

## **The Institution quarterly.**

Springfield, Ill. : State Board of Administration, State Charities Commission, State Psychopathic Institute, -1925.

<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015021278695>

# HathiTrust



## [www.hathitrust.org](http://www.hathitrust.org)

**Public Domain, Google-digitized**

[http://www.hathitrust.org/access\\_use#pd-google](http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-google)

We have determined this work to be in the public domain, meaning that it is not subject to copyright. Users are free to copy, use, and redistribute the work in part or in whole. It is possible that current copyright holders, heirs or the estate of the authors of individual portions of the work, such as illustrations or photographs, assert copyrights over these portions. Depending on the nature of subsequent use that is made, additional rights may need to be obtained independently of anything we can address. The digital images and OCR of this work were produced by Google, Inc. (indicated by a watermark on each page in the PageTurner). Google requests that the images and OCR not be re-hosted, redistributed or used commercially. The images are provided for educational, scholarly, non-commercial purposes.

Causey of the Watertown State Hospital reporting the results of parole from that institution; by Dr. David H. Keller of the Anna State Hospital on "Psycho-Analytic Cure of Hysteria"; by Dr. M. C. Hawley, assistant superintendent of Elgin State Hospital, on "A Practical Plan for the After-care of the Insane"; by Dr. S. N. Clark of the State Psychopathic Institute on "Reeducation of the Demented Patient"; by Dr. I. F. Freemmel, assistant superintendent of the Lincoln State School and Colony, on "Dysentery at that Institution;" by Dr. W. A. Ford of the State Psychopathic Institute on "Interpretation of Laboratory Results;" by Dr. H. Douglas Singer, director of the Institute, on "Modern Hospital for the Insane from the Standpoint of Medical Service and Research and Educational Work;" by Dr. E. F. Leonard on "Conditions that Might Otherwise Be Diagnosed as Syphilis;" by Dr. Charles S. Little, superintendent of Letchworth Village in New York, on the "One Story Cottage;" by Dr. George T. Palmer on the "Important Factor in Dealing with Tuberculosis."

Miss Mary L. Jewell, visitor for the Board of Administration, describes a family situation which may be characterized as a real melting pot.

The reports of inspections of State charitable institutions by the Executive Secretary of the State Charities Commission, quarterly financial report of the State Charities Commission, the quarterly report of the Board of Administration and the list of accredited and licensed private institutions in this State conclude the contents of the first part of this issue.

The second part is devoted exclusively to the proceedings of the twenty-first State Conference of Charities and Correction which was held at Alton last October 20, 21 and 22. Not all the speakers submitted formal papers, but those which were prepared are presented in this issue. They cover a wide variety of subjects. We are fortunate in being able to print the papers read by nearly all those whom came from other states to address the conference. Among these were Miss Julia Lathrop on the "Newer Duties of the State;" Mr. John Shillady on "Unemployment;" Mrs. Florence Kelley on the eight-hour day for women; Mr. Amos Butler on Indiana's parole law and the new penal farm of that state, and Dr. M. J. Scanlan on "Some Aspects of Unemployment as They Affect the Family Life."

In many respects the papers printed in these proceedings touch a wider variety of subjects and handle them in a more practical manner than have the discussions of any preceding Conference.

## THE STORY OF TIN TOWN.

[In the early fall of 1916, a widow and her daughter were committed by the Wabash County Court to the Lincoln State School and Colony. The woman officer who accompanied the new inmates to Lincoln told Dr. T. H. Leonard a startling story of conditions existing in two settlements of Mt. Carmel, known as "Tin Town" and "The Commons."

Dr. Leonard communicated this information to the State Charities Commission and Miss Annie Hinrichsen was sent to Mt. Carmel to investigate.

In her inimitable style she has described "Tin Town" and "The Commons." The story of these two settlements may be the beginning of a great work by the State.

Mt. Carmel awakened at once to the seriousness of the situation. The newspapers, county board, public officials, ministers and the women of the city took the matter in hand with a determination to clean house.

Miss Hinrichsen's report has been printed in installments in the local newspapers. Public meetings have been held. She has returned to give advice in the organization of social work. Mr. W. S. Reynolds, of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, has likewise visited the scene and Mr. H. L. Harley, State Psychologist, will make an examination on all the children found in these settlements.

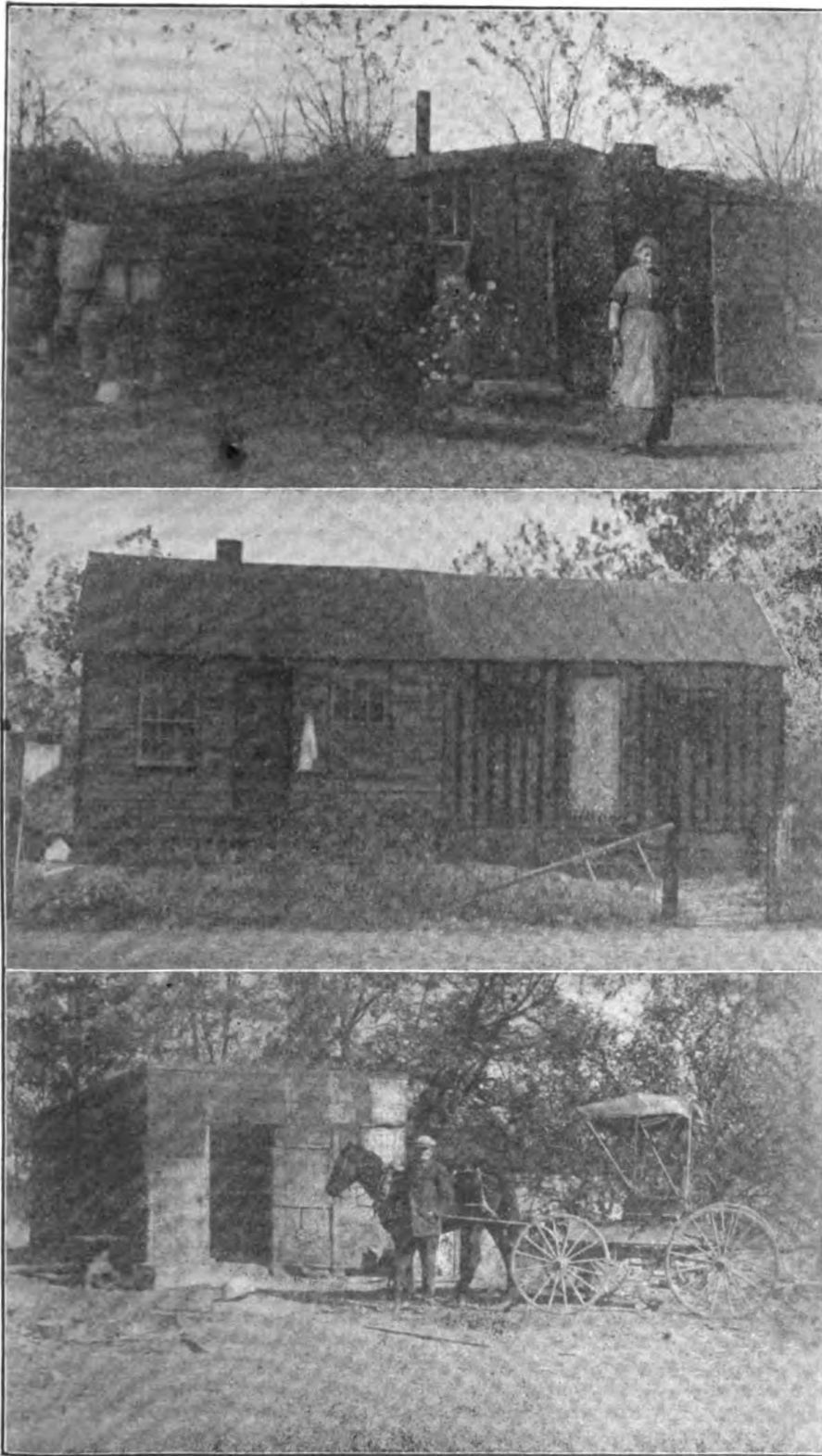
Mt. Carmel has shown, the true and correct spirit.

