

STATE IS BOYS' BIG BROTHER

Through the Oregon Training School It Reclaims the Few Who Are Really Bad and Tends the Unfortunate Who Have No Other Homes—Average Stay of Lads at School Is 20 Months—Youths Win Way out Through Merit System

Not more than one boy out of every six who are sent to the state training school for boys is really "bad," according to Superintendent W. L. Kuser. Perhaps that proportion of the boys are bad; not necessarily beyond redemption, but of such natures and training that they need treatment of their own. The others are mostly out-of-luck little lads who need a home and not punishment; food and not floggings; love and not law.

There are now 156 boys at the school; the number has been up as high as 145. They come and go in rather quick procession. The average age at the time of commitment is about 14 years. The average length of stay back in the Iowa school, where Supt. Kuser was in charge for a number of years, was 20 months; the records here have not been exactly compiled, but are believed to be about the same as for Iowa. That would let the boys out at an average age of a little under 16 years.

Most of them go there originally as the victims of broken homes. Of course there are exceptions, but the rule is general, that either one parent, or both, is either dead or departed. The boys are committed to the school because home conditions have been bad enough to fail to give them adequate training. It wasn't ever intended to be a mere orphan's home; but in fact it has to be that for many of the luckless boys.

There are 504 acres in the school farm; about 300 acres of this area is under cultivation. The boys do most of the work, under general supervision. They raise the vegetables, the fruits, the stock feed, used on the place. There is a fine herd of 26 Holstein cows, and the boys do all the dairying. It's a great place for milk; the boys are milk-fed almost to their hearts' content. They take great interest in the dairying and stock raising; it offers them training for their citizenship life after they are released.

A boy committed to the school is the arbiter of his own fate. By a system of merit awards, it is possible for the boy to earn his own parole in less than a year's time; it could be done within nine months—whereas the average stay is 20 months, or more than twice as long as the minimum. The earning of merit badges is altogether easy; they fairly earn themselves, if the boy will but allow them to do so. There are a number of responsible jobs where extra credits can be earned; for special work on holidays, or for especially hard or disagreeable work of any kind, time and a half is paid in "credits," and these all apply on the record that leads to a parole.

It is an interesting commentary on the character of the boys, that there are five or six times as many applications for these special positions as there are places to fill. The boys yearn for the chance to distinguish themselves, to merit trust and confidence, to earn their own release from the school bondage. They are willing to pay the price of extra service, for this distinction; and under the system in vogue at the school, they are encouraged to accept all the responsibility that can be given them. Some of them have an executive training in these jobs, that a college graduate might envy.

As most of the boys come to the school well behind their normal school grades for their ages, an excellent school is maintained for their benefit. This comprises the full regular eighth grade course as laid out by the state board of education, and an added year of high school work. The eighth grade graduates are examined by the county authorities, and receive their certificates as do the pupils of any other school.

As there are not a few boys there from homes where love and family responsibility were lacking, this mark of defective rationality is noticeable in the boys themselves from these loveless, fly-by-night homes; there are more slow or slightly warped mentalities there than in the average group of boys from good homes. But the school brings most of them along in an admirable way. There are three teachers.

At this season of the year there is an especial demand for boys who can be paroled out for the season's farm work. The parole officers take particular care to prevent the exploitation of the boys for brutal servitude; it has to be a real home, and not a slave gang, that receives one of these wards of the state. The old days of the "bound boy" are gone so far as Oregon is concerned; the boys go out only to places where they can have the advantage of a self-respecting boy should have. They have earned their parole, have paid their debts, and start in with a clean slate; no one can expect to browbeat them into slavery, for any past mistake or misfortune. There are very few who ever have to be sent back a second time; most of those who are paroled are cured for keeps.

A number of trades are carried on in the school for the two good reasons of school economy and for personal life-training. Carpentry,



W. L. KUSER
Superintendent of Oregon State Training School for Boys

shoemaking, dairying, machine shop work, printing, baking, laundering, tailoring, are taught under competent instructors; the boy who gets all the school can teach him in any one of these branches

is practically a journeyman graduate by the time he finishes the school, and has a trade for life. This the school authorities consider the surest means of reclamation—to give every boy a trade

that will encourage him to settle down and become a good citizen.

While the present building plant is not at all what the modern school practice demands, there is still much opportunity for enjoyment. There is music for everybody who cares to sing or play. The Progressive Business club of Portland came down last year with a magnificent set of new band instruments for the school, and the band is now working up to a good degree of proficiency. There is tennis and baseball in the summer, and basketball in the winter. There is a voluntary Bible class, that is very largely attended. Every week there is a good movie show; and a number of the Salem musical and dramatic organizations have given entertainments during the year. The last was the big Lions' minstrel show a week ago.

