

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

BEING THE

REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

**PUBLIC OFFICERS
DEPARTMENTS AND
INSTITUTIONS**

FOR THE TWO YEARS

JULY 1, 1924-JUNE 30, 1926

NINTH REPORT

OF THE

State Board

OF

Charities and Corrections

(Ex-Officio State Board of Mothers' Aid
and Children's Guardians)

COVERING THE BIENNIAL PERIOD
ENDING JUNE 30

1926

PREPARED BY
GRUBE B. CORNISH
SECRETARY

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Edward C. Reynolds, Portland, **Pres**.....Appointed December 28, 1922
Samuel Rosenburg, Portland.....Appointed March 1, 1916
Rev. M. E. Curran, Waterville.....Appointed December 28, 1922
Mrs. William E. Brewster, Dexter.....Appointed August 6, 1923
M. E. Sawtelle, Augusta.....Appointed March 1, 1924

Secretary

Grube B. Cornish, York.....Appointed April 4, 1923

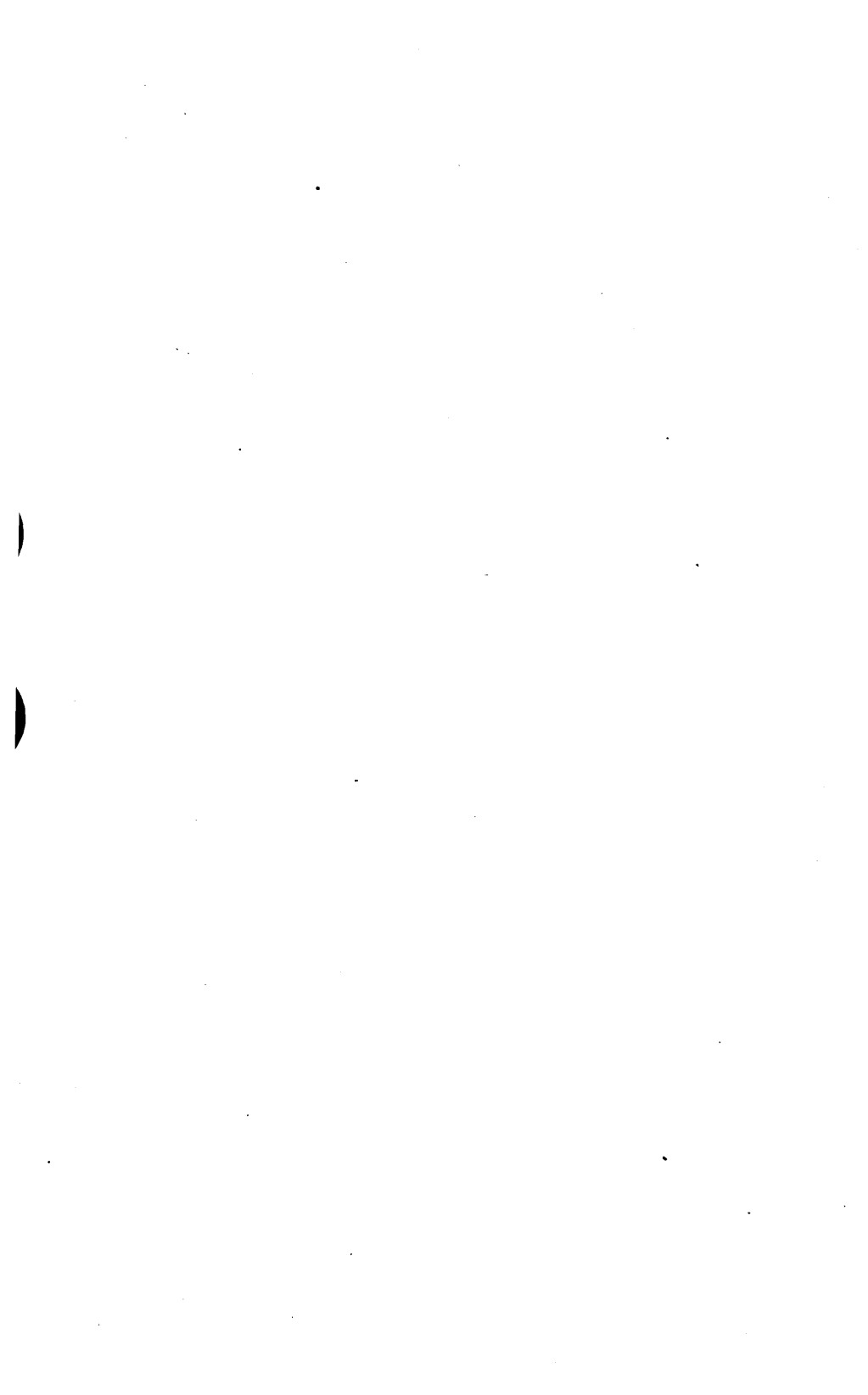
Office at State House, Augusta

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

John Wilson, Bangor.....Term expired July 19, 1915
John Liggett, Augusta.....Resigned December 15, 1915
Robert T. Whitehouse, Portland.....Resigned September, 1922
Thomas J. Nelligan, Bangor.....Resigned November, 1922
Mrs. Grace A. Wing, Portland.....Term expired July 25, 1923
Melville P. Milliken, Augusta.....Resigned August 21, 1923
Charles S. Hichborn, Augusta.....Resigned February, 1924
James F. Bagley, **Secretary**, Augusta.....Died October 9, 1922

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INTRODUCTION

November 1st, 1926.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Conforming to the requirements of the Laws of the State of Maine, the State Board of Charities and Corrections submits the report of its activities for the biennial term ending June 30th, 1926.

1: Inspection Duties:

The duties, pertaining to the inspections prescribed for this Board, have been performed as fully as could be done with the time and means at its disposal for this purpose, and this, chiefly, by the Secretary. It will be borne in mind that the Board has recommendatory powers only. However, it is with much satisfaction that we report that there has been a constantly increasing realization by local authorities that it is the desire of the Board to be helpful and not critical in the performance of these duties.

