

tion respecting provisions that should be made for the care of feeble minded women, and he had received an invitation to be present that night and address them upon that subject. In no single direction, said the Doctor, can the Prisoners' Aid Association do more towards the diminution of crime, pauperism and imbecility than by having provision made for the care of feeble minded women in the Province of Ontario. Heredity, as Dr. Gilmour stated, has been the great cause of pauperism and crime, and anything that could be done to reduce that, would be a good work. In speaking of imbeciles, Dr. Beaton said, he referred to idiots, feeble minded people from the highest to the lowest. Some simple minded persons were looked upon as high grade idiots. In other words, the word 'idiot' at one end showed a grade of women feeble minded and helpless, while at the other end a higher grade of a feeble minded woman would exist. That was a class they should be protected against, because it was that class criminals and paupers came from. Dr. Beaton then stated that in the Orillia Asylum they had a number of families. They had had a family sent up from Toronto consisting of five, four girls and one boy. The boy had died. The girls ages ranged from twelve to twenty. They would be called high grade idiots. The girls were learning to read, write and do industrial work. They also had a family of four, two boys and two girls, another of three, mother and two daughters, and then a mother and son. You would take them to be brother and sister as they look so much alike. He said he had received a letter from a barrister a few years ago asking for the admission of seventeen members of one family. The speaker referred to a family in New York State where a single weak minded woman was the cause of many generations of paupers and criminals. It has been ascertained that in that family there have been two hundred thieves and thirty-two murderers, about two hundred and fifty invalids, ninety prostitutes, three hundred children who died in infancy, all having descended from one feeble minded woman. It has been estimated that in seventy-five years the descendants of this one woman cost the community no less a sum than one and a quarter million dol-

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