

with a capacity of 60 pupils, we are therefore obliged to use this log building as a boarding-school for girls.

The present number of children between the ages of seven and sixteen years at this agency is 763; it will, therefore, readily be seen that facilities for their education here are entirely inadequate. As for sending them to any schools in the East, the Indians as a rule, are very much opposed to anything of this character; in fact, most of them positively refuse to entertain any such proposition. They cannot, however, offer the same objections to schools carried on at their home agencies, and as free schools on the reservation are of two-fold benefit-elevating alike both parents and pupils. The parents by coming in contact with their children while attending school-the advantages of such a system are plainly manifest, and I would, therefore, recommend that additional school facilities be afforded the Indians here, by erecting a commodious building at the agency, where girls of all ages and boys up to 12 years can be educated, after which age the boys could be transferred to the industrial farm school, and those so desiring could be sent, from time to time, to some of the Eastern schools, as the scruples of the parent and prejudices of the children would gradually be overcome by civilizing influences. With additional school facilities on the reservation a regular attendance of the children should then be strictly enforced, and their education made compulsory, but without this restraint or stimulation it will require years to break down the indifference so peculiar to the Indian and so natural to the child.

The missionary work of this agency is under the direction of Right Reverend M. Marty, O. S. B., bishop of Dakota, who has three priests stationed here. There are now three fathers, five brothers, and ten sisters of the Benedictine Order connected with the mission and schools. They have built this year, at the farm-school, a new chapel, 25 by 75 feet, which building is substantially constructed, being well sided, lathed and plastered throughout. A belfry, 30 feet high, is attached to the chapel, and a bell, weighing 1,000 pounds, has been purchased, which is now in Bismarck awaiting transportation to the agency. The cost of the chapel when completed will be about \$2,200, and the bell will cost \$300 additional. They are also building at the agency a pastor's residence, 20 by 30 feet, one and one-half stories in height, which when finished will cost about \$1,200, whilst there has been \$400 expended in improvements on the agency mission church during the past year, which has added to its appearance and increased its seating capacity very materially. The missionaries are zealous workers, and labor earnestly among the Indians, whose confidence they have to a very marked degree, and both chapels are usually well filled on Sundays with an apparently devout and attentive congregation, many of the Indians being professed Christians; notwithstanding this, they are so wedded to superstition and ignorance that it will require years of instruction and patient teaching to make them a truly Christian people.

The sanitary conditions of the Indians of this agency is good! No epidemic has prevailed during the past year, yet the mortality has been very great, there having been 151 deaths against 142 births. A large percentage of the deaths occurred among children, who died chiefly from pulmonary diseases, brought on by exposure and want of proper care, while the deaths among adults were principally from consumption and aggravated cases of scrofula. A majority of the Indians of this agency recognize the superiority of the white "medicine man's" remedies, and consult the physician in almost every case of sickness, much suffering thereby being alleviated.

But with all the skill that a physician can command, his efforts are, in a great measure, nullified by the lack of accommodations here for the proper care and treatment of the sick. It is very unsatisfactory to a physician to treat Indians at their homes, as medicines given to them they are rarely if ever taken as prescribed. Indians go upon the presumption that if a little of any given medicine is good or beneficial more of it is better, thereby defeating the desired effect and producing different results from that intended. A hospital is therefore very much needed at this agency, and I would recommend that a suitable building for the purpose be erected at as an early date as practicable. The building should have two wards, one each for males and females, with a capacity of about ten beds to each ward; the sick could then receive proper care, and all diseases could undoubtedly be more successfully and humanely treated than it is possible to do. It would also inspire the Indians with greater confidence in the white man's remedies, and be another convincing proof of the good intention of the government toward them.

In concluding this report I desire to refer to the treaty as it exists with the Indians of the Great Sioux Reservation, and the non-civilizing effect that the free ration system exerts upon them. This free ration, at regular intervals, is one of the great sources of the careless indifference of the Indians, as they believe that if they become too