

years it has received from the State, would scarcely seem to be commensurate with the importance of the public interest it is calculated to secure.

It was founded, and has been I believe, to a great extent supported by individual munificence, but the character and extent of the benefits it confers upon the community, entitle it to a support that should place it beyond such dependence.

The increase in the cost of nearly all the necessaries of life of late, must add considerably to the amount of its expenses, as it adds also another reason for a liberal contribution to its support. I would, therefore, recommend that the appropriation hitherto made on its account be continued, and think that it might be very advantageously increased.

Extracts from the Executive records, which accompany this Message, will inform you of the number, names, etc., of the beneficiaries at present supported by the State in several Institutions devoted to the instruction of the deaf, dumb and blind, and of the amounts expended on their behalf in 1862 and 1863.

A letter from the President of one of these Institutions—the Pennsylvania Institute for Deaf and Dumb—calls attention to the costs of the support of pupils therein, and to the necessity growing out of the increase in the cost of food and clothing for a correspondent increase in the annual charge for a pupil's support.

That charge was consequently raised from \$160 to \$180 per annum on the 1st of March last, but being limited to the former sum by the present law of the State, some action on your part is necessary to authorize me to pay the increased amount. It would seem to be but a reasonable addition to the previous price and is being paid for the beneficiaries of other States.

I would, therefore, recommend the passage of an Act authorizing this increased allowance, and also the payment of the sum of \$84, the amount of the difference in the two rates of charge accrued on account of our beneficiaries since the time when that increase took place.

In this connection I would call your attention to the difference in the rate of payment allowed on account of the blind, and that on account of the deaf and dumb. I can perceive no good reason for such a difference, and would recommend that it be equalized by authorizing an increased allowance in the rate for the latter class which might however be still so limited as not to exceed the amount paid for similar beneficiaries by other States.