

must be radical and must profoundly affect our legal enactments, our court procedure and equipment, and our public institutions. Much in these is based, as it now appears, too largely upon a wholly wrong principle. It is necessary to insist strongly upon this fact, because the remedy, if it is to be efficient, will not be secured by half measures, but will need very patient, painstaking and concentrated effort both in study and action. Very many classes of people, not at present specially interested or equipped for co-operation whose attitude is at present one of unconcern, must be attracted and convinced. Proper education of the public on this subject is one of the crying needs of the present time, not only because the evil is one affecting the community, but because the means to be adopted will touch the home and family circle, the schools, amusements, courts, boarding houses, etc., and will affect so many interests that a favourable attitude in the public mind will make all the difference between success and failure. Not only so but once society at large realizes the situation and its needs, it is certain that just that kind of help will be forthcoming which is so sorely wanted. To aid and assist those charged with or undertaking the work of looking after the afflicted ones, many forces must co-operate. It is necessary to reach those defectives who must, perforce, in many cases, remain in their usual surroundings and in the place where they happen to be found.

Just how it is to be dealt with is another question but that it presents features capable of being handled at once and with marked benefit to the Province, I have not the smallest doubt.

In the schools, the home and the various penal and corrective institutions the mentally defective can be detected and of these the most natural and the most effective in which to begin are the schools, whether in respect of ascertaining their number at a time when it is most useful or whether with a view to saving the majority from degeneration.

In the last report of the New York State Hospital Development Commission (Feb., 1918) the practical problem is stated in a way which I believe to be not only correct but in its essence hopeful.

"It is now known that feeble-mindedness is caused by a positive defect in the brain, that this defect is incurable because it is not a disease but a lack, and that a feeble-minded person of the mental age of ten or twelve can never grow mentally older. *But this person through training can become mentally a very efficient child of ten or twelve and can often be made a self-supporting, self-respecting member of the community.* We have learned that there are certain families possessing a marked prepotency for evil, which families are known. There are undoubtedly many other families of like character not yet discovered. It is the judgment of all, who have knowledge on this subject, with whom we have talked, that the feeble-minded children of such families should be confined in institutions and kept there because if left at large in the community their life histories are those of crime, immorality and drunkenness, and their illegitimate children increase and intensify our burden indefinitely. On the other hand, *many of these unfortunates need only a few years of institutional training to enable them to go out into the world and earn a living perhaps not of the best, but sufficient to prevent their becoming a charge on their community or State.* Apart from these there are a very large number who, if their home surroundings are decent, need no institutional care and will never become a burden on the public.

"Feeble-minded women of child-bearing age who have already had sex experiences should not be allowed at large without careful supervision for it goes