

time next year 3,000 people now going about will be committed as insane. This means a tremendous amount of money expended in maintenance of these hospitals and patients, **and the most of it is sheer waste**, because the percentage of recovery is not on a par with the recoveries in other hospitals. A great portion of the expenditure is social waste; many people have come to believe that a great deal of mental disease is preventable. Mental disease has so long existed in the midst of superstition and misunderstanding, it has been neglected up to the present. But there is a group—a growing group—who are convinced that if this problem cannot be dealt with in its entirety, split up into its constituent parts it is amenable. It is proposed to improve the standard and character of these insane hospitals, making them easily accessible. At present it is more difficult to get into a mental hospital than into a gaol. Before a man is adjudged insane his malady is far advanced. The effort now is to break down this admission barrier, and make it as easy to get care, treatment, advice and suggestions in these mental hospitals as it is in any other hospital; and arrangements are being made to allow patients, who wish it, to go voluntarily to these institutions for help. A physician does not want to take his case before a judge when he knows there is a question as to the patient's being really insane; he knows the patient needs help. It is being made possible for the doctor to take his patient to these special hospitals, the only procedure being the signing of a simple statement of fact; the patient is admitted and is kept for ten days for observation and treatment. Then he may be committed, discharged, or remain in voluntarily. An effort also has been made to establish in outlying cities and towns out-patient departments at the regular general hospitals for this sort of case—psychiatric clinics to which social workers may bring cases that are troubling them, school teachers may bring pupils who are growing difficult either in the matter of discipline or backwardness, or to which parents may bring defective children; where adults may come and get advice in advance of the time when otherwise they might be committed. To these clinics will also be referred a large number of people—candidates for mental hospitals, who can be handled very fairly while outside. This sort of work leads up to the consideration of the problem of how to deal with the feeble-minded, and then into the question of juvenile delinquency and crime, vagrancy, chronic poverty and prostitution. The committee has at various times made surveys of different states respecting the feeble-minded in order to get at existing conditions. This must be done before the remedy can be indicated. At the Juvenile Court in New York a