....	25,608 28
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Total .....	\$6,391 72

November 30, 1900.

Officers' salaries .....	\$6,000 00	\$4,966 00	\$1,034 00
Employees' salaries .....	6,000 00	4,989 39	1,010 61
Maintenance .....	20,000 00	15,652 89	4,347 11
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Total .....	\$32,000 00	\$25,608 28	\$6,391 72

## CASH FOR BOARD.

From April 14, 1899, to November 30, 1900.

Total received .....	\$1,901 48
Paid into the state treasury .....	1,100 00
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Amount on hand .....	\$801 48

## PRODUCTS AT MARKET PRICE.

Consumed from April 14, 1899, to November 30, 1900,

value .....	\$298 49
8,007 gallons of milk, at 12½c per gal.....	1,000 87½
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Total .....	\$1,299 36½

## COWS PURCHASED.

April 19, 1899, one cow .....	\$31 00
April 27, 1899, one cow .....	40 00
May 10, 1899, one cow .....	35 00
May 12, 1899, one cow .....	35 00

Nov. 29, 1899, one cow .....	42 00
May 21, 1900, one cow .....	40 00
Nov. 2, 1900, two cows .....	90 00
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Cash paid for cows .....	\$313 00
April 14, 1899, one cow on hand.	
December, 1899, one cow died.	
Present value of eight cows .....	\$360 00
Present value of one calf .....	10 00

## POPULATION OF HOME.

Number of inmates in the institution April 14, 1899—	
Male .....	25
Female .....	18
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Total .....	43
Number admitted from April 14, 1899, to November 30, 1900—	
Male .....	161
Female .....	139
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Total .....	300
Number placed in homes .....	34
Number adopted .....	21
Number returned to friends .....	166
Number of deaths .....	23
Number of births .....	2
Number of aged ladies in the Home, April 14....	6
Received since .....	4
Number of deaths .....	1
Number of adults found work .....	14
Number sent to asylum .....	1
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Total number .....	343
Total number dismissed .....	260
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Total number remaining .....	83

## NUMBER ADMITTED BY COUNTIES.

Counties.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Antelope .....	1	..	1
Adams .....	5	..	5
Butler .....	..	1	1
Buffalo .....	1	..	1
Cass .....	12	6	18
Colfax .....	1	1	2
Custer .....	2	..	2
Douglas .....	6	9	15
Dodge .....	1	1	2
Dundy .....	..	1	1
Furnas .....	..	4	4
Fillmore .....	1	16	17
Frontier .....	2	3	5
Gosper .....	1	..	1
Gage .....	3	12	15
Hamilton .....	..	1	1
Hitchcock .....	3	..	3
Holt .....	1	..	1
Jefferson .....	2	2	4
Lancaster .....	68	26	134
Merrick .....	..	1	1
Nuckolls .....	1	1	2
Nemaha .....	2	1	3
Otoe .....	1	2	3
Polk .....	10	2	12
Pierce .....	1	..	1
Sheridan .....	2	1	3
Saunders .....	3	..	3
Saline .....	..	4	4
Seward .....	11	5	16
Thayer .....	..	1	1
Webster .....	..	1	1
Wayne .....	1	..	1
York .....	1	1	2

*Number From Other States.*

Counties.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Iowa .....	2	..	2
Kansas .....	2	..	2
Missouri .....	..	1	1
New York .....	14	5	19
Total .....	161	139	300

## EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Our school has an average attendance of forty-five. This is one of the most important departments in our work, and it has been very successfully managed by our most excellent teacher, who has given her undivided attention, and has been rewarded by the rapid progress the children are making. Our school is graded, the seventh grade being the highest, the oldest in school is 13 years of age. Our kindergarten includes the little ones four to five years of age.

## SABBATH SCHOOL.

Our Sabbath school is the most looked-for pleasure of the week; all are very much interested, and our school stands second to none in the city. A new piano has just been purchased, which is a great help in the institution, as children love music.

## AMUSEMENTS.

Amusements for the children are football and indoor games. Our library has afforded some good reading for our boys and girls; but this department is in need of many instructive and useful books.

We are under obligation to many of our business men and friends for contributions of books and magazines sent the Home, also to many children and Sabbath schools who so generously contribute candies and toys to our Christmas tree, and Thanksgiving festivities.

The general health of the inmates has been good the last year. We have been very fortunate in escaping all contagious diseases that have been in the city.

Much credit is due our physician and matron for their ever ready and efficient help at all times.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

I would recommend that a liberal appropriation be made this institution. Many improvements have been made and many more are needed which could not be made on account of shortage of funds. I would recommend that three bathrooms be added, and new tubs and fixtures be placed in the ones now in use. The school building should be painted on the outside, walls and roof. The main building roof should be reshingled. Floors in basement of both buildings should be replaced with cement or tiled floor. That the ground west of the Home in this block be purchased for the use of the Home for buildings, playground, and vegetable garden. In the laundry a steam mangler is needed, as the old mangler with wooden rollers is entirely past use.