The school is maintained with the view of giving to the luckless ones a home, and to the mischievous ones an ideal, and to all the hope of a restoration to good citizenship. In some cases, the state's best efforts fail; but these cases are negligible, and the net result of the school is a splendid restoration of an element that, neglected and maltreated, might become a deadly menace to society.

There are many unpretentious Salem enterprises that nevertheless represent a really great payroll. The Statesman Publishing Company alone, with its various publications, its carriers, its commercial printing business, has an annual payroll of close to \$120,000. This goes into every avenue of local business, and it brings in money from all over the Northwest to be spent in Salem, the home town. It would be worth while to see more of these busy local industries.

OREGON FIGHTING PLAGUE

State Has Equipped Sanitarium at Salem, Where Great Work Is Being Done in Rescuing Victims from Clutches of Tuberculosis—Permanent Cures in 25 per cent of Cases

A more or less popular foundation for a sob story is the picture of mother or father or child wasting away in the grasp of tuberculosis, when a little money would take the invalid to health and strength and gladness. It may stand for any one of several basic plots—the crime of wealth in which not all may share; the self-sacrifice of the hero or the heroine who makes a way for the victim to escape the impending fate; the callousness of the common public that does not know or perhaps care; and various other heart-rending propaganda. Most frequently it really represents the author's desire to sell a story, and he can play a sounding tune on the string of human sympathy.

Real life in Oregon gives a curious and hopeful denial to this as a necessary or even a usual condition. The state tuberculosis hospital near Salem is the living proof that the world is far better than the pessimist would believe. The hospital is crowded, with a few more patients than its highest rated capacity of 120 inmates; and there are 30 or 40 applications in for other patients for whom there is not now room. The legislature this winter appropriated \$20,000 for a new building, which is to be built as soon as possible this spring; this will care for 32 more patients, and practically clear up the waiting list.

The service is free to any one who has lived in the state for a year, and is so a lawful state charge. This service covers everything—board, room, medical care, nursing; the patient is asked only to provide personal belongings such as clothing, and transportation. There is no distinction as to social standing, or wealth, or on any other basis; the one fact that is considered is the actual physical need of service. One exception might be made in that those who are known to be able to pay for private sanitariums, are dismissed with a great ceremony; the hospital, while not carrying with it even the suggestion of a poverty oath, is nevertheless intended mostly for those who might not have had means to take the necessary treatment.

Dr. Grover C. Bellinger, in charge, says that Oregon is as good a country for the tuberculosis patient as in the highest and driest and hottest of the southwestern states. There is one class, those with asthmatic tendencies, where a dry climate is better; but these he finds to comprise not more than three per cent of the total number affected by tuberculosis calling for treatment. Some have believed that there was no real cure except in the oven-like desert of the southwest. The figures of the Oregon institution, compiled over a number of years, seem to show that health reigns in Oregon where nature always smiles, as truly as where the mercury boils and all humanity hates itself and all created things because of the tempestuous heat.

The average stay of the patients in the state hospital has been about 8 1/2 months. This is of their own choosing; they could stay longer if they so chose. Most of them would be better, say the doctors, if they did stay a little longer. As it is, about 60 per cent are discharged appreciably improved. Fully 25 per cent of



DR. G. C. BELLINGER
Superintendent of Oregon State Tuberculosis Hospital

all who come, are eventually entirely cured, according to the five-year reports tabulated covering the former patients who have come back to home life.

In one sense, these figures are a bit misleading. Some states have two grades of hospitals: The local, either city or county, where the aggravated cases are held, for which there is less hope; and then the state, to which all the patients who seem susceptible of either marked improvement or complete cure are sent. Oregon does not make this distinction; all cases go to the state hospital. To figure the total number of patients, many other states show a noticeably smaller percentage of cures than does the Oregon institution. This is its own commentary on the healthfulness of the Oregon climate, and the efficiency of the Oregon hospital.

The tuberculosis hospital does not "run into money" as do most of the other state institutions. It is largely an out-door home; with good floors, good roofs, and with walls that may be mostly glass or screen and not expensive brick and mortar. The outdoors is the great cure—the wind and the sun and the clean rain and the balsam of the evergreen woods. The average temperature of the hospital rooms is not greater in excess of that of the real outdoors; there is none of the steam-heating that some kinds of institutions need.

"They accept the cold treatment with surprisingly good grace," said Dr. Bellinger. "It is very

rare indeed than any patient complains of the cold—which would seem intolerable, perhaps, in the ordinary home or in other institutions. They come for help; they accept the treatment as the very best that science has yet devised, and they help to make it good. If more of them would stay longer, there would be a larger percentage of complete cures. The results, however, are most gratifying.

