

**TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE OHIO BOARD OF
STATE
CHARITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING NOVEMBER 15, 1899**

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Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Ohio Board of State Charities for the Fiscal Year Ending
November 15, 1899 by Various

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VARIOUS

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[ADVANCE SHEETS]



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OF THE

OHIO

Board of State Charities

FOR THE

Fiscal Year Ending November 15, 1899.

COLUMBUS, OHIO:
THE WESTBOTE CO., STATE PRINTERS.
1900.

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The Board of Trustees



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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

(Term of office, three years.)

Names.	Residence.	Date of original appointment.	Present term expires.
Aza S. Bushnell, Governor.....	Columbus.....	President, ex officio.....
Charles Parrott.....	"	January 29, 1889.....	April 23, 1900
W. A. Hale.....	Dayton.....	May 12, 1897	" 1900
William Howard Neff	Cincinnati.....	April 23, 1880.....	" 1901
Henry C. Ranney.....	Cleveland.....	August 10, 1892.....	" 1901
Roeliff Brinkerhoff.....	Mansfield.....	April 23, 1878.	" 1902
M. D. Follett.....	Marietta.....	April 28, 1891.....	" 1902
Joseph P. Byers, Secretary.....	Columbus.....	Appointed by Board.....

LAW UNDER WHICH THE BOARD OF STATE CHARITIES OPERATES.

(O. L., Vol. 93, pp. 106-106.)

(As amended April 12, 1898.)

SECTION 655. The governor shall appoint six persons, not more than three of whom shall be from the same political party, who shall constitute a board of state charities, to serve without compensation; two of whom, as indicated by the governor, upon the fixed appointment, shall serve for one year, two for two years and two for three years; and upon the expiration of the term of each, his place, and that of his successor, shall, in like manner be filled, for the term of three years. The governor shall be ex-officio a member of said board and the president thereof. Appointments to fill vacancies caused by death, resignation or removal before the expiration of such terms may be made for the residue of terms in the same manner as original appointments.

Sec. 656. That the board of state charities shall be provided with a suitable room in the state house. Regular meetings of the board shall be held quarterly, or oftener if required. They may make such rules and orders for the regulation of their own proceedings as they may deem necessary. They shall investigate the whole system of public charities and correctional institutions of the state, examine into the condition and management thereof, especially of municipal and state prisons and reformatories, workhouses, jails, infirmaries, children's homes and state institutions; and the officers in charge of all such institutions, and those who are in any way responsible for the administration of public funds used for the relief or maintenance of the poor, shall furnish to the board, or its secretary, such information and statistics as they may require; and, to secure accuracy, uniformity and completeness in such statistics, the board may prescribe such forms of report and registration as they may deem necessary. And all plans for new jails, workhouses, children's homes, infirmaries, state institutions, and municipal lockups or prisons, and for important additions to, or alterations in such existing institutions, shall, before their adoption by the proper officials, be submitted to the board for criticism and approval. The governor, in his discretion, may, at any time, order an investigation by the board, or by a committee of its members, of the management of any penal, reformatory or charitable institution of the state, and said board or committee, in making any such investigation, shall have power to send for persons and papers, and to administer oaths and affirmations; and the report of such investigation, with the testimony, shall be made to the governor, and shall be submitted by him, with his suggestions, to the general assembly.

Sec. 657. That the said board may appoint a secretary, who shall receive for his services, in addition to his traveling expenses, such salary as may be agreed upon by the board, not to exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum. All accounts and expenditures shall be certified as may be provided by the board, and shall be paid by the treasurer upon an order from the auditor of state.

Sec. 658. The board of state charities shall annually prepare and print, for the use of the legislature, a full and complete report of all their doings during the preceding year, stating fully and in detail all expenses incurred, all officers and agents employed, with a report of the secretary, embracing all the respective proceedings and expenses during the year, and showing the actual condition of all the state institutions under their control, with such suggestions as they may deem necessary and pertinent.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Twenty-Fourth Annual Report

OF THE

Ohio Board of State Charities.

OFFICE OF THE OHIO BOARD OF STATE CHARITIES,
November 15, 1899.

To the Seventy-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Ohio :

The Ohio Board of State Charities herewith submits its Twenty-Fourth Annual Report.

During the year the Board has visited, by committees, all of the State Institutions. Their general condition has been found satisfactory. In many of them marked improvements have been made both in administration and in physical condition.

CUSTODIAL CARE OF ADULT IDIOTS.

