

Feeble-minded in Ontario : eighth report for the year 1913.

Contributors

MacMurchy, Helen, 1862-1953.
Hanna, W. J.
Ontario. Legislative Assembly.
Ontario. Office of the Inspector of the Feeble-Minded.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

1914

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/y3rx9d4d>

Provider

Royal College of Surgeons

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. where the originals may be consulted. Conditions of use: it is possible this item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Feeble-Minded in Ontario

EIGHTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1913

PRINTED BY ORDER OF
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO



TORONTO:
Printed and Published by L. K. CAMERON, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty
1914

Printed by
WILLIAM BRIGGS,
29-37 Richmond Street West,
TORONTO.

OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED, ONTARIO.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO,

December 31st, 1913.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, to be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Eighth Annual Report upon the Feeble-Minded in Ontario for the year ending December 31st, 1913.

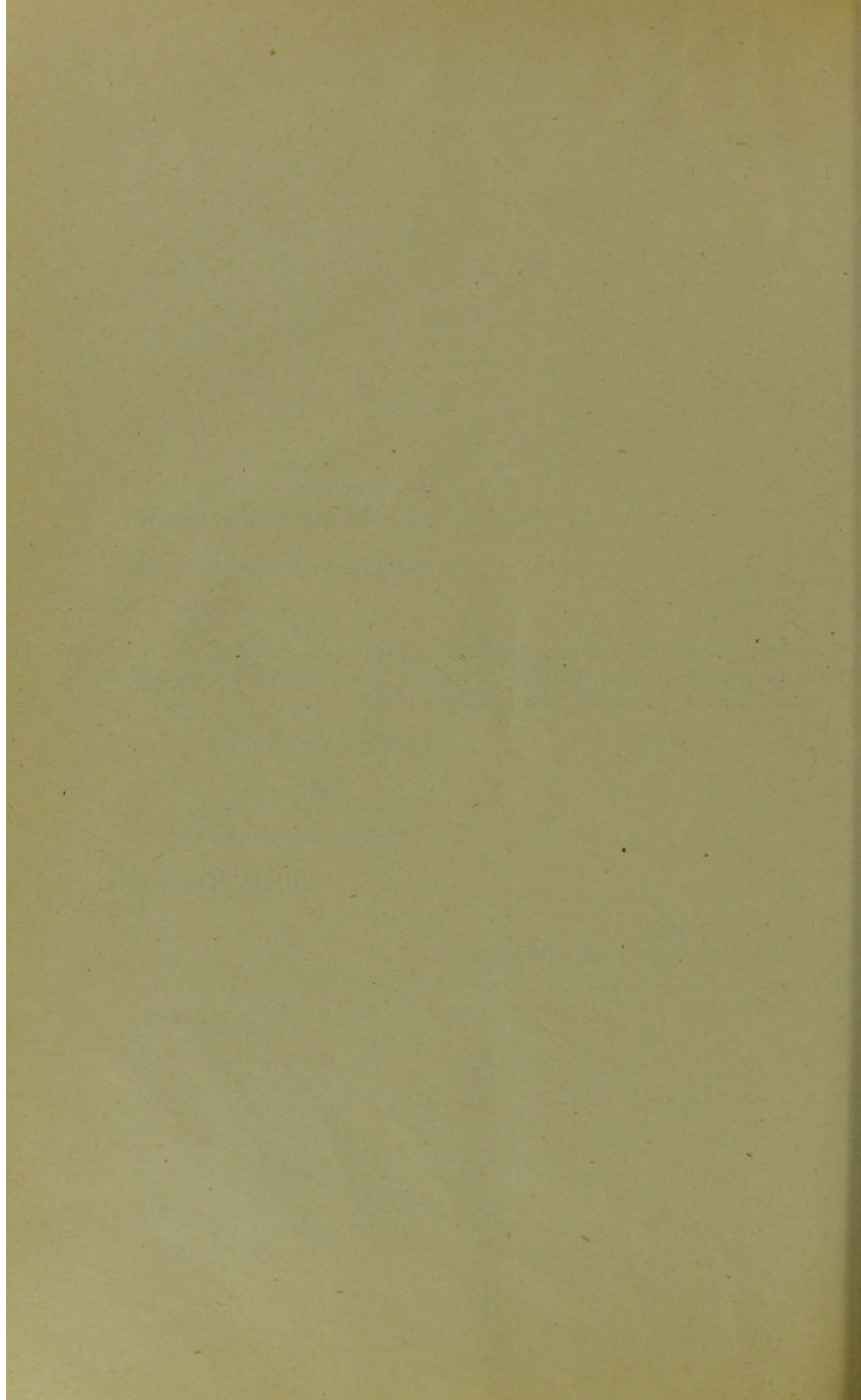
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

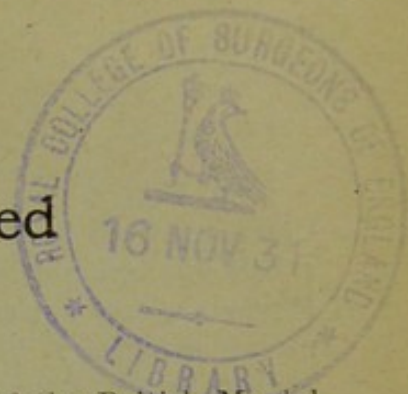
Your obedient servant,

HELEN MACMURCHY,
Inspector.

HON. W. J. HANNA,
Provincial Secretary of Ontario.



Report of Feeble-Minded



The year has been rendered memorable by the passing of the British Mental Deficiency Act on August 15th, 1913, (3 and 4 George V., Chap. 28) which comes into operation in England April 1st, 1914, and is an Act to make further and better provision for the care of the Feeble-Minded and other Mentally Defective persons, and to amend the Lunacy Act.

It is the first comprehensive legislation secured for the mentally defective. Other Acts have simply established single institutions or provided some permissive education, e.g. the Epileptic and Defective Children's Act of 1899. Unlike these, the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913 takes up the whole question and says that the feeble-minded must be cared for, states who is to care for them and where, and who is to pay for this, and how. It will help the cause of the feeble-minded all over the world. It has been secured by nine years of definite action directed to this one end.

In 1904 the Government was approached by The National Association for the Feeble-Minded and other powerful social organizations; the members were convinced that great and ever increasing evil and expense was being caused by the want of any care or control for a great host of the feeble-minded, young and old, at large or in schools, charitable institutions, poor houses, refuges, orphanages, homes for inebriates, reformatories, hospitals, gaols, prisons and asylums. As a consequence the Government ordered a conference of several Government Departments and officers as follows: The Local Government Board, The Education Office, the Prison Commission and the Lunacy Commission. This conference recommended the appointment of a Royal Commission.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

The Royal Commission was accordingly appointed by His Majesty King Edward in August, 1904. The terms of reference of the Commission were extended in 1906 to include the working of the Commission on Lunacy and the report was issued in 1908.

The evidence, given before the Commission by 248 witnesses, was of such a character that almost every intelligent citizen recognized immediate legislation to be imperative.

For the next two years the question was never allowed to be out of the public sight or the public mind. Meetings were held all over the country at which the burden of the feeble-minded was the leading subject discussed. Indeed hardly any measure of social reform or social justice can be considered apart from it. Letters and editorials, single and in series, appeared in *The Times*, *The Nation*, *The Lancet*, *The British Medical Journal*, *The Contemporary*, *The Englishwoman*, *The Fortnightly*, in the church papers, and in the local press. Men and women, boards of guardians, school boards, justices, judges, lawyers, physicians, teachers, churchmen, statesmen and the general public steadily pressed for legislation, until at last it was announced in June 1910 that a Draft Bill was in preparation.

THE BILL INTRODUCED.

In 1911 it was repeatedly stated in answer to questions in the House of Commons that the Bill would be introduced in 1912. Finally on May 16th, 1912, a Bill was brought down by the Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Reginald McKenna, and during the same Session two other Bills were brought forward by private members: the "Feeble-Minded Persons (Control) Bill" and "The Mental Defect Bill." Owing to the defeat of the Government on November 11th the Government Bill got no farther than the Second Reading.

No less than eight hundred resolutions in favour of this Bill, including resolutions from 14 county councils, 44 borough councils, 110 education committees, 6 urban district councils and 280 boards of guardians, and others had been received at the Home Office alone, and great disappointment was felt at the delay.

THE BILL BECOMES LAW.

Finally the Bill was re-introduced in the next Session, and became law on August 15th, 1913. A similar Act was passed for Scotland.

