

ROME STATE CUSTODIAL ASYLUM.

ROME, N. Y.

Rome State Custodial Asylum was established for the custodial care of the feeble-minded from all sections of New York State in 1894, at a time when, owing to the operation of the State Care Act, the feeble-minded were being separated from the insane.

It is located on a farm of 1000 acres of land and consists of 28 buildings, connected by corridors. The dormitories are two-stories in height, with accommodation for 200 inmates each. The second stories are divided into wards accommodating 50 inmates each; the first floors are used for living rooms. Dining rooms, kitchens, etc., are in separate buildings. An amusement hall is provided over the congregate dining rooms. The plant includes also a one-story central domestic building; a detached laundry, one story in height; detached building for power house, mortuary and laboratory; employees' building, three stories, accommodating 100; four detached farm colonies for boys, accommodating a farmer and wife and 20 inmates each, on from 100 to 300 acres of land; and a working girls' colony, situated in Rome, and providing for 30 girls, who earn their own living doing domestic work. The inmates do all the labor on the farm, produce all the milk, butter and vegetables used. Three hundred head of cattle, 500 pigs and 2000 chickens are raised per year.

The training and school work is entirely manual, vocational and industrial. There is a training school for attendants; summer school for teachers, and frequent clinic days for women's clubs, teachers' associations, ministers' associations, medical societies, graduating classes from colleges, etc., in order to diffuse knowledge regarding the feeble-minded and eugenics. There is an employees' band and orchestra of 24 pieces; also an inmates' band. Weekly concerts and dances are held, as well as moving picture shows. The capacity of the institution is 1600 inmates. The superintendent is Dr. Charles Bernstein.

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