Miss Hinrichsen's report has been given extensive publicity throughout this and other states.

Other towns in Illinois are now finding they have "Tin Town" in their midst, and are asking the State Charities Commission to make an investigation. But the Commission has limited funds and facilities.

We are publishing Miss Hinrichsen's story of "Tin Town" in full, together with many pictures which she took during the two weeks she spent in her investigation.—EDITOR.]

## SCENES IN TIN TOWN, MT. CARMEL, ILLINOIS.



Top, the "Yarb" doctor; middle, the home of seven children fed by the town, one is awaiting burial; lower, the junk dealer who is also the architect and builder of Tin Town.

[By ANNIE HINRICHSSEN, Inspector of Institutions for the State Charities Commission.]

With the highest per capita expenditure for outdoor relief of any city in Illinois, Mt. Carmel, the county seat of Wabash County, maintains a hotbed for the propagation of defectives and delinquents.

In the last year Wabash County expended for outdoor relief in the city of Mt. Carmel, \$7,000. The population of the city is 7,000. The greater part of this money has been expended for the support of the persons in two adjacent communities, known as "Tin Town" and "The Commons." The money has been expended without investigation and without supervision.

#### FED FROM COUNTY TREASURY.

Able-bodied men and women, capable of complete self-support, are fed from the county treasury. Little children are kept in filth and rags in the vilest huts, ill with loathsome diseases and afflicted with incurable physical defects. They are herded in the huts with women of the streets, with the "boarders" and "housekeepers" of their parents. Feeble-minded women, unmarried women and girls barely in their teens, add to the population. Men and women live in unlawful and indiscriminate cohabitation.

The children are not sent to school except under compulsion. A high per cent of them are mentally incapable of being educated in the public schools, and practically all of them go to school so irregularly that they learn little or nothing. The school which they attend has the lowest standing in attendance of the schools of the city.

There is no health officer for the city, and no county physician. The physicians are paid by the county for their calls. In practically every family in the recent summer there were from one to six cases of "chills and fever."

#### THE CRIMINALS OF THE COUNTY.

Seventy-five per cent of the criminal work of the sheriff's department for the entire county come from these families. Ninety per cent of the police work of the city is in Tin Town and the Commons.

More than 75 families in Mt. Carmel are on the county dependent list. Nearly half of this number are supported the year around, and the other half are taken care of during the winter, the high-water periods, and on numerous other occasions.

The county provides for these people and permits them to live under the most unspeakable conditions of physical and moral degeneracy. The officials who scatter the county funds with lavish hands among these people, do so without inquiring into conditions, without visiting the homes, and without making any definite efforts to ascertain real needs.

Of the families supported the year around, three of them are represented at present by three generations on the charity list. The most notorious of the dependents have married and intermarried until it is almost impossible to trace the family ramifications.