The Act as it now stands is stated by Sir H. B. Donkin and other eminent authorities to be one of the most important and useful legislative measures that have been passed in recent times.

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF ALL.

As Prisons Commissioner he speaks of "the evils caused by the unconditional discharge from prisons of numerous mentally defective criminals who could not be certified insane under the existing laws." Even this experience, however, does not cause him to regard the question of the mentally defective criminal as the most important of all the important questions in the burden of the feeble-minded. He says, and in this those who have most studied the subject are all with him, that one other practical aspect of this Act—the care and control of the mentally defective children—"touches the most important question of all—the prevention of much harm—both suffered and done by defective persons who from the earliest childhood have been neglected and uncontrolled."

DEFINITIONS.

The Mental Deficiency Act gives legal definitions of the different grades of mental defect as follows:

1. Idiots: That is to say, persons so deeply defective in mind from birth or from an early age as to be unable to guard themselves against common physical dangers.

2. Imbeciles: That is to say, persons in whose case there exists from birth or from an early age mental defectiveness not amounting to idiocy, yet so pronounced that they are incapable of managing themselves or their affairs, or, in the case of children, of being taught to do so.

3. Feeble-minded persons: That is to say, persons in whose case there exists from birth or from an early age mental defectiveness not amounting to imbecility, yet so pronounced that they require care, supervision, and control for their own protection or for the protection of others, or, in the case of children, that they by reason of such defectiveness appear to be permanently incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in ordinary schools.

4. Moral imbeciles: That is to say, persons who from an early age display some permanent mental defect, coupled with strong vicious or criminal propensities on which punishment has had little or no deterrent effect.

A PREVENTIVE MEASURE.

This Act is essentially a preventive measure and when its provisions come into force and are carried out it will show as nothing else could how very great the need for it was.

It has been well received. Steps were taken at once, both by officials and voluntary workers, to make it operative. Boards of guardians in England are taking joint action to provide for the feeble-minded in various counties and municipalities.

PRACTICAL HELP.

The Act brings practical help to the feeble-minded through Government departments and official channels, and enables benevolent persons to help the feeble-minded properly.

For example, it is well known that from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. of children brought before juvenile courts and of all persons brought before other courts are feeble-minded. Hitherto the law did not recognize this fact. Though it might be perfectly clear to the courts and to all who had any charge of the prisoners or children that they were unable to care for themselves, and that in a very short time they would be before the court again for additional offences, still they were discharged on the expiration of their sentences to steal, assault, burn and murder. Under the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913 this is changed.

Judges, juries and magistrates with mentally defective criminals before them, Education authorities plagued and perplexed with feeble-minded children, helpless parents of idiots or imbeciles who on account of poverty cannot provide for them, the neglected, abandoned or abused defective person, feeble-minded persons who are in prisons, in industrial schools, reformatories, homes for inebriates and asylums, feeble-minded drunkards, feeble-minded girls or women who have borne or are about to bear illegitimate children—each of these is recognized and helped under the Act. It gives good citizens, many of whom have long asked for it, the legal power to see that such persons are cared for and controlled.

FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

The provisions for the care of mentally defective children under the Act are not yet adequate. It appears probable that the Defective Children's Act of 1909 will be made compulsory.

Mr. Pease stated in his address to the Conference of the Association of Education Committees, at Caxton Hall on June 6th, that he had charge of a supplementary Bill to call on Education authorities to provide for the education of the educable mentally-deficient children in the country. Mr. Pease further stated that it was proposed the grant already given for the education of those children should be raised from £4 4s. to £6.

A Bill to amend the Act of 1909 was accordingly introduced and read the first and second times but afterwards withdrawn. It is understood that the Bill will be re-introduced during 1914.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

The Act provides for a central authority or board of control of not more than 15 commissioners, twelve paid and three unpaid, including four legal commissioners and four medical commissioners, one of the paid commissioners and one of the unpaid commissioners to be a woman, also the paid commissioners in lunacy become, by virtue of their office, paid commissioners of the board of control.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The local authority for the purposes of the Act is the county council or borough Council, as the case may be, and the local authority is charged to constitute a committee for the care of defectives, a majority of whom shall be members of the council and others of whom shall be persons having special knowledge and experience in regard to the care, control and treatment of defectives, some of whom shall be women. The local government board has power to order two or more local authorities to join for the above mentioned purposes.

The local authorities have power under the Act to provide for necessary expenses an amount which shall not exceed a rate of one half penny in the pound. They have also power to borrow for this purpose in a manner similar to that authorized under the Local Government Act and the Public Health Act.

INSTITUTIONS.

The institutions for the care of mental defectives are of four different classes and the Act (Section 51) makes it a misdemeanour to undertake the care and control of more than one defective elsewhere than in a certified institution or house or an approved home.

The classification of institutions is as follows:

1. State institutions for defectives of dangerous or violent propensities to be established and maintained by the Board of Control at the public expense. For this purpose any building now vested in the prison commission or otherwise under the control of the secretary of state may be used.
2. Certified institutions or houses, charitable institutions or private institutions. These are to be certified and inspected by the board who may also give the management powers of detention as provided in the Act.
3. Poor law institutions to be similarly approved, certified and inspected.
4. Private homes (without powers of detention) established by any person desirous of receiving defectives in his house for private profit. These must be approved by the board and shall be subject to such conditions as the board think fit.

Defectives may also be placed under guardianship by the provisions of the Act.

MUST FIND THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

It is specially to be noted that county councils and other local authorities must ascertain what persons within their areas are mentally defective, and that education authorities must ascertain what children within their areas are mentally defective, that is, what children are permanently incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving benefit from instruction in ordinary schools, and for notifying the names and addresses of the same to the local authority.

SAFE-GUARDS.

Adequate provision is made under the Act for proper certification of mental defect by two medical examiners, one of whom must be the physician specially appointed for this purpose by the board of control or the local authority, and no mentally defective person (not being an idiot or an imbecile) can be placed in any such institution without the medical certificates above mentioned, and an order from a judicial authority, a court of competent jurisdiction or from the secretary of state.

The Act does not interfere with any mentally defective person who is being adequately cared for and whose parents and guardians do not wish for a change.

Adequate provision is also made for re-examination at the end of one year from the first order and at the end of each succeeding five years.

A judicial authority for the purposes of the Act is a judge of county courts, police magistrate, or specially appointed justice under the Lunacy Act.

THE GOVERNMENT GRANT.

The Treasury Grant for the purposes of this Bill amounts to a total of £150,000. This sum is in addition to the maintenance of any institutions for mentally-defective criminals. The Lord Chancellor stated when the Bill was before the House that the apportionment of the Treasury Grant would be made according to the actual number of mental defectives cared for.

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS.

The voluntary associations, who had such a great part in securing this legislation now have an opportunity which they have not been slow to avail themselves of to reorganize and take up the new opportunities and duties which the Act presents to them.

Compulsory modes of dealing with mental defectives do not apply to all such persons, and the powers of the local authorities do not provide for all defectives.

The Act provides (Section 48) for grants to such voluntary associations, and the Board of Control has already communicated with the National Association for the care of the Feeble-minded intimating that they would welcome the establishment of some central body representative of all voluntary workers in the field with which the board could communicate and confer. A meeting was therefore called for November 15th, 1913, at the headquarters of the National Association for the Feeble-minded, Denison House, London, S.W., to which representatives of all such voluntary societies were invited. Steps were then taken to organize such a central association, Mr. Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P., having consented to act as chairman of the executive. The central council will consist of representatives of all county and county borough associations.

Mrs. Hume Pinsent, one of the Honorary Commissioners under the Act, who seconded the motion to form the association, said that the main difference in attitude between official and voluntary bodies was the tendency of the public local authority, when confronted with fresh legislation, to study an Act with a view to ascertaining what was the minimum that it must do; whereas the attitude of a voluntary body was to search the provisions of a statute with a view to finding the maximum that it might do. The harmonious co-operation of the voluntary agencies may in this work make good much that would otherwise be left undone, either as falling without the duties of the public authority, or as being beyond its reach in the first transitional period. It is in this spirit that the central association has been constituted, and for such purposes that it seems so eminently adapted.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS CAN HELP.

1. By undertaking the supervision (after-care) of defective children and adults leaving any schools, homes, or institutions, including State institutions.
2. By assisting in the provision of suitable guardians and visiting defectives under judicial guardianship.
3. By assisting in the boarding out of defectives under schemes approved of by local authorities.
4. By befriending or otherwise assisting defectives not dealt with under the Act.

