

the main building for a dormitory. Despite the use of these quarters we are obliged, during these months, to keep a "waiting list" and applicants, during these months, are obliged to wait from four to eight weeks, until a vacancy occurs, before they can be admitted to the Home.

The death rate for the past two years again shows an increase: Total membership for two years ending June 30, 1900, 1,596; the number of deaths in the same time, 143; percentage of deaths to membership, 8.99. Total membership for the two years ending June 30, 1902, 1,750; total number of deaths in the same time, 172; percentage of deaths to membership, 9.83. Total membership for the two years ending June 30, 1904, 1,879; the number of deaths for the same time, 215; percentage of deaths to membership, 11.44.

This increase in the death rate is to be attributed solely to the additional years and multiplying infirmities of our members. The general health of the members is, considering their years, excellent, and there have been no epidemics or sickness of an extraordinary nature among them.

Estimates—Current Expenses.

We estimate that the membership of the Soldiers' Home for the year ending June 30, 1906, will average 900-810 men, and 90 mothers, wives and widows, and for the year ending June 30, 1907, 1,000-880 men, and 120 mothers, wives and widows, and that the expense of maintenance will be \$162.50 per annum. Of this amount we estimate that \$169,000 (\$100.00 per capita per annum, for each veteran of the Home, based on average membership) will be returned to the State by the United States Government, thus making the actual cost to the State of the maintenance of each member, not including special appropriations, \$73.00.

Special Appropriations.

The membership of this Home continues to steadily increase, and we have every reason to believe that this increase will continue for some years to come. Our present facilities are not sufficient to care for the applicants for admission during the winter months, when most of all, our destitute veterans need proper food and shelter. Although every particle of room is utilized,