

child would be recognized and could be safeguarded, especially throughout school-life and the period of puberty and adolescence. In my mind there is no doubt that competent advice would be sought by parents as to the best methods to be employed in the rearing of their children. Until then it might be said we are largely helpless in the matter of prevention.

"The second requirement is the proper provision for the more marked cases of the feeble-minded of the Province. The problem of the feeble-minded is one that is going to be with us for a long, long time, unless we do something to correct it; any Provincial plan for the care of the feeble-minded must relate itself definitely to the public school system; under our compulsory law every child should come to the attention of the school authorities and if there was a proper mental examination of the pupil the school record would eventually constitute a complete registration of the feeble-minded. It is surely as important, or even much more important, to train, properly, subnormal as normal children. In the more marked cases this should be done in special institutions."

Nearly every province in the Dominion and nearly every state in the Union to our south, has already made a beginning in the way of a program for dealing with the mentally defective. The development of this program has varied greatly in different states and different provinces in degree and in method. It would appear to me that the first step in a rational program would be the beginning of a complete and continuing census of the uncared-for feeble-minded of the whole Province. This would state and define the problem. Many privately conducted surveys show the feasibility of such a census. The data for this census would be furnished by a commission properly constituted and properly functioning—by physicians, clinics, social workers, town officials, teachers, etc.—and only those persons whose mental defect has been scientifically diagnosed should be registered. The register should be highly confidential, and accessible only to properly accredited persons.

The co-ordination of existing records would be available for social workers, school authorities, and other agencies, and would be of enormous service in the solution of the individual problems which the feeble-minded constantly present. This alone would mean a great saving in time, effort and money.

The official census would give a logical basis for intelligent management of the mental defectives of the Province. It would make possible and desirable some provision for a central governmental authority, responsible for the general supervision, assistance, and control of the uncared-for feeble-minded who do not need immediate institutional commitment. This provincial supervision should be directed by a