The work devolving on the central council and its executive will be:—

1. To form a representative central body with which the Government can communicate and confer if so desired.
2. To distribute Government and other funds.
3. To organize the work of caring for defectives outside institutions.
4. To stimulate activities for the care and control of defectives.
5. To promote the formation of county and county borough associations.
6. To arouse public interest.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, Dr. A. H. MacKay, of Halifax, states in his annual report that assuming the population of that province to be 500,000 there are likely about 1,000 more or less mentally defective persons in Nova Scotia and about 100 in Halifax.

The Nova Scotia League for the Care and Protection of Feeble-Minded Persons, founded at Halifax in 1908, continues its good work, and during the year 1912-13 some fifty local branches of the League were formed, representing all districts of the province.

In every school in the Province of Nova Scotia there is a blank in the register to be filled in by the teacher and to be copied in the Annual Return, indicating the number of persons who, owing to some defect of sight or hearing, or temperament or mental power, are unable or are prevented from attendance at the public school. This classification is required to be supported by a statement of the address and defects of each individual, so that definite information, as far as possible, may be sent to the officials interested.

Nova Scotia is now endeavoring to solve the question of the education of educable mental defectives and the care of the uneducable mental defectives.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

In New Brunswick the city of Moncton has had two special classes or Departments for Defectives, and St. John has the matter under consideration.

THE WESTERN PROVINCES,

The proposal was at one time made that Manitoba should provide an institution for the blind, Saskatchewan for the deaf, and Alberta for the mentally defective, British Columbia and the three other Western Provinces to have the privilege of sending the persons in need of care to these institutions respectively. This plan was not found to be practical, but it shows at least that the case of the mentally defective is being considered.

MANITOBA.

In Winnipeg the matter was brought before the Winnipeg School Board by a report from the Medical Inspection Department, and the matter of engaging a specially trained teacher is under consideration.

Mr. Baldry and other officials and friends of Children's Aid Associations are doing a great work in investigating this matter and bringing it before the province.

SASKATCHEWAN.

In Saskatchewan the province cares for some of the most serious cases of mental defect, and it is stated that more provision may be made in connection with the New Hospital for the Insane.

Mr. S. Spencer Page, of Regina, Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children for the Province of Saskatchewan, has long been familiar with the problem and realizes its gravity, both from the point of numbers and of the need of permanent care.

ALBERTA.

Mr. R. B. Chadwick, of Edmonton, Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children for Alberta, at the meeting of the Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction in Winnipeg in September, 1913, did much by his discussion of the question to awaken public interest and show the need of action to secure the permanent care and control of mentally-defective persons, especially children, in the Western Provinces and elsewhere in Canada.

The general discussion which followed this and other papers on the subject was encouraging.

Dr. Stanley, of High River, and other members of the Alberta Legislature are interested in the subject, and Alberta may be the first to legislate for permanent care of the feeble-minded.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In 1913 the Minister of Education for British Columbia, the Hon. Dr. Young, took the important step of appointing a teacher for a special class and paying the teacher's salary.

Both Vancouver and Victoria are making some provision for special classes in the public schools.

ONTARIO.

On February 26th, 1913, a deputation to the number of 200 or more representing a large number of Ontario municipalities assembled at the Parliament Buildings and were received by the Hon. I. B. Lucas, the Hon. J. S. Hendrie, Hon. Dr. Pyne, Hon. J. O. Reaume and Hon. Adam Beck. Controller McCarthy, of Toronto, Alderman Dr. Davey, of Hamilton, Commissioner Starr, and others spoke, requesting consideration of the subject and presenting the following resolutions and suggestions from the Conference of Ontario Municipalities on November 8th, 1912:—

"1. More care at entry ports in the inspection and examination of immigrants to keep out mental defectives.

"2. To suggest to the Government the absolute need of a bureau to record the names of the mentally defective persons at large in Ontario.

"3. To suggest to the Government the need of greater responsibility on the part of the municipalities in respect to the issuing of marriage licenses.

"4. To suggest such amendments to the Marriage Act as will prevent the marriage of mental defectives.

"5. That the Legislature be memorialized to provide institutions for the care of the feeble-minded in Ontario, and that municipalities be required to pay for inmates, making them wards of the State up to 21 years of age if necessary.

"6. For the sake of uniformity and of efficiency the training schools to be conducted by the Government and a charge made upon the municipality. The municipality is under a charge to educate the child, and if it is not normal it should receive special care."

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

In the afternoon of the same day a meeting of the Provincial Association for the care of the Feeble-Minded was held at the Council Chamber of the City Hall, Toronto, and Alderman Glass, of London, Lieut.-Col. Farewell, County Crown Attorney for Ontario, Sheriff Cameron, and others addressed the meeting.

Steps were taken to perfect the organization of the Association and arrange for the next annual meeting.

MENTALLY-DEFECTIVE CHILDREN IN THE JUVENILE COURT.

Every Judge of a Children's Court meets this problem. Mentally-defective children appear in these Courts constantly. Every day the Judge realizes the need of an Institution to which the feeble-minded could be sent.

The progressive and helpful work of Dr. William Healy, of Chicago, who is the Director of the Juvenile Psychopathic Clinic in which the delinquent children coming before the Juvenile Court in Chicago are carefully studied and helped, has been followed in many cities.

Boston now has a Psychologist, Dr. Victor V. Anderson, to assist in the Municipal Courts. New York has the same plan.

SIXTY-SIX PER CENT. MENTALLY-DEFECTIVE.

Dr. Goddard and Mrs. Garfield Gifford report an examination of one hundred children who were sent from the Juvenile Court at Newark, N.J., to the Children's Detention Home. They were not in any way chosen, but taken just as they came. Sixty-six out of the hundred were found mentally defective.

FIFTY PER CENT. MENTALLY-DEFECTIVE.

With this agrees the opinion given by Dr. Max G. Schlapp, of the Clearing House for Mentally-Defective Children in New York City. "Over 50 per cent. of the criminal type of children are feeble-minded." But it is the same in all Juvenile Courts. No Juvenile Court can do satisfactory work without some expert opinion as to whether or not certain children are Mentally-Defective.

There are a great many abnormal children who can only be understood by an expert. The careful examination of children who run away repeatedly from home brings out of the fact that the majority of such children are either psychopathic or Feeble-Minded. Out of 120 persistent runaways brought during the last three years to the Out-Patient clinic of the Charité Hospital in Paris because they had repeat-

edly run away from home, a large percentage were found by Dr. Stier to be markedly mentally-defective.

IT CANNOT WAIT.

Whatever part of the problem of the Mentally-Defective can afford to wait even another year, this problem of the Mentally-Defective child before the Children's Court can only wait at a cost to us and to our country too terrible to think of.

COMMISSIONER STARR.

The first Commissioner of the Juvenile Court in Toronto, the Rev. J. Edward Starr, said that before his appointment to that position he scarcely knew of the existence of Mentally-Defective children in Canada. He had barely entered upon his new duties before he recognized it, and among many cases which he asked the writer to examine he was not mistaken once.

The case of Benjamin Gilbert, a Feeble-Minded boy, who passed in school for normal but was finally brought before Commissioner Starr on a charge of manslaughter, was a striking example of his power of penetration into the problems before him, and his ability to reach the real truth of a situation.

Probation, Commissioner Starr used to say, will succeed with most children before the Court unless they are Feeble-Minded.

Commissioner Starr was one of the best friends the Feeble-Minded in Ontario ever had. He spent himself for them. Particularly did the situation of Feeble-Minded children committed to Industrial Schools appeal to his pity and arouse his wrath. His letters and reports to the Board of Control and the City Council were clear and powerful in statement, indignant and vehement in demand that justice be done to those poor, wretched, unhappy Feeble-Minded children and to the community who suffer from their follies, crimes and immorality.

HE BEING DEAD, YET SPEAKETH.

Surely the City of Toronto and the City Council will not let his name be forgotten until his request to them has been answered.

This—one of the things he had to leave undone—should be done before the anniversary of his death comes round. The Capital of the Province of Ontario should place herself at the head of those who are ready to do something to care for the Feeble-Minded.

TWO CASES IN POINT.

Two cases referred to-day from the Juvenile Court in Toronto will show how serious the problem of Feeble-Minded children is in the Children's Court.

