

**BIENNIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS**

**LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

**For the Quarter Ending November 30, 1904.**

**TO THE**

**HON. JOHN H. MICKEY, GOVERNOR.**

Hon. J. H. Mickey.....Governor

**BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS.**

Hon. George D. Follmer, Land Commissioner.....Chairman

Hon. G. W. Marsh, Secretary of State.....Secretary

Hon. F. N. Prout.....Attorney General

Hon. Peter Mortensen.....Treasurer

**VISITING AND ADVISORY BOARD.**

Mrs. H. J. W. Seamark, 1030 G Street.....Chairman

Mrs. H. H. Wheeler, 1517 H Street.....Secretary

Mrs. A. H. Weir.....1120 C Street

Mrs. E. C. Hemsworth.....Ninth and South Streets

Mrs. R. D. Stearns.....1343 L Street

**RESIDENT OFFICERS.**

Mrs. Sarah B. Sohus.....Superintendent

Dr. May L. Flanagan.....Physician

Mrs. William Faulkner.....Matron

**APPOINTIVE OFFICERS.**

Otto Geschwender.....Engineer

Mrs. Katherine Bregstone.....Head Nurse

Hattie A. Moulton.....Teacher

## REPORT.

STATE HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS,  
LINCOLN; NEB., November 30, 1904.

To His Excellency, the Governor, and the Board of Public  
Lands and Buildings:

Gentlemen—In accordance with the Compiled Statutes of the State of Nebraska of 1899, p. 644, chap. 35, I have the honor, as superintendent of the Home for the Friendless, to submit to you herewith the third biennial report.

Very respectfully,

MRS. SARAH B. SOHUS.

### DESCRIPTION.

The Home for the Friendless property consists of 2.87 acres of ground. On this there are five buildings, main, and school buildings, laundry, cottage or hospital, and barn. The three first named are brick, the other two are frame. The main and school buildings are two stories and basement; the laundry two stories with boiler underneath.

The home is situated on the corner of Eleventh and South streets and may be reached from the city by any one of three car lines, cars running every ten minutes. Visitors are always welcome and the Home is opened to them six days of each week, except legal holidays, between the hours of 10:00 and 5:00.

### HISTORY.

The home has been a state institution for the period of six years, and yet we feel that the people throughout the state do not know of it and of the work done by it as we wish they might.

We endeavor in every way possible to make it truly a *home* for our dependent children of the state, girls under fourteen and boys under thirteen being admitted. Efficient help has been employed so that not only a home has been provided

but also their morals, mental training, and physical needs have all received as close attention as though they were with parents in the average home in the state.

We have continued the work along the same lines as we did during the former period. As each child comes to us for a home his physical needs are the first to be looked after, habits of cleanliness taught him, and good wholesome food provided. Their morals we raise to a higher standard, showing them the benefits to themselves and to all those with whom they associate. We have found that kindly methods appeal to the reason more than corporal punishment, and we have very little trouble in governing our children.

#### SUNDAY PRIVILEGES.

Every Sunday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 we have Sunday school in our chapel, using the same lessons as are used in the city churches, the helpers in the home being teachers, as none other than Christians are employed. In the afternoon we have Christian Endeavor from 3:00 to 4:00. This is conducted by members of the Christian Endeavor societies of the different churches in the city, and great good is being done. Our children in that way receive benefit by coming in contact with others than those in the home, the change proving beneficial. I do not doubt that those coming to us from these different societies also receive a benefit. Quite often our older children, accompanied by a teacher or governess, attend a nearby church in the evening. We feel confident that any children going away from our home, no matter where, will always remember the teachings they have had while with us.

#### REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS MADE.

Of the repairs and improvements suggested as needed in the last biennial report we have been able to accomplish the following: Tearing out the old floors in the basement of the school building and replacing same with cement floors. The steam pipes in the basement of this building have been placed above the ground, not only making them more accessible in

case of needed repairs but has better facilitated the heating of the school building. On the first floor above we have had the old wash-room torn out in the main hall and converted the said hall that was of no use into two bathrooms, one for the second nursery children, and the other for the matron, who had no conveniences on this floor. These little ones in this nursery had heretofore to go to the larger boys' dormitory on the floor above to take their baths. The main hall is now in much better shape and is well lighted. We have had the bathroom in our hospital cottage and the girls' bathroom in the main building each thoroughly equipped with new necessary arrangements. Also in the toilet for the old ladies new closet and bowl.

