

Report of Medical Director to Board of Directors and Supporters
of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene

Foreword

Through the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation the Medical Director of the National Committee has been granted a six months' travelling fellowship in Europe. On October 21st, 1925, the Medical Director will sail for England and he is desirous of submitting a short report before his departure.

Present Activities of the Committee.

The present work of the Committee can be divided into (a) National Service and (b) Research Leading to Prevention.

(a) National Service.

The National Service of the Committee consists in the making of Mental Hygiene Surveys; educational publicity and the stimulation throughout Canada of mental hygiene progress. In the past, seven provincial surveys have been made and facts pertaining to mental abnormality have been learned. This knowledge has placed the organization in a position to successfully urge governments, school boards and health bodies to make more adequate scientific provision for the treatment and control of insanity, feeble-mindedness and neurotic conditions. The Committee must perforce maintain the policy of re-surveying the various provinces if we would make further necessary progress in mental hygiene. When the Medical Director returns from Europe in April he will, with the permission of the Board of Directors, conduct a study across Canada and will be accompanied by a medical man who may, in future, spend his entire time in the employ of the Committee in survey work. The Medical Director will acquaint this new appointee with conditions in Canada and will introduce him to individuals holding strategic positions in the mental hygiene field.

Through educational publicity a favorable atmosphere is created in Canada for the promotion of mental hygiene progress. At the present time an intensive campaign in an experimental way is being conducted in the Province of Alberta with the cooperation of the Alberta Division of the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Numerous articles are appearing in the Alberta press and arrangements have been made for the use of the radio, the pulpit and the public platform for mental hygiene purposes. With experience that will be gained in Alberta the educational campaign will be extended in a more official way to other provinces. In addition, there will be published every two months a mental hygiene bulletin and numerous articles will appear in representative newspapers and Canadian magazines. Educational publicity is in the hands of a special committee composed of Dr. E. A. Bott, Professor J. W. Bridges, Mr. N. L. Burnette, Dr. E. K. Clarke and Professor E. D. MacPhee.

The central office of the National Committee will continue as in the past to act as an advisory centre for those who seek its services. Every month hundreds of requests seeking cooperation are received and a national service is provided.