

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

HOME OF THE FRIENDLESS

AT

LINCOLN,

FOR THE YEARS 1885 AND 1886.

LINCOLN, NEB.:
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1886.

REPORT.

To the Board of Public Lands and Buildings :

GENTLEMEN: The Board of Managers of the Home of the Friendless present this, the second biennial report of the Home, with feelings of deep gratitude that the intentions of the originators of this charitable work are being realized, both in scope and prosperity.

The possibilities of doing good (to the many who have sought this Home), both physically and morally, have been the great encouragement to the self-sacrificing women who are striving to make this truly a refuge for the homeless and friendless women and children of Nebraska.

The addition made to the Home by the Board of Public Buildings, pursuant to the appropriation made by the legislature, has added greatly to the comfort of the inmates as well as to the convenience of the officers and employes.

MANAGEMENT.

By the terms of the organization of the Home for the Friendless Society, the management of the Home is vested in a board of twelve ladies, seven of whom constitute a quorum to transact business; term of office two years, six being chosen annually by a state convention composed of delegates elected by local auxiliaries throughout the state. This board elects the Superintendent, Matron, and Physician; also the employes, all of whom are under the directions of the Board of Managers.

The number of inmates has greatly increased the past two years, and at times the Home has been much crowded, but since

the completion of the new wing no proper applicant has been refused.

At the home, old ladies, cast off by ungrateful children, have been welcomed; weary ones have found rest; sad hearts have been comforted; discouraged ones encouraged; little ones nurtured; homeless and friendless ones cared for until other homes could be secured. Can there be a greater work than this? and the Master said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

MORAL AND MENTAL ASPECTS.

So various are the characters and dispositions of those who come to the Home, that it is a matter of great study how the moral nature of these inmates may be best reached, elevated, and strengthened.

To this end we have an earnest, Christian woman for superintendent. A Sunday service each Sunday, P.M. conducted in turn by some pastor from the city. A Sabbath school held each Sunday, A.M. and a well organized day-school for the children old enough to be in school (present number, 43), presided over by a teacher who has had years of experience in the mission schools of New York city.

You will find appended the report of Physician. If the death rate seems large, stop and consider for a moment the condition of most of the inmates at time of admission—especially the infants. Many suffering from expose and insufficient clothing and food before coming to the Home; many suffering from intemperance; many diseased from birth, and still others crippled by drugs administered before birth.

MORE GROUND.

There is a tract of land lying west of the present grounds of the Home, which can now be obtained at reasonable rates. Your attention is called to this fact, and also to the wisdom of secur-

ing it an early day. It is in the market, and only held in reserve for the action of the coming legislature, as a personal favor to the managers of the Home, who felt that as soon as the legislature saw the great need of this tract being added to the grounds (while it is to be obtained), would take favorable action.

The appropriation made by the last legislature, for the erection of a new wing, fell short of completing the building, and all of the improvements necessary to the comforts and convenience of the Home. These extras were imperative, and more than exhausted the appropriation. There was no provision for this deficiency, and the completion of the Home for occupancy being a necessity, the ladies of the Board of Managers, backed by citizens, became responsible for this amount by giving a personal note, which still remains unpaid. Trusting to the legislature of 1887 to relieve them of this burden, the money was put in the building, which is the property of the state. An item of this will appear in the appended table.

There is also a deficiency in the appropriation made for salaries by legislature of 1885. Also, see table.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

There is great need of a bake-shop and laundry fully equipped with machinery and furniture for same; also a new boiler-house. Possibly these three could be combined in one building. The original building needs repairing; the flues fixed, the blinds reset, the whole building pointed, etc.

The present barn should be removed and a new one built, or this one put on a good foundation and thoroughly overhauled.

For all of these you will find an estimate in the appropriation asked.

HOW SHALL WE SUPPORT THE HOME?

This has become a serious question. Four years ago, when the Home was opened, with about a dozen inmates, the ladies who

had originated this charitable work—all aglow with their first success, the grounds furnished by Lincoln, the building by the state—felt they could easily meet the running expenses.

They little realized that it would so soon reach such proportions that its support would be a heavy burden, falling upon a few, and as little realized how great a want existed for such a Home, and how growing that want was to become. At the end of two years a large number of homeless and friendless had been benefited, and the average size of a family had increased to about forty.

Then the managers found not only need for more room but began to feel that the resources were too uncertain to be relied upon for the entire maintenance of so large a family.

The last legislature very kindly and generously came to the rescue, and in addition to providing for an enlargement of our accommodations appropriated \$5,000 to aid in payment of help employed.

This has been found insufficient to poorly pay inadequate help. We need more help—better help and better paid help.

For the past year the inmates have averaged about one hundred (100).

The amount needed to economically feed, clothe and provide for this number foots up hundreds of dollars every month, and this amount has not only become very burdensome to the managers, but they feel the supply to be too uncertain to be relied upon.

To close the Home would be a great wrong to the state as well as to the many broken-hearted women and homeless children of Nebraska. Yet this alternative might be forced upon the ladies at any time, unless aided by a more certain and steady hand.