Such recommendations as have been made, on the part of the Board, as the result of inspections, have, almost without exception, been received in good faith by the local authorities, and their worth fairly estimated and acted upon. This attitude of mutual consideration and respect is aiding in some degree in solving some of the troubles connected with portions of the institutional life in our State.

2: Mothers' Aid:

Under the provisions of the law relative to this part of the work of the Board, there are now on file 107 applications for Mothers' Aid which have not been allowed, though the applicants are clearly entitled—these, of course, in addition to the cases already receiving such aid from the State and municipalities. Aid cannot be given to all applicants because the funds are not available with which to pay them. The appropriation of \$100,000 per year made by the Legislature at its last session is insufficient to meet all demands for such help.

3: Children's Guardian:

The Legislature of 1925 appropriated \$180,000 per year for the years 1926-'27, with all refunds. This amount proved insufficient

to meet the requirements, to the extent of \$96,000 for 1925-'26, which sum was provided by the Executive Department from the contingent fund. The amount by which the appropriation for the year 1926-'27 will prove insufficient is estimated at \$124,000. Demands upon this fund are ever growing greater because of the increasing number of children committed to the custody of the Board by the courts of the State.

This is clearly evidenced by the following:

Daily average in custody of the Board for 1924-'25, 1716; 1925-'26, 1848; 1926-'27, to date, 1942.

The significance of this showing necessarily is that the appropriations must be increased or commitments decreased.

4: In connection with the foregoing, we are satisfied that an inspection of the figures relative to the amount paid for the aid of mothers with children and the expenditures for the maintenance of the children who have been committed to the Board of Children's Guardians will show that the work has been maintained at as low a figure as could be done with the reasonable standards of efficiency and economy adopted by the Board.

5: Employees:

Those employed in the various positions, in office and in the field work, have proved to be very capable and very loyal. The labor pertaining to some of the positions is of a character that brings many hardships and difficulties and that requires special aptitude and devotion for the work. It is the opinion of the Board that there should be somewhat of an amelioration of some of these conditions by the employment of additional help, and in some cases, by increased compensation for the work performed.

6: Appropriations:

The demands on this Department have been constantly augmenting. If the law as it now stands is expressive of the standards of the people for those who are the beneficiaries under this system, increased appropriations will necessarily be required, as has already been intimated. The record of the proceedings of our Legislature will show that there has been no effort on the part of this Board to widen the scope of its work, to enlarge its powers or to increase its influence. It is making every effort to provide for as many of its wards as possible at no expense to the State, and for all others at the lowest expense. Notwithstanding this fact, it is inevitable that, with the number seeking assistance, and worthily seeking it, there will be larger demands made upon the State for their care. This experience is not peculiar to our State, but is to be found

elsewhere, and but emphasizes the ever increasing purpose of mankind generally, to aid those to whom misfortune has come.

These are only generalizations. There follows, in due order, in detail, statistics and information that will give a clear understanding of the outstanding facts concerning the activities of this Board. It is with much pleasure that we acknowledge the unstinted and effective work of the Secretary of the Board, Mr. Grube B. Cornish, and of the Supervisor, Miss Elizabeth Leslie, who, with the very loyal co-operation of the others in this service, have been constant in their efforts to realize the best results possible for the Board and its large family.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD C. REYNOLDS, President

For the State Board of Charities and Corrections.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE

The State Board of Charities and Corrections respectfully submits to the Legislature the following recommendations:

1. That all jails, police stations, lock-ups and similar places of detention be required to have matrons on duty when there are women prisoners.

2. That the law governing payments to dependent mothers be changed so as to authorize this Department to monthly manifest through regular channels amount of payments due dependent mothers which shall be paid by the Treasurer of State. The Board of Charities and Corrections should recover for the State from the town of settlement, if any, of such dependent mother, one-half of any such payments on account of said mother.

3. That the State Board of Charities and Corrections be authorized to recover from the town of settlement, if any, of any dependent child, one-half but not exceeding an average of two dollars per week, of any such payments on account of said dependent child. This change would relieve the State Treasurer of collecting amounts due from towns and cities and it is recommended with the approval of the State Auditor and State Treasurer.

4. That reimbursements from municipalities for board and care of dependent children should be credited to the appropriation for the Board of Children's Guardians.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS

The State Board of Charities and Corrections was created by act of the 1913 Legislature. The Board is required to investigate and inspect the whole system of public charities and correctional institutions in the state, examine into the conditions and management of all jails, reform schools, industrial schools of a charitable or correctional nature, children's homes, hospitals, sanatoriums, almshouses, orphanages, hospitals for the insane, schools or homes for feeble-minded and other similar institutions supported wholly or partly by the State, county or municipal appropriations, except purely educational or industrial institutions; and any private charitable or correctional institutions which may desire to be placed on the list of such institutions. The officers of all institutions subject to such supervision are required to furnish all information desired by the Board, which may prescribe forms for statement, and upon the basis of such investigation the Board may present recommendations to the Governor and Council and the Legislature as to the management of the institutions, notice thereof being given to the institutions affected.

The Board is required to give its opinion as to the organization of charitable, eleemosynary or reformatory institutions which are or may be under its supervision, and passes upon all plans for new institutions under its supervision. It receives full reports from overseers of the poor in regard to paupers supported or relieved.

The Board seeks, through its inspections, to assist institutions by directing their attention to needed improvements in plant, equipment or administrative methods, and to raise the standard of efficiency in their work.

The State Board of Charities and Corrections is also ex-officio State Board of Mothers' Aid and State Board of Children's Guardians. The Board has succeeded in wisely expending the appropriations granted by the Legislature. Economy has been practised all along the line. Although the total cost has been large, thoughtful citizens who have acquainted themselves with every angle of the work agree that the results attained more than justify the expenditure of time and money.

All clothing and supplies for the children are purchased at wholesale prices. This plan was adopted in January, 1924. The first year this plan cost \$21,651.87 net less than the retail plan of the previous

year. The per capita cost for clothing for the children in 1925 was \$32.72, while in 1926 we were able to reduce the per capita cost \$5.19.

Salaries, office expenses and traveling expenses of all employees in 1926 were \$34,863.10.

The Administration expense for 1926 was 7.4 per cent.

If the appropriations to hospitals and special institutions which are under direct supervision of the Board, are considered, the expense of administration is 5.3 per cent.

