



GROUP OF BUILDINGS, NEBRASKA INDUSTRIAL HOME, MILFORD

Thirteenth Biennial Report
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE
Nebraska Industrial Home

MILFORD, NEBRASKA

To the Governor and Board of Commissioners of
State Institutions

FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1914

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION

Lena E. Ward.....	Superintendent
Sude B. Ward.....	Matron
Wm. Sandusky.....	Physician

EMPLOYEES

M. Evelyn Meyer.....	Secretary and Teacher
Vivian Antram.....	Head Nurse
Ida H. McIntee.....	Sewing Teacher
Emma Beard.....	Cooking Teacher
Eugene Robinson.....	Farmer
F. J. McGhee.....	Engineer
Louis Lamprecht.....	Fireman

To His Excellency, Honorable John H. Morehead, Governor, and to the Honorable members of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, Silas A. Holcomb, Howard Kennedy and Henry Gerdes.

Gentlemen :

I herewith submit, for your consideration, the thirteenth Biennial Report of the Nebraska Industrial Home.

During the past biennium, two hundred forty-five have received care in the Home.

The work of the Home is divided into details of eight weeks each. This gives every girl a chance to learn something in all branches of the domestic work. However, if a girl is not able at the end of the eight weeks to do the work on the detail in which she is placed, she is kept there another eight weeks or until she is able to do it well. We feel that it is better to get one thing well, than a little of all.

We have been fortunate in having a splendid woman, who thoroughly understands cooking, to supervise this part of the work this biennium; heretofore, the matron, who already had her hands more than full, had to look after this and it was impossible for her to give as much time and attention to it as was needed. So many girls, who come to us, have never done any cooking, but are anxious to learn and it has meant so much to them to have someone with them all of the time to teach them. It has also been a saving to the State, as many of the girls have never been taught to be saving and when left alone have wasted a great deal.

Our new laundry has been such a satisfaction to us the past six months. In October, 1913, our old laundry was destroyed by fire. While it was a poor excuse of a laundry, yet we found it much better than none. For nearly a year, the washing had to be done by hand and it was no small task to wash for so many in this way. So the girls as well as everyone else greatly appreciate the new laundry with its electric washer, extractor, mangle, irons, etc. Two

girls now do the washing that was done by six or eight before. We have more girls in the ironing-room, but the work is completed in much less time. We hope next year to have a woman to supervise this part of the work for it is very necessary that, wherever there is a detail of girls working together, there should be someone with them.

The house work is divided into the different floors and a girl is detailed to care for a floor for the eight weeks, making beds, sweeping, dusting and looking after the work in general. This is under the supervision of the matron.

We also have a sewing department in which all the sewing of the Home is done. Many girls come to us who cannot run a machine or who have never worn a thimble. At first they think that they never can learn to sew and do not want to try, but, as all must go to the sewing-room and do their own mending and help with the other sewing, they soon become interested and, by the time they are ready to leave the Home, they do very nice work. We do not have any regular time for fancy work, but try to teach the girls what we can in this line, knowing that it will be a pleasure and benefit to them after leaving the Home.

All detail work closes at 2:15 P. M. and all go to school until 4:45. While it is impossible to classify our school work, as we should like to do, yet we try to follow the regular course, the best we can, to give each girl the work she needs most. The girls, with but few exceptions, enjoy the school work and often speak about it and do not understand why they never liked school before. This, we think, is easily explained, as they do not have so much to distract their minds, as they had before, and there is no staying away from school; all must go, if able. Some, after leaving the Home, go right on with their school work, that is, if it is a girl who has a home and someone to help her. One girl, who recently left the Home, worked and saved her money and is now in one of our universities. This girl came from a home where the father and mother had separated and she had had to work in a laundry to support herself and help support a little sister.

If the public could only know just what some of these

poor unfortunate girls have gone through before coming here and could look into some of the homes; or, it may be a girl, who has never known a home and the love and care of a father and mother; or, as the case may be, a little school girl, who on account of her ignorance and inexperience was led wrong, then, after all this, she must often give up home and friends or the dearest thing on earth to her, I am sure there would be a great deal more sympathy shown for this class of unfortunates.

