

We now generally accept the importance of mental deficiency and mental abnormalities as related to criminality, prostitution, alcoholism and pauperism. However, further studies must be made if conclusions of any value are to be reached. The infrequency of clear-cut psychoses due to the use of any single drug is surprising. Statistics of nearly forty thousand committed cases of insanity show that psychoses, due to cocaine alone, for instance, are exceedingly unusual, morphine or some other factor almost always complicating the situation.

Again, if we turn to the epileptic psychoses, we are astonished at our ignorance of them. Nervous and mental diseases, feeble-mindedness and alcoholism are prominent in the family history of epileptics. L. Pierce Clark and others have called attention recently to the so-called "epileptic constitution." Is there such a thing? If there is, we must know definitely what percentage of cases show the characteristics of that mental make-up in order to show its relation to the disease itself. There is, unfortunately, no satisfactory classification of epileptic psychoses. The large majority of epileptics ultimately reach an advanced state of mental deterioration, but we do not know exactly what that percentage is. Many epileptics show pre-paroxysmal states; others are subject to post-paroxysmal conditions, while some exhibit only inter-paroxysmal episodes. There are others in whom are associated psychoses, such as manic depressive insanity, which, however, have no definite relation to epilepsy. All these matters require considerable discussion, careful analysis, and much further consideration, which should be based upon trustworthy statistical information.

The Federal Government has recently recognized that the condition called "constitutional psychopathic inferiority" is an adequate reason for rejecting immigrants. What is the relation of this condition to the various psychoses?

At the present moment, with new ideas on mental hygiene and new legislation, especially in the western provinces, the cost of the care and maintenance of the insane is of vital importance. Unfortunately we are unable, in Canada, to get at the real facts. There is no uniformity regarding the cost of the care and maintenance of the insane in our asylums. All these conditions require reliable statistics if we are to arrive at a definite basis for treatment.

In the United States repeated efforts have been made to remedy this unfortunate conditions of affairs, but to-day, through the efforts of the American Medico-Psychological Association and the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, a plan for the compila-