

loosely connected with the state institutions from which they are off-shoots. Nor do these off-shoot out-patient departments differ in any great degree from similar out-patient departments developed in connection with general hospitals as portions of their dispensary work. Aside from a certain superficiality which generally affects these out-patient departments and from their general lack of proper social service and availability of routine psychological testing the out-patient departments may be regarded as one of the most fortunate developments in mental hygiene.

(4) Closely allied with the above-mentioned out-patient departments, will be found sundry so-called *psychopathic laboratories* or similar agencies developed in connection with the public service of courts, schools and the like. Such is the recent popularity (if I may allow myself the word) of feeble-mindedness and the remarkable extension of the hypothesis that crime can largely be explained thereby, that these new units are often fain to promise too much. The psychopathic laboratories are greatly to be commended, despite the fact that most extraordinary stories transpire from some of them concerning the rapidity of diagnosis by their chiefs—beside which the exploits of Sherlock Holmes with his investigations of cigar ash pale into obscurity.

(5) So far we have enumerated institutions which are either paid for out of public funds or closely modelled after public service institutions. We should not omit from these latter another kind of institution which has its mental hygienic bearing. There are, I suppose, ten or one dozen privately endowed but actually *semi-public institutions*, often containing several hundred beds, which, owing to the wisdom of their management and the permanency of their funds, together with the high social level of their patients, have often been enabled to keep alight the torch of mental hygiene in their communities. These institutions are often off-shoots from great general hospitals; sometimes their erection has actually preceded in point of time the construction of the general departments themselves, for, indeed, no later than the days of Benjamin Franklin, wise men in the community saw the insane as amongst the very first problems to be attacked financially and institutionally. In those days, at least in this country, the plane separating public from private service was not so sharp as it has come since to be.

Although the development of the endowed institution for the insane often chronologically preceded general hospital developments by the same community group, yet it is doubtful whether there are many instances in which the interests of the insane have