

Beginnings in the Training of Mentally Defective Children", by Margaret MacDowall, published by the Local Government Press Co. (R. T. Leach), London, England.

I have the honour to be, Sir or Madam,

Your obedient servant,

HELEN MACMURCHY,  
*Inspector of Auxiliary Classes.*

Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

March 19th, 1919.

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### WORK WITH THE FEEBLE-MINDED AT HALIFAX

Twenty years ago the Local Council of Women of Halifax made a study of the question of mental deficiency, and in 1906 approached the Provincial Government to present facts showing the number of feeble-minded in the Province, and histories of specific cases. No Governmental action followed, however, because it was argued that the expense involved in dealing with the situation was prohibitive.

Some time later the Local Council were instrumental in forming the Nova Scotia League for the Care of the Feeble-Minded, with Sir Frederick Fraser as its President, and fifty branch leagues were organized throughout the Province. Several meetings of the Association were held, but the Provincial Government was not again approached on the subject.

Following the Halifax disaster, the I.O.D.E. of Canada sent a large donation to be used for children who had suffered in the explosion. Since the majority of these children were already being cared for in hospitals and institutions, a request was made by the I.O.D.E. of Halifax that the fund might be used for feeble-minded children injured in the disaster—children for whom no special provision existed. This suggestion met with approval, and a Home for the Feeble-Minded was started in a little cottage on the grounds of the Protestant Industrial School, under the supervision of Dr. Eliza Brison, an assistant, and a matron. At present there are 10 small girls in residence.

Dr. Brison has been appointed convener of the Committee for the Care of the Feeble-Minded, and it is the hope of the Local Council of Women that the fifty branch leagues which were never called into action may be revived, and a campaign of publicity undertaken in the Province.

The Board of Education has demonstrated interest in this problem. Five teachers specially trained in Harvard, Waverley, and Vineland have charge of two auxiliary classes. A third will be opened in September. It is recognized that there is urgent need for supervision and further instruction for children who graduate from these classes, although nothing has been accomplished along this line to date.