

government commission for the feeble-minded. Its responsible officer should be a psychiatrist with special knowledge of mental deficiency and its many social expressions.

The local administration of this supervision could be carried out by the use of existing local public organizations, societies, etc. These peripheral workers could be made proficient by short courses, etc. This systematic supervision of the feeble-minded could easily be made to cover the entire province with a local representative in each community, but all under the direction of the central authority.

Unquestionably your association knows that already certain definite steps have been taken by the Government of this Province in this matter, carefully considered steps which go to show me that they fully recognize the seriousness of the problem, and steps taken so systematically that I am bound to believe that there is very little chance of an erroneous course being pursued.

The Provincial Government has already seen fit to have a preliminary survey of the province made by such men as Dr. C. K. Clarke, Dean of Toronto University Medical Faculty, and easily one of the most eminent psychiatrists in America. With him in this survey was Dr. C. M. Hincks, Secretary of the National Committee of Mental Hygiene, and Miss Keyes, one of Canada's leading social workers, and I will here quote from their report to the Honourable the Provincial Secretary:

"Facts have been disclosed in this report that give some indication of the proportions and seriousness of the problem of feeble-mindedness in British Columbia. The data presented shows that mental deficiency lies at the very root of such conditions as crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution and pauperism, and that it is a significant public school problem. Certain measures have already been adopted by the province to cope with the situation, but much remains to be done. There are measures of great urgency that should be immediately undertaken, and these will receive consideration in some detail. Before discussing particular recommendations, however, it should be pointed out that an efficient programme for the care of mental defectives must of necessity be elaborate. One could not do better in this connection than quote from a recent article written by Dr. Walter E. Fernald, the eminent American authority on feeble-mindedness, in a recent issue of the *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MENTAL HYGIENE*. Dr. Fernald thus outlines an effective state (or provincial) programme for the care of the mental defectives: "It includes the mental examination of backward children, the mental clinic, the travelling clinic, the special class, directed training of individual defectives in country schools, instruction of parents of defective children, after-care of special class pupils, special training of teachers in normal schools, census and registration of the feeble-minded,