R. C., a boy of eleven years of age, with a mental age of about eight years, who had set fire to his own home on more than one occasion, was accused upon some evidence of setting fire to a school. He had told four other boys he would do so by pouring coal oil into the waste-paper bag and using matches. The attempt was not very successful, as the Principal put out the fire with an extinguisher. R. C.'s record is as follows:—

March 11th, 1909.—Seven years of age. Brought to Police Court by mother, who stated that she "could do nothing with him."

May 17th, 1910.—Brought to Police Court charged with vagrancy.

May 28th, 1910.—A neighbor complains in Police Court of cruel treatment of R. C. by his parents.

March 6th, 1911.—Mrs. C. not well. Requests Children's Aid Society to care for R. C. for a few weeks. R. C. placed in Shelter.

April 24th, 1911.—Sent to Mimico Industrial School by Magistrate Denison as incorrigible.

This boy is seriously Mentally-Defective, probably a high grade imbecile. He is strongly built and is probably capable of improvement. He is very anxious to be a fireman, says he "likes to hear the bells ring." He will probably grow up, if he has any care, pretty strong, and might be made very useful. He would likely make a splendid stoker or fireman under constant supervision, and could in a village or farm colony do this work and ring the bells under orders, greatly to the benefit of the Institution and to his own happiness. It is not much that he needs to make him happy, and he could make a fair return for it. But in civilized society he is impossible. He is not a bad boy, and a good deal could be done for him and he could do a good deal for himself and others.

But he cannot do it till we get our Training School. It seems a pity, but in the meantime what can the Juvenile Court do with him?

After his last failure to burn down the School, on account of the activity of the Principal with a chemical Fire Extinguisher, he solaced himself by running to the nearest Fire Hall, putting his head in at the door and shouting: "You will have a fire at School yet."

It is not impossible that he will make his promise good. Meantime he has been sent back to the Victoria Industrial School at Mimico.

The other child, W. W., a girl, fourteen years old, sailed for Canada on September 23rd, 1911, by the S.S. Corinthian from England, with a Barnardo party. She came out to an Aunt who had offered to adopt her. She should never have been allowed to come. Her mental age is about two years. She is unable to guard herself from common physical dangers, and has even on several occasions put her fingers in the fire and burned them! Once she rested her chin on the hot stove and burned herself. She has more than once asked her Aunt "What would you do if I stuck a knife in your back?" And has an unpleasant habit of getting behind the Aunt's back.

The Aunt, who goes out by the day to work, is obliged to take W. W. with her to work wherever she goes, as she cannot leave her alone. The poor girl answers questions in monosyllables; not once in the course of a somewhat long conversation did she say one sentence. Her appearance indicates a great restlessness and there would appear to be no little danger in having her at large. She must be repatriated if possible. If not, where is she to go? And into whose back will she put that knife? The only plan is to care for her in an Institution where knives are not supplied for such purposes.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

As indicated in previous reports a large percentage of children sent to the Victoria and the Alexandra Industrial Schools are Mentally-Defective. The work of these Schools is hampered, delayed and rendered more and more difficult—almost impossible—by the presence of Mentally-Defective girls and boys in the Schools. They should be removed, and every means should be taken to bring before

the Municipalities of the Province and the people of the Province as a whole, the urgent need for the permanent care of the Mentally-Defective. Those belonging to this class now in the Industrial Schools alone are numerous enough to fill an Institution. But there are many, many others.

THE FEEBLE-MINDED CRIMINAL.

The Feeble-Minded Criminal in Canada, as in other Countries, has been the cause of great expense to innocent individuals and to the community as well as much trouble and wickedness and even loss of life.

The attention of the Dominion Prison Commission has been drawn to this matter on more than one occasion during their investigations.

A recent investigation by the Russell Sage Foundation as to the number of Mentally-Defective prisoners in seven Correctional Institutions gives the following result. Per cent. of inmates who are Mentally-Defective:—

Bedford Reformatory for Women.....	37
Industrial School for Girls, Lancaster, Pa.....	50
Maryland Industrial School for Girls.....	60
Reformatory for Men and Boys, New York.....	37
Reformatory for Men and Boys, New Jersey	33
Reformatory for Men and Boys, Illinois.....	20

ONTARIO GAOLS.

There are few Gaols in the Province of Ontario in which one or more Feeble-Minded men cannot be found, often admitted in compassion by the Gaoler in order that they may be cared for. Sometimes there are Feeble-Minded women, usually convicted of petty larceny, vagrancy and similar offences. The situation is one that should be made known. Wherever it is known it is strongly disapproved of by the people of the Province.

OTTAWA.

By permission of the Minister the week of December 1st was spent at Ottawa, assisting in the examination of over 50 children who were seen at the request of the Principal and teachers, sometimes because the children were very backward, sometimes because there was something wrong.

The registration in the Ottawa Public Schools in December was about 8,000. At the school from which nearly all the 50 children came the attendance was about 600, and of the 50 children above mentioned about 15 were recommended for special teaching and about 10 of these were definitely Mentally-Defective.

The plans made by the Inspector, Dr. J. H. Putman, and the Ottawa School Board, have been extremely well-judged and prudent and will likely be of real benefit to the community. Much care was taken in the selection and appointment of two teachers who were interested in the work and possessed aptitude for it, Miss Taylor and Miss Patton.

It had been arranged that one of these ladies should go to Vineland, remain there some time and take part in the real work of the Training School for the Feeble-Minded there as well as visiting special classes in Philadelphia. The other teacher went to Waverley to study under Dr. Fernald and investigate the working of his

Training School for the Feeble-Minded and afterwards study the Special Classes in Boston and elsewhere. No one who has taken up this work in Canada so far has had such good opportunities to prepare for it, and it may be confidently expected that good results will follow.

On Thursday, December 4th, a large public meeting was held in the Hall of the Normal School with Controller Dr. Parent in the Chair. The Local Council of Women, under whose auspices the meeting was held, Mr. W. L. Scott, Ald. Foster and others of the City Council, and a large number of citizens were present, and after an address on the Problem of the Mentally-Defective was given an animated and practical discussion took place in which Mr. W. L. Scott and others took part. Mr. Scott told the audience that the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa now had as wards Feeble-Minded children whose parents were Feeble-Minded children, and wards of the Society twenty years ago when it began. An end must be put to such a state of affairs as that, said Mr. Scott, and the audience agreed with him.

SPECIAL CLASSES.

Nothing has accomplished as much up to the present time for the Mentally-Defective children as the establishment of special schools. It is also true, however, that if we are to have these classes, which cost about \$150.00 per year for each pupil, and then send these Feeble-Minded children out into the world, without care and control or any prospects except pauperism, wretchedness and crime we might much better have saved our \$150.00.

Special classes are the thing for backward children, to give them a helping hand over the stile into the place where normal children work and play, but the proper function and benefit of special classes to Feeble-Minded children is to secure them every chance, thorough and absolutely correct diagnosis and then, if they be proved to be Mentally-Defective, transfer them into a permanent and happy home for their permanent childhood, for they will always be children. The Special Class is properly only a "Clearing House" for Feeble-Minded Children.

TRAINING FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

Feeble-Minded children are almost always badly trained at home. The poor mother always dresses them—she is a slave to them. It is always easier—so she thinks—to put on the child's boots and lace them and tie the laces than to teach him to do it. That is a sad mistake. It is possible to teach nearly every child to dress, except the low-grade idiots.

Normal babies should not be taught to walk. They will walk when they are ready. But the Feeble-Minded child must be taught everything—even the thing that the normal child picks up.

Speech must be very carefully taught. Walking must be taught. Using the muscles must be taught.

The Mentally-Defective, then, should really not stay in a public school, not even in a special class, because they are not and cannot be made citizens. They are and always will be dependents, and when that is once certain, the sooner that a permanently happy home can be secured for them the better. Nothing is gained by delay, though the Golden Rule must always be remembered, especially in dealing with the parents, and great tact used even in trying to carry out the Golden Rule.

The Feeble-Minded child needs:—

Nursery and toilet lessons.

Lessons in expression—Speaking, drawing, etc.

Lessons in using the muscles—Grasping, etc.

Lessons in manners—How to behave at meals, etc.

Lessons from objects—e.g., Bell, bag, fruit, money, etc.

Lessons in manual work.

Activity and constant employment with recreation is the great essential in teaching the Feeble-Minded.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TORONTO.

In November, 1907, Dr. John Hunter moved in the Board of Education, Toronto, for a return of the number of backward children, and information as to what help they needed to overcome the handicap which they might be suffering from. This was probably the first effort in this direction in the Schools of Ontario.