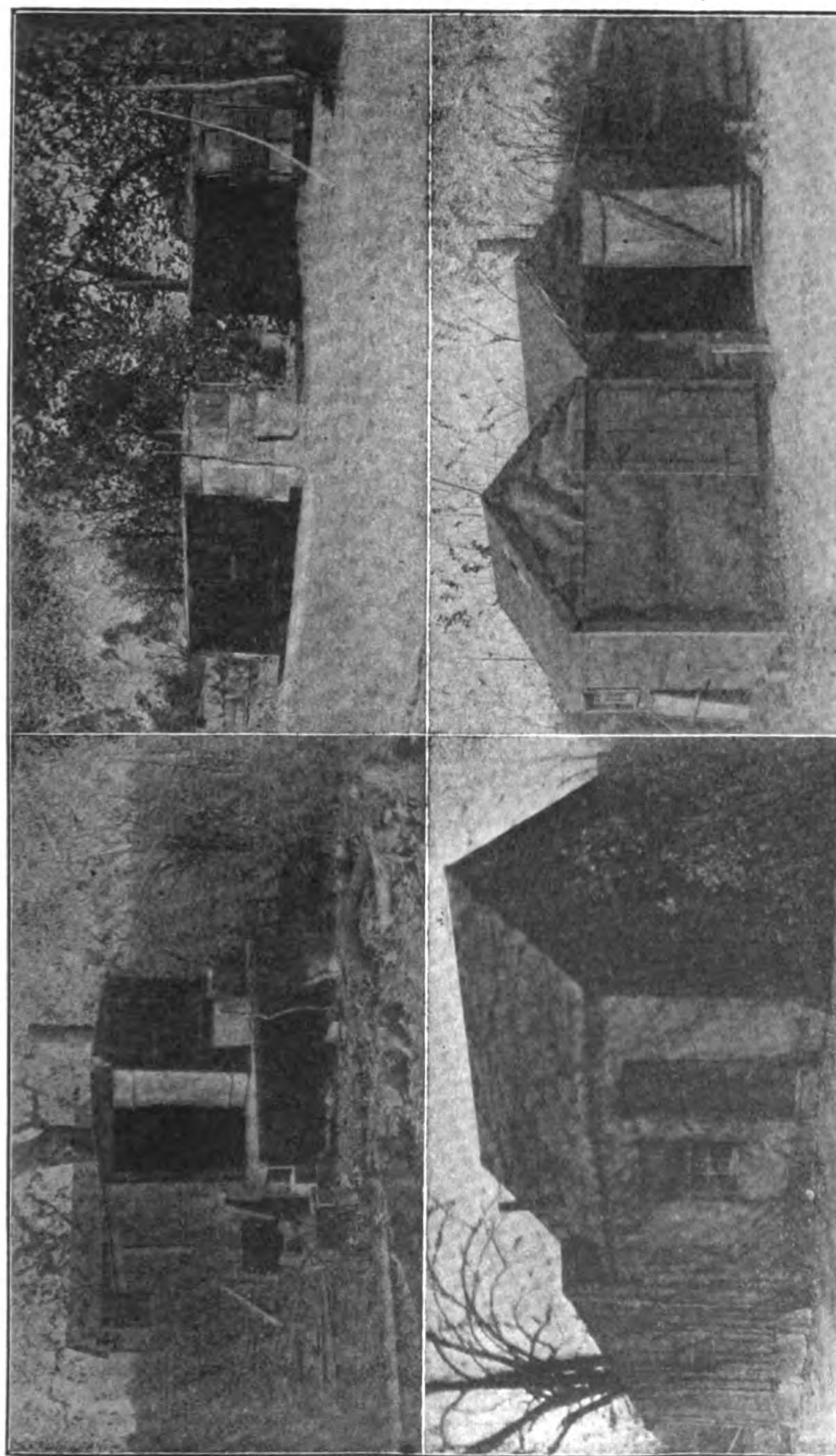
The county charity roll and the criminal records read as one.

The per cent of defectives in the families is high. But nothing is done for the removal of the defectives from the community until enraged citizens demand that the incorrigibles shall be placed in institutions.

Restoration of a family to self-support is unknown. Curative methods for the disease of pauperism appear to be completely ignored. Preventive measures, care of the children, use of the courts to compel self-support and maintenance of families do not exist.

#### BIG MONEY FOR RELIEF.

The county board at the annual meeting in September, 1915, appropriated, for the entire county, \$6,000 for poor relief, \$1,000 for mothers' pensions, and \$600 for the support of the blind. From the poor relief fund is paid a part of the almshouse cost. The claims allowed from the general poor relief fund for the poor in Mt. Carmel, for the year ending with the September session of the county board, aggregated a few dollars less than \$6,000. The expenditure for mothers' pensions in the city of Mt. Carmel was about



SCENES IN TIN TOWN, MT, CARMEL, ILLINOIS.

Upper left, Tin Town doors are open to admit light and air; upper right, these buildings are of tin; lower left, the town's most pretentious dwelling, its occupants have been on the county for 20 years, three of its children now in St. Charles; lower right, a type of Tin Town dwelling inhabited by a woman now in Lincoln State School and her six children. The "lean-to" was the gift of a friend.

\$700, and for the relief of the blind \$400—a total expenditure for the city of \$7,000, one-third of the income of the county.

The relief funds of Mt. Carmel are administered by an overseer of the poor, who receives \$25 a month for his services. The method of administration consists in writing orders to merchants. There is no effort to conceal the fact that investigations are not made, that little is known of many of the families to whom orders are given. In several instances the overseer said he did not know where regular county charges live, how many children there are in the family, or how many adults.

Section 20 of the Illinois Pauper Law defines the duties of the overseer of the poor: "The overseers of the poor shall have the care and oversight of all such persons in their town or precinct as are unable to earn a livelihood in consequence of any bodily infirmity, idiocy, lunacy or other unavoidable cause and are not supported by relatives, and shall see that they are suitably relieved, supported and employed."

Section 29 of the same law states that the overseer "shall keep an accurate account, showing the name of every person relieved or supported in the town, the place of his birth, the manner in which he is relieved or supported, whether in whole or in part, at the expense of the county, the amount of the aid furnished, whether the dependency was on account of idiocy, lunacy, intemperance or other cause, stating the cause. And on or before the first meeting of the county board of September of each year, file a copy of such account with the county clerk of their county."

The law also imposes a fine of \$25 for failure to make the report according to specifications.

The sections of the law are practically ignored. The lack of any attempts at investigation of applications makes it impossible for the overseer to see that the poor are "suitably relieved, supported and employed."

#### THE OVERSEER'S RECORDS.

The overseer's records consist of a memorandum of each order given to a merchant, the name of the person receiving the order, and the date the order was written. At each meeting of the board the overseer files a brief summary of a part of the cases, but the summary contains so few items concerning the family conditions, that little can be learned from it of the families, beyond the fact that they are county dependents.

The Mothers' Pension Law, enacted for the purpose of enabling honest, hard-working women of good moral character to rear their children in decent surroundings, has been abused until it is only a travesty. Pensions have been allowed to women who do not, in moral fitness nor in legal qualifications, come within the provisions of the law. The clause relating to supervision has not been observed.

Tin Town is a lane of dilapidated shacks. It runs beside the Wabash River. A 10-minute walk from the business section of the city brings one to it. The shacks are built of the pickings of the junk-piles—old stove zincs, old burlap, stovepipes, discarded boxes. Occasionally the falling sides are patched with new rubberoid or lumber bought by a county order. The roofs are so low that in several of them a grown person can not stand upright. The floors are of dirt. The furnishings of battered stoves, tattered bedding, broken tables, old boxes, appear to have come from the same junk piles which provided the buildings. The huts are close together. Few of them have more than one room. Even with one room the head of the house may keep a "boarder" or a "housekeeper." The toilet facilities are unspeakable. Several families use one well. Water for washing, if it is ever used, is taken from the river.