The day's work is closed each evening with a short chapel exercises, led by one of the ladies of the Home, except on Wednesday evening, when we have our Christian Endeavor meetings under the supervision of one of the ladies, but led by one of the girls. They all take a great interest in chapel exercises and never want to miss. On Sunday we have our Sunday school at 9:30 in the morning.

We have a nice little library, the books having all been carefully selected by the State Institution Librarian and, at the close of Sunday School, all go to the library and get new books to read. The afternoon is spent in reading and resting.

We are often asked whether the girls appreciate all the State is doing for them and, in answer to this question, I am going to give a few extracts taken from the letters written by the girls in the Home to their people, or by those who have gone out of the Home and are writing back to girls who are here.

"Mama, you need not feel badly because I think so much of this Home, for you would too, if I could only tell you how much it has done for me and how good they have been to me."—Irene.

"Tomorrow I will have served eight months of my time. But, Etta, you don't know how I hate to see my time come to leave the Home. Sometimes it does seem that it is the only home that I have ever known and I hate to think of leaving."—Helen.

"Well, mama, I have only eight weeks at most until I can come home. I can hardly realize it myself. You told me, when I came here, that this would be a year in my life that was lost, but I can't see it that way now. Of course,

as far as outside happenings are concerned it is lost, but the lessons that I have learned will never be forgotten. I have learned a great many things here that I would never have learned at home. I don't intend to settle down at home and never turn my hand over to help support myself like I used to do."—Louise. (This girl, after leaving the Home, took a course in nursing and is doing well.)

Received April 8, 1913, by one of the girls in the Home from one who had left several months before:

"Words can never tell the good the Home has done me. I shall never, never regret the year I spent there, as long as I live, although it was awful to think that I had to go there and to become a mother. But I believe God only sent this punishment to me, as a warning, because, if this had not happened to me, I would only have yielded to these temptations and gone on deeper in black sin, until I would have been past saving; as it is I have had my awakening and shall never commit this sin again. And I had always been brought up in the church and my dear mother tried to bring me up a true Christian. But never had I learned the real worth of our Saviour and what a great thing it means to us to live a true Christian life, until I went under the teaching of this Home. I cannot say what I owe to the State and the Home for what they have done for me. I can say that last year was the best year I have ever spent in my lifetime. I know that I can now live a good life and be a woman and, whenever I think or speak of the Nebraska Industrial Home, I assure you it will always be with the highest honor and respect."—Genevieve.

REPAIRS

We have been able to do but very little repairing on the main buildings this year, but have built our new laundry and repaired the roofs and down spouts on main buildings. An entirely new steam line, laid in conduit, has been put in from the power house to the main buildings; this will effect a great saving in coal as practically all of the heat will now come into the buildings instead of warming all the ground around. A number of much-needed repairs were made at the power house, among which was a new smoke stack.

NEEDED REPAIRS AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS

One of the first things that we want in the way of permanent improvements is two sun nurseries. The two rooms now used as nurseries are both on the north and all the sunlight that the babies can get must come in at one lone window in the east. This not only deprives the babies of the sunlight that they should have, but makes it impossible to ventilate the rooms in the winter as they should be, as all the other windows are on the north. These are cold, dark rooms and are not fit places for the babies, as sunlight and fresh air are two things they must have to do well.

Another much-needed permanent improvement is a dairy barn. So much of the milk is fed to the babies that too much care and attention cannot be given the cows and the milk. They are now milked and cared for in the barn with the horses and it is in no way sanitary.

The outside and inside walls of the two main buildings must all be gone over. The mortar on the outside walls has so deteriorated that it has fallen out in many places and the bricks are also dropping out in places. The moisture goes right through to the inside walls and they are at times covered with mildew and are often so damp we cannot use the rooms. The outside wood work has not been painted for years, if ever, since the buildings were first put up, and this should all be done, as well as the porches. A great many of the rooms will have to be plastered painted, papered and have new ceilings. Some of the floors are so badly worn that they will have to be replaced. The plumbing will have to have a general overhauling and some new bath tubs and fixtures installed.

