

without saying that the State for its own protection must as nearly as possible shut off at its source the alarming increase of those who inherit a lack of mentality.

"A census of the feeble-minded with careful inquiry into family histories and environment would make possible a classification that would greatly facilitate the solving of the problem. *There are many feeble-minded children in proper home surroundings that may never require State care. How many there are of this class and how many of the class whose tendencies and environment make them dangerous to society can only be determined by a census which can be taken in large part, with the machinery now available.* The ungraded classes for backward children in the public schools, the courts, prisons and institutions for defectives, delinquents and dependents can be utilized to reach all classes, but the taking of the census should be directed by some central State agency qualified to prescribe the character of the information desired and to analyze and classify the results of the inquiry."

It is to the result of proper classification that the Board of Control in Great Britain under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, in their second Report, in 1915, refers when it says:—

"Fortunately the greatest economic value of the feeble-minded is reached by means which secure their greatest possible health of mind and body, and their fullest possible pleasure in existence."

Let me conclude this section with a quotation from a report of one of the U.S. Training Schools showing how simple supervision becomes when the community wants the labour of defectives and is alive to the necessity of constantly looking after them. It is from Dr. Fernald's 1918 report of the Waverley Training School:—

"SELF-SUPPORTING DEFECTIVES.—It has long been assumed that a feeble-minded person could not support himself independently. The war has taught us that this is not a static problem, for scores of our former patients are now working for high wages. Some of these boys have been receiving \$18, \$20, \$30, and even \$35 per week. The demand for labour has been so great that employers have learned to provide the constant supervision that makes a producer even of a feeble-minded boy. Practically every able-bodied boy of fifteen years or over who went home this summer for a vacation is still at home steadily working for good wages. So many of our male patients have been kept at home to work that our industries have been greatly reduced. Nearly all of our milkers, for instance, went home at one time. We have few painters, teamsters, etc., left. Many of the boys make regular visits to the school, and are clean, well-dressed, and bear themselves with dignity and evident self-respect.

"There is a strong suspicion that in the past the difficulty of getting work, and the resulting idleness, has had much to do with the anti-social behaviour of the feeble-minded, at least of the male feeble-minded."

#### (4)—NEED FOR CHANGE OF ATTITUDE AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS.

The prevailing attitude hitherto has been dominated by the fact that feeble-mindedness has so often been the cause of criminality that the penal or correctional establishments were the places where this condition became apparent.

Only real insanity has been a recognized defence in cases of murder and violence and in other crimes. So that quite naturally the mental defective, if unable to escape as being a lunatic, has been regarded as a criminal and his state as requiring restraint in a gaol instead of a lunatic asylum. The modern point of