We have had new iron fences where needed, and they have been a great improvement in the appearance of the institution.

Aside from these improvements we have had one of the boilers thoroughly repaired, had all the tubes taken out, cleaned, and replaced, and new tubes where needed, making it in good condition to give us better service than heretofore.

During a wind storm of a year ago our smokestack was blown down, and while down we had it painted, and it was in place inside of thirty-six hours.

The inside of the institution was gone through with paint, paper, varnish, calsomine, and carpets, and linoleum where needed.

The beds in each dormitory, as also throughout the entire institution, are in excellent condition, being well supplied with all the necessaries to make them such, each bed being supplied with sufficient bedding and linen to make them very comfortable.

We had new tables made for the children's dining room, giving more seating capacity and more substantial tables.

#### IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED.

Of the improvements needed for the home at the present time I would mention first more land. We have only that that our buildings are on and none at all for garden pur-

poses. We ought to at least have the property lying west of the home in the same block.

An addition should be built on the south of the main building for two bathrooms and a toilet. One bathroom for the girls' dormitory, the other for the old ladies, and a toilet room in the basement. The bathroom for the girls is at present in the basement, and the children have to travel two flights of stairs to reach it. The old ladies do not have a bathroom.

By having the suggested bathroom for the girls it would give a chance to enlarge our storeroom, something we need very much. Our present storeroom is 12 x 14, and not at all large enough for our needs. The bathroom for the girls is divided by a partition from the storeroom, and by removing same it could easily be thrown into one room and give us the opportunity to store more than we can now. We can not buy goods in large quantities as we have not the room to keep them.

Over the laundry we have six employees rooming, and no sanitary convenience of any kind. There should be a toilet arranged for that building.

A new coal- and wood-house is needed to take the place of those now in use as they are almost past repair, having been in use for several years.

The porch at our cottage needs a new roof and a thorough repairing.

A new water connection with the main is needed, the one we have being too small. It is only  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch. The pressure is not sufficient to carry the water to the second floor when the washing is being done in the laundry. In case of fire we would not have pressure enough to help ourselves very much.

We need a new steam washer in the laundry. The one in use has been there for fifteen years and is practically worn out.

At the present time the Home is in very fair condition. We have kept up as far as we have been able all the different departments, and especially have we paid attention to the

plumbing and the sanitary condition throughout. There are some changes that could be made to good advantage, especially in the toilet room for the children. The coming spring it will be necessary to go over the whole institution with papering, painting, kalsomining, and varnishing. This we try to have done every two years. In doing so we can keep the institution in a clean and healthy condition.

## FINANCIAL REPORT.

## APPROPRIATION OF 1901.

	Maintenance	Salaries	Wages	Repairs
Amount in treasury Dec., 1902..	\$ 3,493 21	\$1,274 16	\$1,475 87	\$2,091 02
Expended from these funds.....	3,490 22	1,088 33	1,475 63	2,084 25
Lapsed .....	\$ 2 99	\$ 185 83	\$ 0 24	\$ 6 77

## APPROPRIATION OF 1903.

	Maintenance	Salaries	Wages	Repairs
Amount appropriated .....	\$14,000 00	\$6,560 00	\$7,000 00	\$3,000 00
Expended to December 1, 1903 .	4,531 48	2,186 67	1,960 56	990 36
Expended to December 1, 1904 .	\$ 9,468 52 7,475 15	\$4,373 33 3,280 00	\$5,039 44 3,501 17	\$2,009 64 815 73
Remainder in treasury .....	\$ 1,993 37	\$1,093 33	\$1,538 27	\$1,193 91

## FIRST YEAR.

Total disbursements—maintenance, salaries, and wages .....	\$14,732 89
Total disbursements—repairs and improvements.	3,074 61
Total disbursements—cash fund.....	1,066 01
Grand total.....	\$18,873 51
Average number of inmates for first year.....	77
Cost per capita based on maintenance, salaries, and wages.....	\$ 191 33
Cost per capita based on all expenditures.....	245 11

## SECOND YEAR.

Total disbursements—maintenance, salaries, and wages .....	\$14,256 32
Total disbursements—repairs and improvements.	815 73
Total disbursements—cash fund.....	989 07

Grand total.....	\$16,061 12
Average number of inmates for second year.....	78
Cost per capita based on maintenance, salaries, and wages.....	\$ 182 77
Cost per capita based on all expenditures.....	205 91

Our cash fund is derived from the sale of old iron, cinders, etc., and from board paid by the parents who wish to maintain the custody of their children. This has been reduced more than half since our former report.