The only place that we have to care for our vegetables and fruit that we put up for winter use is in the basement through which all the steam used in warming the buildings must pass. The result is that each year a great deal is lost for want of a proper place to care for these things. This we hope to remedy with an outside cellar and root house.

It will also be necessary to have a new engine and boiler before two years pass. The engine now in use is a

small high speed engine and now, that the laundry is run by electricity, it will be too much for this engine. There is only one high pressure boiler, so that every two weeks when the boiler is washed, the lights must be off and this necessitates the use of coal oil lamps. This is a very dangerous thing where there are so many to handle them.

FARM

There are only thirty-seven acres of land in connection with the Home and so much of this is taken up by yards, orchard and some waste land, that we do not have what is needed to keep the number of cows that should be kept. Therefore, we are asking that a forty acre tract, adjoining the Home on the east, be purchased and a number of cows be added to the herd.

A number of fruit trees have died the past two years and these should be replaced or a young orchard started.

There is also a great deal of repairing and improvements that should be made about the barn and yards.

Value of farm produce for biennium \$2,757.55.

The following table shows the work done in the domestic departments:

Laundry	
Average number of pieces laundried per week.....	2,581
Sewing Department	
Pieces mended.....	8,209
New garments made.....	3,986
Culinary Department	
Fruit and vegetables canned (quarts).....	5,377
Kraut (gallons).....	184
Pickles in brine (gallons).....	46
Dried corn (pounds).....	225
Loaves of bread baked.....	21,912
Buns	11,232
Cakes	328
Cookies	15,648
Doughnuts	5,000
Puddings	594
Pies	3,504
Biscuits	12,162

I also wish to express my appreciation for the hearty co-operation and many kindnesses shown us during the past biennium.

Respectfully,

LENA E. WARD, Superintendent.

Milford, Nebraska, November 30, 1914.

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN

Miss Lena E. Ward, Superintendent, Nebraska Industrial Home, Milford, Nebraska.

Dear Madam:

It is my pleasure, at the end of this biennium, to submit my report as physician to this Institution.

The general health of the inmates has been good. Our babies suffered an epidemic of whooping cough during the winter of 1913-14. During this epidemic there were thirty-five babies, varying in age from three weeks to two and one-half years, who contracted the disease, many of the cases being severe. Among these there was one death caused by complicating gastro-enterities.

During this biennium there were eighty births: fifty-five normal; twenty-five abnormal deliveries; seven still born; and three premature. Two hundred eighteen patients have received hospital care.

I want to specially call your attention to the urgent need of a sun nursery. We believe it will materially reduce our infant mortality by giving the babies the benefit of sunlight during the whole of the day and making it possible to install proper ventilating system. At present the nurseries are situated in the northeast corner of the buildings, making it practically inaccessible to the sunlight and the problem of proper ventilation during the winter months a difficult one.

It is also a pleasure to call your attention to the hearty co-operation and invaluable assistance afforded us by the Superintendent and Matron in the performance of our duties as physician to this Institution.