#### SHACKS IN TIN TOWN.

There are 16 shacks in Tin Town. In 10 of them live county dependents. One is vacant. One is occupied by a family which is preparing to move away. Members of eight of the families have police records.

Adjoining Tin Town is The Commons. On the Commons are clustered tiny huts, many of them in the last stages of decay, tottering as if ready to fall to the ground, unpainted, the windows broken, the foundations rotting.



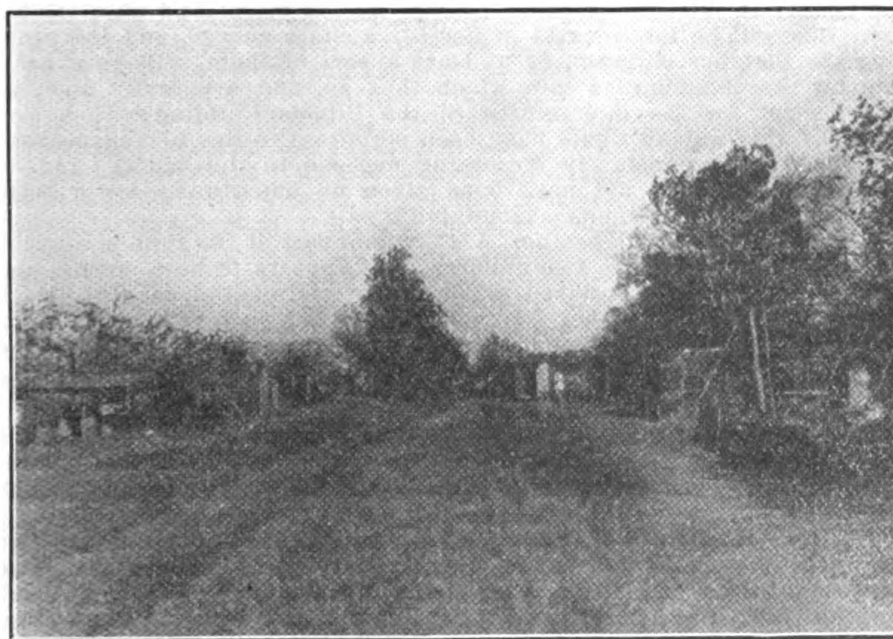
Here within a few acres live about thirty families who are dependent either wholly or in part on the county, or, at least, who are on the county charity roll.

Each year when the river rises, Tin Town and The Commons are submerged. The families are moved to the higher ground and are herded into buildings in Mt. Carmel. The county pays the bills. As soon as the water recedes the families return to their huts. And almost immediately begin the rounds of "chills and fever."

The following histories of families and the methods by which the county had aided them have been prepared after a thorough examination of the county's relief and criminal records, and after personal investigations and visits in the homes. The names, for obvious reasons, are not stated. The initials are not those of the families. Appended to this article are tables showing family trees with the names of the persons and the key to the initials.

#### A FEEBLE-MINDED WOMAN.

A. B. is a feeble-minded woman. She lived with her six children in a one-room tin hut in Tin Town. Her hut was about 15 feet by 13 feet, and in only one place could an adult stand upright. Her husband died several years ago. It is said that he drew a small pension from the Federal Government. Just why this pension was not continued to his family, there seems to be considerable difference of opinion. The woman was always known to be feeble-minded. After her husband's death she gave birth to two children. Her oldest child, a girl, is 18 years of age. According to the reports of the local officials, she is not a respectable young woman. The next daughter is 14. She, also, is said to be of low moral character. Then come three boys, one of whom is not educable. One of two years is too young for his mentality to be known. A small baby was suffering with ophthalmia neonatorum.



Tin Town, Mt. Carmel, Illinois; a village built from the picking of the city's junk piles.

The family was entirely dependent on the county. According to the reports of the neighbors and the authorities, the woman kept one boarder and maintained an open house for many others. The overseer's records

for the year from October, 1915, to the last of September, 1916, show that to this woman there were issued in county orders, \$126, probably for groceries, five tons of coal, shoes, dresses for herself and the baby, 38 yards of calico, 20 yards of muslin, 30 yards of bedticking, quilt, cotton flannel, rubberoid and lumber for her house. From December 27 till April 18 she was given five tons of coal, to heat one small room. To her 14-year-old daughter there were given \$4.00 in an order for merchandise, 6 pairs of shoes, 1 pair of slippers, 7 dresses, 2 waists, 4 pairs of stockings, 30 yards of muslin, underwear three times, and a sweater. To the two schoolboys were given an order for \$2.05 in merchandise, 5 pairs of pants, 6 pairs of overalls, 3 hats, 8 shirts. The county also employed a physician for the family and paid the expenses incident to the baby's birth.

#### NO ACTION TAKEN FOR A LONG TIME.

Although this woman's mental and physical conditions were public knowledge, and her morals were public scandal, no action was taken by the county until a representative of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society demanded the removal of this community menace, and the woman with her partially-blind baby was sent to the Lincoln State School and Colony, and the three boys were placed under the care of the Home and Aid. The two daughters fled to Indiana. This woman was removed to Lincoln October 4, 1916.

This woman, a mental defective, vilely diseased, has been supported by the county under circumstances which must inevitably increase her degeneracy and that of her children. She has lived openly, and at county expense, a life of utter moral and physical degeneracy, and has been permitted to rear her children in a hovel of the lowest moral and physical filth. No effort has been made by county officials to protect the children. She has been permitted to bring into the world two illegitimate children, one of them to be forever a dependent on the State. This woman has been an expense to the county in money, but a far heavier one in moral and physical contagion. She will be for the rest of her life a State charge, and the probabilities are that her children, or at least a part of them, will be a heavy burden on the communities into which they go, and eventually upon the State. Except for the intervention of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, this woman would have been permitted to live her unspeakable life, to do it at a constantly increasing expense to the county, and her unfortunate children would have been given no opportunity for a better existence than their mother's shameful life.

This woman has a half-brother, A. C., who a part of the time is a county charge. He has a wife and two children. He appears to be a strong, able-bodied young man. He received aid last winter from the county. In the spring he moved into another community. He has just returned and has taken up his residence in one of the most dilapidated of the Tin Town shacks.

#### AN OLD MAN AND HIS RELATIVES.

A. D. was an old man, a brother of A. C.'s husband. He, too, lived in Tin Town and was entirely dependent on the county. When his sister-in-law was taken away he was sent at county expense to a brother in another state.

