

of all mentally defective persons and for the regulation of the provision made for their accommodation, and maintenance, care, treatment, education, training and control. We have further proposed that the local authority which should co-operate with this central authority should be a Statutory Committee of the Council of the County or County Borough for the care of the Mentally Defective. Part of the duties of the Education Committee of the Council would also be transferred. Subject to the approval of the Board of Control this authority would have power to contract for the accommodation of mentally defective persons with any Poor Law or other public authority, public or voluntary agency or private person.

22. We have next dealt with the special conditions of the provision which has been made for the care and maintenance of the mentally defective in London, and have pointed out the necessity of establishing a united and self-consistent administration: and we have recommended that a Statutory Committee of the London County Council for the care of the mentally defective should be the Committee of administration for the Metropolis, and that the functions of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, so far as they refer to the mentally defective, should be transferred to this Committee.

23. We have then discussed the education of the mentally defective in its chief bearings; and we have advocated a system of record and limited notification. We have also recommended that for the education and training of all mentally defective children the Board of Control, and the local authorities, represented by the Committees for the care of the mentally defective, should be responsible, subject to ample powers being given to these Committees to contract with the education authority for the supply of special schools and classes, or to take other suitable measures for their education. We have urged that the childhood and schooling of mentally defective children cannot rightly be treated apart from their after life, and that no age can be fixed in their case as separating school time from supervision and after-care. So far as it may be necessary, therefore, the supervision exercised over them by or on behalf of the local authority would be continuous: and both in the education and control of children it is proposed that many methods besides special classes or special homes should be adopted, such, for instance, as "colonies," family supervision and friendly guardianship and wardship till the age of twenty-one.

24. Passing to other administrative centres we have examined the state of the mentally defective who are in prisons, casual wards and common lodging houses, and we have considered much detailed evidence in regard to juvenile offenders and children in remand homes. We have shown how widespread and unanimous is the opinion that in many cases separation or detention is indispensable, if offences of certain kinds are not to be perpetually perpetuated by weak-minded offenders, and perpetually punished without effect. We have recommended that feeble-minded juvenile offenders should be most carefully examined by medical officers and dealt with in various ways; and that the procedure for the commitment of feeble-minded prisoners, their treatment, and the arrangements for their discharge should be entirely reformed.

25. We have shown to how large an extent habitual inebriates are mentally defective, and we have recommended that the care and control of mentally defective inebriates should be placed in the hands of the Board of Control and of the local authorities which would hereafter be responsible for the care of mentally defective persons generally.

26. We have discussed the question of criminal responsibility in relation to