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**MANAGEMENT OF INSTITUTIONS**

Varying Systems of State Administration—Various Technical Plan Not Discussed.

There has not been discovered, so far as we know, a perfect technical plan for administering state institutions. Almost any of the plans now supported by professional opinion will work fairly in the hands of honest, capable people who have no other object in view, and every system breaks down under political control.

Indiana was started years ago by gross scandals in its charitable institutions into a sense of responsibility for its public wards which resulted in the creation of a state board of charities. This sense of public responsibility has persisted and has been expressed by such high-minded officials as the lamented Governor Mount, so that the institutions are undoubtedly well managed at present. Missouri has a state board of charities which on the other hand has been absolutely unable to stem the political stream that has swept its institutions into a whirlpool of mismanagement. New York with its merit law for appointments has had for more than twelve years a paid lunacy commission in control of its hospitals for the insane with an admirable record for efficiency and wisdom, and a much older unpaid board of charities, of distinguished ability, supervising the other institutions. Minnesota created a state board of control, superseding a state board of charities, two years ago. Its first report makes a most satisfactory showing as to economy and efficiency, but there is a strong feeling in the state that the supervising board of charities should be re-established to oversee the operations of this administrative board with its absolute centralized powers, unmodified by any law to secure non-political appointments. Wisconsin and Iowa each have a centralized board of control, which is in the hands of excellent men, and works well, but there is no merit law to protect the appointments, should these states undergo such political stress as Kansas and Illinois have experienced.

Kansas, whose charities are under local trustees and a state board of charities, has suffered in the last ten years such an Illinois law, and we are told that a merit law is to be urged this winter by the Kansas state board of charities.

A general state merit law may be urged properly on the basis of the experience of the state charities, first because these are great business enterprises, and if they suffer under political control, other business must suffer, and second, because it will be most difficult to set the public charities above the reach of political greed, since they are the most valuable perquisite the state affords. It will only be possible to redeem them by a public interest, strong enough to assert itself—not in some piecemeal measure, but in a sweeping merit law which carries the remedy as far as the evil has gone. Only when such a law is assured should we undertake to determine methods of managing institutions which must depend for value upon the righteousness of this fundamental rule.

**Concerning the Lobster.**

Is it possible that the wise men who have given their lives to codding and tending the lobster, so that the creature will not become extinct, have been on the wrong track? It was an English rhymester who wrote—

"Art stretches over the horrid scene Her skillful and remedial way, And when I speak of Art, I mean The Fish commission, U. S. A."

Now it has been a cardinal principle of this art that no one must molest the baby lobsters. Catch all you like, the bigger the better, says the Massachusetts law, but everything under 10 1/2 inches must either go back into the water or be smuggled to market in a special box, ostensibly containing seaweed. Now comes Representative Davis, of Salem, says the New York Post, with a proposition which amounts to turning the present law upside down. The inexorable limit he would keep at 10 1/2 inches, but the immunity, he believes, should be extended to those above the line, instead of below it. Mr. Davis appears to be supported in his novel proposition by a professor in the Institute of Technology, and by the chairman of the fish and game commission. The idea would seem to extend the poultry-yard principle over the lobster fisheries. We do not habitually kill off and eat the veterans of the chicken coop (some may dissent from this proposition). On the contrary, we are nourished by the delicate and toothsome spring chicken. Why, then, should we not eat the fatted calf lobsters, and leave the moss-covered grandfathers and grandmothers to shift for themselves in the deep? The weak point is that a creature which, after a long experience with the perils of the sea, is foolish enough to walk into a lobster pot is not fit to be entrusted with the up-bringing of the rising generation of lobsters.

**Scottish Lunacy Commission.**

How little the question of salary or even of scope of function has to do with an effective board may be well judged by the instance of the Scottish lunacy commission which has long had the general reputation of being the most effective and valuable body of its sort in existence. Three members are salaried and two are not. Their duties are chiefly investigatory and advisory, and they have little administrative authority, but they are secure so long as they do their work satisfactorily, and are retired for age only. Even allowing that political or family interest may play some part in an original appointment, that is the end. Thereafter they are free to do their work and what is quite as important, to compel their subordinates to do theirs, and neither they nor the body of substitutes, which mans the whole list of insane hospitals in Scotland, know when the government changes.

Twenty-five years ago any one who had ventured to predict that the Coeducation and coeducational colleges would come to outnumber the young men would have been regarded as a poor prophet; yet that condition promises soon to be realized in many universities; for the number of women students increases faster than that of the men. The changed conditions have given rise to much discussion, and have led in some cases to repressive measures. College presidents, according to the Youth's Commission, find that the young men are

Statesmen and others with a large bowing acquaintance will probably welcome the self-raising hat recently invented in Paris. All you have to do is to incline your head gently and the hat raises itself with ease and grace, and then returns to your cranium with proper dignity. A little practice perfects the wearer in a number of different degrees of cordiality; the deep, encouraging bow with which one greets a creditor, for example, or the graceful but hurried salute that wisdom extends to a loquacious friend who is just back from Europe.

Washington turns out too many anecdotes of public men for all of them to be good. Somebody ought to blunder the parrotic ones.

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	Fried Perch.....15	Boiled Ham.....15	Soup.....15
	Roast Beef.....15	Beef Tongue.....15	Pastry.....15
<b>Breakfast and Supper</b>	Small Steak.....15	Pork Chops.....15	Whitefish.....15
	Veal Cutlet.....15	Breakfast Bacon.....15	Fried Perch.....15
	Mutton Chops.....15	Salt Pork, Broiled.....15	Salt Mackerel.....15
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