Respectfully submitted,

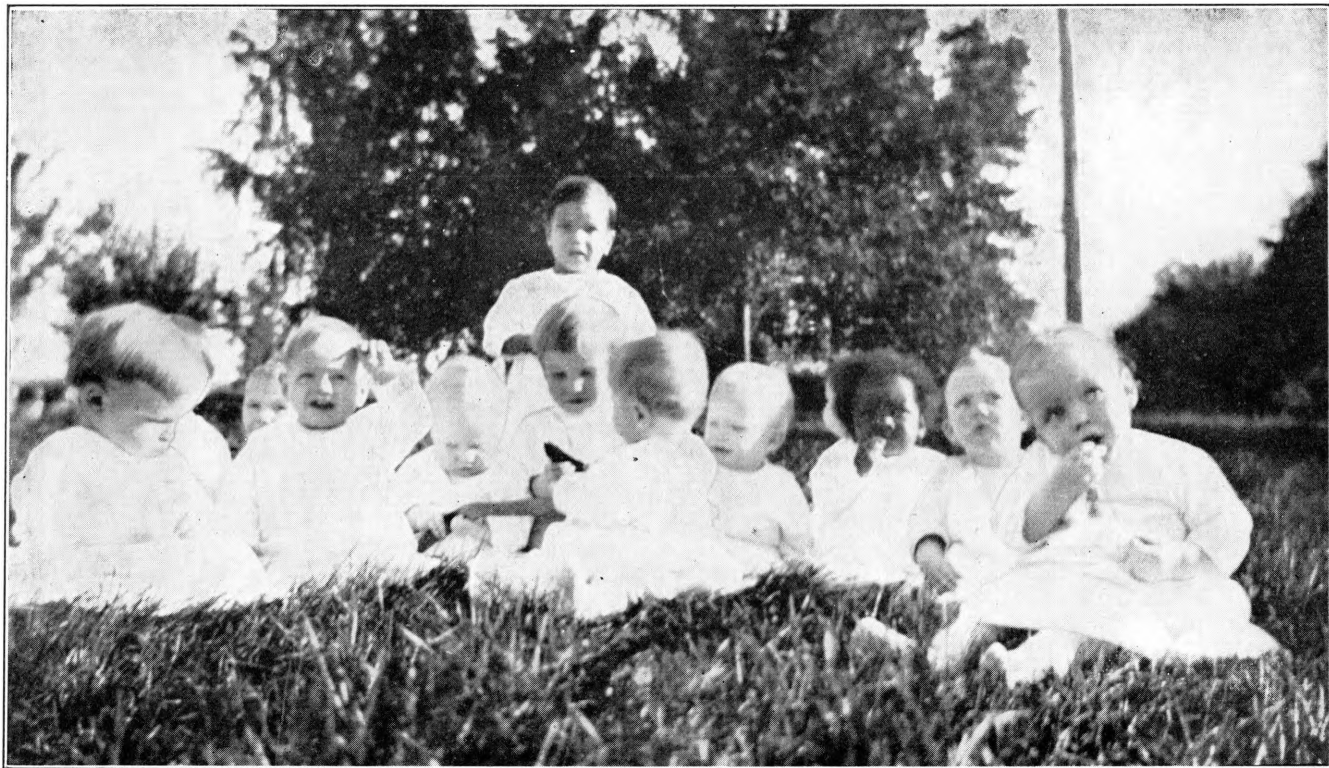
WM. SANDUSKY, M. D.

Milford, Nebraska, November 30, 1914.

TABLE I. MOVEMENT OF POPULATION

	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913						For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914			Total for Biennium		
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13			July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13								
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Present at begin- ning of period....	11	54	65	16	67	83	17	71	88	11	54	65
Admitted, Adults:												
For first time.....		30	30		20	20		41	41		91	91
Readmitted*		1	1								1	1
Transferred from other institutions					3	3		1	1		4	4
Infants: Born at in- stitution	10	15	25	9	17	26	20	9	29	39	41	80
Returned from trial homes in which placed before commencement of period.....				1		1					1	1
Admitted	1	1	2				1		1	2	1	3
Total under care...	22	101	123	26	107	133	38	122	160	52	193	245
Discharged:												
In due course.....	3	26	29	2	25	27	5	57	62	10	108	118
Transferred to oth- er institutions					2	2		5	5		7	7
Died	2	1	3	1	3	4	5	7	12	8	11	19
Departed without leave				1	2	3				1	2	3
Married					1	1		2	2		3	3
Infants placed in permanent homes					1	1	1	2	3	1	3	4
Infants placed in trial homes and not returned dur- ing period	1	4	5	3	2	5	7	2	9	11	8	19
Still born.....		3	3	2		2	2		2	4	3	7
Total removals.....	6	34	40	9	36	45	20	75	95	35	145	180
Absent in trial homes at com- mencement of or during period and later dis- charged without returning to in- stitution	5	4	9	3	3	6	7	5	12	15	12	27

*Includes those who have been previously in this or a similar insti-
tution.