Cash on hand at time of last report.....	\$ 101 12
Received first year.....	1,078 63

Total.....	\$1,179 75
Expended first year.....	1,066 01

Cash on hand December 1, 1903.....	\$ 113 74
Received during second year.....	921 60

Total.....	\$1,035 34
Expended during second year.....	989 07

Cash on hand December 1, 1904.....	\$ 45 27
------------------------------------	----------

## MAINTENANCE.

With our limited appropriation for maintenance, we have been required to practice most rigid economy every place possible. With most watchful care we have had nothing go to waste and have considered it economy to buy the best in both food and clothing.

Owing to the advanced price of coal, because of the strikes, it has required close figuring, as the coal, water and light are included in this fund.

Our cash fund being so much less than the former two years, because of the low rate charged for the children boarded, we have not had the aid from this fund, and may have a deficiency in the maintenance fund.

---

### MATRON'S REPORT.

Mrs. Sarah B. Sohus, Superintendent Home for the Friendless:

Mine is a gospel of work, cleanliness, and economy, and in the nearly four years of my stay in the Home I have strenuously sought to exemplify this gospel. We have tried to teach first that work is man's heritage, that "His work is the duty to which he is born," and that all work is honorable. "It is not the deed a man does, but the way that he does it should plead for the man's compensation in doing it."

In the kitchen we have tried, and I think the round, bright, healthy faces of our children are proof that we have not entirely failed, to serve plenty of good, appetizing and wholesome food, and at the same time we have used the the strictest economy, always gathering up the fragments, that nothing be lost, and we think that our kitchen is as clean and sanitary as the kitchens in the best homes of our land.

Our laundry work will compare favorably with the work of the best laundries, and yet we work at great disadvantages because of the worn-out condition of our machinery, but we hope to have a new washing machine soon, and that other machinery may follow.

We have tried in every department to keep the standard of our work high and to encourage cleanliness, and economy. No matron could give a summary of the work done in an institution; the little daily duties are innumerable. But the following tables show a very few of the things accomplished:

Sewing done at the Home from December 1, 1902, to  
December 1, 1904.

Sheets. ....	221	Baby blankets.....	6
Napkins. ....	375	Baby bands.....	12
Girls' dresses.....	63	Pillow cases.....	185
Gowns. ....	129	Neckties. ....	29
Ladies' dresses.....	13	Baby hoods.....	2
Skull caps.....	20	Baby cloaks.....	3
Sleeve aprons.....	17	Stocking supporters....	6
Wash cloths.....	115	Rabbit suit.....	1
Spreads. ....	42	Short towels.....	72
Comforts. ....	40	Boys' waists.....	121
Roller towels.....	148	Diapers. ....	228
Bread cloths.....	5	Underwaists. ....	54
Iron holders.....	73	Cushion covers.....	10
Cotton pads, for protec- tion of beds.....	67	Box covers.....	2
Pants. ....	2	Lounge covers.....	3
Table cloths.....	23	Laundry bags.....	2
Dressing sacks.....	3	Mattresses. ....	22
Long baby dresses.....	17	Long curtains.....	52
Short baby dresses.....	37	Short curtains.....	82
Long baby skirts.....	13	Drawers for girls.....	26
Short baby skirts.....	27	Drawers for babies.....	15
Girls' skirts.....	48	Tea towels hemmed.....	337

Fruit Canned from December 1, 1902, to December 1, 1904.

Canned fruit—	Qts.	Fruit juices—	Qts.
Peaches. ....	276	Peach. ....	6
Apples. ....	148	Cherry. ....	4
Cherries. ....	56	Grape. ....	20
Pears. ....	15	Fruit jelly.....	87
Grapes. ....	31	Butters—	
Cranberries.....	59	Peach. ....	81
Preserved and pickled fruit. ....	22	Plum. ....	12
Cucumber pickles canned.	228	Total.....	1,014

