

immigration. This study was found to be of great value, and it was published in May, 1920, under the title of "A Study in Canadian Immigration."

It was decided that the staff of the National Committee should gather first-hand information as to the existing system of examination of immigrants. This was done. There followed, in 1920, a request from the Dominion Government that the National Committee arrange for the psychiatric training of three of their immigration medical inspectors. It was also arranged that one of the officers of the National Committee be lent for four months to the immigration medical service at the port of Quebec, where he demonstrated methods for the mental examination of immigrants.

#### SURVEYS

The first survey was made upon the request of the Public Welfare Commission of Manitoba in October, 1918. Similar requests followed from the Provincial Governments of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

As such surveys take in all institutions and other facilities for dealing with mental disorders and disabilities, they are time-consuming. The surveys that were made occupied the major part of the time of the staff during this period.

The need for such surveys was shown by the conditions revealed, and reports were made to the governments concerned. We quote from a confidential report, made in 1922, reviewing the findings of the period 1918-1922.

"A number of the inmates were found in beds over which were placed heavy iron gratings. A number were found with hands enclosed in leather muffs, and other forms of physical restraint were utilized in routine fashion.

"The Superintendent was a man without medical training . . . There were no trained nurses.

"At the end of one of the dark wards of this Home, two cupboards were discovered. Their dimensions were approximately 3 feet by 6½ feet. Partitions reached to within a foot of the ceiling. The cupboards were dark and almost without ventilation. In one of these was found a naked woman who was deathly white . . . She was wallowing in her own filth on the bare floor, and had been confined in this box for four long years.

"While in jail, those who were disturbed were physically restrained—some of them being actually fettered to a specially-designed wooden rack.

"The buildings were practically all fire traps . . . Sanitary arrangements were primitive.

". . . the herding together of insane, feeble-minded, the physically infirm, the aged and children."

Provincial Governments, particularly those of Western Canada, accepted the recommendations made by the National Committee based upon the findings of the surveys. The necessary legislation was passed. Facilities for the care and treatment of those who were suffering from mental disorders or disabilities were extended.