ALMSHOUSES

This Board merely has the right to inspect almshouses and to recommend improvements. Municipal officers have in most cases manifested a willingness to co-operate with us. It is undoubtedly true that never before have the almshouses in Maine been in as good condition as they are today. Many of these institutions should be closed as unfit places to house women and men who call upon the municipality for assistance. It is an economic waste to maintain 100 almshouses in this state. There is an average of two employees to every three inmates in these institutions, and that does not give adequate care for the poor. The only satisfactory solution, in our judgment, will be the establishment of District Almshouses, possibly four in number. Waldo County has already formed an association for the purpose of establishing a County Almshouse. Public opinion is steadily rising against the present method of caring for the poor and we believe the time is soon coming when our poor will be humanely treated at a minimum cost to the tax payers.

HOSPITALS RECEIVING STATE AID

There are twenty-two hospitals receiving state aid. The total amount of annual appropriations for the service is \$197,150. During the fiscal year 1925 these hospitals were thus enabled to treat 2,733 patients, giving a total of 53,042 days of treatment. The average number of days' treatment per patient was 19.4, which means that the average cost to the state per patient was \$49.15. It is impossible to estimate the value of this particular type of service. It may be safely estimated that there are scores of persons in our state who are in need of medical and surgical treatment and who are unable to meet the usual expenses of hospital care. To eliminate this form of service would be a serious backward step which would work a hardship upon many worthy citizens. If economy is a wise expenditure of money, it may be stated that the hospital aid is easily one of the most economical expenditures made by the State.

There is a serious question of doubt as to the advisability of administering these appropriations as now provided by law. We think it would be more satisfactory to have one appropriation to be administered by the State Board of Charities and Corrections with authority to place a worthy patient in any hospital in the State. Such a plan would enable the Board to make investigations relative to the worthiness of the patient to receive aid. It is not always possible for the hospital authorities to do this.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Children's Hospital at Portland is modern, sanitary, convenient and practical in every way for orthopedic work. Never in the history of the hospital has so much been accomplished to help suffering children. The officials have learned to utilize the play instincts of the individual patient in helping him to properly adjust himself. There is earnestness and efficiency on the part of those who are officially connected with the hospital. Doctor Abbott and his able corps of workers should have the finest kind of co-operation on the part of the citizens. No more worthy institution exists in our state.

CARE OF THE BLIND

If a blind person is without sufficient means of support he may apply for a State pension. As the law now stands, the maximum amount of yearly aid that can be paid is \$300. As a matter of fact the maximum amount of yearly aid that is given because of limited appropriation is \$180. Blind children of the state may be sent to the Perkins Institution for the Blind at Watertown, Massachusetts, at the expense of the State, by order of the Governor and Council. There is a School for the Blind at Portland. This institution is for adults only. This is a splendid institution and merits our hearty support. The aim of the school is to rehabilitate such blind people as can by training be improved to an extent that they will be capable of employment and become self-supporting. Helen Keller once said: "The heaviest burden on the blind is not blindness, but idleness."

CHILDREN'S SOCIETIES

There are ten societies, supported in part by state appropriation, for the care of dependent children. Approximately 1,061 children are under the supervision of these societies. We seriously question the wisdom of appropriating public funds for the support of these organizations. Undoubtedly there is duplication of effort for which the citizens of the state must pay, either through taxation or personal contribution. It is our conviction that the law permitting a judge to commit a child into the custody of a private society at the expense of the state should be annulled. The state is equipped to do this work at less expense than it now costs.

CENTRAL INDEX

There is being maintained in the office of this Board a central index of all the State's dependents, defectives and delinquents, that is, of all persons towards whose support the State is contributing in whole or in part, whether in State institutions, in incorporated institutions or elsewhere. This index contains at the present time the names of about 19,000 persons and is being added to at the rate of about 2,000 names annually.

ILLEGITIMACY

During the two years past we have investigated 98 illegitimate births and attempted to work out a satisfactory plan for mother and child. This is purely a voluntary service. The importance of this phase of social service requires more careful investigation and supervision than we can possibly hope to do with the ever increasing demands upon the time of a limited field force.

The illegitimate child should be given the same protection as that offered to the legitimate child.

The unmarried mother should be given assistance which will enable her to work out a satisfactory plan for herself and child. Too frequently the man named as father of the child is permitted to escape the responsibility for the child's support. Small lump sum payments are usually unsatisfactory because they are soon exhausted, forcing the mother to place her baby in an institution or into the custody of the State. We recommend that in cases where commitment is sought that monthly payments averaging twenty dollars per month be paid by the adjudged father until the child reaches the age of eighteen years unless during that time the child should be adopted or be placed in a free home.

Every child should have the privilege to grow up with his own mother, provided she is in a position to give him adequate care and supervision. There are cases where the mother and child should be separated but this should not be done by inexperienced persons who are merely anxious to assist the mother or to provide a baby for a friend.

COUNTY JAILS

The Board may recommend changes but has no power to effect them, except through the slowly increasing pressure of an enlightened public conscience which we hope may soon demand proper consideration for delinquents of the State.

The two greatest defects in our present system of caring for prisoners in the county jails are association in idleness and unrestrained communication of prisoners. We believe that the management and control of all county jails should be vested in the prison commission and the expense of their maintenance should be borne by the State. The following recommendations are submitted for the consideration of officials who are interested in the betterment of our present county jail system:

1. Every person received at the jail, whether under sentence or awaiting trial, should be required to change his clothes for a prison uniform. He should be given a Wasserman test. Positive cases should be given vigorous anti-syphilitic treatments. Daily open air recreation periods would greatly reduce the possibility of disease.

Justice may deprive a man of his liberty, it may even demand that he shall not profit by his labor, but no man has a right to force another human being to live in such a place or under such conditions that he will be robbed of his health.

2. Each cell should be equipped with a movable cot bed with springs, a stool and a box for the prisoner's belongings. The bedding should consist of a mattress, pillow, sheets and necessary blankets.
3. Each cell should be lighted by electricity. This is especially important. A long sentence in some of our jails would be very apt to seriously affect a prisoner's eyesight.

