

Intricate legal machinery has been responsible in no small degree for the stigma attached to mental disease and for the hopeless condition in which cases finally reach the hospitals devoted to the care of such. These institutions have been looked upon unfortunately by laity, legal and medical professions, as the last resort, a lodging place for human material considered beyond all hope of return to normality. We must come to consider these as hospitals capable of the same thorough going investigation and care of mental disorder that general hospitals are able to afford to those afflicted with physical disease. The institutions themselves must be well staffed with regard to both medical and nursing service. They must have laboratories, special departments for study of borderline cases, and must be provided with occupational departments wherein the recreational, therapeutic and economic value of supervised occupation may come to full fruition. The establishment of a psychopathic hospital should do much to improve the status of mental disease and its treatment.

This institution is planned to receive all classes of mental patients for "first care, examination and observation, and to provide short intensive treatment for such cases as are likely to benefit". Facilities for the study of nervous and mental disease will be available, both by means of clinical observation and laboratory investigation.

It will be possible for the patients to enter the Psychopathic Hospital in one of three ways. First, the patient may make voluntary application for admission, the only requirement for such being that they be willing to comply with the rules of the institution regarding detention, etc. A second route of admission will be from custody of friends, relatives, police officers, clergymen, physicians, etc., the whole thing being accomplished without any of the customary legal machinery. Then lastly there will remain the present method of commitment by the courts.

The Psychopathic Hospital is looked upon as the centre of the system for caring for the mentally unfit of the Province. It is aimed to effect an improvement and uniformity in the clinical work of the hospitals for mental disease and to bring about correlated work looking toward the adequate care and investigation of cases in their care and of nervous and mental disease in general.

One of the most urgent reasons for the establishment of a psychopathic hospital is to furnish opportunity for clinical instruction of undergraduate medical students, the future family physicians, in order that they may come to recognize mental disease at its earliest stage, when treatment may be expected to do the most toward a return to normal.

A most important branch of psychopathic hospital activities is social service. The chief work of this department lies outside the