Three-fifths of the patients cared for at the hospital, are men. This, however, does not represent any such proportion of cases in the state; about equal numbers of men and women are affected. But the hospital authorities find that more women dislike or fear to leave their home; and more of them go to the private sanitariums. More frequently, when the man is laid up, the income stops; and there is no money left for private hospital service, so the state is the necessary Big Brother to step in and take charge of the case. The proportion of cures is about the same for the two sexes.

The new hospital building that is to be erected this year, will provide accommodations for practically all who have applied for admission. If there are others to come later, more room will have to be provided.

Figured on the present attendance, and the average length of stay, about 160 patients are served during a year; of whom at least 40 are restored to complete health. Even from a sordid utilitarian standpoint, it costs so much to grow a child to maturity, that the saving of 40 mature lives, ready-grown and restored to commercial society, is a great financial investment. Insurance and industrial tables estimate a life to be worth from \$10,000 upwards, to society as a whole. To restore 40 forfeited lives every year, and to repair many others so that they will serve for at least a few years takes this hospital entirely out of the realm of charity or paternalism, if one wishes to consider it solely from that standpoint, and makes it a factory that pays 1000 per cent every year on its money cost.

And yet even the money saving pales into insignificance as one considers the sweet spirit of charity and brotherly love that such an institution exemplifies. The restored homes, the family ties that are saved from breakings, the decent self-respect that a state should feel in serving the unfortunate ones in its midst, make it more than a financial investment; it is the soul of civilization that lives because it loves.

Col. Bryan no doubt dropped in on Senator Harding to learn how he did it.

BLIND SCHOOL DOES BIG WORK

Imparts Instruction in First Ten Grade Subjects—Excellent Literary Accomplishments Made by Students and Musical Instruction Provided—Attendance Not Large, 44 Enrolled, 20 More Waiting—Prof. J. W. Howard Superintendent

For more than 50 years, the Oregon School for the Blind has been in operation, performing its merciful work of giving light to the lives that are darkened by the loss of vision.

It is not now, and never has been, a very large school; it is even hoped that it never may be large, for that implies so many more afflicted persons than are now found within the state borders. It has at this time 44 pupils; there are about 20 more who have made application for admission, but there is no room. Until the state provides accommodations for all those who have lost their sight, they are doomed to grow up in hopeless darkness.

The last legislature appropriated \$55,000 for a new modern dormitory, which is to be built this summer; this is expected to take care of practically all the blind pupils of the state. There is no reason to expect any material increase in the numbers, save as the natural growth of population increases the number without raising the percentage.

Rather curiously, the decrease of the mining industry may bring a decrease in the number of blind children. Especially among the boys, explosion of giant caps used in blasting is a fruitful source of danger. The mining industry of Oregon has fallen to almost nothing at all; and there cannot be so many boys to blow out their own eyes in playing with these deadly, shiny caps. The adoption of laws requiring particular attention to the eyes of new-born infants has greatly reduced the number of cases of blindness, in Oregon fully as much as in any other state. A constant decrease in the proportionate number of blind to any given large unit of population, may be expected.

A course covering the first ten grades of the public and high school system, is given in the school. Some very excellent literary work is being done here. More attention is given to music



DR. J. W. HOWARD
Superintendent Oregon State School for Blind

than to almost any other study; it offers a better possibility for a livelihood than almost any other work that can be taken up. Piano tuning was made to order for the person whose ears must be both eyes and ears through life. The ear, trained to distinguish sounds where the eye of the normal person would see and supply part of the facts, becomes abnormally keen; one could readily believe that the blind piano tuner will have the finer sense of tone values, and if properly trained that a technique of the business, will be the better tuner. This industry

appeals to a good many of the school graduates.

Leading up to this, they are given a thorough course in music; instrumental, vocal, theoretical. There are openings for professional organists and pianists, in the morning picture shows especially, that there seems to be a continuing market for all the good musicians that the blind school can turn out. Prof. T. S. Roberts, for the past 17 years the organist at the great First Methodist church in Salem, was for years in the Oregon school for the blind; he has become famous as a teacher and as a performing artist.

Not all those who are in the school are totally deprived of sight. Especially among those who are the victims of accident, such as explosions, there is usually a limited ability to see; but not enough to carry on school work under usual school conditions. The common school where as the teachers in the Salem schools have an average of 30 pupils each, they have classes only one-fifth as large in the blind school. A bill before the recent legislature called for the appropriation of \$500 per pupil, to supply individual readers and tutors for the blind students in the state universities; this gives a fair idea of the individual services that a teacher in such an institution must perform.