## Vegetables from December 1, 1902, to December 1, 1903.

56 dozen bunches onions at 10c per dozen..	\$ 5 60
39 dozen bunches onions at 5c per dozen...	1 95
45 dozen bunches lettuce at 15c per dozen.	6 75
34 dozen bunches lettuce at 5c per dozen..	1 70
315 dozen bunches radishes, 7c per 3 dozen.	7 35
333 dozen bunches radishes, 4c per dozen...	13 32
224 quarts of peas at 4c per quart.....	8 96
256 quarts of beans at 2½c per quart.....	6 40
235 heads cabbage at 2½c per head.....	5 87½
150 dozen tomatoes at 7c per dozen.....	6 75
140 dozen ears corn at 7c per dozen.....	9 80
15 bushels beets at 25c per bushel.....	3 75

Total..... \$78 20

## Vegetables from December 1, 1903, to December 1, 1904.

30 dozen bunches radishes at 25c per doz..	\$ 7 50
22 dozen heads lettuce at 15c per dozen..	3 30
41 dozen heads lettuce at 10c per dozen..	4 10
57 dozen bunches onions, at 15c per dozen	8 55
3½ bushels onions at 50c.....	1 50
11 dozen bunches beets at 25c per dozen..	2 75
1½ bushels beets for greens at 35c per half- bushel .....	1 05
4 bushels beets at 50c.....	2 00
13 bushels peas at 75c.....	9 75
6 bushels beans at \$1.25.....	7 50
22 dozen heads cabbage at 25c per dozen.	5 50
5 dozen heads cabbage at 30c per dozen.	1 50
8 bushels cucumbers at 50c.....	4 00
14 bushels tomatoes at 60c.....	8 40
188 dozen ears corn at 5c.....	9 40
12 bushels corn at 25c.....	3 00

Total..... \$79 80

Total .....\$158 00.

Respectfully submitted MRS WM FAULKNER

## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

Mrs. Sarah B. Sohus, Superintendent Home for the Friendless:

The records of the past two years show much illness of a serious nature, including diphtheria, scarlet fever, pneumonia, and an epidemic of measles, and yet with the lowest death-rate in the history of the institution. When we consider that the ages of the inmates have ranged from a few hours to eighty-four years; that there were admitted fifteen under the age of one month, and forty-one under two years; that the majority of these came into the world under most unfavorable conditions, poorly nourished or with inherited dyscrasia, we feel that we have just cause for congratulations. Of the eight babies we have lost in two years one was eight months old, one three months, the remainder less than two months; one died shortly after admittance of endocarditis, another of syphilis at the age of one month, three of malnutrition, and three of gastro-enteritis. Two other deaths occurred, an old lady eighty-four and a little colored girl of eleven who had never been well from the time of entering the Home, dying from heart failure.

One who has had any experience with artificially fed babies will understand the difficulty we have in finding food that will agree, and also the fact that such little ones have much less resistance against disease. We have had some cases of malnutrition in which we could find no food that they could assimilate, though no expense was spared in our efforts, an item, however, that adds to our per capita rate much more than if it were an adult to be fed. For instance, one food that we found valuable cost at the least estimate \$2 a week for one child.

In an institution of this kind we expect and we find children coming with skin affections, ring-worm, pediculosis, sore throats, etc., and it requires constant watchfulness to prevent the spreading to other children, and we feel that the Home is particularly free from such cases.

We were unable to trace the source of diphtheria and scarlet-fever, but by adopting strict measures but three had

either disease. Measles, however, went through the entire institution, so that every dormitory was a hospital, but in no instance were there any bad results. Pneumonia caused us much anxiety, but all made good recoveries. Two of the old ladies were seriously ill, requiring special care for many weeks. I have not hesitated in serious cases to have consultation, and feel that everything has been done for the welfare of the inmates. The small appropriation permits of but most rigid economy so that there is no extra nurse to care for the sick, but this must be done by the regular attendants, and I wish to show my thorough appreciation of the untiring efforts of the superintendent, matron, and employees working night and day when necessary, and I know that in the best homes in the city a sick child could receive no better care than has been given to our children.

HOSPITAL CASES TREATED FROM NOVEMBER 30, 1902, TO  
NOVEMBER 30, 1904.

