

SECTION I

HISTORY

ORIGIN

In the year 1918, a group of individuals in Canada became convinced that there was need for a Dominion-wide organization to give leadership in combatting mental disorders.

On February 26, 1918, this group met in Toronto at the home of Mrs. D. A. Dunlap. An invitation to attend the meeting had been extended to and accepted by Mr. Clifford Beers, founder of the Mental Hygiene movement. It was Mr. Beers' book, "A Mind that Found Itself", and his vision and enthusiasm which, in 1914, had brought into being, in the United States, the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

At this preliminary organization meeting, Doctor C. K. Clarke occupied the chair, and Doctor C. M. Hincks acted as secretary. Mr. Beers described the manner in which the United States Committee was organized. A tentative mental hygiene programme for Canada was outlined, which had for its main objectives the promotion of

1. War Work:
 - (a) Psychiatric examination of recruits.
 - (b) Adequate care of returned soldiers suffering from mental disabilities.
2. Mental examination of immigrants (post-war), to ensure a better selection of newcomers.
3. Adequate facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cases of mental disease.
4. Adequate care of the mentally deficient.
5. Prevention of mental disease and mental deficiency.

The meeting expressed approval of the proposal. The Chairman was empowered to appoint an organizing committee. The committee was formed, and the initial meeting of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene was held at Ottawa on April 26, 1918.

Doctor C. F. Martin, now Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University, was elected President, an office which he has continued to fill with distinction to the great benefit of the work and the satisfaction of all who are associated with the National Committee. Doctor C. K. Clarke was appointed Medical Director, and Doctor C. M. Hincks, Associate Medical Director and Secretary.

The Canadian Medical Association Journal of June, 1918, carried an article, "The Origin, Organization and Scope of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene", by Evelyn Molson Russel. The two following statements are quoted from this article:—