Prof. W. A. Howard, who came here from Lansing, Mich., is the superintendent. He has been in Oregon a number of years, and the work of the school is above criticism. He has an efficient corps of teachers, who are devoted to their work. The school has a delightful home, so far as location goes, though the buildings are at present inadequate. The new building that is to be built this year, to be ready for occupancy by the beginning of the school

year, September 1, will give the school adequate working facilities and make it even more of a state credit than it has been in the past.

FINDS HEALTH IN OPEN

J. M. McCaleb, Monmouth, Saves Life and Succeeds

J. M. McCaleb, proprietor of the Normal City Poultry and Breeding yards, exemplifies the opportunity that exists here for the man or woman who wishes to enter this field of activity. Mr. McCaleb was formerly a professional man, living at independence. His health broke down and he was forced to get out into the open or die. He took up poultry farming, made a success of it, a tremendous success, so that today he is one of the important breeders and hatchers of the northwest. McCaleb was intelligent and he knew that he didn't know anything about the business. Therefore he availed himself of the services of knowledge. He consulted the OAC experts, chose the foundation birds from highly producing strains and by proper breeding he has improved his flock until today it is acknowledged to be one of the leaders of the northwest.

Mr. McCaleb also hatches chicks for the trade—commercially. His plant has a capacity of over 17,000 chicks and he finds it difficult to keep abreast of his orders.

To make every acre of his territory produce the returns which nature intended it to produce is the objective of the Salem program. This development is bringing canneries and industrial plants—and people.

STATE HAS BUT FEW GIRLS

Less Than 50 Inmates in State Training School—Excellent Instruction in Grade and High School Subjects Given—Healthful Entertainment—Mrs. Clara Patterson Supt.

When the dormitory at the Girls' Training school burned, last year, it came near putting the institution out of business, for lack of a home for the girls. The recent appropriation of \$42,000 for a new building and for some repairs of the old, is already well at work; so that as soon as the construction can be finished, they will have fairly adequate accommodations for the school.

Either girls are naturally better than boys, or else the parents of girls stick together and maintain homes better than do the parents of boys, or else more girls than boys are taken directly from broken homes and put into new homes that care for them, for there are only about one-third as many girls in the girls' school, or eligible to such a school, as there are boys of like age. All may have some bearing; the net result is as stated, for the girls' school has only 47 inmates, as against about 150 boys in the boys' school.

They come of all ages, from 12 years upwards. They come under commitment from the juvenile court, before the age of 18; from the justice court above the age of 18. They may be paroled to legal guardians, to any responsible friend approved by the courts; some are paroled back to their own homes, under conditions that make it possible to return them to the school at any time, without long-drawn-out legal procedure. A full high school course of study is provided, and the work starts at the fourth grade. Music is encouraged, though it is not a specialty as it is in the school for the blind. Prof. John Sites of Salem has a few special pupils in the school, who show especial talent.

Basketry and rug-making are taught; and the farm work gives employment to a number of girls. Dairying, gardening and house-keeping are carried on by the girls. An especial effort is made to give the girls good social opportunities. There is a movie every week, of the best films that can be secured. Various entertainments are provided from Salem, through the civic clubs that make a specialty of uplift and social improvement. Recently an especially fine musical and literary entertainment was put on by a deputational from the State Normal at Monmouth. Little entertainments of their own making are encouraged all through the year.

The new building, which is to be finished for occupancy in the near future, will allow of the segregation of the large and the smaller girls. Some come there merely as the victims of hard financial conditions; with parents dead, and no other home open, they are not in the remotest sense sent there for waywardness, but merely for a home. There may be a few who are determinedly wayward; they are the rare exception. Early training, however, is

frequently such as to have hidden private homes, or to the Louise Home, or the House of the Good Shepherd, or the Salvation Army Rescue Homes. These institutions do not meet the need of the many sad cases where there is nothing worse than orphanage—which is not a crime, and demands the tenderest home care. With the growth of a public social consciousness, that aims to find real homes and not institutions for the out-of-lucks of society, there may be even fewer girls and boys in all these state institutions. But while things are as they are, the two Oregon schools are being maintained on an exceptionally high standard, and the state has reason to be proud of them.