During the last six years the matter has been kept in mind by the Board and investigations as to the number and the needs of backward and Mentally-Defective children have been frequently made and have assisted in educating public opinion on the subject. It is evident that action to make proper provision for these children will not be much longer delayed, and it is frequently asked for by Charitable Institutions, Social Workers, the Local Council of Women and other organizations.

Mr. R. H. Cowley, Chief Inspector of the Toronto Schools is at present preparing a Report upon the whole subject, which will be laid before the Board early in 1914.

DR. JAMES KERR'S LECTURES.

The visit of Dr. James Kerr, School Medical Research Officer of the Education Committee of the London County Council, served to direct special attention to the education of Mentally-Defective school-children, as he referred to it frequently in his addresses to teachers and others when addressing them on the Medical Inspection of Schools.

Dr. Kerr, as Chief School Medical Officer to the Education Committee of the London Council, formerly directed the education of some 10,000 Mentally-Defective children in the London Schools, and has written valuable reports upon this subject. His visit to Canada was at the special invitation of the Minister of Education, the Honourable Dr. Pyne.

IMMIGRATION.

The Feeble-Minded immigrant is a great danger to us. In the report of the Minister of the Interior for the year ending March 31st we find in Sessional Paper No. 25, p. 125: Table 1, Total Detentions; Cause of Detention: Feeble-Mindedness; that the total number detained on account of Feeble-Mindedness is 47.

Number debarred	23
Number released	24

In view of the fact that *more than half* of the immigrants detained on account of Feeble-Mindedness were thus afterwards permitted to enter Canada, and of the
2 F.M.

still more serious fact that the medical examiners of immigrants have at present but little opportunity to detect Mentally-Defective persons at all during the brief Medical Examination at the port of entry, it must appear to Canadians who consider the interests of the country that action should be taken at once about this matter. It is necessary that the press, public bodies and Associations of all kinds, as well as patriotic Societies and Municipal Governments act. The Toronto Board of Health wrote a letter about it in 1913.

MAJOR LORNE DRUM,

Secretary Canadian Public Health Association, Regina, Sask.

DEAR SIR,—As you are doubtless aware, the question of dealing with the Feeble-Minded and Mentally-Defective of every municipality is becoming a very necessary and important one, and with the increasing yearly influx of immigrants to this country, the number of this unfortunate class is likely to be very materially augmented.

Our Local Board of Health are unanimously of the opinion that valuable assistance could be rendered by the immigration authorities so increasing their staff as to enable them to make a more thorough examination of all parties entering the country. To that end I have been instructed by our Local Board of Health to ask the Canadian Public Health Association, when assembled at Regina, to take this matter into their serious consideration, with the hope that your organization will take concerted action thereon and memorialize the Federal Government as to the necessity of prompt action being taken along this line, in order that Mental-Defectives or diseased persons may not be admitted to this country.

Again soliciting your consideration and co-operation in this matter, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. A. LITTLEJOHN,

City Clerk and Secretary Local Board of Health, Toronto.

EXAMINE BEFORE EMBARKATION.

Immigrants for Canada should be examined at their homes before embarkation, where the family history can be obtained. In this way, only, can undesirable immigrants be prevented from making trouble for us and for themselves.

DEEDS—NOT WORDS.

It is estimated (quoted by Goddard) that $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of immigrants from Northern Europe and $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 per cent. of immigrants from Southern Europe to the United States are Mentally-Defective. Our immigration from Europe (British not included) in 1912-13 was 111,881.

If only one per cent. of these foreign-born European immigrants were Mentally-Defective that means that over one thousand Mentally-Defective persons were added to our population in 1912-13.

This is a situation so serious that deeds are more appropriate than words for it.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

The marriage of Feeble-Minded persons continues to occur in the Province. Two cases may be mentioned.

The first was that of William J. Hutchinson, 37 years of age, said to be a Commercial Traveller, who married Eva Howard, a Feeble-Minded girl of 16 years of age, who was a ward of the Alexandra Industrial School.

Magistrate Denison described his conduct as shameful and sent him down for four months to the Central Prison on December 8th, 1913.

Within a week after this occurrence attention was drawn to a still worse case in St. Thomas, in which a Feeble-Minded girl 15 years old was married to a man, Albert Tagg, who is said to be more Mentally-Defective than she is. All the girl's family are said to be Feeble-Minded.

Within a few weeks afterwards both this man and his wife were apprehended as vagrants. He was sent to gaol for three months and she was placed for care and safe keeping in the Elgin County House of Refuge. She is apparently able to work and would have done well under proper care.

The man above referred to has already served two years in the Central Prison, and as he perjured himself by swearing that the girl was over 18 years of age when she was only between 15 and 16 years, he will probably be indicted for perjury on discharge.

This evil-doing and this expense would have been saved if these Feeble-Minded persons had been under care and control.

THE UNITED STATES.

Cities and States, as well as National Societies and Institutions, are beginning to deal with the problem of Feeble-Mindedness. At the New York State Conference of Charities and Correction it was shown that there are 30,000 persons in New York State known to be Feeble-Minded.

Where are they? Half of them at large—15,000—10,000 more confined in prisons, and other places not intended for them, and the rest—5,000—are in Institutions intended for them.

THE TRAINING SCHOOL AT VINELAND.

The Training School for the Feeble-Minded at Vineland has made a great advance during the year in the work of its Extension Department, of which Alexander Johnson, formerly of Hamilton, Ontario, is Director. This new Department aims at educating the public, and keeping them in touch, not only with the Institution but with the whole progress of the movement to care for the Feeble-Minded, and aims moreover at securing the help of the general public for the movement.

Two new Colonies have been started during 1913 by the Vineland Institution, one at Menantico, four miles from Vineland, 520 acres, which is being cleared and on which roads and buildings are being made, by 20 or 30 Feeble-Minded boys under foreman and supervisors.

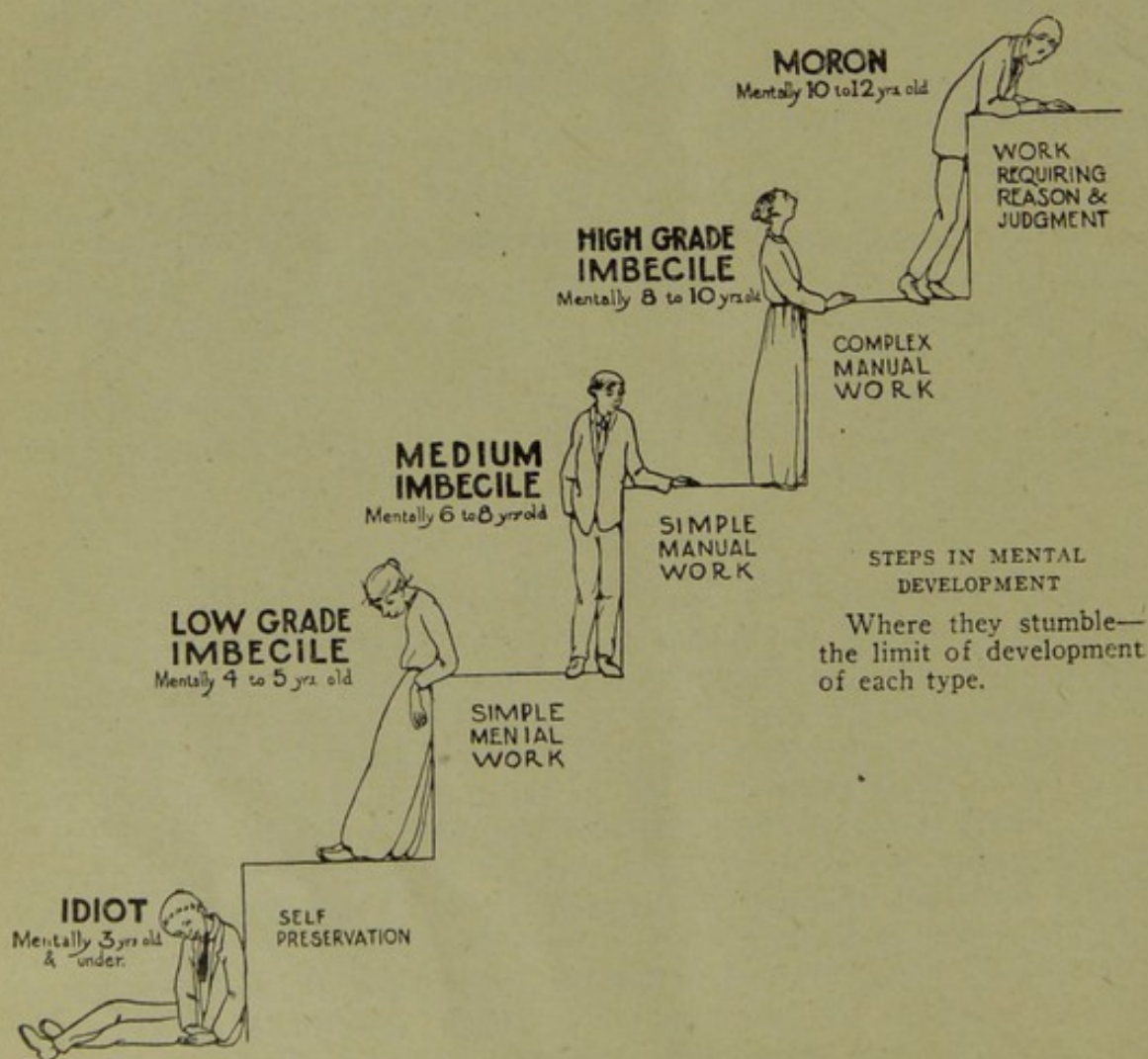
The other is the Burlington County Colony, for the buildings on which \$10,000.00 is needed. About \$5,000.00 has already come in for it. Ten of these dollars came from a workingman, who listened to one of the Extension lectures and said he had a Feeble-Minded boy at home. Fifty cents of it came from a thrifty washerwoman in Burlington who canvassed a city block where poor people like herself lived, and told them she hoped to have her own Feeble-Minded child cared for when the colony should be ready for residents.