	Children	Adults	Total	Results
Diphtheria .....	3	.....	3	Recovery
Scarlet fever .....	3	.....	3	"
Pneumonia .....	4	1	5	"
Tonsillitis .....	11	5	16	"
Malaria .....	1	.....	1	"
Measles .....	37	1	38	"
Fracture of radius .....	1	.....	1	"
LaGrippe .....	.....	6	6	"

Number of visits..... 798

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Children	Age	Adult	Age	Total
Old age .....	.....	.....	1	84 yrs	1
Malnutrition .....	3	Under 2 months	.....	.....	3
Syphilis .....	1	1 month	.....	.....	1
Valvular heart disease .....	1	11 years	.....	.....	1
Heart failure .....	1	3 months	.....	.....	1
Gastro-enteritis .....	3	{ 1 6 months } { 2 under 2 mos. }	.....	.....	3
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10

Respectfully,

MAY L. FLANAGAN.

## TEACHERS' REPORT.

Mrs. Sarah B. Sohus, Superintendent Home for the Friendless:

There is no work more pleasant than that associated with the children. To watch the daily struggle with problems before unknown; to see the look of pleasure that comes over the face when these problems are mastered; to see the efforts made to put into practice the lessons that have been learned; to know that in the child, day by day, slowly it may be, but surely, is developing traits of character that will give to the world a noble man or woman, these alone repay all the efforts one may put forth.

Our children are not below the average intellectually or morally, but we feel that in many cases all the instruction they will receive along either line will be received during the few months or years they may be here, and ours is the responsibility of turning the young minds and hearts in the right direction.

The school was found in excellent condition, and it has been our aim to in no way lower the standard.

The common branches are taught, and although the school is not large there are six grades, making the number of classes twenty-three. The grades taught are the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and seventh. Nearly all special occasions have been celebrated with suitable programs. Every other Friday the children write to their friends. A part of every Friday afternoon is given up to exercises of a general nature, reading aloud, drill in the multiplication tables, giving a program prepared entirely by the children, or something of the sort.

Fifteen minutes of each day is devoted to calisthenics, and we occasionally use the dumb-bells. Lack of time alone prevents their daily use.

That part of the daily exercises most heartily engaged in and most thoroughly enjoyed by the children is the singing. We have no instruction books, but use the Sunday school song book.

There is a small but well-selected library, and a number of the older children are learning to appreciate some of the best authors through reading them for themselves.

In the kindergarten we try to prepare the children to love and to enjoy their future school work.

Froebel has said that the entire object of true education is to make people not merely do the right things but to enjoy them, and not merely industrious but to love industry.

Every morning we have the morning circle. In this we take up a different subject every week and study it thoroughly by means of talks, stories, songs, and games. The last half-hour in the afternoon is spent in playing games which they all heartily enjoy.

The rest of the day is mainly devoted to the primary recitations and the kindergarten table work. The children take great delight and pride in decorating the kindergarten with their work, and each tries his best to do his work nicely so that it can be placed upon the wall.

At Christmas time last year there were sixteen children promoted to the other room and after a brief review this fall four more were ready to be promoted. And at present there is a class of ten who will soon be ready for the more advanced work, but will probably be retained in the kindergarten as we are not as yet crowded.

The average attendance in the kindergarten is twenty-five; ten of the little ones are in the kindergarten work and the rest entered the primary in September.

The total enrollment in the grades from December 1, 1902, to November 30, 1903, was 61, and from December 1, 1903, to November 30, 1904, was 65. The average daily attendance for the first year was 27, and for the second year was 31. Number of days taught the first year, 192, with two days' vacation at Thanksgiving and five days at Christmas.

Days taught the second year 194, with two days' vacation at Thanksgiving, two at Christmas, one at New Year's, and an enforced suspension of thirteen days during an epidemic of measles.

The above is a report for the year beginning December 1, 1902, and ending November 30, 1903, and for the year beginning December 1, 1903, and ending November 30, 1904.

Yours respectfully,

HATTIE A. MOULTON, Teacher.

MARY S. BARNETT, Kindergarten Teacher.

REPORT OF INMATES.

	Boys	Girls	Adults	Total
Number present December 1, 1902.....	45	18	9	72
Number received to December 1, 1903—				
Boarded .....	46	36	.....	82
Relinquished .....	6	6	.....	12
Returned from homes.....	2	5	.....	7
Temporary shelter .....	17	14	28	59
	71	61	28	160
Number dismissed to December 1, 1903—				
Taken by parent or friend.....	53	37	20	110
On trial .....	9	9	.....	18
Other institutions.....	.....	1	.....	1
Ran away .....	2	.....	.....	2
Found work.....	.....	.....	8	8
Died .....	1	1	1	3
	65	48	29	142
Number present December 1, 1903.....	51	31	8	.....
Number received to December 1, 1904 .....				
Boarded .....	31	17	.....	48
Relinquished.....	12	8	.....	20
Returned from homes .....	7	4	.....	11
Temporary shelter.....	3	7	9	19
	53	36	9	98
Number dismissed to December 1, 1904—				
Taken by parent or friend .....	45	31	5	81
On trial.....	11	8	.....	19
Other institutions .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ran away .....	.....	1	.....	1
Found work .....	.....	.....	5	5
Died.....	5	2	.....	7
	61	42	10	108
Present December 1, 1904.....	43	25	7	.....