WARDS OF THE NEBRASKA INDUSTRIAL HOME, MILFORD

TABLE II. AGES AND COLOR OF ADULTS ADMITTED

AGE	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913						For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914			Total for Biennium		
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13			July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13								
	W	C	T	W	C	T	W	C	T	W	C	T
14 and under 15.....				1		1				1		1
15 and under 16.....	1		1	2		2	4		4	7		7
16 and under 17.....	2		2	4		4	6		6	12		12
17 and under 18.....	3	1	4	2		2	6		6	11	1	12
18 and under 20.....	9	1	10	6		6	16		16	31	1	32
20 and under 25.....	11		11	7		7	10		10	28		28
25 and over.....	3		3	1		1				4		4
Totals.....	29	2	31	23		23	42		42	94	2	96

TABLE III. SEX AND COLOR OF INFANTS BORN AND ADMITTED

	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913						For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914			Total for Biennium		
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13			July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13								
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
White	10	15	25	9	15	24	20	9	29	39	39	78
Colored					2	2					2	2
Admitted: White....	1	1	2				1		1	2	1	3
Totals.....	11	16	27	9	17	26	21	9	30	41	42	83

TABLE IV. EDUCATION OF ADULTS ADMITTED

EDUCATION	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13		
	F	F	F	F
3rd grade & below	5	1	7	13
4th grade.....	2	4	5	11
5th grade.....	2	1	2	5
6th grade.....	2	2	4	8
7th grade.....	8	3	9	20
8th grade.....	8	8	10	26
High school.....	4	3	5	12
Unknown		1		1
Totals.....	31	23	42	96

TABLE V. NATIVITY OF ADULTS ADMITTED

NATIVITY	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13		
	F	F	F	F
Nebraska	18	17	25	60
U. S. other than Nebraska	8	3	12	23
Total native born....	26	20	37	83
Germany		1	2	3
Total foreign born..		1	2	3
Unknown	5	2	3	10
Totals.....	31	23	42	96

TABLE VI. NATIVITY OF PARENTS OF ADULTS ADMITTED

NATIVITY OF PARENTS	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13		
	F	F	F	F
U. S., both parents			17	17
Foreign, both par- ents	1	2	13	16
Mixed		1	5	6
Unknown	30	20	7	57
Totals.....	31	23	42	96

TABLE VII. PARENTAL CONDITIONS OF ADULTS ADMITTED.

PARENTAL CONDITION	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov.30,'13		
	F	F	F	F
Both parents dead..	3	4	6	13
Father dead.....	1	3	7	11
Mother dead.....	7	1	10	18
Parents living to- gether	19	12	14	45
Parents separated..	1	2	5	8
Has stepfather.....			1	1
Has stepmother.....	2		1	3
Unknown	1			1
Totals.....	34	22	44	100

TABLE VIII. AGES, AT DEATH OF PARENTS, OF ADULTS ADMITTED

AGE	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov.30,'13		
	F	F	F	F
Age at death of father:				
Under 10 years.....	1	2	3	6
10 and under 15 yrs	1		2	3
15 years and over..	1	3	4	8
Unknown		3	4	7
Age at death of mother:				
Under 10 years.....	3	2	7	12
10 and under 15 yrs	2		3	5
15 years and over..	3	2		5
Unknown	1	1	4	6
Totals.....	12	13	27	52

TABLE IX. ADMISSIONS OF ADULTS FROM DEFECTIVE OR DELINQUENT HOMES

CLASS	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov.30,'13		
	F	F	F	F
Feeble-minded:				
Father			1	1
Both parents.....	1			1
Insane:				
Father			1	1
Mother			1	1
Intemperate:				
Father	5		2	7
Mother		1		1
Delinquent:				
Father	4	2	1	7
Mother	1		2	3
Both parents.....	4	2	4	10
Brother	1		2	3
Sister	1		3	4
Unknown	9	6	14	29
Totals.....	26	11	31	68