A CLEARING HOUSE FOR THE MENTALLY-DEFECTIVE.

In New York the Commissioner of Charities, Michael J. Drummond, established in 1913 a "Clearing House for Mental-Defectives" which is held at the Post-Graduate Hospital. It is stated that children are sent to this Clearing House from 147 different sources in the City, such as Courts, Churches, Schools and Church Settlements. Dr. Max G. Schlapp is in charge, and is assisted by seven Assistant Neurologists and three Psychologists. Every help that medicine and surgery can give is made available for the children at the clinic. About 2,800 such examinations have been made. In October moving pictures at the Metropolitan Insurance Building showed the work of the "Clearing House," and a free exhibit with lectures took place during the whole of October. Valuable information and help is thus given to the public in an easily understood form.

A great many new cases have been sent to the Clearing House for help since the Exhibit opened, and the attendance at the latter has been sometimes over 2,000 per day.

The outline sketches below from *The Survey* show the places where different grades of Mentally-Defective persons stop and can go no farther.



NORTH CAROLINA.

In 1911 the Legislature of North Carolina gave a grant of \$60,000 to establish a School for the Feeble-Minded, and the citizens of Kingston gave a fine piece of land. In March, 1913, an appropriation of \$10,000 was made by the Legislature to complete the School.

The money on hand will provide the necessary accommodation for 130 Feeble-Minded children, at a total cost it is stated of \$1,000 per bed.

By using modern business plans for building such a school it has been found possible to erect simple but substantial and comfortable buildings for this purpose at a cost of about \$500.00 per bed. This is important, because economical business plans will greatly hasten the necessary provision for the Feeble-Minded.

A PROGRAMME.

The Russell Sage Foundation, like every other Social Institution, has long had opportunities to study the problem of the Feeble-Minded. Dr. Hastings Hart, the Director of the Department of Child-Helping, suggests:—

1. That in every new Institution for Feeble-Minded Children preference be given in granting admission to girls of child-bearing age.

2. That every Institution for Feeble-Minded Children shall cease to receive girls under the age of twelve and boys of any age until every Feeble-Minded girl of child-bearing age is provided for.

Much may be said in favour of this plan, but we must not forget that so far as the serious question of the procreation of Feeble-Minded children is concerned Feeble-Minded boys and men are also a grave danger to the community.

NEW YORK.

The New York Board of Education has this year appointed two visiting teachers for the Ungraded Classes. The interests of the children in the Special Classes, of their families and of the community will be helped by this step. So far as is known at present this is the first time that an appropriation has been made or such officers employed by a Board of Education, though last year the Public Education Association lent one of their Social Workers to do this work. She studied each child from every point of view and was able in this way to be of great use to the teacher and the child. The two visiting teachers are Miss Dorothy Brown, who has done School Nursing and also Visiting Nursing, and Miss Julia Culp, a Kindergarten teacher who has also been a social worker.

DR. MONTESSORI IN AMERICA.

Interest in work for Mentally-Defective children was stimulated by the visit of Dr. Maria Montessori to America in December, 1913.

It is well known that her methods which are derived and elaborated from the work of Seguin and others were first used in training Mentally-Defective Children in the "Casa Bambini" of the tenements in Rome. Then she devoted herself with great success to developing methods for training normal children based upon her work with the Sub-normal. Eminent gifts and personal charm, a scientific mind, and a wonderful capacity for work and for training assistants and fellow-workers have made the Montessori methods as developed by her of assistance and inspiration to others who can use them.

THE BUFFALO CONGRESS.

The Fourth International Congress on School Hygiene was held in Buffalo, August 25th-30th, 1913. The United States and Canada were well represented and there were a few delegates from Great Britain, including Dr. James Kerr and Dr. Crowley, of the Board of Education, London, as well as a number of delegates from other countries.

The time and attention given to the question of Mentally-Defective Children both on the programme and by the general public was far greater than at any previous Congress.

Five Sessions of over three hours each were devoted to subjects connected with the education and care of Mentally-Defective and Backward Children. In particular the minute discussion of the Binet-Simon Tests and other means of testing general intelligence and mental age were closely followed by a large audience.

The history of the Binet-Simon Scale and its usefulness as well as the development and standardization of these and other tests to assist the Medical Examiner and the teacher form a very important subject of enquiry.

In 1904 an educational order was passed in Paris that Mentally-Defective children must be educated, and it was to meet the need of tests for mental defect that Binet and Simon in 1905 first published the "Scale." Two Revisions have been issued, one in 1908 and the other in 1911. Other valuable tests have been proposed by workers in Europe and America and it is hoped that before long this subject will be dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

Nothing needs to be said to emphasize the importance of such an examination. The whole course of an individual's life may be profoundly affected by it and the irresponsible and unauthorized way in which ignorant people sometimes make statements as to supposed mental defect in someone of whom they know little or nothing cannot be too strongly repudiated by all right-minded persons.

PSYCHOLOGY AND FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS.

This Conference at Buffalo was important on account of the co-operation of Educators, Psychologists and Physicians.

The Physician must learn to use the Mental Tests. The Psychologist must not place too much reliance on Mental Tests. The teacher must not over-value practical school-room experience, nor must the other two under-value it. The Doctor can remove or improve defective physical conditions and so help. Positive findings are more valuable than negative findings.

Inasmuch as the earliest knowledge of the Mental Deficiency of Children must necessarily come to teachers and other Educational authorities, it must be remembered that the method of recognizing and dealing with the problem of the Mentally-Defective in Schools is by far the best. It is the only one which is distinctly preventive, and the only one which gives the Mentally-Defective child a chance for the development of what powers he may possess, especially of powers of self-support and self-development.

PRISON REFORM AND THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

In the Morals Court in Chicago, Dr. Dwyer, the Physician appointed as Assistant to the Court in 1913, has made a report on 759 women who have appeared before the Court from April to December, 1913. The examination took account both of the physical and mental condition of the woman.

The following are the occupations of the 759:—

House Workers	225
Waitresses.....	174
Laundresses.....	136
No occupation	106
Clerks or Cashiers.....	83
Cleaners.....	24
Dressmakers.....	6
Stenographers.....	4
Manicurist.....	1

759

Practically all of them needed medical care and attention.

TWO-THIRDS WERE MENTALLY-DEFECTIVE.

Two-thirds of them on examination were found to be Mentally-Defective. If they had been recognized in the Public Schools and placed under permanent care and guardianship how much money and time and crime and civic and national degradation and deterioration would have been saved!

NO OCCUPATION.

One hundred and six with no occupation. They could have been trained to an occupation they would have liked and partly at least supported themselves in an institution adapted for them.

HOUSE WORKERS.

Two hundred and twenty-five houseworkers! The occupation most necessary to home and family comfort and efficiency! The occupation that of all others needs social recognition and reorganization! What a chance for the Florence Nightingale or St. Theresa of the Twentieth Century!

HELP NEEDED.

