

Iowa School for the Deaf

Council Bluffs has the distinction of having within its immediate vicinity one of the foremost of the state institutions—the Iowa School for the Deaf. The school is located about three miles southeast of the city and stands on a beautiful elevation in the midst of 160 acres of fields and groves. Here on an average 300 of Iowa's children afflicted in the respect that unlike their more fortunate brothers and sisters they have been deprived of the senses of hearing speech, find a home and receive an education which fits them to go forth and battle with the world. Here these children are trained to become useful members of society. It is in no sense an asylum, but simply what its name implies, a school maintained by the state, without expense to the pupil. In addition to the manual alphabet and sign language, lip reading and articulation are taught. Practical education is one of the features of the school and the girls receive a thorough training in housework, sewing, fancy needlework, dressmaking and cooking, while the boys are taught farming, gardening, printing, carpentering, shoemaking and baking.



HENRY W. ROTHERTH, SUPERINTENDENT STATE DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE AT COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia.

The institution, located as it is in the midst of 160 acres, is practically a little world of its own. The approaches to the main building are avenues of stately trees, and the grounds present a pleasing appearance to the eye. The main building of the institution is an imposing edifice of brick and stone and stands on a beautiful elevation from which a magnificent view of the surrounding country, with Lake Manawa in the distance, can be obtained. In the center it is five stories high with a forty-foot tower, and the east and west wings are each of four stories. The entire length of this building is 320 feet and its width is sixty feet. The east wing or girls' side is occupied on the third and fourth floors by the girls' dormitories. The second floor is used for guest chambers, girls' sitting rooms, girls' study rooms and the sewing department. The basement contains the girls' bath and clothes rooms, the female domestics' sleeping apartments, storeroom and girls' play room.

The west wing, or boys' side, has on the third floor the smaller boys' dormitory, while the fourth floor contains the larger boys' sleeping apartments. Every boy has a nice iron cot to himself. On the second floor are to be found the boys' study and reading rooms. In the basement are the boys' bath rooms and clothes rooms, sleeping rooms for the male help and the flower department, with a conservatory attached on the outside in rear of the building. Here the pupils are taught to raise and care for plants of all kinds.

On the fifth floor of the central building is located the hospital, which is a complete institution in itself, having hot and cold water, steam heat, electric light and gas, bath room and toilet rooms, pantry and separate rooms for the nurses. There are separate apartments for the boy invalids and the sick girls, rooms for parents who may wish to be near their children when sick, doctors' room and the dispensary. There is a preliminary ward for contagious diseases and a separate hospital, isolated and secure, for the care of patients suffering from infectious and contagious diseases. An elevator from the basement runs to the hospital with intermediate landings on the floors below.

Results of Sanitary Care.

Owing to the careful attention that has been paid to the sanitary requirements of the school there is as a rule but very little sickness among the pupils and the records show that there has been but one single death during the last seven years.

The fourth floor of the central building was formerly occupied for chapel purposes, but is now divided into large airy rooms for the larger boys' dormitories. The third floor is occupied by the rooms of the resident male and female teachers. These rooms are tastily furnished and as far as practicable in an institution of such a size every home comfort is provided for both the pupils and the teachers.

The second or office floor contains the parlors, two guest chambers, public and private office of the superintendent and the living rooms of the superintendent and matron. In the guests' parlor can be seen on the walls many beautiful specimens of paint-

ings in oil, water color and crayon, all the work of pupils of the institution. Both the office and sleeping apartment of the superintendent is connected by telephone with every department and building of the school, so that he can be called or consulted if necessary at any time of the day or night. The office in which the valuable records of the institution are kept is protected by a burglar alarm system.

The basement or first story of the central portion of the main building is divided into two large rooms designed and used as play rooms, one for the boys and the other for the girls. The means adopted to protect the building and inmates against fire are extensive. On each floor there are two standpipes with valves and hose attached, leading water direct from the reservoir on the hill, which affords ample pressure. In addition there are two immense cisterns adjacent to the buildings with pumps able to throw a powerful stream on the building if required. Every room in the building has electric light and steam heat. Underneath the entire structure a tunnel runs from east to west with an outside opening allowing pure fresh air to penetrate every space within its confines.