We are greatly indebted to his Excellency, Governor W. A. Poynter, and to the Board of Public Lands and Buildings for their valuable advice and help in many ways, also to the advisory board of ladies who have so faithfully fulfilled all duties assigned them.

Mrs. C. S. JONES, Superintendent.

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#### MATRON'S REPORT.

*Garments Made Since April 14, 1899, to November 30, 1900.*

Dresses for adults, wool .....	6
Dresses for adults, flannelette .....	7
Dresses for adults, calico .....	31
Dresses for children, gingham .....	14
Dresses for children, calico .....	13
Drawers for children, pairs .....	39
Drawers for adults, pairs .....	14
Under vests and waists .....	13
Aprons .....	31
Shirts .....	8
Waists .....	19

Coat .....	1
Night dresses .....	51
Sheets .....	53
Pillow cases .....	161
Table cloths (old goods) .....	5
Table cloths (new) .....	9
Neck ties (small) .....	11
Tray cloths .....	2
Checked napkins for children, dozen .....	8
Napkins, white, dozen .....	10
Curtains (long) .....	50
Curtains (short) .....	28
Roller towels .....	77
Single towels .....	46
Dresser spreads, bleached .....	12
Dresser spreads, unbleached .....	8
Didies .....	165
Comfortables .....	32
Dish towels .....	96
Bed ticks .....	22

## CANNED FRUIT.

Peaches .....	40
Pears .....	12
Quince and sweet apples .....	30
Jelly and jam .....	20
Pickles .....	30

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 PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To Mrs. C. S. Jones, superintendent of the Home for the Friendless:

As medical officer of this institution, I hereby beg leave to submit my report from the time I entered upon the performance of my duties, April 14, 1899, until the present time. During this time we have had, besides the ordinary affections incident to

childhood and old age, epidemics of tonsilitis in severe form, whooping-cough, German measles, chicken-pox, and tinea tonsurans.

Lobar pneumonia, seven cases; all recovered.

Broncho-pneumonia, six cases; three deaths.

Rheumatic fever, four cases; all recovered.

Chorea, three cases; one recovered, one case improved before leaving, and one case early taken home for treatment.

Congestion of the brain, one case; recovered.

Asthma, chronic, one case; marked improvement.

Septic poison, two cases; recovery.

Epilepsy, two cases; one removed to Hospital for Insane, one to home.

Hernia, two cases; fitted with trusses.

Adenitis, two cases; one cervical terminated in resolute recovery; one axillary, terminating in suppuration, recovery.

Circumcision, three cases.

Curvature of the spine with semi-paralytic condition of the limbs, two cases; recovered.

Severe scalp burns, brought to us, two cases; one recovered, one improved but removed home before recovery.

Curetting uterus, one case.

Dislocated shoulder, one case.

Fracture, surgical neck of humerus, one case.

Fracture, olecranon process, one case.

Obstetrics, two cases.

The conditions met with here are peculiar, in that the persons to be found in this institution are very largely from among three classes. They belong to the two extremes of life and those suffering from some constitutional dyscrasia. Have had:

Births—2.

Deaths—

	No.	Age.		
		Yrs.	Mos.	Dys.
Uremic poison .....	1	80	..	..
Uremic convulsions, twins, mother died of uremia .....	2	..	1	8
		..	2	14

Deaths—	No.	Age.		
		Yrs.	Mos.	Days.
Whooping-cough .....	4	..	4	8
		..	2	23
		..	2	7
		..	..	15
Tuberculosis .....	3	..	..	11
		..	13	11
		..	2	4
Enteritis .....	3	..	1	..
		..	7	5
Enteritis, one born at 7 months.....	..	..	4	2
Intestinal indigestion .....	1	..	..	17
Broncho-pneumonia .....	3	..	2	25
		..	7	12
		..	12	16
Malnutrition .....	7	..	3	26
Malnutrition, premature birth and jaundice ..	..	..	2	..
Malnutrition, twins, mother died of uremia ..	..	..	2	6
		..	2	11
		..	..	21
Malnutrition, following cholera infantum ..	..	..	3	10
Malnutrition, mother had Potts' disease..	..	..	3	15
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Total number of deaths.....	24			

During the prevalence of smallpox in the state last summer, and after it had invaded our city, it was deemed best to practice general vaccination in the institution, which was done with the best result. The fact that we have been spared a visitation of the more serious contagious diseases I feel is largely to be attributed to the fact that when scarlet fever, diphtheria, and smallpox have been prevalent in the community, visitors have been excluded from the institution.

Since entering upon my work here I have been greatly pleased to note the many improvements made, especially in the matter of cleanliness, repairs to the plumbing, and improvement and extension of the heating plant, the same having been extended

over to the hospital, which was formerly heated by stoves, but which has now the advantage of steam heat. The above improvements have greatly benefited the sanitary conditions of the institution.

I have been gratified to observe the home-like atmosphere which has pervaded the Home, the uniform kindness and affection which has been manifested toward the children, and the sympathetic care extended to those who are spending their declining years in this place.

LENORE PERKY, M. D.