To remove the Mentally-Defective from the delinquent class alone would be productive of much good to her and to Society. To make the best of the Mentally-Defective delinquent woman in the only place where she can "make good" that is, in an Institution, would be a wonderful help and relief to Judges, Magistrates, Juries, Gaols and citizens.

SOCIAL DANGERS.

The Feeble-Minded cannot be members of a normal community. Their crimes against Society proceed from want of sense, want of self-control and want of will.

Thus they set fire, as in instances above mentioned, to the house which shelters them, to the school where they are being taught, or to the barn where they have slept just because they are tired of monotony, or of their present surroundings and want to see the excitement and change produced by a burning building and the rapid assembling of people and horses accompanied by a noise and tumult. Normal people are interested in a fire, but they realize too well the loss, danger and wickedness of incendiarism to cause a fire. The Mentally-Defective, on the other hand, are mentally more or less in the condition of the baby attracted by the flames.

INTEMPERANCE.

Want of control in the Feeble-Minded leads often to intemperance. It is well known that a majority of chronic alcoholics are more or less Mentally-Defective. Sexual immorality occurs among Mentally-Defective persons to a fearful extent, and sometimes debases the community in which they live. More than one country district in Ontario has appealed for help against a Feeble-Minded family that was simply a centre of evil in the community.

CRIME.

Want of self-control among the Feeble-Minded leads not frequently to murder.

Dr. Savage, Physician to Earlswood Asylum, tells of a Mentally-Defective boy who when slightly irritated by his little sister killed her. He had no sense of what he had done. It was a sudden uncontrolled impulse.

Mentally-Defective prisoners allowed to leave the Court on probation have been known to commit the same crime on the way home.

Other crimes endangering life and property such as the placing of obstructions on a railway track are committed by the Feeble-Minded partly because they have no will of their own and partly because they have no sense to realize the wickedness of wrecking the train and endangering innocent lives.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

The cause of the so-called Social Evil is receiving more attention of late. Recent investigations in Toronto and elsewhere show that a considerable number of prostitutes in Canada are more or less Feeble-Minded. The estimated number is from 25 to 50 per cent. of the total, but all who have accurate information on the subject agree that the permanent care and control of Feeble-Minded girls and women in Institutions where they could be usefully and happily employed would prevent much evil by removing a cause that is constantly operating.

SYPHILIS AS A CAUSE OF FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS.

The discovery of the micro-organism causing this dreadful and shameful disease, the introduction of new and better methods of treatment, the highly important and accurate means of diagnosis, especially in obscure and para-syphilitic cases, known as the Wassermann reaction, and, above all, a marked change in public opinion, have all exerted a powerful influence on the present state of knowledge in regard to this matter, and foreshadowed a new and greatly improved mode of action on the part of the legislators, health authorities, physicians and the general public to prevent and where possible to cure this shame of civilization.

It is now known that syphilis in parents has a relation to mental defect in their children. Not that it is the cause of mental defect in very many cases. But the percentage is considerable enough to be important.

Dr. J. Leslie Gordon, of Aberdeen, Assistant Medical Officer in the Caterham Asylum, in a valuable paper on this subject (*Lancet*, Sept. 20, 1913) gives the number of Mentally-Defective children having congenital syphilis as 66 out of 400 examined, a percentage of 16.5. The stigmata of syphilis were present in 11 only out of the 66, but the Wassermann reaction revealed the true situation.

Dr. Sherlock, another observer, gives the number of mentally defective persons who suffer from congenital syphilis as 14.4 per cent. These results are sig-

nificant, and when known to our people will hasten the day when syphilis will be treated as a contagious disease, which it is. It will hasten the day when treatment for this disease, thorough, systematic and continued till cure occurs, will be insisted on by the community in self-defence.

"If some measures for the control of venereal disease were to be adopted in this country, and were to result, as I think they undoubtedly would, in a diminution of the incidence of idiocy, imbecility, and Feeble-Mindedness, they would, indeed, well justify their adoption quite apart from considerations of other beneficial results. This is clear when we take into account the ever-increasing burden which congenital Mental-Deficiency imposes on the community."—Gordon.

EUGENICS.

A sign of progress in these matters is the success of the new Study of Eugenics. The platform on which Galton, Major Darwin, Adami and other leaders stand has commended itself to the world at large. No plank in this platform is a stronger one than that which declares for permanent care and control for the Feeble-Minded so that they should not become parents.

The Mental Deficiency Act of 1913 is an advance towards eugenic ideals.

The Feeble-Minded have no right to become parents. This is a wrong to them, a wrong to their unfit, unhappy, wretched children, and a crime against the country. We now know that the greatest cause of Feeble-Mindedness is heredity. Legislation to improve the housing or the feeding or anything else about the Feeble-Minded is useless. The root of the matter is to prevent their birth.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL COLONIES.

Three main reasons lead us to care for the Feeble-Minded.

1. The necessity of protecting Society from their inefficiency, crime and prolific procreation.
2. The need of protecting the Feeble-Minded from chronic poverty, misery, abuse, temptation and the consequences of the crime and wickedness of themselves and others.
3. The necessity of giving them employment so that they may be trained and developed and made as far as possible economically productive, as well as happy and useful.

These and other reasons that might be urged point to the establishment of the Industrial and Farm Colonies which have been so successful in Britain, the United States and other countries. It is now about 36 years since the first was established in Great Britain, and the history of their gradual development has been a record of steady progress and improvement. Much more can be done in the training of the Feeble-Minded than would appear possible until a fair trial is given each one at, if necessary, several different employments until the work at which he or she can do best is found. If perfect patience, great understanding, the power of making everything simple, analysing such a simple act as putting on and lacing up a pair of boots, and teaching one step at a time, and persevering to the end, are all employed by a Superintendent and staff who have the right spirit, it is marvellous what results can be obtained in such Colonies.

It may take months or a year to teach a girl to hold an ordinary sewing-needle and thread it and make a few poor stitches, but that girl, in course of time, may be an excellent operator on the sewing machine and earn her own living (but only *inside* the Institution—*outside* all goes wrong).

The Colony makes a community or world of their own for the Feeble-Minded. There they enjoy for the first time self-respect and the respect of others. Utter discouragement is replaced by confidence, they feel the effects of a healthy rivalry with others and of the stimulus of seeing that they can do something worth doing. "The call of the job" reaches them at last. Facilities for recreation and frequent change of occupation are a great means of carrying on successfully the work of a colony and the building up of the powers of the inmates.

Cheap and suitable land, situated within reasonable distance of the population which the Institution is to serve, is the prime requisite for such a colony. It must have a good water supply and be as far as possible self-supporting in regard to food and all other necessary supplies, including building supplies. These and all other plans for the care of the Mentally-Defective are of course useless without adequate powers of detention. Such are some of the lessons learned by a study of the Farm and Industrial Colonies in Monyhall and Darenth, in England, or at the Princess Christian Colony in Kent, or at some of the Colonies in the United States, Templeton, Mass.; Menantico, N.J.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Lincoln, Ill.; Faribault, Minn.; Columbus, Ohio, and Letchworth, N.Y.

These Colonies have worked wonders in converting to usefulness waste human material, in increasing health and happiness, in relieving many homes and families of grievous and intolerable difficulties and burdens, and in preventing the birth of a great host of Mentally-Defective children who would otherwise have been added every year to the burdens of the nation and caused deterioration of the national character.

The Templeton Farm Colony in connection with the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded is on seven large "abandoned" farms comprising a tract of 2,000 acres in extent, three miles long and a mile wide, broken by hills and valleys and by a little river. This tract of land contains timber, wood, gravel, sand and building-stone and was bought for about \$10.00 per acre.

SELF-SUPPORT.

As time goes by and more and more is learned about the powers of the Feeble-Minded we shall become more business-like and economical in the care of them. At the very least, such an Institution should do *all* of its own work, even to the weaving of tweed and towels and the making of boots, stockings and nearly everything else. Raising flowers and vegetables may well be a means of income.

In about another century it will be found if we really take charge of most of the Feeble-Minded that the community is saving money, because they have cut off the supply of paupers and other costly luxuries, and that we are not building so many new Prisons, Orphanages, Refuges, Rescue Homes, etc., etc. Meantime the great thing to do is to find the Feeble-Minded instead of leaving them to waste our National capital in more ways than one behind our backs, then to keep them under the eye and management of some kind and capable person, happily occupied earning their living as far as possible.

How far is it possible for a Feeble-Minded person to earn his or her living? Not an easy question to answer. In the first place, they never can "pay house-rent" as it were. When the site is provided and buildings are put up, can they manage to make ends meet? This is a question which is arousing great interest in England at the present time, on account of the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913, and really no one can yet give an authoritative answer.

