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DR. GEORGE E. VINCENT

President of the Rockefeller Foundation

ADDRESSES THE ANNUAL MEETING

OF

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MENTAL HYGIENE

In his own inimitable fashion, with flashes of wit, with an intimate knowledge of his subject and with philosophic insight, Dr. George E. Vincent addressed the Annual Meeting of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, in Montreal, on December 3rd, 1926. His subject was, "Public Health and Mental Hygiene."

The following excerpts from Dr. Vincent's address will be of interest to readers of the Bulletin:

"Mental Hygiene has come. It has come to stay. It has come as one of the most important and fascinating, and, let us frankly say, one of the most immature of all forms of social inquiry in connection with public health."

"Mental hygienists believe in facing the facts, in not getting unduly excited, but in working steadfastly as the light of reason throws a little glow ahead. I like to think of progress as proceeding in the light of a locomotive engine—illuminating a path ahead and the rest in darkness, and when a turn is reached another stretch is lighted up. All we can hope for is to see the little light ahead—the best light we can throw on the track with the reason we have and the knowledge we possess."

"What is the business of a National Committee for Mental Hygiene? It has an important stimulating function. It stimulates governments to action by presenting facts. Governments get on comfortably without facts—because facts make problems."

"What should a National Committee do in the way of developing research? Should it develop along independent lines or co-operate with existing centres? There is no doubt as to the answer. The policy that has been adopted by this