

tion, which under present disadvantages, cannot be estimated to cost less than \$50,000.

When in their judgment the proper time arrives, the work will be commenced and pressed on to early completion.

In regard to the sanitary condition of the house, we have many reasons for gratulation. Among so many children, with physical antecedents predisposing to disease, it is a matter for thankfulness that for a greater portion of the year the infirmary has been unoccupied, and scarce a serious case of sickness has demanded prolonged attention. At the early appearance of cholera in the country, a committee was organized who had charge of the sanitary condition of the house. The physician in his report says, "that the precautions taken have had much to do in preventing cholera and typhus, which have been so prevalent in other institutions." Not a death from any cause has occurred since 1864.

In the moral instructions of the inmates, our chief reliance is the means of the Sabbath services in the chapel, and the Sabbath schools. For these we have been indebted, as usual, to the voluntary aid of ministers of different denominations and to a corps of teachers from the city. It is a pleasure at every renewal of our Annual Reports, specially to acknowledge our indebtedness to these good friends. Without their valuable and self-sacrificing services, we should be deprived of the most essential means in aid of our work.

We have reason to know that their efforts for good have not been all in vain, nor their words cast as worthless notes upon the wind. Instructive readings are also given to the children on the Sabbath by their teachers, in which they exhibit much interest.

In this connection we may mention that within the past year, we were the recipients of a most generous and thoughtful gift of nearly 2,000 volumes, with well finished book-cases to contain them from the Mechanical Fire Company, one of the oldest and most respected of the associations of our city. The collection embraces many valuable books, and as the taste for reading may exhibit itself, will afford to the inmates a rich source of entertainment and instruction.

The day schools are seven in number—six for boys and one for girls, under the charge of three female and four male teachers. Of course, there is a great diversity of capacity, and a greater of acquisition among the children. There is one notable fact deserving remark, that among the oldest and most criminal, there is found not only a greater ignorance, but also a greater indisposition or incapability to learn. In connection with this is another fact. In our examinations, it is found that truancy has been the very common vice among the older and the younger delinquents. The steps in the advance to juvenile criminality are only natural sequences.