LICENSED BOARDING HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Persons maintaining boarding homes for children are required to have a license from the State Board of Charities and Corrections. These homes operating under license are carefully inspected by the Board from time to time and are classified under three classes.

Grade one implies that the home is satisfactory and that the children receive superior care. Grade three implies that either the physical equipment or the attention given the children, or both, are of such a kind that some doubt exists whether the license should be continued or not. Certain of these homes improve and are ranked higher as time goes on. Others do not measure up to a reasonable standard of child care and are given special attention or the license is revoked.

Homes which do not fall in grade one or three are classified as grade two, which implies a home where the equipment and the care of the children is of average quality. When a home falls below grade three it is sometimes put on short probation, but the license is usually revoked at once. A number of the homes now classified in the second grade were marked by the Field Worker, "second grade or better." In certain of these a single factor, perhaps great remoteness from school, church and physicians, keeps the home out of the first class.

Every licensed home is regarded as a public institution, though on a small scale, and is open to inspection by the State's Workers at any and all times. In this way the welfare of the children is safeguarded and the abuses which sometimes in the past have been known to exist in boarding homes are done away with.

The Board invites the public to co-operate in this matter and should they learn of any ward of the State being inhumanely treated or neglected by those with whom they are placed, they are urged to report the matter at once to the office of the Board for investigation and action.

There are 190 licensed boarding homes for children.

LICENSES GRANTED TO INSTITUTIONS

1—TO BOARD CHILDREN

Bangor Children's Home, Bangor
Biddeford Day Nursery, Biddeford
Good Will Home Association, Hinckley
House of the Good Shepherd, Gardiner
Lewiston and Auburn Children's Home, Lewiston
Maine Home for Friendless Boys, Portland
Opportunity Farm, New Gloucester
The Children's Home, Portland

2—TO SOLICIT FUNDS

Associated Seventh-Day Adventists, Incorporated, Portland
Good Will Home Association, Hinckley
Maine Baby Saving Society, Portland
Near East Relief, Portland
New England Home for Little Wanderers, Caribou
New England Home for Little Wanderers, Waterville
Penobscot Bay Bethel Mission, Rockland
The American Red Cross, Boston, Massachusetts
The Children's Protective Society, Portland
The Christian Civic League of Maine, Waterville
The Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society, Bar Harbor
The Salvation Army, Bangor
The Salvation Army, Portland
The Volunteers of America, Boston, Massachusetts
Washington County Community Memorial Hospital, Machias

3—TO PLACE CHILDREN

New England Home for Little Wanderers, Caribou
New England Home for Little Wanderers, Waterville
The Children's Protective Society, Portland

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD
OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS

General Office Salary
Fiscal Year 1925.

Appropriation		\$ 9,000.00
Expenditures:—		
Salaries	\$7,876.64	
Lapsed to Contingent Fund	1,000.00	\$ 8,876.64
Balance		\$ 123.36

Fiscal Year 1926.

Appropriation		\$10,000.00
Expenditures:—		
Salaries	\$7,843.81	
Lapsed to Contingent Fund	2,000.00	\$ 9,843.81
Balance		\$ 156.19

General Office Expenses
Fiscal Year 1925.

Appropriation		\$ 7,000.00
Refunds		.70
Available		\$ 7,000.70
Expenditures:—		
Traveling expenses—Members of the Board, Secretary and Clerks	\$1,968.79	
Telephone and postage	1,847.81	
Office supplies, furniture and equipment	2,119.56	
Automobile upkeep (State owned Essex)	453.58	
Total amount expended		\$ 6,389.74
Balance		\$ 610.96

Fiscal Year 1926.

Appropriation		\$ 7,500.00
Refunds		50.83
Total amount available		\$ 7,550.83

Expenditures:—

Traveling expenses—Members of the Board, Secretary and Clerks	\$1,995.33	
Telephone and postage	1,740.46	
Office supplies, furniture and equipment	2,288.23	
Automobile upkeep (State owned Essex)	343.56	
		<hr/>
Total amount expended		\$ 6,367.58
		<hr/>
Balance		\$ 1,183.25

State Board of Mothers' Aid
Fiscal Year 1925.

Appropriation		\$100,000.00
Expenditures:—		
Salaries and traveling expenses of the Supervisor and Field Workers	\$ 9,981.65	
State's share of amount paid to dependent mothers	89,609.25	
		<hr/>
Total amount expended		\$ 99,590.90
		<hr/>
Balance		\$ 409.10

Fiscal Year 1926.

Appropriation		\$100,000.00
Refunds		26.50
		<hr/>
Total amount available		\$100,026.50
Expenditures:		
Salaries and traveling expenses of the Supervisor and Field Workers	\$11,082.63	
State's share of amount paid to dependent mothers	79,739.31	
		<hr/>
Total amount expended		\$ 90,821.94
*Balance		\$ 9,204.56

* (For explanation of this balance see statement following summary.)

STATE BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS

Fiscal Year 1925.

Appropriation		\$150,000.00
Transferred from Contingent Fund		111,500.00
Refunds from relatives		2,549.10
Refunds from other sources		554.78
Total amount available		<u>\$264,603.88</u>
Expenditures:—		
Board and care of children	\$248,648.47	
Salaries and traveling expenses of Field Workers	15,036.02	
Total amount expended		<u>\$263,684.40</u>
Balance		\$ 919.39

Fiscal Year 1926.

Appropriation		\$180,000.00
Transferred from Contingent Fund		96,000.00
Refunds from relatives		1,573.00
Refunds from other sources		141.26
Total amount available		<u>\$277,714.26</u>
Expenditures:—		
Board and care of children	\$260,296.52	
Salaries and traveling expenses of Field Workers	14,698.40	
Total amount expended		<u>\$274,994.92</u>
Balance		\$ 2,719.34

REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD

SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 1925.

	Total Amount Available	Expenditures	Balance
General Office Salary	\$ 9,000.00	*\$ 8,876.64	\$ 123.36
General Office Expense	7,000.70	6,389.74	610.96
State Board of Mothers' Aid	100,000.00	99,590.90	409.10
State Board of Child- ren's Guardians	264,603.88	263,684.49	919.39
Totals	\$380,604.58	\$378,541.77	\$2,062.81

Fiscal Year 1926.