By Act of the General Assembly passed April 22, 1898, (O. L., Vol. 98, p. 209), the prospective care of adult idiots is provided for. This important step forward has been recommended many times in past years by the Board of State Charities, and we heartily commend any additional legislation necessary for its speedy consummation.

What these essentials are Dr. G. A. Doren, Superintendent of the Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth, has fully presented in his report for the current year, with ample reasons therefor, and all necessary statistics, and to this report we refer for all needed information.

THE COLONY PLAN.

The law authorizing custodial care of idiots contemplates the adoption of what is known as the Colony Plan, and for that purpose authorized the purchase of a farm of not less than one thousand acres, which is to be under the care of the management of the Board of Trustees of the Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth.

Such a farm comprising 1,068 acres, 12 miles southwest of the city of Columbus, has already been purchased, at a cost of \$69,950, which has been in charge of the State since February 25, 1899.

Dr. Doren says that "the care of the land not rented upon shares made it necessary to locate a number of our larger boys, varying from sixteen to twenty-two, upon the place. These were accommodated in tents during the mild weather, doing the hay harvesting, cultivating that part of the ploughed land not rented, and assisting in the building of sheds for the protection of the feed and stock, as well as a cottage for the accommodation of the workers."

The electric lights have been extended to all of the existing buildings adding greatly to the comfort of the inmates.

Dr. Doren recommends the erection of three buildings annually, each accommodating one hundred inmates, which can be done largely by the inmates, and believes that the colony can be made largely self-supporting.

DEAF AND DUMB.

Concerning the number of deaf children of school age in the State, we have but imperfect data. While the law requires the assessors to take an enumeration of these children every four years, we find that in a large majority of the townships they have failed to make any satisfactory returns. From numerous investigations which have been made by people interested in the deaf, it is found that the proportion of deaf to the total population varies from one to fifteen hundred to one to twenty-five hundred. We think it would be a reasonable estimate to say there is one deaf child of school age to every four thousand population, and on this basis there are probably one thousand such children in the State. The institution gives instruction to five hundred each year, the school in Cincinnati to forty, in Cleveland to forty, in Elyria to seven and in Dayton five. In all of the schools for the deaf in the State there are no more than six hundred children in attendance. Probably fifty more are receiving private instruction or are attending schools outside of the State making six hundred and fifty children educated. It is the duty of the State to provide for the education of all these children. She has undertaken to do so by the enactment of two laws by the last legislature looking to the establishment of day schools wherever five children can be collected for that purpose. Two such laws are on the Statute Books. One touches Cleveland and Cincinnati only and the other the State in general. The former law provides for instruction in public schools of all deaf children between the ages of three and twenty-one; the second between the ages of three and fifteen. It was the intention of the author of the

second law that when these children had reached the age at which they could begin to learn a trade, they should be transferred to the institution for that purpose and for continuing their education. Thus we have three channels through which deaf children can be reached, all separate and distinct. It would probably be a wise provision could these schools be unified and be made branches of the institution at Columbus giving children primary education where it is possible, and transferring them to the institution when they have reached a certain grade. This need not destroy the identity of day schools where they can be maintained by boards of education, but strengthen them by uniformity in course of study and method of instruction. This is the more important in view of the fact that but few, if any, of these schools can provide for manual training owing to the small number of pupils in attendance and the circumstances surrounding them. Numerous trades are taught in the institution which enable the graduates of the school to go out into the world and make their own living. The institution also offers advantages for a high school education which can scarcely be hoped for in the smaller schools of the State. We are quite sure if this plan could be adopted that the management of the institution would look after the organization of day schools in many cities where they are neglected because of lack of knowledge on the part of the boards of education and the parents of children. In this way provision could be made for the education of all the deaf children in the State.

OHIO STATE REFORMATORY.

The Ohio State Reformatory had its origin in an act of the General Assembly, passed April 14, 1884, authorizing the erection of an intermediate penitentiary. On account of the insufficient appropriations its progress toward completion has been very slow; however, after the lapse of ten years one wing of the new institution was sufficiently advanced to authorize the reception of a limited number of prisoners. In the meantime, by act of the General Assembly, passed April 24, 1891, the name of the institution was changed to that of the "Ohio State Reformatory," and by the same act, rules and regulations for its organization and government, upon what is known as the Elmira system, were enacted.

As a beginning, and in order to secure prison labor for grading and getting the grounds in order, 150 short term prisoners were transferred to the Reformatory from the Ohio Penitentiary, in September, 1896, and its occupancy began. Since then other prisoners have been added by sentence of the courts, so that during the current year, ending November 15, the average number of inmates has been about 300.