DARENTH.

Excluding rent or loan and special or central expenses, in fact "overhead charges," it seems that at Darenth, a great Industrial Colony, which is more like a first-class comfortable factory than anything else, the average weekly cost of each patient (given in *The Hospital*, October 11th, 1913) was 9s. 7½d., of which 3s. 4d. represented the cost of maintenance.

THEY LIKE TO WORK.

Dr. Rotherham, the Superintendent at Darenth, says that the hours are "From 9 to 12 and 1 to 5. No inducement is required to keep the patients at work, and they require little discipline in the schoolboy sense of the word. The punishment most dreaded by any of the patients is to be removed from the workroom back to the ward. The Feeble-Minded, however, differ markedly from those in full possession of their faculties in two respects which affect administration. They are not prone to play the fool, like schoolboys, or to be careless and scamp their work, like men who have grown beyond the stage of school-larking. Once they show signs of taking an interest in what they do, their patient persistence, industry, and care in the use of mechanical devices, like the knitting machines that you saw just now, are very striking. They like to be at work all day; and though they work more slowly than healthily developed people, they are more steady and sure than most, and it is very rare indeed for us to have an accident with any of the machinery that we use.

The work is necessarily run on commercial lines, with order-books, elaborate accounts and so on. The factory inspector pays us periodical visits, and though our products are not intended for the general market, we supply the largest part of what is needed for the forty-seven Institutions of the Board. The workshops include those of the tailors, the shoemakers, the upholsterers, the basket-makers, the carpenters, the bookbinders, the printers, the brush-makers, the wood-choppers, the mat-makers, a small tinsmith's, where twenty-one boys are employed, who last year made 3,581 new articles and repaired 345. The workshops for Feeble-Minded girls include weaving, straw-hat making and rug-making, and in the Training School a variety of occupations are taught, like flower work, macramé work (so beloved of English cottagers) Teneriffe and drawn-thread work and so on. Some of the Teneriffe work is exquisitely done, as also is the sewing, for which certain patients show a wonderful aptitude. You will notice that the patients are almost all smiling and cheerful.

HOW IS THE WORK DISTRIBUTED?

The Board has a central store in London to which many of the articles are sent, and frequently orders arrive from one or other of the Board's Institutions: "Can you let us have 100 mattresses at once?" and so on. Only a few days ago an order came for 30, and they went off the next morning. Though a certain amount of machinery is employed, for the most part the work is done by hand, and some perhaps would say that there is an irony in the fact that in the twentieth century hand work on a large scale survives mainly among the Feeble-Minded. How skilled much of their work is can be seen, from another point of view, in the fact that an Exhibition of industrial occupations is being held during October in London, for which many articles, furniture among them, are being made here.

Indeed, the work of this colony and its function in relation to the other institutions controlled by the same authority may be best described by calling Darenth the Supply Department of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Innumerable forms, papers, ledgers, bed cards are necessary for its work, and the largest part of the printing of these is done here. We even print our own Prayer-books. The chaplain, Mr. C. M. Jenkins, finding that a shortened form of service was more suitable to the needs of the patients, obtained permission from the Bishop slightly to curtail the established use for morning and evening prayer, and this is now printed and bound here for use in the chapel services.

ALL THE ATTENDANTS AND NURSES SPECIALLY TRAINED.

Yes, in addition to their mental training the nurses are apprenticed for two months to brush-making or whatever may be the occupation in which they intend to become instructors. The industrial attendants, as the men are called, have additional leave, and their hours of work are less than those of the nurses—on the male side from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. My experience has gone to show that it does not pay to have very highly-skilled instructors—men and women, that is, who are experts in the occupation in which they have to instruct the patients here. The reason is that such skill pre-supposes an interest in the work which militates against the unfailing patience that is required to teach the Feeble-Minded, and has been acquired without, as a rule, any experience in nursing. It is very important that the instructors should regard their pupils as patients first of all, and the habit of mind which produces this is that which a training in nursing can best provide. The teaching staff in the second building, known as the adult colony, which was converted from an ordinary mental hospital to its present use in 1904, and is capable of housing 1,166 patients, consists, on the male side, of a craft-master, Mr. Bickmore, his assistant, and sixteen industrial attendants, together with a master shoemaker and upholsterer. On the female side, under Miss Ferrier, the matron, are a head sempstress, her assistant, and eleven industrial attendants, together with a kitchen and laundry staff. The colony for adults is in part recruited from the training school and the record which was kept during the preliminary period indicates the sort of work which they are most likely to do well. Sometimes, of course, a patient is moved from shop to shop before a bent is found in him, and I can think now of one of our best carpenters who for six months seemed to make no progress at all in this work, which he now does with great skill. The fact that the patients know that what they make is going to be of practical use, or, in other words, that they are executing orders and not working merely to pass the time, stimulates them enormously, and gives a degree of self-respect difficult otherwise to find a means of inculcating. Physical drill has also been invaluable in this respect; they perform the exercises extremely well, and not only their physique, but their manners and appearance, have improved immensely from it.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL VALUE OF THE PATIENTS' WORK?

Roughly speaking, it may be said that the patients' work pays for the salaries of their attendants, and in addition contributes £2,000 a year towards the expenses of the colony. This figure is, of course, exclusive of the capital expended."

WHAT WE PAY FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED IN ONTARIO.

1. For house rent, firing, furniture, food and clothes, medicine and medical attendance and nursing and care, while they do nothing for themselves.

Because they are maintained by night and day in hospitals, houses of refuge, refuges, orphanages, havens, rescue homes or by patriotic, benevolent, church and other societies, and municipalities and private persons, so that they shall not starve.

2. For the care of their children, largely illegitimate.

Because they have on an average twice as many children as normal people.

3. For enforcement of law and order and the care of them in prisons, and the cost of trials and all other legal and judicial processes.

Because they are continually committing crimes over and over again.

4. For the consequences of their crimes.

Because they burn houses and barns, wreck railway trains, commit indecent assault and commit murder.

5. For the constant supervision of them in respectable homes.

Because it takes one good citizen's time to care for one mentally defective person in a home.

6. For the moral damage they do.

Because they harm and corrupt others with their evil ways, and are a temptation to others, and centres of immorality.

7. For the national and social unhappiness, degradation and deterioration they cause.

Because they bring into being unfit and foolish citizens, and thus pass on to coming generations the curse of Feeble-Mindedness.

8. For the loss of happy home-life, the great security of national and personal well-being.

Because the normal children are really deprived of the mother's care—she must give all her time to the Feeble-Minded one. Because proper social intercourse with other families is thus rendered impossible. Other members of such families in Ontario have been forced to leave home, have threatened to run away, and have said their lives were ruined.

In other words, we pay more in cash now for the maintenance of the Feeble-Minded than their permanent care in Industrial and Farm Colonies would cost us.

Through the agency of teachers, public health officials, clergymen and others willing to help in protecting the Feeble-Minded every case should be reported to the Municipal Clerk of the township, village, town or city in which the Feeble-Minded person resides. A register of the names and addresses of all Feeble-Minded persons should be kept in each municipality. In that way alone will the municipalities be brought face to face with this responsibility, and gradually come to recognize the fact that to neglect providing custodial care for the Feeble-Minded in Ontario is a great economic blunder.

WHAT THE SCHOOL CAN DO.

Find the Feeble-Minded children in school and out of school. Give them a second chance in an Auxiliary or Special Class. If they are shown to be Feeble-Minded and incapable of attaining self-support and citizenship, notify the proper Municipal and Provincial Authorities in order that they may receive suitable training and permanent care.

WHAT THE MUNICIPALITY MUST DO.

Provide care, control and training for all its Feeble-Minded Children in Industrial Farm Colonies, so that they may be safe and happy, learn useful occupations and help in their own support. Parents to support their own children as far as possible. Where parents are unable to do this, the cost to be provided for out of Municipal taxes, Government grants and private generosity. Adults to be cared for in separate Institutions of the Industrial Farm Colony or Village type.

Appoint a Committee on the Care of Mental-Defectives.

In cities, organize a central "Vocational Clinic," "Clearing House" or "Social Service Clinic" in connection with a Hospital where the Educational Authorities, the Juvenile and other Courts, the Officers of Justice and all others concerned with the problem of Mental-Defectiveness could send children or adults for a confidential study and expert opinion as to their mental age and capacity.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HELEN MACMURCHY,

Inspector of Feeble-Minded.