	Total Amount Available	Expenditures	Balance
General Office Salary	\$10,000.00	*\$9,843.81	\$156.19
General Office Expense	7,550.83	6,367.58	1,183.25
State Board of Mothers' Aid	100,026.50	90,821.94	**9,204.56
State Board of Children's Guardians	277,714.26	274,994.92	2,719.34
Totals	\$395,291.59	\$382,028.25	\$13,263.34

*Includes amount which lapsed to Contingent Fund at the end of fiscal year.

**The 1926 appropriation shows a balance of \$9,204.56, while on July 1, 1926, there were eighty-nine approved cases on the waiting list. The Board could not grant cases to take up the balance, as the liability in excess of the 1927 appropriation would have been too great. Had the entire appropriation been available for distribution at the pleasure of the Board during the fiscal year it would have been used in caring for urgent cases, without placing too great a responsibility upon the appropriation of 1927.

MOTHERS' AID

Mothers' Aid is the outstanding event in the care of needy children of Maine in the last ten years. The principle of Mothers' Aid may be expressed in the phrase: "Keep the child with its mother." It is our desire to avoid breaking up the natural relations of the family so long as the interests of the children are not in jeopardy. On May 16, 1925, we heard an address by Honorable William Jennings Bryan in which he stated: "There is nothing that can take the place of parental love, and I might say there is no home with money enough to enable a child to live in luxury that is even a fair substitute for the home where there is love and where the child learns that which will be useful in after life."

There are 1635 children under sixteen years of age in the homes of these mothers. The average monthly rate paid during 1926 was \$27.12. We believe these mothers are the real financiers of the State. It requires more than ordinary ability to maintain a family on the amount of aid given to these worthy mothers. Mothers' Aid is a means to an end, the end being the integrity of family life, the development of character and personality and the creation of a healthy, efficient, intelligent childhood.

The big work for which we have striven in each and every family is to put it on its feet as speedily as possible. The average number of cases dismissed each year is 96. This proves the effectiveness of this form of aid. It does not breed paupers, but rather it helps families to help themselves. There were 89 approved cases on the waiting list, June 30, 1926. These cases will be accepted just as soon as the appropriation will permit. We believe this particular department offers an unexcelled opportunity for the study and support of the women of the State, more especially of those who are actively interested in the political parties. It is not a religious question; neither should it be made a partisan political issue.

MOTHERS' AID STATISTICS

On July 1, 1924, 554 families were receiving aid. Since that time 157 additional cases have been allowed, 21 re-opened, 193 discontinued, and 185 denied, leaving 518 families now in receipt of aid. The total number of applications to date is 2148.

Reason why aid was denied in 185 cases Number of families denied

Aid not needed	64
Aid not recommended by municipal board	22
Mother did not meet requirements of Mothers' Aid law	29
Mother withdrew her request	4
Mother remarried	34
No children under sixteen years of age	3
Mother and children not living together	7
Mother left state	2
No court action taken against deserting husband	2
Not five years a resident of Maine	2
Only one child under sixteen years of age	4
Mother deceased since application was filed	2
Father of family tubercular	1
Father returned to his family	3
Whereabouts of mother unknown	1
Children committed to State Board	5

The reasons for discontinuing aid in 193 cases are as follows:

Reasons why aid was discontinued	Number of families in which discontinued
Aid no longer needed	30
Mother remarried	48
Mother unable to establish home	1
Child not with mother	3
Continuance not recommended by municipal board	20
Aid relinquished by mother	31
Mother died	1
Husband returned home	2
Mother not living up to standard of Mothers' Aid Law	28
Mother gone from State	6

Only one child under sixteen years of age	2
Children reached age of sixteen years	20
Mother deserted children	1

Length of time aid was given	Number of families	Length of time aid was given	Number of families
104 months	1	46 months	2
103 "	1	45 "	4
96 "	3	44 "	2
95 "	2	43 "	3
94 "	1	42 "	2
93 "	4	41 "	2
90 "	2	40 "	1
88 "	1	39 "	7
87 "	1	38 "	3
86 "	1	36 "	4
85 "	2	35 "	2
83 "	1	34 "	2
81 "	2	33 "	5
80 "	3	32 "	3
78 "	1	31 "	4
77 "	1	30 "	5
76 "	1	29 "	3
75 "	2	28 "	3
74 "	2	27 "	1
73 "	1	25 "	1
72 "	2	23 "	3
71 "	2	21 "	5
70 "	2	20 "	2
69 "	2	19 "	2
68 "	1	18 "	2
67 "	3	17 "	2
65 "	1	16 "	1
64 "	4	14 "	1
63 "	2	13 "	5
62 "	4	12 "	1
61 "	2	11 "	1
57 "	2	10 "	1
56 "	3	9 "	1
55 "	2	8 "	3
54 "	1	6 "	2
53 "	1	5 "	1
52 "	2	4 "	2
51 "	3	3 "	1
49 "	2	2 "	6
48 "	1	1 "	2
47 "	1		

No payments made in 14 cases.

The status of the father in the families aided is as follows:

Status of father	Number so affected
Dead	452
Deserted	15
Divorced	24
In institution	
For insane	13
For tubercular	2
Not in institution	
Paralytic	3
Cancer	1
Blind	4
Prison	2
Loss of right arm	1
Blind and paralytic	1

STATE BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS

The State Board of Children's Guardians was established as a department of the State Board of Charities and Corrections by the Maine Legislature of 1919. At that time nearly seven hundred children, who were then under the supervision of County Welfare Agents, came into the custody of this new department. This important work has grown until now there are nearly two thousand dependent and custody children cared for by this Board.

We are building substantial fences at the edges of the precipices of danger to prevent these neglected children from falling into possible delinquency. The expense of their care is wise economy, making it possible to adequately provide for our neglected children, who are probably our greatest asset.

The daily average of children in our care for 1925-1926 was 1782. During the two years we lost ten children by death. The annual death rate, .0028, is exceedingly low, especially in view of the fact that many children are committed into our custody because they are afflicted with disease or suffering from mal-nutrition.

