

six years, in entertaining these importations. That amount merely covers the actual outlay for maintenance, without computing the cost of buildings and a dozen other things which should fairly come into the calculation.

Now to consider some of the practical aspects of the case:—Here, I think we may profit by the experience in New York State. Our own experiences since the new deportation act came in force are not without value. What is of paramount importance is that the defectives should be weeded out as far as possible at the port of sailing. This would save untold misery, and expense both to the patients, the steamship companies and the country. It is a difficult problem to handle, but it is not going too far to say that a large proportion of the defectives we have received would have been detected at the port of sailing by physicians who had been trained in psychiatric methods.

Dr. Salmon says: "At first thought it would seem a hopeless task to attempt to pick insane and mentally defective immigrants from the unending lines of humanity which file through Ellis Island, but a systematic plan of inspection has been devised which results in the detection of many. Officers of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service who have had special training in institution for the insane are assigned to this duty and the other Medical Officers unite with them in searching for immigrants who seem a typical or who present signs even remotely suggesting mental disease.

The Immigration Inspectors, who have to question all immigrants as to their destination, education and many other matters, have been provided with memoranda as to peculiarities which might suggest the existence of insanity or mental defect and are requested to return immigrants presenting such abnormalities to the Medical Officers.

Occasionally immigrants who have shown marked evidence of insanity during the voyage are reported by the ship's surgeons but of course, immigrants very obviously insane or defective would be refused passage at the ports of embarkation. Immigrants in whom, for any of these reasons mental disease is suspected are detained, after a preliminary examination, for observation and further examination. Recently, rooms have been set aside for this purpose, and a very noticeable increase in the number of cases detected has occurred. A large separate pavilion in which many more such cases may be detained and observed has been authorized and a psychopathic pavilion in connection with the Immigrant Hospital is being constructed. In the latter pavilion certified cases of insanity will be kept until the return of the ships which has brought them, and acute cases requiring treatment will be cared for until they are in condition to be returned with entire safety."

Those not familiar with the practical side of the subject cannot estimate what it means to protect the coming generations of Canadians from the evil results of the addition of defective and mentally diseased immigrants to our population. Preventive medicine has a duty to perform that cannot be ignored and Federal and Provincial Authorities must unite to fight the threatened evil. Our new law is good as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough, and in many cases we are powerless to act, when our duty seems manifest. It would be so much better too, to intercept the defectives at the port of the departure whenever possible.

During the year a large number of persons have been deported from this Hospital and in many instances the hardship to the unfortunate patient was manifest. Steamship companies almost invariably refused to allow qualified attendants to travel with the patient, and we had no assurance that the unfortunate would receive the treatment so necessary at such a time. How much better had the stress never been incurred.