

nation to apply at the present session of the Legislature for an amendment to their charter, empowering them to exact compensation for the care of such inmates as may be placed under their charge by parents or friends, whose circumstances in life may allow them to make a just remuneration for the maintenance of their children or wards. As a special application to this end will be made in another form, it is necessary here to say only, that, upon a deliberate consideration of the subject, its propriety and justice is even more deeply impressed upon their minds than when it was first suggested, and may therefore be safely recommended for favorable action.

For an exhibit in detail, of all matters connected with the internal administration of the Refuge, reference is directed to the annexed report of the *Superintendent*, and the Board would be well pleased if its carefully arranged statements were thoroughly examined, as it is only from these that the Legislature, assembled as they are in a distant city and gathered as most are from the rural sections of the State, can gain anything like an estimate of what the Institution really is. Even information so gained, must be imperfect. To be known, it must be seen; and therefore, it is, that the Board have always felt extremely desirous that the representatives at Annapolis should, at any and all times visit the House, and each witness for himself its arrangements, extent and practical operations.

The Board have much pleasure in speaking a word of hearty commendation in behalf of the excellent officer now at the head of the Institution. His familiarity with his duties, his administrative tact, high moral character and the ready and judicious performance of the responsibilities of his office, exact the deserved approbation of the Managers; as do also, the industry, capability and prompt attention of his several assistants.

The *Schools*, under the direction of the committee having them in special charge, are now in a good condition, under the superintendence of a corps of teachers whose labors are highly appreciated for their faithfulness and efficiency. The Committee have examined each school regularly in monthly rotation with manifest advantage, both to teacher and pupil; and we are glad in being able to say, that they report a degree of improvement that would do no discredit to any of our public schools. With the concurrence of the Board, they have also selected female teachers altogether as vacancies occurred, so that at present we have all of this sex, with a single exception, and he has charge of the highest class, acting at the same time as Assistant Superintendent. This system is one that can be well recommended, and vagrant, unruly and ungoverned as most of the inmates are when first admitted, yet it is a fact well deserving consideration, that in its