During the two-year period of 1925-1926 we are pleased to state that there has been a decided improvement in the type of boarding home secured. This phase of our work has improved at least twenty-five per cent.

In 1919 we employed nine field workers to supervise 950 children, while we now employ eleven field workers to supervise nearly two thousand children. This is not as it should be. Each employee of the Department, not including secretary and supervisor, has worked an average of twelve hours overtime each week during the past year. In other words, nineteen employees have actually done the work that would be ordinarily expected of twenty-four employees.

TOWNS IN WHICH BOARDING CHILDREN UNDER CARE JUNE
30, 1926, HAD LEGAL SETTLEMENT

- 1 each: Avon, Benton, Bridgewater, Brooklin, Byron, Cornish, Damariscotta, Eagle Lake, Edgecomb, Farmington, Freeman, Frenchville, Garland, Gray, Greenbush, Hampden, Harrington, Island Falls, Kingman, Lagrange, Limerick, Lincolnville, Litchfield, Lubec, Ludlow, Masardis, Mechanic Falls, Merrill, Monticello, Newport, Orland, Oxford, Penobscot, Peru, Phillips, Phippsburg, Portage Lake, Raymond, St. Albans, Sangerville, Scarboro, Sebec, Sherman, Smithfield, Sorrento, South Berwick, Stockton Springs, Strong, Swanville, Temple, Troy, Veazie, Wade, Warren, Washington, Whiting, Winslow, Woodville, Woolwich.
- 2 each: Addison, Albion, Atkinson, Bingham, Bluehill, Bowdoinham, Bradford, Bradley, Carroll, Carthage, Centerville, Chester, Clifton, Dover-Foxcroft, Eastbrook, Exeter, Frankfort, Freeport, Glenburn, Gouldsboro, Hiram, Hodgdon, Hope, Leeds, Linneus, Littleton, Madawaska, Manchester, Mapleton, Marion, Milbridge, Montville, Nobleboro, Pittston, Robbinston, Rome, Southport, Steuben, Thomaston, Wallagrass Plantation, Wayne, Wells, Westfield.
- 3 each: Bethel, Brewer, Burnham, Carmel, China, Columbia Falls, Crystal, Dedham, Fairfield, Hartland, Lebanon, Limington, Machias, Madison, Old Orchard, Parkman, Readfield, Smyrna, Stoneham, Swan's Island, Washburn, Weld, Westport, Wiscasset, York.
- 4 each: Anson, Athens, Baldwin, Bar Harbor, Brunswick, Camden, Canton, Castle Hill, Cherryfield, Cooper, Corinth, Deer Isle, Edmunds, Holden, Jay, Kittery, Naples, Pittsfield, Poland, Saco, Searsport, Stonington, Van Buren, Vinalhaven, Waldoboro, Windsor, Winn.
- 5 each: Berwick, Blaine, Brownville, Canaan, East Livermore, Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Hudson, Liberty, Limestone, Milford, Millinocket, Milo, Newburgh, North Berwick, Norway, Orono, Standish, Unity, Woodstock.

- 6 each: Bridgton, Bucksport, Fort Kent, Mexico, Rockport, Waterford, Windham.
- 7 each: Belfast, Jonesport, Shapleigh, Skowhegan, Waterboro.
- 8 each: Clinton, Houlton, Paris.
- 9 each: Ashland, Eastport, Enfield, Lisbon, Presque Isle, Webster, Winterport, Yarmouth.
- 10 each: Baileyville, Dexter.
- 11 each: Kennebunk, Perham, Waterville.
- 12 each: Gardiner, Oakland.
- 14 each: Biddeford, Calais, Lincoln, Rockland.
- 18 each: Rumford, Sanford.
- 26 each: Augusta, Richmond.
Auburn, 16; Bangor, 37; Bath, 46; Caribou, 33; Fort
Fairfield, 22; Hallowell, 17; Lewiston, 67; Old Town,
23; Portland, 173; South Portland, 25; Westbrook, 20.

A STUDY OF 1575 CASES—MADE AUGUST, 1925

**NORMAL MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY
COMPLAINANT**

Attorney	3
Children's Aid Society.....	1
Children's Protective Society	52
Citizens (3 citizens of one town)	1
City Marshal	3
County Agent	42
Healy Asylum	1
Maine Children's Home Society.....	1
Municipal Board of Children's Guardians.....	654
New England Home for Little Wanderers.....	14
Police Matron or Officer.....	45
Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	96
Probation officer or associate	13
Sheriff or Deputy	160
State Board of Children's Guardians	173
State School for Girls	6
Temporary Home for Women and Children	3
York County Children's Aid Society.....	12
Not stated (early cases).....	86
Total	1,366

**SUB-NORMAL MENTALLY
COMPLAINANT**

Children's Aid Society	2
Children's Protective Society	4
Citizens	2
City Marshal	1
Constable	1
County Agent	11
Municipal Board of Children's Guardians.....	67
Police Matron or Officer.....	4
Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	2
Sheriff or Deputy	21

OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS

33

State Board of Children's Guardians	25
State School for Girls	2
Not stated (early cases)	8
	<hr/>
Total	150

SUB-NORMAL PHYSICALLY

COMPLAINANT

Children's Protective Society	5
County Agent	2
Municipal Board of Children's Guardians	24
New England Home for Little Wanderers	3
Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	6
Sheriff or Deputy	6
State Board of Children's Guardians	9
Not stated (early cases)	4
	<hr/>
Total	59