Immediately in the rear of and adjoining the main building is an addition erected in 1899, in which are located the pupils' dining room and the large chapel. The entire lower floor, seventy by eighty-five feet, is assigned as a pupils' dining room, access to which is had by doors on the east and west sides, as well as by hallways leading direct from the boys' and girls' play rooms. The same system of steam heat, gas and electric light prevails here as elsewhere. The chapel on the second floor is seventy feet long, fifty feet wide and twenty-five feet high. An elevated platform or stage covers the center of the south wall, while a long gallery runs the entire width on the north side, thus affording all facilities for a large convenient audience room. On the walls are to be seen the following mottoes in large letters: "Honesty," "Integrity," "Economy," "Industry," "Energy." This chapel is used as the assembly room of the institution and frequently here the superintendent assembles the pupils of an evening and talks to them. Here the commencement exercises are held and on Sunday the regular religious services.

Library and Museum.

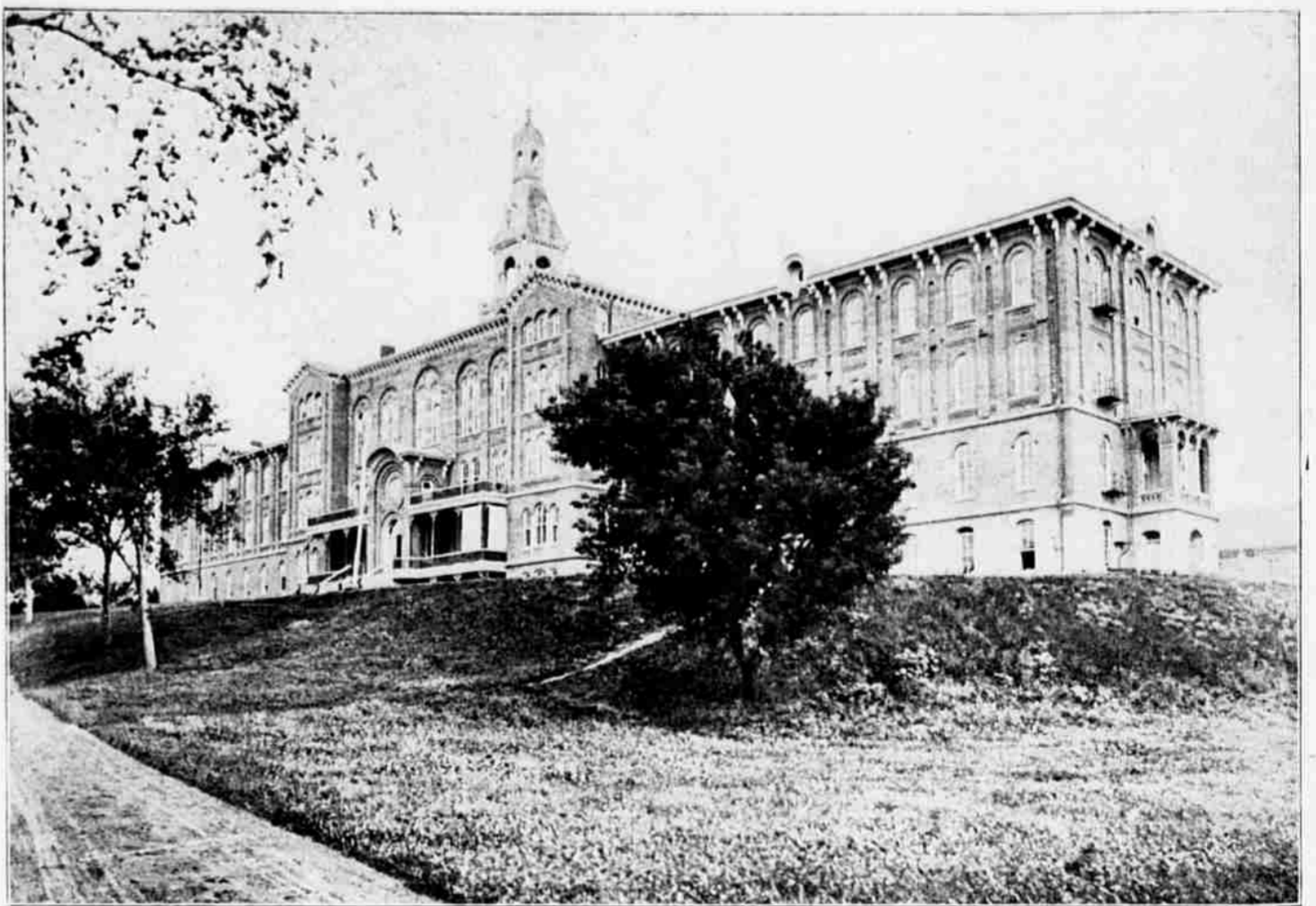
The space remaining between the chapel and the main building is divided into commodious rooms for library, reading room, museum, board room, superintendent's main office and bookkeeper's office. In the museum is a fine collection of stuffed birds and specimens of minerals. In the library there are 3,000 well selected volumes, neatly bound, and their condition shows the care with which the pupils handle them. Adjoining the library is a cozy reading room. The pupils are allowed to procure books from the library on Wednesday and Saturday nights and on Sundays. In the library also can be seen specimens in glass cases of beautiful embroidery, the work of pupils, and samples of shoes manufactured by the boys, ranging from the dainty patent leather slipper fit to grace the foot of the first lady of the land to the heavy boot of the ploughman. On the walls are the group photographs of every graduating class since the institution was founded.