A. E. is a grandniece of A. B. She is about 18 years old. Her mother, A. B.'s niece, married into a family who are frequent candidates for county aid and criminal action. The mother died a few months ago of tuberculosis, leaving her daughter a county charge and one of the most dissolute young women, according to the authorities, of the community. This girl lives with a family of county dependents.

In a two-room wooden hut, the most pretentious dwelling in Tin Town, lives a family that for more than 20 years have been in the criminal and relief records of the county. The head of the family, B. C., we find, 20 years ago, at the age of 26, received a jail sentence for buying liquor for a drunkard, and the county record states that at that period his reputation



was "bad." At a later date this man is tried in the Circuit Court on a charge of sodomy and is discharged.

He marries and raises, at county expense, a family of seven children. At present three sons are in the St. Charles School for Boys. Another son of 10 years is a persistent beggar on the streets of Mt. Carmel. Another son in the public school is almost incorrigible at the age of 7. There is a child of 5 at home and a baby, which, although nearly 3 years old, is still breast-fed. The teachers say that the children are intelligent but absolutely incorrigible. The mother is said to be a hard worker. She and the father were in the police court several months ago on charges of disturbing the peace. The father does almost no work at all and his reputation is evidently a great deal worse than it was 20 years ago.

#### THE HUT IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

The old wooden hut in which this family lives has two rooms. There is no weatherboarding, no plaster—only the bare boards, some of them wide apart. There is one bed. There is very little furniture. The rooms were clean but the members of the family were not.

B. C. has an uncle, B. D., who lives in one of the Tin Town huts and is supported by the county. He lives alone.

C. A. is a strong, healthy-looking woman between 45 and 55 years of age. She is entirely dependent on the county. At least, she receives regular weekly aid from the county. She lives in one of the Tin Town huts—a hovel of one room with a tiny shed. The door between the room and the shed is a hole cut in the boards.

In this cabin lived C. A. with her daughter, C. B., a girl said to be about 18 years of age. The girl appears to be much younger. This girl, more than a year ago, gave birth to a baby concerning whose paternity there is considerable uncertainty. The woman, the daughter and the baby continued to live at county expense in the cabin. About four months ago the girl went to work for a woman, C. C., who is also at times a recipient of county aid, and who bears a most unsavory reputation. The woman says she works hard and supports herself and her children, and because she must work away from home, she employs C. B. as a "hired girl." Even though C. B. appears to be a "hired girl," and although her mother is supported by the county and does not need her daughter's aid, C. B. seems to need county assistance. At least, the records show that she receives it. In the last four months, the time in which she has been a "hired girl," she has received from the county 1 corset, 1 corset-cover, 2 dresses for herself and 3 for the baby, 2 waists for herself, 1 skirt, shoes for herself and her baby, stockings, 5 yards of muslin, 10 yards of lawn, 10 yards of calico and an order for \$2.20 worth of merchandise. This does not include orders for the month of October if she received any, for the records for orders were available only until the last of September. This girl's charity account after she went to work as a "hired girl" is about the same as it was before she secured her job.

#### FRIEND "COUGH SYRUP."

We find also that this girl, by the county order, although evidently not by the physician's order, was permitted to dose her baby with seven bottles of cough syrup in the winter and spring. ,

There seems to be no reason why this girl and her mother should have been regular county charges before the birth of the baby. There seems to be no reason why the mother to-day should be a regular dependent on the county, nor why the girl, who by her own statement and that of the woman with whom she is living, has a job, should continue to be a county dependent.

Although the county appears to be willing to support this girl, there has been no effort made, apparently, to give her any chance to redeem her mistakes or to care properly for her baby. She is permitted by the county which bears the burden of her dependency, to live in surroundings which must increase her delinquency. Under the present method of dealing with

this girl there is nothing before her but trouble, and she will continue to be an expense, and an increasing expense, to the county.

The mother of this girl, C. A., lives across the street from her former husband, D. A. The husband has three children by a former wife; a daughter who does not live at home and is said to be a good girl; a son who is one of the notorious trouble-makers of the town and has served a term in the reform school, and a boy in school, said by teachers to be apparently of normal intelligence but so entirely untrained that it is difficult to teach him anything. This man is not a county charge, but a large number of his near relatives are.

#### BLIND AND DEPENDENT.

D. B., a half-brother of D. A., is entirely dependent on the county. He is partially blind. He was operated on at the Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary several years ago and can see enough to wander around Tin Town. He appears to be a sick man. He is thin, sallow and coughs a good deal. He has a son about 12 or 14 years old. This boy has been out of school two years on account of eye trouble. He can see very little. He is said to be a bad boy. Although blindness may be given as the cause of the father's dependency on public charity, and although the boy promises to be dependent for the same reason, no action has been taken by the authorities to prevent the boy's blindness, or even to investigate the cause. The man and the boy live alone in their hovel in Tin Town.

Two other brothers of the blind man live together in a small houseboat moored at the edge of Tin Town. They fish and "mussel" through the summer and get county aid through the winter.

E. A., who says she is a good herb doctor, lives in one of the tin huts alone. She has no relatives, she says, and is entirely dependent on the county. She appears to be one of the few persons who can not reasonably be expected to get along without help. She is too old and weak to work and she has no one legally responsible, it is said, for her support.

F. A. and his housekeeper live in two of the tin shacks. The man is a cripple and is a county dependent. His housekeeper's name occasionally appears upon the charity list and it may also be found in the criminal records.

#### FATHER AND TWO SONS ARE AIDED.

G. A. is a middle-aged man with two grown sons. They occasionally receive county aid. Father and both sons appear at frequent intervals in the criminal records and the father and one son have each had more than one jail sentence.

H. A. lives with one grown son in a one-room, very small tin hut. He is dependent on the county part of the time, or, at least, he receives county aid. He has a criminal record. His two sons have criminal records. Both of them have had reformatory sentences and at the age of 14 we find them beginning their careers in the courts. The younger son was killed. The older son is a frequent boarder in the county jail.

In one home in Tin Town there is a book which is the genealogy of one of the most distinguished families in America, a family which has given famous soldiers, jurists and teachers to the country. On one page of this book appears the name of the man who lives in the Tin Town hut.

#### A BIG FAMILY AND LONG RECORD.

In one room in a house near The Commons lives an old woman, J. A., who, with her children and grandchildren, is a county charge.