COURTS COMMITTING

NORMAL MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY

Municipal		Rumford Falls	10
Auburn	27	Sanford	20
Augusta	74	South Portland	10
Bangor	103	Stonington	2
Bar Harbor	3	Saco	16
Bath	58	Western Washington	16
Belfast	26	Western Somerset	38
Biddeford	19	Winthrop	1
Bridgton	1	Westbrook	14
Brunswick	1	Waterville	9
Calais	29	Waldoboro	4
Caribou	53	Yorkshire	22
Cherryfield	1	West Hancock	2
Cumberland	11		
Dexter	12	Total	1041
Dover	2		
Eastport	9		
Ellsworth	18	Probate	
Farmington	21	Androscoggin	2
Gardiner	22	Aroostook	6
Hallowell	23	Bangor	4
Houlton	38	Belfast	4
Kennebunk	1	Biddeford	2
Lewiston	90	Cumberland	185
Lincoln	3	Franklin	2
Livermore Falls	6	Knox	8
Machias	12	Kennebec	1
Millinocket	7	Piscataquis	5
Newport	4	Somerset	3
North Anson	2	South Aroostook	3
North Cumberland	4	Washington	11
Norway	22	York	12
Old Town	28		
Oxford	3	Total	248
Piscataquis	12		
Penobscot	2	Superior	
Pittsfield	8	Androscoggin	4
Portland	81	Aroostook	3
Portage	1		
Presque Isle	17	Total	7
Rockland	8		
Rumford	15		

Trial Justice		TOTAL	
Jay	3	Total courts:	
Washington County	3	Municipal	79
Wytopitlock	4	Probate	19
	—	Superior	2
Total	10	Justices	3
Governor and Council	2	Governor	1
Not stated (early cases)	58		
	—		
Total	60		
<hr/>			
Total children	1366		

SUB-NORMAL MENTALLY

Municipal		Westbrook	
Augusta	7	Western Somerset	3
Bangor	13	Western Washington	1
Bath	3	Yorkshire	2
Belfast	7		—
Biddeford	1		118
Calais	9		
Caribou	3	Probate	
Cumberland	2	Aroostook	2
Damariscotta	1	Cumberland	17
Dexter	1	Penobscot	1
Eastport	1	So. Aroostook	1
Ellsworth	4	Washington	3
Farmington	4	York	1
Gardiner	4		—
Hallowell	2		25
Houlton	13	Trial Justice	
Lewiston	8	Aroostook County	1
Lincoln	1	Washington County	1
Lisbon	1		—
Livermore Falls	2		2
Norway	2	Not stated (early cases)	5
Old Town	2		
Pittsfield	3	TOTAL	
Portland	5	Total Children	150
Presque Isle	5	Total Courts:	
Sanford	1	Municipal	32
Stonington	1	Probate	6
Waterville	4	Justices	2

REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD

SUB-NORMAL PHYSICALLY

Municipal			
Augusta	2	Lewiston	1
Bangor	1	Lincoln	1
Bath	4	Livermore Falls	2
Belfast	2	Old Town	4
Bridgton	5	Presque Isle	3
Caribou	2	Portland	4
Dexter	1	Rumford	1
Ellsworth	2	Rumford Falls	1
Farmington	1	Waterville	4
Gardiner	1	Western Somerset	5
Houlton	3		—
		Cumberland Probate Court	6
		Rockland Police Court	2
		Not stated (early cases)	1
			—
			9

NORMAL MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY

Reason for Commitment

Abandoned	35
Cruelly treated	23
Kept in place injurious to health and morals	155
Neglect and cruel treatment	870
Orphans	72
Wilful failure to support.....	29
Without kindred of sufficient ability to support.....	68
Not stated (early commitments)	114
	—
Total	1,366

SUB-NORMAL MENTALLY

Reason for Commitment

Cruelly treated (includes one case of neglect and cruel treatment)	6
Deserted	1
Kept in place injurious to health and morals	10
Kept in place injurious to health	8
Kept in place injurious to morals	2
Neglect	104
Orphans	4
Without kindred of sufficient ability to support	7
Not stated (early cases)	8
	—
Total	150

SUB-NORMAL PHYSICALLY

Reason for Commitment

Abandoned	3
Cruelly treated	2
Kept in place injurious to health.....	4
Kept in place injurious to health and morals	3
Neglect	38
Orphans	5
Without kindred of sufficient ability to support.....	2
Not stated (early cases)	2
Total	59

SUMMARY OF SERVICES OF FIELD WORKERS

July 1, 1924—June 30, 1926

General

Number complaints investigated (132 for other agencies)	934
Number interviews relating to complaints (beginning August 1, 1925)	1260
Number complaints referred to other agencies	86
Number illegitimacy cases investigated	98
Number interviews with Municipal Officers	1506
Number licensed homes inspected	584
Number applications for licenses investigated	117
State Board of Mothers' Aid	
Number Mothers' Aid cases investigated	352
Number visits to recipients of Mothers' Aid	1440
Number interviews with interested persons (beginning October 1, 1925)	521
State Board of Children's Guardians	
Number children committed to custody	559
Number children accepted on dependent list	142
Number visits to children in custody	9941
Number interviews with interested persons (beginning August 1, 1925)	2850
Number visits to inspect clothing	2890
Number children receiving medical attention	982
Number children taken to hospitals	198
Number times children were transferred from one home to another	1088
Number children placed in free homes for first time	139
Number children returned to parents	26
Number children adopted	39
Number children died	10
Number children discharged for other reasons	229
Number children dismissed from dependent list	141
Number prospective free homes investigated	441
Number prospective boarding homes investigated	661

We do not believe a more loyal, consecrated or devoted group of workers can be found in Maine than the young women who efficiently represent us in the field. Their trials are many; their complaints few; their successes are great. Eternity alone will reveal the value of practical Christianity such as these workers manifest in their daily conduct of the business of the State.

EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Grube B. Cornish, Secretary	Augusta
Miss Elizabeth Leslie, Supervisor of Field Work	Augusta
Miss Evelyn Hibbard, Purchasing Agent	Augusta
Miss Mildred I. Starbird, Chief Clerk	Augusta
Chase, Miss Elizabeth M., Field Worker	Bangor
Daniels, Mrs. Mildred S., Field Worker	Augusta
Dixon, Miss Effie L., Assistant Purchasing Agent	Augusta
Drake, Miss Elva M., Field Worker	Auburn
Dunham, Miss Lillian E., Field Worker	Portland
Fiske, Miss Myrtle B., Field Worker	Damariscotta
Griffin, Miss Agnes C., Clerk	Bangor
Griffin, Miss Aurelia, Field Worker	Auburn
Hackett, Miss Audrey M., Stenographer	Augusta
Hall, Miss Mary L., Field Worker	Harrington
Johnson, Mrs. Effie E., Field Worker	Bangor
Marshall, Miss Theodosia J., Filing Clerk	Augusta
Murray, Miss Johanna F., Bookkeeper	Augusta
Myers, Miss Ellen O., Field Worker	Houlton
Snow, Miss Arletta H., Statistician	Augusta
Wadsworth, Miss Edith M., Field Worker	Skowhegan
Weir, Mrs. Charlotte M., Field Worker	Saco

INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING STATE AID
IN THE STATE OF MAINE

NAME	ADDRESS	EXECUTIVE
Augusta General Hospital	Augusta	Gertrude B. Nelson, R.N., Supt.
Augusta State Hospital*	Augusta	Forrest C. Tyson, M.D., Supt.
Bangor Anti-Tuberculosis Association	Bangor	Carmelita Freeman, Supt.
Bangor State Hospital*	Bangor	Carl J. Hedin, M.D., Supt.
Bar Harbor Medical and Surgical Hosp.	Bar Harbor	Julia E. Gertz, Supt.
Bath City Hospital	Bath	Minnie E. Furbish, R.N., Supt.
Bath Military and Naval Orphan Asylum*	Bath	Mrs. Louise R. Staples, Supt.
Calais Hospital	Calais	B. A. Culliton, Supt.
Central Maine General Hospital	Lewiston	Rachel A. Metcalfe, Supt.
Central Maine Sanatorium*	Fairfield	John F. Shaw, M.D., Supt.
Charles A. Dean Hospital	Greenville Jct.	Vere A. Bradley, Supt.
Children's Aid Society	Belfast	Mrs. Anne A. Craig, Sec.
Children's Heart Work Society	Portland	Laura A. Slayton, President
Children's Hospital	Portland	C. Maud Culton, R.N., Supt.
Eastern Maine General Hospital	Bangor	George H. Stone, M.D., Supt.
Eastern Maine Orphans' Home	Bangor	Sister Borgia, Superior
Franklin Hospital Association	Farmington	George L. Pratt, M.D., Treas.
Gardiner General Hospital	Gardiner	Lillian Nash, R.N., Supt.
Girls' Orphanage	Lewiston	Sister Davignon, President
Good Samaritan Home	Bangor	Gertrude P. Atwood, Gen. Sec.
Healy Asylum	Lewiston	Sister Ste. Marguerite, Superior
Holy Innocents' Home for Infants	Portland	Sister M. Eugenia J., Supt.
Home for Aged Women	Belfast	C. W. Wescott, Treas.
Home for Aged Women	Rockland	Mrs. Annie A. Stevens, Treas.
Knox County General Hospital	Rockland	Grace L. Wolcott, R.N., Supt.
Madigan Memorial Hospital	Houlton	Sister M. Cecilia, Supt.
Maine Children's Home Society	Augusta	W. C. Hawes, Supt.
Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary	Portland	E. E. Holt, Sr., Supt.
Maine General Hospital	Portland	Charles H. Young, M.D., Supt..
Maine Institution for the Blind	Portland	Millard W. Baldwin, Supt.
Maine Mission for the Deaf	Bangor	Henry T. Gleason, Treas.
Maine State Prison*	Thomaston	F. Morris Fish, Warden
Northern Maine General Hospital	Eagle Lake	Sister M. Beatrice of the Euch.
Northern Maine Sanatorium*	Presque Isle	Loren F. Carter, M.D., Supt.
Pownal State School*	West Pownal	Stephen E. Vosburgh, M.D., Supt.
Presque Isle General Hospital	Presque Isle	Helen B. Plummer, Supt.
Reformatory for Men*	South Windham	Elmer B. Pratt, Supt.
Reformatory for Women*	Skowhegan	Mrs. Mary W. Libby, Supt.
Rumford Community Hospital	Rumford	E. M. McCarty, M.D.
State School for Boys*	South Portland	Charles Dunn, Jr., Supt.
State School for Girls*	Hallowell	Rev. E. W. Webber, Supt.
St. Elizabeth's Orphan Asylum	Portland	Sister M. Immaculata, Superior
St. Louis Home and School for Boys	West Scarboro	Sister M. Genevieve, Superior
St. Mary's General Hospital	Lewiston	Sister Davignon
Temporary Home for Women and Children	Portland	Susie P. Jordan, Supt.
Trull Hospital Aid Association	Biddeford	Laura E. Foss, Sec.
Waldo County General Hospital	Belfast	Gaylie L. Ryder, R.N., Supt. of Nurses
Webber Hospital	Biddeford	Maude S. Saltmarsh, Supt.
Western Maine Sanatorium*	Greenwood Mt.	Lester Adams, M.D., Supt.
York Hospital	York	Mrs. Olive S. Tebbitts, Matron
York County Children's Aid Society	Saco	Mrs. Maude E. Hamilton, Sec.

*Supported entirely by State appropriation.

PRIVATE SOCIETIES RECEIVING STATE AID

Amounts paid to private societies for board and clothing from general appropriation for the fiscal years 1925 and 1926:

	1925	1926
Bangor Children's Home	\$ 198.00	\$ 182.50
Cary Memorial Hospital		62.50
Central Maine General Hospital	268.00	
Children's Protective Society	173.45	208.53
Eastern Maine General Hospital	115.45	
Eastern Maine Orphans' Home	1,936.44	1,057.64
Girls' Orphanage	1,570.50	1,312.23
Good Samaritan Home	586.24	135.97
Good Will Home Association	1,139.35	1,555.00
Healy Asylum	3,325.00	4,401.40
Holy Innocents' Home	227.46	452.50
House of Good Shepherd	172.03	182.50
Lewiston Health Department	264.45	
Madigan Memorial Hospital	72.00	
Maine Children's Home Society	3,271.06	3,258.30
New England Home for Little Wanderers	997.61	43.45
Notre Dame de la Sagesse	294.00	180.00
Opportunity Farm	1,660.00	1,458.10
Plummer Memorial Hospital	56.50	
St. Elizabeth's Orphanage	1,794.75	1,458.10
St. Louis Home and School for Boys	335.42	1,000.55
Temporary Home for Women and Children	774.50	588.50
York County Children's Aid Society	11,474.51	11,406.57
Total	\$30,706.72	\$29,820.24