

Report of Annual Meeting of Board of Directors and of the Executive and Finance Committees of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, held in Montreal, November 14th, 1924.

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Acting Medical Directors Report

For six and a half years the National Committee has been conducting important humanitarian work in the Dominion. Mental Hygiene surveys have been made in every province and there have resulted improved methods of dealing with mentally afflicted individuals. Those who are familiar with our history know that our efforts have led to the improvement of mental hospitals, to the finding of additional accommodation for the feeble-minded and to the working out of practical plans for the supervision of mental abnormals in the community. Our previous reports have submitted in detail definite accomplishments and have demonstrated the fact that, during the last five years, greater advances have been made in dealing in a scientific way with the whole problem of mental abnormality in Canada than had been the case in the preceding twenty years.

Past accomplishments were made possible by the generosity of our supporters and by the able direction of our Officers. It is fitting that a tribute should be paid at this juncture to the services of men who died during the last year and who contributed in a very real way to the success of our work. In January, the death occurred of our Medical Director, Dr. C. K. Clarke. It is doubtful if the National Committee could ever have been established without Dr. Clarke's zeal, resource, experience and devotion to the cause of mental hygiene. He was the most eminent of our Canadian psychiatrists and, while associated with the National Committee, he travelled throughout Canada and was a tremendous influence in stimulating progress. In rapid succession, other deaths followed, and the Committee has lost such staunch supporters as Mr. James Carruthers, Sir Edmund Osler, Sir William Price and Mr. D.A. Dunlap. Mr. Carruthers pledged \$10,000 toward the Lady Byng of Vimy Fund for Mental Hygiene, and expressed great interest in our enterprise. Sir Edmund Osler was a generous donor and supported our work from its inception. Sir William Price was one of our first Vice-Presidents and subscribed in all \$60,000 to our Committee. He always had words of encouragement and sound advice for our workers. Mr. D. A. Dunlap was Chairman of our Finance Committee and it was in his home that the idea of a National Committee was first discussed. With Mrs. Dunlap, he was among our most generous supporters.

I have intimated that our chief contribution to the welfare of Canada has consisted in bettering the treatment facilities for the mentally handicapped, but we have always desired to foster prevention of these crippling disorders. Indeed, the term Mental Hygiene signifies primarily efforts along preventive lines and, strictly speaking, our work to date has not been confined to this field. There have been three primary reasons that have held in check the development of a genuine mental hygiene programme. The first reason relates to the fact that treatment facilities for the insane, the feeble-minded and