

A STUDY OF 5,600 CASES PASSING THROUGH THE PSY-  
CHIATRIC CLINIC OF THE TORONTO GENERAL  
HOSPITAL. A SPECIAL STUDY OF 188 CLINIC  
CASES—ALSO A SURVEY OF 767 CASES  
OF ILLEGITIMACY

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**A**S a rule many of those who become enthsusaistic about social service matters find themselves dealing with generalities unsupported by facts, and frequently arrive at conclusions not justified by experience.

In the past we have had to draw on other countries for many of the figures on which to base theories, but since the advent of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, advantage has been taken of the facilities offered by the Toronto General Hospital Psychiatric Clinic and its Social Service Department to collect accurate statistics.

Theoretically the statistics from the United States should parallel those of Canada, but a careful study of conditions and populations shows marked differences, as immigration has played such an important part in some Provinces, while it has not been a factor in others. Since the Psychiatric Clinic was established a few years ago something over six thousand cases have been investigated. Information in regard to all is not available, but fifty six hundred have been carefully classified. Of the 5600, 3274 were males and 2326 females. They came from different sources such as the Juvenile Court, Schools, Public Health Department, Societies of various kinds, Social Agencies, etc., but before the establishment of a psychiatric department in connection with the Juvenile Court the great majority were, so called, delinquents.

What does a careful study of these figures reveal? Surely the first thought to strike the careful student is the fact that prevention has not received the consideration it deserved.

#### PROSTITUTION

To begin with prostitution. Unfortunately the figures only tell a part of the story, as the male offender has not been studied and classified, for obvious reasons. In the first place what were these prostitutes?

A great majority of them were of school age when first becoming immoral, and were defective—some were insane. At all events, under a proper system of school inspection their defects could have been detected, and an intelligent line of care and treatment mapped out. What suffering