Above these rooms and in rear of the gallery, in the third story of the building, are four large sleeping apartments for officers of the institution.

Immediately in rear of the pupils' dining room is situated the kitchen. It is a two-story building, containing on the first floor two pantries, steam room and kitchen proper. The floor is of cement, the ceiling of corrugated iron and the walls plastered. Two dumb waiters lead from this floor to the three rooms above, used respectively for helps' dining room, officers' and teachers' dining rooms and the superintendent's private dining room. The laundry, at the rear of the kitchen, is a large two-and-a-half story building, with basement or cellar below. Here are placed the five large boilers which supply the steam for heat and power. On the first floor is the laundry proper, di-



STATE DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE CATTLE COMING TO WATER AT COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia.—Photo by J. H. Corlies.



MAIN BUILDING STATE DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE AT COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia.—Photo by J. H. Corlies.

vided into three rooms, receiving, supply and wash and steam room. A small engine runs the washers, wringers and mangles above. On the second floor is the ironing department. Here is situated the ironing school, where the girls are taught, under competent teachers, this important branch of household work, commencing with the ironing of a pocket handkerchief and ending when they can turn out a man's dress white shirt.

The school house is built of brick, two stories high, besides a basement and attic, with a slate roof. It is located on a gentle eminence at a distance of about fifteen rods from the main building. The location affords a view of landscape scenery across the Missouri to its banks on the Nebraska side, with Lake Manawa and the cities of Omaha and Council Bluffs in the distance.

The first and second floors each have five school rooms on each side of a hall passing through each story, making twenty large, well ventilated recitation rooms, each of which is supplied with individual folding desks for the pupils and heated by steam from the boiler house. The recitation rooms average 20x30 feet and a blackboard four and a half feet wide extends around all the walls of each room. There are adequate cloak rooms for both boys and girls. The office of the principal is situated in this building.

Industrial Departments.

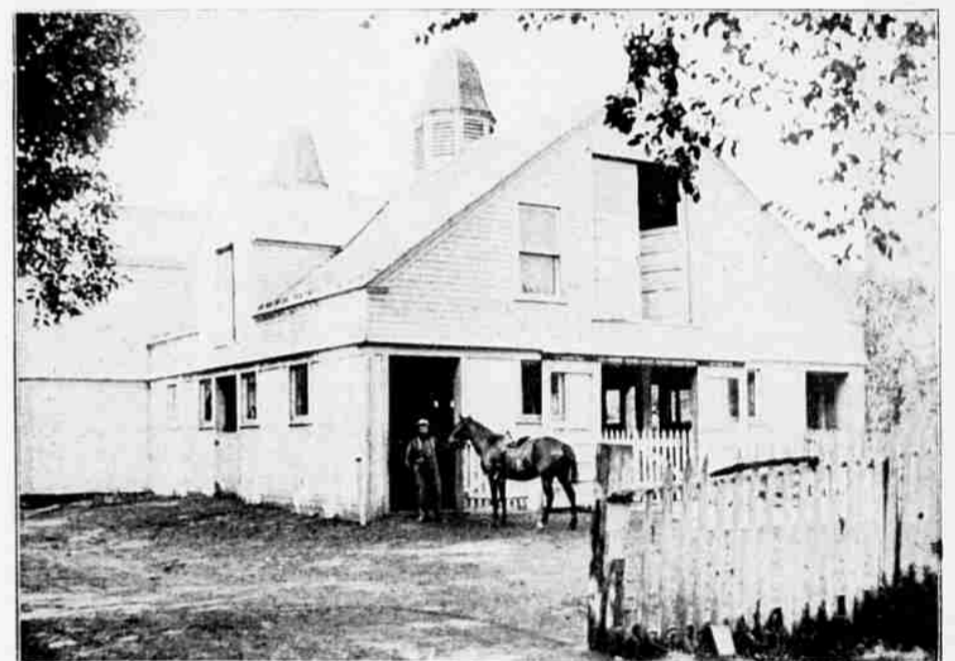
The industrial departments of the school are one of the main features of the institution. Here the boys are taught the trades of printer, carpenter or shoemaker. The industrial school building consists of a main structure with a south wing and is so constructed that if the needs of the institution require it a north wing can be added at any time. The center building is forty feet front and thirty-six feet wide and, including basement, three stories high. The basement floor, provided with an area space of six feet on the west and north sides, giving ample light and ventilation, is occupied by the broom making department. It also contains the steam cylinder press on which the weekly paper of the institution, "The Deaf Hawkeye," is printed, all the work of composition and printing being done by the pupils, and typographically the paper is undoubtedly a great credit to the young men responsible for it. On the second floor is the compositors' room, or the printing office proper. It is provided with all reasonable modern improvements and is entitled to favorable com-

