

may not have seen a copy of this report to write at once to the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, asking for a copy, so that he may possess himself of the valuable information contained in this report.

Further, your Committee believe that the provision of better facilities for the treatment of incipient mental disease is a great national duty and would draw attention to the communication on this subject from British experts in Mental Disease, which appeared in the London *Times* of February 6th, 1920, and also to the leading article in the same issue of that paper. Under date of February 21, 1920, *The Hospital* states as follows: "Treatment of Incipient Mental Disease."

"A GREAT NATIONAL DUTY.

"To urge reform in our methods of dealing with early mental disorder would seem to labor the obvious. The most elementary thinker must long have realized the hopelessness of our system. Unfortunates who fail to conform to the common mental type have hitherto been left to struggle alone at the mercy of chance surroundings. Even though the sufferer desires advice and treatment, he has had nowhere to turn for expert guidance—unless he would risk the stigma of 'insanity' or 'lunacy.' By the time he has qualified for admission to the recognized institutions his case has usually become too desperate for hope of cure. Before the War this policy, representing uneducated public opinion countenanced by governments devoid of scientific outlook, was distinctly cruel and uneconomical; it was also suicidal and therefore there is now a chance of focusing public opinion upon it.

THE REVISION RECOMMENDED.

The Medico-Physchological Association of Great Britain and Ireland has recommended revision of our methods of treating incipient mental disease and the provision of opportunity for study and research. The early symptoms of disorder long before certification is possible, at a time when the need for well-considered treatment is obviously urgent, as it is only then likely to be successful. On the other hand facilities for skilled treatment at this early stage have been deplorably few.

For this state of affairs an ignorant public is to blame for stigmatizing the mentally afflicted in whatsoever category or degree, as almost culpably beyond the plea—an opinion which has been regrettably supported by the official attitude.

A short Amending Bill to the Lunacy Act would provide for treatment in the early or curable stages of mental disorder without certification, by embodying the reforms most urgently needed. The proposals