

further if the Court be satisfied that there is no ground for alleging want of good faith, or that the proceedings are frivolous or vexatious, the action may be stayed.

I do not know whether your experience has been the same as mine, but no single action has been brought in South Africa by a patient as far as I know, except by one who has not wholly recovered.

As I mentioned before, some legislative provision for the care of the feeble-minded was regarded as one of the most important reasons for passing a consolidated Act as soon as possible. As early as the year 1908 a Society for the care of the feeble-minded was established in Cape Town and was doing such propaganda work that public opinion throughout the country was being stirred to understand the importance sociologically of the care of the feeble-minded. The Child Welfare Societies also took a great interest in the question, as the various Committees centred throughout the country discovered the important bearing feeble-mindedness had on their work. The Child Life Protection Society in Cape Town established a Clinic in their offices at which cases could be seen and advice given as to their care and treatment. I took these Clinics at first, on my various visits to Cape Town, but they are now regularly taken by one of the officers of the medical staff of the Valkenburg Mental Hospital. As a result of the various forces at work, it was felt and finally decided that Mental Hygiene Societies should be established. To prevent the multiplication of Societies, in most centres this work was undertaken by a Special Committee of the Child Welfare Society. By the election of certain delegates from these societies and the addition of certain Government nominees, a "National Council for Mental Hygiene and the care of the Feeble-minded for the Union" was established last year, and its funds are being augmented by a Government grant.

Great benefit has already resulted from the work of the Council and the Societies and their sphere of usefulness is steadily expanding, so that the time is near when we shall be able to use their Inspectors and the visiting members of the Committees to do field work for the Mental Hospitals and Homes for the Feeble-minded.

In recent years in various Departments, such as the Department of Prisons, the Department of Education and others, the officers concerned have more fully realized how much their work was interfered with by the presence of feeble-minded persons in their institutions. Representations were made by the head of these Departments to Ministers, and a Departmental Committee was appointed by the Minister for Education to suggest a solution and propose a uniform procedure. The Committee met several times and finally recommended:—