## AGES OF CHILDREN WHEN ADMITTED.

	1903		1904	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Under one month .....	2	3	4	6
Between one month and six months.....	3	2	3	2
Between six months and one year.....	5	1	2	.....
Between one and two years.....	5	6	2	.....
Between two and three years .....	3	5	1	1
Between three and four years.....	2	1	1	.....
Between four and five years .....	4	6	7	1
Between five and six years.....	7	6	7	1
Between six and seven years.....	6	5	5	3
Between seven and eight years .....	8	5	5	5
Between eight and nine years.....	8	2	4	5
Between nine and ten years.....	4	5	5	4
Between ten and eleven years.....	8	1	4	2
Between eleven and twelve years .....	7	5	3	1
Between twelve and thirteen years .....	3	5	.....	3
Between thirteen and fourteen years.....	1	1	.....	.....
Between fourteen and fifteen years.....	.....	1	.....	1
Between fifteen and sixteen years.....	.....	1	.....	1
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>
Average age in years.....	7.6	6.9	6.5	7.2

TABLE SHOWING COUNTIES FROM WHICH CHILDREN WERE ADMITTED.

COUNTIES	1903				1904			
	Boys	Girls	Adults	Total	Boys	Girls	Adults	Total
Adams.....	2	3	1	6	3	1	1	5
Buffalo.....					1	1		2
Butler.....						1		1
Cass.....	2		2	4	1			1
Clay.....					1			1
Dawson.....					1			1
Dixon.....					1		1	2
Dodge.....					1			1
Douglas.....	2	1	3	6	6	1		7
Fillmore.....	1	3		4	1			1
Gage.....	2	1		3	2		1	3
Hall.....	3	2	1	6				
Holt.....	2	1	1	4				
Jefferson.....		1		1				
Lancaster.....	41	31	13	85	25	26	5	56
Merrick.....	1			1				
Nemaha.....	3	3	1	7				
Nuckolls.....	1	2		3		1		1
Otoe.....	2	3	3	8	4	2	1	7
Pawnee.....	1			1	1			1
Richardson.....		5		5				
Saunders.....	2	2		4		1		1
Seward.....					2			2
Webster.....		1		1				
Washington.....					1			1
York.....	4	1	2	7	2			2
STATES								
Colorado.....	2		1	3				
Iowa.....		1		1				
Kansas.....						1		1
Idaho.....						1		1
Total.....	71	61	28	160	53	36	9	98

Total number admitted during the two years, 258.

Of the nine children who were in homes awaiting action at the time of our report two years ago four were taken on the agreement plan and five were adopted.

During the past two years there have been 37 children placed out on trial. Ten of them have been returned, five of these being past ten years of age, which always makes it harder for them to fit into a home. The other five were

babies under two years of age and were, in each case, returned through no fault of the child. Four of the 37 children have been taken on the agreement plan, eight have been adopted, two frail little ones have died, and thirteen are now awaiting further developments.

About a year ago the Board for the Home decided that the superintendent should visit each child in the home before the final papers were made out. Heretofore this had not been done because of the lack of funds. But during the past year we have used our cash fund for this expense, and all but two of the homes have been visited and each child has been found to be pleasantly and happily situated, and will, no doubt, finally become a member of the family.

The cases of the three children running away were children here in the city who had been allowed to have their own way most too much to want to settle down to a life of obedience. They each had a parent who would not require their return to the Home.

Of the adults in the home at the beginning of the biennium one was temporary shelter and eight had no other home. Of this number, the eldest, eighty-four years of age, has passed on to the Home not made with hands. The others are with us and will probably make this their home. Two of these require a special attendant, two are almost entirely helpless, and the others more or less so. Aside from these there have been 37 given temporary shelter during the two years, some remaining only one night and others longer. Some we have given work, and some have needed only a little assistance to be able to go on to friends. All have been deserving.

