

The objects of the League are as follows :—

First, to educate the public as to the need that exists for protecting and training feeble-minded persons.

Second, to impress upon the Government and Legislature of Nova Scotia the necessity for making some provision for the education of boys and girls who, owing to mental deficiency, are unable to take advantage of the training given in the public schools.

In several of his annual reports Dr. G. L. Sinclair, Inspector of Humane and Penal Institutions, has called attention to the pitiable state of feeble-minded persons who were to be found in poor houses, salvation army homes, orphanages, infants' homes and other kindred institutions throughout the province.

In 1906 The Halifax Local Council of Women, realizing the fact that many unprotected feeble minded girls were becoming the mothers of feeble-minded children, and that the number of mental deficient was being increased to undue proportions, issued a circular to doctors, clergymen, overseers of the poor and superintendents of almshouses, refuges, etc., in the Province of Nova Scotia with a view to finding out the names, ages and condition of such persons. The replies to this circular have been carefully collated and establish beyond doubt the following facts :—

First, that there are many feeble-minded adults resident in different parts of the province who had they been trained might have materially aided in their own support, but who are now charges upon public or private charity.

Second, that many unmarried feeble minded women had given birth to one or more feeble-minded children, and that these children were growing up as public charges without receiving any proper training. The following quotation from a paper read by Mrs. William Dennis before the Halifax Local Council of Women will serve as a forcible illustration :—“ Some years ago the Women's Council asked the Superintendent of the Halifax Poor House for the number of children born of feeble-minded mothers in that institution in five years. The answer was twenty. These twenty children were the offspring of nine feeble-minded mothers. One had borne one child, five had borne two, and three had borne three each.” This deplorable report can probably be duplicated by the superintendents of most of our Provincial Poor Houses or Poor Farms.

Third, the statistics collected prove that many homes are