

in contact. On the basis of this case history the Classification Board of the institution is enabled to reach a decision as to the treatment and employment of the prisoner during his incarceration. The value of this procedure has become increasingly evident during recent months and we find that more and more convicts are seeking the advice and counselling of the Classification Officer in connection with their individual problems and plans.

The success of a good treatment programme depends largely on the willingness and the interest of the prisoner to participate in it, and the Classification Officers play a most important role in interpreting to the inmates of our institutions the opportunities that are becoming increasingly available for their benefit and advancement while serving their sentences. Prior to the completion of sentence the Classification Officer is the link with the John Howard Societies, the National Employment Service and the other agencies designed to assist the rehabilitation of the prisoner upon discharge. In that pre-discharge period the knowledge that has been gained of the individual's assets and liabilities by a proper system of classification is of the greatest importance in assisting him in his post-discharge plans. We all know, of course, that classification is not a magic formula which will provide the solution for all cases -- but it does assist greatly in developing a plan of treatment that will be best suited for the individual's needs.

Now a word about the developments that have taken place in improving the facilities available for the treatment process -- the tools, as it were, with which our staffs have to work. The Archambault Commission pointed out that education should be regarded as an essential part of any programme of rehabilitation and that it was fundamentally a problem of adult education. The prisoner should be regarded as an adult in need of education, as well as a criminal in need of reform, and the educational programme should be sufficiently broad in scope to influence the basic attitudes of those who participate and to open to them new means of occupying constructively the long hours of leisure time at their disposal. These recommendations have guided our developments in the educational field. Our teaching staffs have been more than doubled in the past two years and substantial progress has been made in the enlargement and renovation of our classrooms and in the provision of fluorescent lighting, new school room furniture and up-to-date text books and educational aids. In September a new well equipped school building at St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary will be ready for occupation which will greatly improve the facilities at that institution. The use of the correspondence courses provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and by the Provincial Departments of Education has continued to expand during the past year -- at the end of March last the total number of correspondence courses currently being undertaken was 1205, from a population of approximately 4000.

The programmes of special lectures and courses provided by outside lecturers at some of our institutions were continued again during the past winter and we are particularly indebted to the staffs of Queen's University and the University of British Columbia for their interest and assistance in this phase of our activities. The interest of the prisoners in these visits from the outside has been