

Why Are We Neglecting the 160,000 Canadians Who Are Mentally Sub-Normal?

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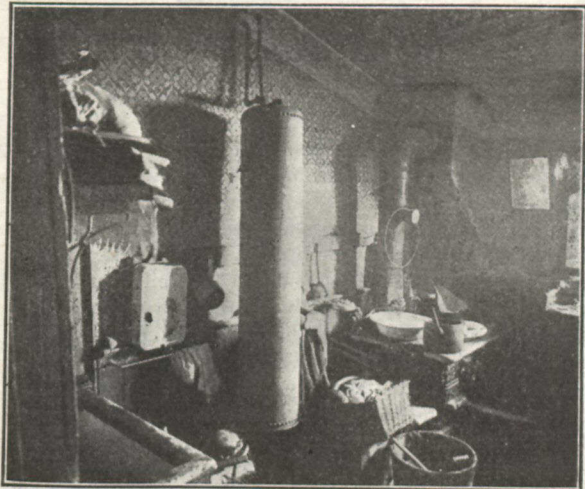
ALTHOUGH much has been written on the subject of feeble-mindedness and insanity, few Canadians realize the magnitude of the problem of mental abnormality in this country. It has been estimated that there are resident in the Dominion 160,000 individuals who suffer from mental handicaps, and that only some 20,000 odd of this number are confined in hospitals for the insane. The remaining 140,000

and the remainder of the 50 per cent. psychopathic. (An individual is diagnosed "psychopathic" when he suffers from defective personality or from some mental kink of such nature as to render him a social

destroying the house furnishings. He took a can of shoe blacking and smeared the contents over valuable rugs, tapestries, etc. With a penknife he cut to ribbons paintings on the walls. He tore the pages out of valuable books and manuscripts and threw the doctor's surgical instruments out of the window.

Prostitution and Illegitimacy

IN TORONTO we have examined over 300 immoral women and have found 70 per cent to be mentally



A family of eight used this single room for kitchen, dining-room and bedroom, although the house had seven other rooms. It is unnecessary to state there was no sanitation.



This girl of 8 years looks indeed as if the burden of a thoughtless world were upon her shoulders. The utter lack of intelligence, as shown on her face, surely demands better care than she and hundreds of others like her are now tendered.

problem, but who cannot rightly be classed as either feeble-minded or insane.)

Juvenile Delinquency

OVER 3,000 delinquents that appeared before the Judge of the Toronto Juvenile Court were referred to the Psychiatric Clinic of the Toronto General Hospital for examination. This study



A nineteen-month-old baby with defective eyes, which are common in cases of idiocy. This frail bit of humanity should be given a fighting chance in life.

demonstrated that at least 40 per cent. of all the Court cases were mentally abnormal—the majority being feeble-minded. The delinquencies included theft, housebreaking, incendiarism, bodily violence, sexual immorality, etc. In many instances the actions of the mental defectives could not be explained upon any other grounds than that of mental

abnormality. I recall one case of a feeble-minded boy who, in company with a gang, entered the home of a well-known surgeon who was serving his country overseas. This boy was not content merely to steal valuable belongings, but took pleasure in wantonly



Case of "manic depressive insanity" which tends to change victims from a state of unusual exhilaration to one of deep depression. This father is unable to leave his children and the family is living on public charity.

abnormal. Investigations of this nature in various parts of the United States and Canada have shown that from 33 per cent. to 80 per cent. of all prostitutes are feeble-minded.

These facts are of interest to those of us who are endeavouring to combat venereal disease in Canada. We know that 90 per cent. of all prostitutes are infected with disease and that 75 per cent. of all

social diseases among men are contracted from these unfortunate individuals. On one occasion a mentally deficient woman was receiving treatment in the Toronto General Hospital, and at that time five men were attending a clinic at this same institution, for syphilis. These five men had contracted the disease from the woman referred to.

Illegitimacy and mental defects are closely bound up together. Several hundred unmarried mothers, who were taking advantage of obstetrical treatment in public hospitals, were given a mental examination, and approximately 60 per cent. were found to be feeble-minded. In some instances it was possible to detect evidences of mental deficiency in their progeny. This is an

important point to bear in mind, because the children of unmarried mothers are often placed out for adoption and the reason some of them fail to make good in foster homes is because of their inherent mental abnormality.

Pauperism

EXPERIENCE has proven that the chronic pauper generally belongs (Continued on page 49)

Crime

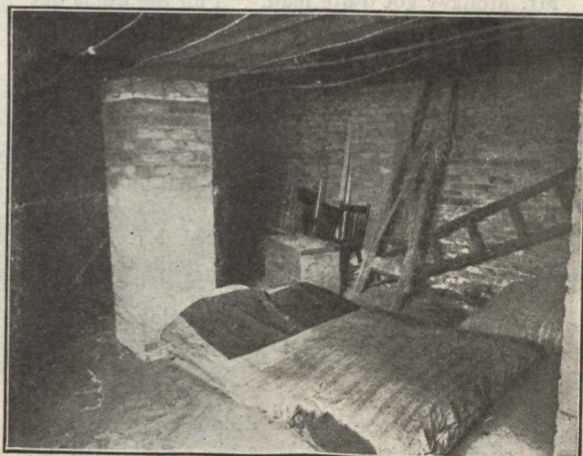
THOSE of us who read the newspapers have no doubt been impressed by the fact that many famous criminals have been diagnosed as mentally unfit. Through the press we learned that the man who assassinated the late President McKinley was feeble-minded; that the individual who shot at the late Mayor Gaynor of New York, and killed another man, belonged to the same class; that the man who attempted the life of the late Col. Roosevelt was mentally deficient, and that the notorious "Gyp the Blood" was mentally abnormal.

My chief, Dr. C. K. Clarke, has been called by the Crown to make mental examinations of over sixty murderers in the Dominion, and he has found that a considerable percentage were unbalanced mentally.

It remained for Dr. Bernard Glueck, of New York, however, to give us definite figures concerning the percentage of criminals who suffered from mental disorders. He made a careful investigation of the mental status of over 600 consecutive admissions to Sing Sing Prison, and found that over 50 per cent. were of unsound mind. Dr. Glueck discovered that 24 per cent. were feeble minded, 12 per cent. insane



This boy of 14 years is typical of the mentally deficient thief. Our reformatories and detention institutions are full of them. How much better they could be treated in school or college, where hope might be inspired rather than despair.



Above—This bed was used by a defective woman, aged 70. The home conditions of mental defectives are bad.

At left and at right—Special classes for backward children at Vancouver. These classes in physical culture, fancy work, manual training, etc., develop the child's mental faculties.

