REPORT ON WATER AT THE BLIND INSTITUTION

At the request of the Secretary, a visit was made to the above Institution to inspect a spring or springs issuing from the foundations.

The seepage of water occurs from the ground beneath the foundations of part of the buildings on the south side. Along this side of the building the ground was cut away and a bank of varying height left. These banks are present in the store and play rooms and it is from them that the water is seeping.

The banks consist of clayey material resulting from the decomposition in place of the felspathic sandstones and mudstones which form the bedrock. The original stratification is not apparent, although it may exist. Through exposure the clayey material has shrunk and vertical shrinkage joints have been formed. It is from these joints that the water is issuing.

The amount of water is very small, there being no flow, but a slow seepage. The water is of course travelling underground through the rocks and the clayey decomposition product, but it is impossible to state its exact point of entry except that it will be to the north or north-western side. It may be that the point of entry is outside the Institution property. There is thus no opportunity of cutting off the supply of water. It would be wise to see that as little water as possible has the opportunity of soaking into the ground. This of course can be achieved by efficient drainage and asphalting the surface as much as possible. It may be added that there is little chance of water soaking into the ground in the immediate vicinity of the buildings.

The only other step that can be taken is to control the water where it seeps out. A small drain along the bottom of the bank to collect the water and conduct it away will prevent the floors of the store play rooms being wetted by the water.

There is little danger to the foundations with the present amount of water seeping out, but the above mentioned procedure should be followed to prevent any increase. A further precaution should be to see that the water can seep freely, because if stopped it might more or less saturate the clayey material. The effect of this is seen in the saturated clay oozing from the joints from which the water issues. The amount of this clay is very small at present, but the seepage should be watched to see if any increase takes place when of course precaution would have to be taken.

P. B. Nye.
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

Mines Department,
Hobart.

15th July, 1927.