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TAKING CHILDREN.

On trial.

It is hereby agreed by and between . . . . ., superintendent of the Home for the Friendless, of the first part, and . . . . ., of the second part, that said . . . . ., party of the second part, shall take . . . . ., a . . . . ., child of the age of . . . . years,

from the said Home for the Friendless for the purpose of adopting said child, and if, after four months' trial, it shall be satisfactory to both of said parties hereto that said child shall be adopted by ....., party of the second part, then said first party agrees to relinquish to said second party and said second party agrees to adopt said child at once.

.....  
 .....

Relinquishment.

I, ....., do solemnly swear that I am the Superintendent of the Home for the Friendless, and one, ....., a ..... child, .... years of age, ... ..and said child has been surrendered to said Home in writing by its guardian, ....., for the purpose of adoption to the Home for the Friendless and has been under the care of said Home for .... weeks; that I give my consent in writing to the adoption of said child by ..... and voluntarily relinquish all right to the custody of and power over said child, and all claim or interest in the same.

.....

Agreement Plan.

This agreement made and entered into this .... day of ....., 190.., by and between the State of Nebraska by ....., Superintendent of the Home for the Friendless, an institution of said State, party of the first part, and ..... of ....., in the county of ....., State of Nebraska, party of the second part,

Witnesseth: That the said party of the second part shall take one ....., child born ....., and name ....., to keep and treat as their own child until ..he shall have arrived at the age of twenty-one years, said child to render what assistance is required of ..... in the home of the party of the second part, provided such requirements are not deemed unreasonable. For

these services the said ..... is to receive suitable and proper care, attention, clothing, and a common school education, including one year in some recognized high school. At the age of twenty-one years the said party of the second part is to pay to the said ..... the sum of \$..... in cash or its equivalent, as the said ..... may desire at that time.

It is further understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto that the said child has been properly relinquished to the said Home for the Friendless and will by said Home be relinquished to the said party of the second part hereto subject to the following conditions: That in case the said party of the second part shall in any manner fail in ..... duty as guardian of said child to give said child proper care, attention, education, clothing, or otherwise neglect said child, then the party of the first part or her successor in office or other person in authority representing said Home for the Friendless, shall have the right and authority at any time before said child reaches the age of fourteen years, at her option to rescind this agreement and take and remove said child from the care and custody of the party of the second part.

In testimony whereof, the said parties have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

.....  
 Superintendent.  
 .....

#### RULES FOR ADMISSION TO HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

1. Children in order to become inmates of the home must belong to one of the following classes: 1st. Surrender to the home and thus become its ward; 2d, orphans or half orphans. All applications under these two classes shall be investigated by the advisory board and Superintendent and none shall be admitted without such investigation shows destitution enough to require the shelter of the home.

2. In case of ability of persons having control of such children said person shall pay to the home for care and board a sum not to exceed two dollars (\$2) per month. A smaller amount may be charged according to circumstances, at the discretion of the superintendent and visiting and advisory board.

Parents or guardians wishing to place children temporarily in the home must sign an agreement that if no compensation is paid for six consecutive months, the children will be considered wards of the state, and as such may be placed in homes for adoption.

3. No children will be admitted whose parents or guardians reside in states other than that of Nebraska. Applications must be accompanied by written statements from reliable persons, stating that conditions are as applicant sets forth.

4. Boys under thirteen and girls under fourteen years of age may be admitted in accordance with sections 1 and 2 or rule 1, and any rule governing admission to said home.

5. Any person desiring to take a child from the home for adoption or to bring up to maturity must communicate in person or by writing to the superintendent, giving a full statement of the circumstances in which the child will be placed, if transferred from the home to his or her care, what position in the family such child will hold, what labor will be required, what advantages for education will be given, what will be the religious privileges and training. Also assurance of temperate habits. These facts must be accompanied with good and satisfactory recommendations or the request can receive no attention.

#### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

**SUPERINTENDENT.**—The superintendent shall reside at the Home and have general supervision and control of both the internal and external management subject to rules and regulations provided by advisory board and Board of Public Lands and Buildings. She shall have the power to engage and discharge employees, except those provided for in chap.

