

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

I transmit herewith extracts from the Executive Records showing the number, names, &c., of the State beneficiaries during the past year in the Institutions for the tuition of the Blind, and the Deaf and Dumb. The annual appropriation for the former is \$6000, and the amount allowed for each pupil is \$200. Whilst for the Deaf and Dumb the amount annually appropriated is \$5000, and the amount for each beneficiary is limited to \$160.

It is difficult to perceive any good reason for this discrimination; the sum allowed in the latter case is manifestly insufficient for the maintenance of these pupils, looking to the large increase in the cost of all the necessaries of life. I was notified by the President of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, in the course of the year 1863, that the charge for the support of their pupils had been raised on the 1st of March of that year to \$180, and I have since learned that a further increase has become necessary. I am also informed more recently that the Columbia Institution, where the greater part of our beneficiaries are at present, would be obliged to increase its charge to \$200 per annum.

I called the attention of your predecessors to some of these circumstances, and requested that a corresponding change might be made in the amount allowed by our law, and authority be given to pay the Pennsylvania Institution the arrearages accrued since the increase in their rates took place; the necessary provision however seems to have been overlooked, and the amount to be expended in the case of the Deaf and Dumb is still limited to \$160 per annum for each pupil. I respectfully urge upon you the necessity of increasing it to \$200—the amount allowed for the Blind—and as there has been for some years past a surplus each year of the amount appropriated, if authority is given to draw on the Treasury to the extent of these unexpended balances, the additional amount required can probably be commanded without a further increase in the annual amount appropriated.

I have not been furnished with a report for the past year of the Trustees of the State Insane Asylum; it is, as I understand about being prepared, and will, I have no doubt, be shortly submitted to you. I learn however that no part of the appropriation made by the last General Assembly for the completion of the buildings of the Asylum has yet been used; the Trustees as I am informed, in view of the large increase in the cost of labor and materials, and having a proper regard to an economical use of the fund appropriated, determined to