We do not wish to withdraw from the work, nor do we weary in well-doing, but we think the state should aid to such an extent that the part which the managers are to provide shall not be so large but that it shall be forthcoming without a constant effort to raise money by small ways.

It has been thought that we should be safe in relying upon our organization for all provisions except milk and flour, also for burial and other incidental expenses. Beyond this we believe the state should assume the expense.

Even if it was safe to rely upon voluntary methods, it would hardly be just or advisable, because the purpose in public and the burden is unequally distributed and would fall upon those who receive no other returns, except the Great Giver's blessing.

NUMBER OF INMATES.

Number of inmates in Home December, 1884.....	42
Number admitted since	345
Total	<u>387</u>
Number surrendered to friends.....	145
Number placed in homes.....	77
Number found work for.....	50
Number deaths.....	41
Number sent to Reform School	2
	<u>315</u>
Number now in home.....	72
Total	<u>387</u>

COUNTIES, WITH NUMBER OF INMATES FROM EACH.

Adams.....	14	Douglas.....	60
Antelope.....	2	Dundy	1
Burt.....	4	Fillmore	2
Butler	2	Franklin.....	9
Buffalo.....	3	Gage.....	10
Cass	9	Hamilton.....	2
Clay	5	Harlan.....	4
Cheyenne	2	Howard.....	5
Dodge	13	Hall.....	2

Johnson.....	4	Stanton.....	8
Kearney.....	1	Saunders.....	7
Knox.....	3	Saline.....	10
Lancaster.....	54	Seward.....	2
Lincoln.....	4	Thayer.....	4
Merrick.....	5	Valley.....	1
Nemaha.....	6	Webster.....	5
Nance.....	8	York.....	2
Otoe.....	11	Wyoming Territory.....	1
Pawnee.....	12	Iowa.....	6
Phelps.....	1	Illinois.....	8
Polk.....	5	Kansas.....	6
Platte.....	4	England.....	1
Red Willow.....	3	Germany.....	1
Richardson.....	12		
Total.....			345

APPROPRIATIONS.

The following appropriations are respectfully asked :

	1887.	1888.	TOTALS.
Salaries for officers and employes.....	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Light and fuel.....	2,000	2,000	4,000
Repair fund.....	2,000	2,000	4,000
Flour and milk.....	1,000	1,000	2,000
Stationery, blanks, postage, telegraph, telephone and other incidentals.....			500
Boiler house, laundry, bake shop, fur- niture and machinery for same.....			6,000
Clothing, bedding, furniture.....			6,000
Total.....			\$32,500

DEFICIENCIES.

In appropriations for new wing and the extras it entailed.....	\$1,895 30
Salaries.....	500 00
Total.....	<u>\$2,395 30</u>
Board of Managers, per	

MRS. W. C. RICKETTS,
Clerk.

PHYSICIANS' REPORT.

To the Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

GENTLEMEN :—I have the honor of submitting the Report of the Home for the Friendless, from April, 1885, the beginning of my services as physician, until 30th November, 1886.

Previous to the completion of the new building the inmates increased beyond the facilities for taking care of them, consequently overcrowding, bad ventilation, and no room to isolate the sick, the death rate was increased.

Now, in the occupancy of the new building, with its large, airy rooms, improved sanitary condition, and efficient nurses, the sick receive good care. The president, matron and teachers seem to take deep interest in whatever appertains to the welfare and good of the Home.

In the early spring there was some defect in the heating apparatus, and perhaps it was not skillfully managed ; the result was extremes of heat and cold, which was the cause of no little sickness in the Home. However, this has been remedied.

The number of cases of sickness this year has been less than last.

A large proportion of the illegitimate and abandoned infants suffer from hereditary disease, is doomed to rapid wasting and death from inability to assimilate artificial food.

Many of the erring women, upon whom the responsibility and shame falls, to shield their good names, make efforts to destroy embryonic life; failing in this, entail disease upon their offspring or bring into life beings stunted and dwarfed, who linger a few months and die. Some cases brought to the Home properly belong to hospitals.

The total number of death from April, 1885, to November, 1886,
s 37. Males, 18; females, 19.

The number of births, 32.

The following are the mortality statistics :

Pneumonia	2	Capillary bronchitis.....	4
Marasmus	8	Convulsions	2
Entero colitis	4	Inanition	4
Cerebro spinal meningitis..	1	Cyanocis	1
Cholera infantum.....	2	Euter'ic fever.	1
Whooping cough.....	1	Gastro enteritis	3
Cerebral congestion	2	From drinking lye.....	1
Intestinal hemorrhage	1		—
Total.....			37

The number of deaths during each month :

1885		1886.	
April.....	1	January.....	1
May	1	February.....	2
July	4	March	5
August	3	April	4
September.....	3	May	6
October	1	June.....	1
November		July	1
December		August	2
		September.....	2
Total.....			37

The following represents the comparative ages at death :

Under one month	9	One year	2
From one to two months ...	12	Two years.....	1
From two to four months...	6	Seven years.....	1
From four to six months ...	5	Twenty-one years.....	1
Total.....			37

Respectfully submitted.

MARGARET L. SABIN, M. D.

Physician to the Home for the Friendless.