

ing acute cases of insanity in psychiatric hospitals instead of in asylums.

Mrs. Evans, convener of the Committee on Feeble-Minded, for the National Council of Women, sent in a paper that emphasized the need of isolating these women.

Col. J. E. Farewell, K.C., Whitby, said that there was no more promising field for benevolence and philanthropy than the caring for and restraint of the feeble-minded.

JAIL SYSTEM IS PERNICIOUS.

Mr. C. H. Corbett, governor of Kingston Jail, read a paper on "Our Jail System." This was unworthy of the present age, and it was not a credit to the Province of Ontario. While every other branch of the public service that related to charities and correction, asylums for the insane, hospitals for the sick and all public institutions in receipt of Government aid, had been improved and modernized, the jails were little better than they were 50 years ago. The buildings were erected, with few exceptions, with but one object in view, the safe keeping of prisoners, but they did not even answer that purpose in some municipalities. The structural defects in the jails clearly indicated that those who planned them and those who sanctioned the plans had little or no conception of the need of classification further than the division of the sexes. Hygienic or sanitary laws were not even dreamed of by the builders of these antiquated cells. Even common humanity seemed to be lost sight of in their construction. Prisoners in many jails were confined in night cells seven feet long and by three and a half feet wide, without modern conveniences for 12 out of each 24 hours in which they are in custody.

Sheriff Middleton, of Hamilton, thought clergymen and magistrates should visit the jails frequently. He deprecated the cry of so-called free labor against competition with jail labor. The prisoner had the right to earn his own living. The object of the jail should be to make men of the prisoners, who should therefore be put to work. The cat should be used more frequently, not in a spirit of revenge, but of correction. Some men could be reformed by the cat, that could be reached in no other way. He would use the cat on drunkards and assaulters.

Mr. R. C. Harris, Property Commissioner, Toronto, did not believe in the dual system of governing jails. In regard to the reformation of the prisoner the present jail system was a failure. The first step now taken for the reform of the prisoner was to put him in degrading clothes, to give him a modicum of labor, and leave him alone to his thoughts and evil communications of his fellow-prisoners. Jail governors should be men who take a special interest in the work. The present methods of appointing subordinate officers was censured. The