The one room contains a bed, a stove and a collection of very filthy junk. With this woman in her miserable room lives her grown son. The county provides the living.

This woman's three sons have records as dependents and as criminals.

One son, J. B., is a cripple. He had one family by a former wife, and according to the records, has had a penitentiary sentence. One of his sons has been in trouble with the authorities, but is said to be a good worker.

The present wife of J. B. has been an inmate of Indiana State Hospital for the Insane. They are starting another family and evidently need county aid in rearing their children and supporting themselves.

Another son, J. C., appears on the criminal records of the sheriff's office, but the charge against him is not stated.

One daughter, J. D., is frequently a county dependent. She married a man whose name can be found in the criminal records. A son of this daughter was found guilty of larceny, sentenced to St. Charles, and then placed on probation. The name is often on the charity list.

Another daughter, J. E., of the woman, J. A., is occasionally, though not often, on the county charity list. She has a partially blind child.

The son of J. A., who shares the one-room home which the county provides for the mother, has been married but does not live with his wife. The wife, K. A., lives in a tottering hut with her mother and her two children by a former marriage. They are entirely dependent on the county. The two boys are subnormal; one is said to be an imbecile. He can scarcely speak.

#### AND STILL ANOTHER FAMILY.

In one of the most dilapidated huts on The Commons lives the family of L. A. The cabin has three rooms. L. A. is ill with typhoid fever. In the outer room sat his wife, in her arms a baby so thin and emaciated that it was only a tiny skeleton. In a wooden box, surrounded by a collection of filthy rags, lay the baby's twin sister. The floor, the broken sticks of furniture, and the walls, were thick with dirt. On a bed, whose clothing was so vile with age and dirt as to be unfit for a human being to approach, lay a little child, evidently about three years of age. The child was asleep. Its mouth was wide open. Its face was black with flies, and the flies were crawling in and out of its open mouth. There was a fire in the stove. The room was suffocatingly hot. The windows were closed. The broken panes had been replaced by old rags and papers.

The sick man had been a hard worker until illness and general bad luck came to him. The family is now entirely dependent on the county. The physician is the only person, paid by the county to look after the needs of its dependents, who has been near the family. The officials who administer the relief did not know the nature of the man's disease, the number of children in the home or any of the circumstances which have placed this family on the charity list.

#### THE SEVEN CHILDREN.

There are seven children, or rather there were on the day of the visit. Three of them, aged 11, 9 and 7, are in school and are said by the teachers to be subnormal. The entire family of children have eye troubles; all are mouth-breathers. The sick baby died a few days after the visit.

With this family lives a niece of L. A.'s wife. This girl is soon to become a mother. She says she is 19 years of age. She has been twice in the courts recently, once when she brought suit against the alleged father of her child and compromised the case for \$50, and again when she was fined for an attempt to do great bodily harm to another young woman of the neighborhood, also a county dependent.

This girl will probably be permitted to bring her baby into the world in this wretched hut, in the most miserable filth, and at county expense. The children who are already herded into the tiny, dirty, foul-smelling cabin are ill and mentally subnormal, or appear to be. The county has done nothing toward a possible improvement of the condition of this family.

M. A. is a dependent woman who, with her six children, lives in a comparatively clean cabin on The Commons. Her husband, who is not living with her, has served one sentence in the penitentiary. Her children are all girls. All of them have eye troubles. Her oldest daughter has been married but lives at home with the mother. She is about 18, and has appeared once in the police court. The children are not sent to school with any regularity. Nothing has been done by the county for this family except to give them orders for groceries and merchandise. Every member of the family except the baby has had "chills and fever" this summer.

## SOME ARE AWAY, SOME AT HOME.

P. A. has a husband in the Indiana State Prison, a son in the St. Charles School for Boys, and six children at home. The family is dependent upon the county. One child of 11 years has a "running ear," another of nine has lost his teeth, his mother says, through "chill tonic." With this family lives a young girl, referred to in another paragraph as a dissolute character. Her name is usually on the charity list. She is apparently able to work, but she is a county dependent living in the home of a family of dependents. This family will probably be dependent upon the county indefinitely, since nothing has been done in the way of investigating their needs or giving the children the attention of which they are in great need.

P. A.'s husband has two cousins who, with their families, are frequently on the county charity list.

One cousin, P. B., lives with his housekeeper, his three children and one daughter of the housekeeper's, in a houseboat drawn upon the shore. The family occasionally receives county aid. One child, the teachers said, is a good girl. It was also said that she was suffering from a severe case of eczema. A boy of 13 is said to be dishonest and begs on the streets of Mt. Carmel. The other child, a girl of 15, is said to be a good worker and honest. The housekeeper's daughter also has a good reputation. The county provides clothing for the children. The housekeeper's name occasionally has appeared on the charity list.

Another family which is occasionally dependent and whose real needs have been ignored is that of P. C., a cousin of P. A.'s husband, and a brother of P. B. He lives in a small hut. His two children, aged 7 and 9, are said by their teachers to be almost uneducable. Both are very stupid and both lie and steal.

## AND WHY THE FAMILY OF R. A.

Just why the family of R. A. should ever appear upon the county charity list appears to be something of a mystery. R. A. is a woman between 40 and 50, strong and healthy in appearance. She lives with her husband, two grown sons and a 10-year-old daughter, in a small cabin at the river's edge. Her husband and two grown sons work regularly, she says. The sons are 22 and 18 years of age. The family owns the house in which they live. But their names are found in several places on the county's charity roll and the little girl of 11 years has received clothing at county expense. The strongest remonstrances of the truant officer and the teacher can not induce the woman to send her child to school regularly.

S. A. is a widow with four children, a married daughter and three sons. She is entirely dependent on the county. One son is at St. Charles. Another, aged 8, is said to be uneducable.

S. T. and her 18-year-old daughter appear to be persons who, under ordinary circumstances, could take care of themselves. Yet they are "on the county" almost the entire year around. During the canning season they work in the catsup factory, and according to the reports from the factory officials their earnings are about \$10 a week. They work only when there is work in the factory, and even during the summer months they apply to the county for help. They live in one of The Commons cabins.