37, of Session Laws 1897. She shall keep a record of names of all inmates with the date of their admission and dismissal. This record shall contain as far as possible the name, age, nativity, where from, when received, when dismissed, how disposed of, and in case of death state cause, which last should be certificate of the Home physician. She shall make a written report of all actions in connection with inmates and employees, every three months from promulgation of these rules, to visiting and advisory board. In no case shall the superintendent and matron be absent from the home at the same time.

**MATRON.**—The matron shall reside at the home and have general supervision of the domestic arrangements of the institution sewing and dining rooms, table linen, kitchen and laundry, and have charge of all stores. She shall see that the institution be in perfect order, all work be done in proper manner, and be responsible for the good conduct of the help in her departments. In the absence of the superintendent she shall assume the duties of that officer.

**PHYSICIAN.**—The physician shall have general supervision of the health of the inmates. She shall make daily visits to the Home and oftener if necessary and shall attend all inmates during sickness. Shall have provided for her a room furnished with hospital and medical supplies, and a bed when obliged to remain at the Home. Shall make out all requisitions for medical department, and in her absence the superintendent shall see that nurses comply with physician's instructions. She shall keep a record of all patients attended and report each month through the superintendent to visiting and advisory board. She shall thoroughly examine all children before being taken into the home and use all precautions to prevent contagious diseases.

No nurses for either sick or well shall be employed at the home who are under twenty years of age.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In submitting this report I wish to thank the Governor and the Board of Public Lands and Buildings for the deep

interest they have taken at all times in the affairs of this home. For the hearty cooperation they have shown in all that pertained to its best interest.

We wish also to thank the Ladies' Advisory Board for the faithful performance of their duties and the helpful advice and willingness to do all in their power to aid us in this work and for the encouragement given. They have at all times faithfully endeavored to help us carry out the rules for this institution.

We wish to thank all those—and there have been many—who have contributed to the pleasure and profit of the children and old ladies in bringing gifts at holiday times, for books, magazines, toys, fruit, candy, etc., all of which has been duly appreciated by the children and also the grown people. Especially do we wish to extend our thanks to Dr. Green for the cucumbers and to Dr. Paine for the peaches which they so liberally gave us this past summer.

We extend a cordial invitation to the taxpayers of this state and all interested in the charitable work of the state to visit us and see the results of our efforts in the workings of the institution.

Respectfully submitted,  
MRS. SARAH B. SOHUS,  
Superintendent.

---

LINCOLN, NEB., December 1, 1904.

To the Governor and Board of the Home for the Friendless:

Your advisory board respectfully submit the following report:

In their judgment the administration of this home is commendable. In the various duties pertaining to the management of this large household, common sense, good judgment, and scrupulous cleanliness with careful attention to a healthful dietary have prevailed. This Board endorses the suggestions contained in the report of the superintendent.

The placing of these children in good private homes is one of the most valuable features of this work. A state agent

able to devote the whole time to this work would be desirable. A personal inspection of proposed homes before adoption is desirable. The duties of the superintendent make it difficult for her to attend to this feature of the work.

No provision is made for those children belonging to the home after they are fourteen. It is necessary to fit all these children for self-support. It is especially necessary if they are to be self-dependent at so early an age that the industrial features of education be emphasized. This is done in a measure. They are taught the simple household tasks. If the home had sufficient land for farming purposes much more in this line could be accomplished. For this reason the plan of uniting this institution with the one at Milford, where there is land owned by the state, commends itself to us as well as for reasons of economy for the state. The school work of this institution would be better adapted to the needs of these children if it provided for a thorough manual training department.

It is not practical for this home with its present resources to care for crippled and defective children. Justice can not be done either to normal children or the afflicted when the attempt is made under present conditions. This institution is now caring for such a case. To do so the dispensary was converted into a bed-room and the home's quarantine arrangements almost destroyed. Nor do we feel that justice can be done to these cases which need special nursing for which we have no provision.

Dependent old ladies form a class in the community appealing strongly to our sympathies. No doubt the state or private charity should make provisions for them. It is exceedingly difficult to care for them in the place that is devoted to the care of children. They can not be housed, managed, or cared for under the same rules or in the same manner. The plan for housing and feeding as well as plans for their occupation and comfort must needs differ widely from those for the best good of children. The effort to care for these three classes of dependents under the same manage-

ment has increased the difficulties and decreased the efficiency for the management of this institution.

Provision should be made for different departments for normal children, defective children, and dependent old ladies, if the state cares for all these dependent classes in this institution.

GRACE M. WHEELER, Secretary.