

always with us." There is a very great deal of attention being paid to this subject. It is certainly a very proper thing to look after the feeble minded and give them as fair a chance for education as possible. Some of these cases can be taught sufficiently to earn a living for themselves.

There are several aspects of this subject that call for action. There are some who are feeble minded because of the accidents of birth, disease, injuries, or arrested development. It is impossible to prevent these, and they should be cared for properly at home or in some public way.

But there are many feeble minded children who should never have been born. It is a fact that marriage is but very little regulated in civilized countries. It is notoriously too true that almost any persons may marry and have children. This should not be allowed. Defective, drunkards, criminals, half-breeds, etc., etc., contract marriages and raise children. On this there must be placed a rigid check. Marriage should be looked upon from the race point of view more than it has been in the past. Arrest the production of feeble minded children by every means known to modern science.

With the unavoidable balance of defectives it will be necessary to deal. Homes must be found for them. Most of them can be taught enough to earn their keep in an institution. Institutions for the feeble minded and the epileptic are made self-sustaining in some places, and the same could be done in the various provinces of Canada. It only requires the nerve to do things the right way.

ANTE-MORTEM STATEMENTS.

From time to time ante-mortem statements are put in as evidence in murder trials. That these statements be of any value the persons making them must believe that they are dying and that there is no hope for their recovery. Now, let us look into these statements and the conditions under which they are often taken.

It is thought that the near approach of death gives the statement the force and solemnity of a statement made under oath. But all this depends upon the mental condition of the person making the statement. No court would give much credence to the evidence of a person under oath who at the time was in the low delirium of typhoid fever. He is mentally too weak and deranged to be able to state reliably what really did happen. In like manner the ante-mortem statement of one in such a condition would be valueless.