S. B. is a young woman with two children, aged 9 and 7. The woman is said by the county officials to be of bad moral character and not of normal mentality. She is a county dependent. Her children are not sent to school. The girl is said to be already almost incorrigible. Their hut on The Commons is almost ready to fall to the ground. The woman's husband, it is said, occasionally comes to visit her. Nothing seems to be known of his habits or his ability to support his family. The woman stated that her daughter has a serious physical infirmity.

## COURTS AND THE OVERSEER.

S. J. and his family occasionally receive aid and occasionally get into the courts. S. J. is an old man. He lives with a son. The son recently married the housekeeper who had been living in the cabin for some time. He has

three children—a boy of 12, said to be a good boy, a girl said to be an incorrigible, and a little boy of 7, so neglected that his mental condition is a matter of uncertainty. The child is ragged and filthy. A family took him in because the child was so cruelly treated, and tried to take care of him. The father demanded the return of the child and the unkempt, forlorn little boy is now living in the family hut. The housekeeper has two children, 5 and 3 years of age.

A case which should have been given care and something more than mere grocery orders, is that of K. L., a young woman with a fatherless child. This young woman lived with her mother and two brothers in a small cabin. The mother married a man said to be well-to-do and left her daughter to shift for herself. Both of the brothers have been given St. Charles sentences. The sheriff's jail register records both boys as having been convicted, ordered to St. Charles and taken to St. Charles. The deputy sheriff and the sheriff say that one of the boys was not convicted, and was not taken to St. Charles. The register records his conviction and delivery to the institution. The county helped the young woman for a time, but the aid was not of a kind to be of permanent value. She is now working, but she is compelled to leave her child with a family which can not give it decent care. The family with whom she leaves her child live in a wretched hut, are abjectly poor, and women, children and house were filthy.

#### A LARGE FAMILY.

K. M. and his wife have had fifteen children. Ten of them are living. Two have been in the courts. They do not live in Tin Town or The Commons, but are nearer the residence section of the city. The woman of the house said that the entire family was more or less "ailing" and that the doctor had said the well is contaminated. The family continue to use the contaminated well. This case has received nothing from the county except continuous orders for merchandise. A grown son lives at home. One daughter "works out." Six children, the oldest 14 years of age and the youngest 2 years, are at home. All are said by the mother to be "sickly." The place was dirty enough to make any family "sickly." The overseer of the poor said this family was probably "on the county to stay indefinitely." Although the doctor is reported as saying that the cause of the family ill-health is the contaminated well, no attention has been given to this fact, and no remedial measures by which the family health could be improved, thereby greatly decreasing the county expense, have been taken.

Another family whose place on the charity list seems unnecessary is that of S. W., who, with her grown son, one son in high school and one child at home, lives in a small cottage not on The Commons. Her grown son is employed regularly, she says, as a fireman or an engineer. She gets each week an order from the county for groceries or other merchandise and is listed as a regular dependent. The overseer of the poor said he did not know of the existence of the grown son.

The family of S. V., man wife and five children, are frequently applicants for aid, and all last winter were "on the county." The overseer of the poor did not know where this family is at present living, although they are known to be somewhere in the town and it was expected that they would again come upon the county roll this winter. One county official reports that this family has two grown sons and that county aid is not necessary, and has not been.

#### TWO FAMILIES APPEAR WORTHY.

Two families, that of V. L. and V. W., appear to be worthy women, really in need of county aid and unable without it to take care of their families. V. L.'s husband is in a Federal prison. She has three children, said to be good children, sent regularly to school. The other woman, V. W., has three little children and her own health is poor. She has a clean little home and healthy, attractive children.

Six women in Mt. Carmel receive the Mothers' Pension. One woman outside of the city is on the pension list. Upon the recommendation of an official, a pension was allowed March 21, 1916, to a woman living in Belmont,

but the money has never been collected by the woman. Just why a woman so needy as to apply for relief has never made an effort to collect her pension, was a question which county officials said they could not answer.

Three of the six women to whom pensions are allowed are not legally entitled to this form of aid. In every instance in which a pension is allowed a mother the law relating to supervision is ignored.

The law explicitly states that the mother shall be entirely dependent, that neither she nor her children shall have relatives liable for their support, that she shall be mentally, morally and physically fitted to bring up her children to useful citizenship, that it shall be for the welfare of the children to remain with their mother. The law provides that:

"It shall be the duty of the probation officers to investigate all applications for relief and make a written report of such investigation with their recommendations.

"After granting of relief to any mother for the support of her children it shall be the further duty of such officers to visit and supervise, under the direction of the court, the families to which such relief has been granted and to advise with the court and to perform such other duties as the court may direct in order to maintain the integrity of the family and the welfare of the child."

#### THE MOTHERS' PENSION ALSO.

The probation officer, who is also the overseer of the poor, turns in each month a report card for each child for whom a mother receives a pension. These cards give the name, the address, the monthly earnings of the mother, the child's school record, the condition of the home and the expenditures of the mother. For each card turned in to the county clerk's office the probation officer receives 25 cents.

The officer prepares these reports without visiting the homes of the pensioners. The women report to him and according to their reports he prepares the records. The condition of the home is reported "good" in nearly every instance. A woman lives in two rooms with her grown son, two children, a man boarder, the boarder's daughter and her child and the home condition will be reported "good." She may, while receiving a pension as a good and worthy woman, become pregnant and present to the county an illegitimate child and the home condition will be described as "good" and the mother permitted to remain on the county pension roll.

For the six mothers in Mt. Carmel there are fourteen children. The investigating officer collects for his "reports" \$3.50 a month. This constitutes the salary of the official who is appointed to aid in the wise and careful administration of a law which provides that there shall be made careful investigations of all applications, that there shall be recommended for the pension only a certain class of women, and that over good and worthy women who are mentally, morally and physically fit to bring up their children there shall be maintained a wise and kindly supervision.

The children whose mothers are paid by the county for their care appear to be as sadly neglected, as far as their physical welfare is concerned, as the children of the parents who are aided under the Pauper Law.

#### ONE OF THE INSTANCES.

Number One lives in a neat-looking two-story frame house just off The Commons. She rents a part of her house and lives in the rear. She receives \$20 a month from the county for her four children. A son over 14 was dropped a few months ago from the county list. This woman has had two children since her husband's death; the last one was born more than one year after she was placed upon the pension roll. The teachers report that the children do good work in school. This woman undoubtedly needs county aid and should have it, but she can hardly be said to be entitled to it under the provisions of the Pension Law. A brother, drunk and disorderly, is blind and receives the pension for the blind. He lives with his parents.