Mrs. Clara C. Patterson has been the superintendent for the past three years. The school itself is not very old; it was established in 1913. Before that time, the girls who were in the hands of the courts, were sent either to

private homes, or to the Louise Home, or the House of the Good Shepherd, or the Salvation Army Rescue Homes. These institutions do not meet the need of the many sad cases where there is nothing worse than orphanage—which is not a crime, and demands the tenderest home care. With the growth of a public social consciousness, that aims to find real homes and not institutions for the out-of-lucks of society, there may be even fewer girls and boys in all these state institutions. But while things are as they are, the two Oregon schools are being maintained on an exceptionally high standard, and the state has reason to be proud of them.

INSANITY'S TOLL BIG

Oregon's Asylum, Like Those of Other States, Holds Many Who Break Down Mentally During Life's Stress

Just how large an institution the Oregon State Hospital is may be gathered from the fact that 3171 patients were received there during the biennium 1921-22; an average of more than four persons every day. The report for the two years shows that 1845 were actually in the institution on September 30, 1922, the date on which the official report was made.

These unfortunates come from almost every country on the globe. The larger number are of Oregon birth. Following this home state follows Illinois, and close after that is Germany. They come from black, white, yellow, brown, red races; everywhere there is the taint of heredity, the disaster of accident. Two of them are of unknown parentage; there is no way to identify them—physical and mental waits with no hope of a home.

The tragedy of sordid drudgery is told in the occupation of the inmates. The laborer class contributes 222 men, and the housewife classification shows 291 women. There are 108 farmers; the farmers' wives who let slip their mental moorings because of the ceaseless grind and overwork are included in the housewife class. It may be good for man to labor with his hands; but the records do not indicate that it is well to slave away too long hours on too slavish work. It is a fair guess that the automobile is going to relieve many a farmer's wife from the black cloud of a lost mentality—though paying for it on a laborer's wage may send more laborers to the wards for financial treatment.

Few from the Woods
Only 21 men appear in the whole list as connected with the whole logging and lumbering in-



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Superintendent of Oregon State Hospital

dustry. The shortening of the working day through the northwest, and the clean, vigorous lives that are lived out in the great woods seem to show this industry a safer occupation than many others.

The causes of insanity have been carefully tabulated, and the table makes a profoundly interesting study. Syphilis in some form, either contracted or hereditary, is given as the causes for 53 cases. This is third in the list of causes for insanity; "worry and trouble," which is a wide and inclusive term, has 83 patients, and senility has 76. The last is of course hardly avoidable, save by Osherson. The worry and trouble classification might be remedied in many ways; but the syphilitic cases, according to science, are ultimately eradicable, down to the

last case. Plain decency will eventually wipe this black plague off the list; and with it might go many of the other alleged causes that without doubt have their origin in this sinister source. Alcoholism and drugs each claim 13 patients, according to the alleged causes as recorded in the record; there may be many others that spring from these primary causes. One patient is the sufferer through frenzy for the suicide board; six because of furious, un-governable temper; 19 through some form of religious delusion; one through "probable stress of army life"; two from stroke, and a startling variety of apparent causes.

Many Employes
Naturally, it takes a large number of employes, nurses, attendants, doctors, to care for this unfortunate army. Some of them cannot be left with safety, either to themselves or to their companions, for even a moment. Some are incapable of caring for themselves, and must have their slightest physical needs attended to by others. The biennium payroll amounted to \$368,436.81, apportioned to 569 employes, or an average pay of only a little more than \$329 per year. It is significant that only a few of those who are in the institution draw pay for full two years; it is ill-paid work, and sometimes dangerous and always heart-rending work, and not many employes stay on steadily. The pay is the poorest of any of the state institutions, and the work is the hardest on the nerves.

The Oregon hospital has earned the reputation of being one of the model institutions of the whole United States; as it is also one of the largest. It has made the place a wonderful horticultural show ground; the gardening and flowers have been real curatives as well as public beauty spots, helping the inmates as well as the general public. The Cottage Farm has produced vast quantities of food for the use of the institution; it could not possibly be made self-supporting, with so vast an army of incapables who are not only unable to work, but require expensive supervision day and night. But the poultry yards, the dairy barns, the fruit and garden spots, do go a long way towards keeping down expenses.

Help Themselves by Work
The place is run with the idea of utilizing every physical and mental resource of the patients, both to help pay their way and to restore the fine equilibrium of the now jangling mentality. Outdoor work is one of the best things for many people, if carried on under favorable conditions such as prevail in the Oregon hospital. Gardening and the care of flowers has no superior as a medicinal treatment. As much music is utilized as can be used; this, too, is a recognized mental curative agency.

According to the report of the superintendent, Dr. R. E. L. Steiner, the hospital is already overcrowded. This is recognized as an especially harmful condition for the treatment of mental troubles; they call for orderly comfort and mental and physical rest.

Salem is the state capital of Oregon and the state's second city in size.