parison with any printing office of similar dimensions in the state. One room is devoted to chalk plate work, and some of the pupils have developed considerable proficiency in this art, to which the paper testifies. The entire building is lighted by electric light, controlled by switches on each floor, and is heated by steam from the boiler house. It has fifty windows, providing more than ample light and ventilation. The south wing is eighty feet long and thirty feet wide. The basement is occupied by boiler and engine rooms and paint shop. On the south side of the ground floor is the carpenter shop proper, while the north room is the machinery hall in which are turning lathes, circular saws, band saws, mortise machines, etc. On the second floor, above the carpenter shop, is the shoe shop. Here all necessary benches, tools and ma-

and the pots and pans, each hanging on its particular hook, glisten like a mirror.

The school owns a dairy herd of fifty Holstein cows, which supply the milk for the entire institution. In the big barn, which is a handsome building in modern style, each cow has its particular stall with its name painted on a board over its head. At the rear of each stall slates have been fastened on the wall upon which the daily results of the milking are written, which being copied and furnished to the superintendent, give a complete record of each animal.

The boys are taught practical farming and the 160 acres upon which the school is located afford every opportunity for this branch. From ten to fifteen acres every year are planted with vegetables, and several acres are laid out with corn and other crops. One of the smaller brick buildings recently



DAIRY BUILDING, DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE AT COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia.—Photo by J. H. Corlies.

chinery are to be found to assist the pupils in securing a knowledge of this trade. Conspicuous on the walls of this building are the signs: "Please use supplies as if you paid for them yourself."

The physical training of the pupils is not overlooked at the Iowa School for the Deaf and one of the buildings recently erected is a first-class gymnasium equipped with the best possible apparatus and a bowling alley. Here the girls, as well as the boys, can go through a course of physical training. For the girls there are basket ball and other indoor athletics. In this building also are situated the bakers and cooking school. The bakery is supplied with the latest style rotary ovens and the pupils are taught the science of making bread, from mixing the dough to the last stage when the crisp, evenly baked loaf is turned out from the oven.

Training in Cookery.

The cooking school, located on the second floor over the bakery at the rear of the gymnasium, is divided into two departments, the theoretical and the practical. In the lecture room the theory of cooking is taught, while in the model kitchen the pupils are taught to practice what they have learned by theory in the lecture room. The kitchen is spotlessly clean, cleanliness being one of the principal features impressed upon the young women. Not only are the girls taught how to prepare meals, but are also shown how to serve one and lay the table. For this purpose there is a small dining room off the kitchen where the pupils after cooking a meal are taught to serve it. In this department nothing but the daintiest of china and plated silver are used. Everything is as bright as the day it came from the shop or factory

erected and which is located to the rear of the kitchen is the cold storage house, containing rooms for meat, vegetables and fruit and milk. It is lighted by electricity from a storage battery, the act of opening the door turning on the lights and the closing of the door shutting them off.

Head of the School.

To close this brief account of the Iowa School for the Deaf without some mention of the man who has been at its head for the last thirteen years would make it incomplete. Henry W. Rotherth, who holds the position of superintendent of this, one of the most important of the state institutions, was born in Cincinnati, O., September 11, 1840. He located at Keokuk, Ia., in the mercantile business in 1857. He was member and president of the school board there for nine years. Was member of city council and mayor of the city for years. He represented the First senatorial district in the state legislature eight years and was president of the senate two years and occupied the position of lieutenant governor one year. During the administration of President Arthur he had charge of public lands in Wyoming. For the last thirteen years he has practically devoted his entire life to the work of caring for the whom nature or accident has deprived of the senses of hearing or speech, or both. His interest in the children thus afflicted is the more intense because of the fact that one of his own children, a son, is a dumb mute. Under Superintendent Rotherth's fostering care the institution has become a home and school combined and not an asylum—an institution where the afflicted pupils find not only instruction but sympathy and congenial companionship.