Number Two receives \$2.50 a month for each of her two children. She lives in a two-room house on The Commons. She has two grown sons, one of whom has recently been an inmate of the home. She keeps a man



boarder, his daughter and her child. This family of seven occupy the two rooms, yet under the provisions of the law, the children for whom the mother receives a pension must be properly cared for in a decent environment. The mother is a hard worker. She makes a good garden and works steadily at any work she can get to do. Her children, it is said, she cares for as well as she is able.

This woman probably should receive county aid, but she should not receive it under the Mothers' Pension Law unless she can be decently provided for. She is said to be of good moral character. If she is, she should be given a pension adequate to her needs and forbidden to keep boarders in a two-room house or permit a grown able-bodied son to live at home.

#### WHAT ANOTHER CASE DISCLOSES.

Number Three draws a pension of \$5 a month for one child. She lives with her father and mother in a home which she says her father owns. A married brother and his family live in a part of the house. This woman is young and appears to be strong and healthy. She receives \$12 a month from the Federal Government because her husband died of tuberculosis contracted during the Spanish-American War. This is the only case brought to the attention of the State Charities Commission in which a woman living at home with her father and mother or drawing a pension from the Federal Government, is also on the mothers' pension roll. As one son is 12 years old and the other is old enough to go to high school, and the father and mother are also at home, it might seem that this young woman could add materially to the family income. At least, if she must have aid, she should not receive it under the mothers' pension.

Number Four receives a pension of \$2.50 a month for each of three children. Her husband receives the blind pension of \$150 a year. The woman is a hard worker and her average weekly earnings are \$10. The average monthly income of the family is about \$60. The woman stated that her father is coming to live with her. The youngest child is said to be tubercular. The other children are clean, nice-looking youngsters. Just why a family whose earning capacity is what this family's is, should be on the charity roll is a matter of interest. That the woman is a good and worthy woman, there is no doubt, that her husband is blind there is no doubt, but neither of these reasons, all things considered, is a sufficient warrant for the woman to draw the mothers' pension.

Number Five draws a pension of \$5 each for twin boys, seven years of age. The woman apparently has no means of support except the work that she is able to do. The teacher reports that the children seems to know nothing about punctuality at school. One of them has defective hearing. The county official, whose duty it is to look after this child, has not taken cognizance of its physical condition.

#### TRANSFERRED TO MOTHERS' ROLL.

Number Six was transferred from the regular county dependent list, where she was aided under the Pauper Act and given the mothers' pension. She has two sons, 19 and 17 years of age, who, she says, are good workers; a boy of 8 years, and a girl of 6. The boy and the girl both have enlarged tonsils. The little girl's nose and throat were in so serious a condition from adenoids and tonsils that she could not go to school. Her condition received no attention from the persons responsible under the law for her physical welfare and if the school nurse had not insisted upon an operation, the child would perhaps have continued to suffer from an affliction that was making her an uneducable child. One of the older boys, it is said, is not normal in mind. Not by any stretch of the imagination can the condition of this home be called "good."

For the conditions that exist among the county dependents in Mt. Carmel there is but one remedy possible. That is the appointment of a thoroughly competent, trained overseer of the poor, one who understands

the problems of dependency, the principles of relief, and the restoration of a family to self-support, and most important of all, one who understands the needs of the child and the laws under which children of the hovels of pauperism and vice can be taken care of.

This overseer should have a social vision keen enough to ignore all political considerations, and to regard the community welfare as the first duty of a relief official. This overseer could also be the probation officer. The salary should be large enough to make it worth the while of an efficient person to take the place. The immediate dropping from the county roll of certain able-bodied men and women would more than pay the salary of this official at the beginning of the service and the ultimate improvement in conditions would permanently reduce the cost. This overseer should be a woman. The majority of the persons who require supervision are women and children. Many of the women are dissolute. There are problems to be handled here that only a woman should be permitted to handle.

#### A CRUEL BURDEN OF PAUPERISM.

Mt. Carmel is carrying to-day a cruel burden of pauperism, vice and illiteracy.

By the extravagant expenditure of the relief funds, by the utter inefficiency of the relief methods, by the lack of any investigation of the needs of the applicants and of supervision of its dependents, by its criminal neglect of the children of the county charges, Wabash County has permitted to develop conditions of pauperism and delinquency which are imposing a constantly increasing burden upon the county and the State.

From a community which fosters pauperism must come the inmates of the State's penal and charitable institutions, and upon the abuses of the public relief laws must be placed the blame for the degeneracy whose cost is ultimately placed upon the State.

#### FOOD ALLOWANCES TO PATIENTS IN THREE STATES.

A comparison of the daily ration allowances in the state hospitals of Massachusetts, New York and Illinois shows that Illinois allows its patients more than Massachusetts, while New York and Illinois run about an even race. Massachusetts exceeds Illinois in only one food. It allows 0.04 pints of milk more than Illinois. In seven foods, Illinois exceeds Massachusetts. In the rest the two states allow the same.

New York exceeds in potatoes by 0.05 ounces, in milk by 0.2 pints, and in butter by 0.005 ounces. In all other foods the two states make equal allowances.

The following is a table of daily ration allowance per patient in the three states with comparisons:

	Massachu- setts.	New York.	Illinois.	Illinois in excess of Massachu- setts.	Illinois less than New York.
Meat (ounces).....	9.03	<sup>2</sup> 10.5	10.5	1.47	.....
Farinaceous Food (ounces)	11.7	13.	13.	1.3	.....
Eggs (per day).....	.5	.55	.5	.....	.05
Potatoes (ounces).....	9.3	10.	10.	.7	.....
Milk (pints).....	1.04	1.2	1.	.....	.2
Butter (ounces).....	1.37	1.505	1.50	.13	.005
Sugar (ounces).....	1.90	2.125	2.125	.225	.....
Tea (ounces).....	.1212	.125	.125	.0038	.....
Coffee (ounces).....	.4455	.5	.5	.0545	.....
Cheese.....	.3	.3	.3	.....	.....

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts is .04 pints in excess in milk supply of Illinois.

<sup>2</sup> Includes poultry, fish, oysters and clams.

NOTE.—Massachusetts allows 7 cents a week for fruit, while Illinois allows 4¢ ounces per day.