TABLE X. PREVIOUS OCCUPATION OF ADULTS ADMITTED

OCCUPATION	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov.30,'13		
	F	F	F	F
Cash Girl.....			1	1
Clerk	2	1	2	5
Cook			3	3
Domestics	13	5	13	31
Factory			1	1
Hotel work.....	5	5	6	16
House-keeper			1	1
In school	5	3	7	15
Laundry			2	2
Office work	1		1	2
Teacher		1		1
Telegraph			1	1
Telephone	3	3		6
Unknown		1	2	3
Worked at home....	2	4	2	8
Totals.....	31	23	42	96

TABLE XI. COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE OF THOSE ADMITTED AND OF THOSE REMAINING AT END OF BIENNIUM

COUNTY	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov 30, '13		
	F	F	F	F
Adams		1		1
Antelope			1	1
Blaine	1			1
Box Butte		1		1
Buffalo	2	2	2	6
Butler			3	3
Cass	1		1	2
Clay	2		2	4
Colfax			1	1
Custer	1	1	2	4
Dawson			1	1
Dodge		2	2	4
Douglas		1	6	7
Fillmore	2	1	1	4
Franklin	1			1
Furnas		1	1	2
Gage	1	2	1	4
Gosper	1			1
Greeley	1		2	3
Hall	2	1		3
Hamilton	2	1		3
Harlan		1		1
Hitchcock			1	1
Johnson			2	2
Kearney	1			1
Lancaster	2	3	3	8
Madison	1			1
Merrick			1	1
Nance	1		1	2
Otoe		2		2
Pawnee	1			1
Platte	2		1	3
Polk	1			1
Saline	1		2	3
Saunders	1			1
Scotts Bluff			1	1
Sheridan		1		1
Sherman		1		1
Sioux	1			1
Valley		1	1	2
Wheeler	1			1
Yerk	1		3	4
Totals.....	31	23	42	96

TABLE XII. ADULTS—HOW ADMITTED

	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913		For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914	Total for Biennium
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13		
	F	F	F	F
Voluntary applica- tion	31	20	38	89
Decree of Court:				
Delinquency		2	4	6
Dependency		1		1
Totals.....	31	23	42	96

TABLE XIII. CAUSES OF DEATHS

CAUSES	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913			For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914			Total for Biennium		
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13	July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13		Nov. 30, 1914			Total for Biennium		
	M F T	M F T		M F T			M F T		
Acute intestinal ob- struction				1		1	1		1
Acute indigestion..					1	1		1	1
Aspiration pneu- monia					1	1		1	1
Congenital atelec- tasis				1		1	1		1
Gastro-enteric				1		1	1		1
Hydro-sephalus			1 1					1	1
Hematomogenous jaundice					1	1		1	1
Ileocolitis	1		1				1		1
Malnutrition			1 2 3	1	1	2	2	3	5
Pneumonia	1		1	1		1	2		2
Premature					2	2		2	2
Still born		3	3	2		2	2	4	7
Syphilis cirrhosis liver			1 1						1 1
Whooping cough					1	1		1	1
Totals.....	2	4	6	7	7	14	12	14	26

TABLE XIV. AGES AT DEATH

AGE	For Year Ending Nov. 30, 1913						For Year ending Nov. 30, 1914			Total for Biennium		
	Dec. 1, '12 to June 30, '13			July 1, '13 to Nov. 30, '13			M	F	T	M	F	T
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Under one month..	1		1	1	2	3	2	3	5	4	5	9
1 and under 3 mos							1	1	2	1	1	2
3 and under 6 mos	1		1				1	1	2	2	1	3
6 and under 12 mos							1	1	2	1	1	2
1 and under 2 yrs					1	1		1	1		2	2
16 and under 18 yrs		1	1								1	1
Totals.....	2	1	3	1	3	4	5	7	12	8	11	19

TABLE XV. DISTRIBUTION OF LABOR OF ALL ADULT MEMBERS
OF HOME AT END OF BIENNIUM, NOV. 30, 1914

Kitchen	4
Dining room.....	3
Laundry:	
Washing	2
Ironing	5
Mangling	4
Hanging clothes.....	2
Nurseries	6
House-work	9
Hospital ward	1
Totals.....	36