

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1922

SAYS PUBLIC HEALTH HAS A PLACE IN POLITICS

Rockefeller Foundation President Asserts Programmes Need Discussion.

One of the chief ends of any political system is the guarding of the public health, George E. Vincent, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, said in the first instalment of the organization's annual report just made public.

"In the original meaning of politics," he said, "public health ought to be always in politics. The safeguarding of the health of the people is a community task and responsibility. It is a proper and important subject for public attention and discussion. Officials are in duty bound to present their programmes and budgets to boards, councils, and the public, and to give convincing reasons for the measures and expenditures that are proposed. One of the essential qualifications of a successful health officer is the ability to explain his policies so as to win support for them."

"But obviously the busy health officer and his assistants cannot assume sole or even the chief responsibility for creating and maintaining the popular understanding and backing essential to the success of modern and progressive health policies. In the long run, under a representative government, a community will get the kind of health administration that it deserves."

Discussing preventive medicine, Dr. Vincent said that there was ground yet for a feeling of satisfaction. Physicians are still "looking through the microscope of a cure rather than through the telescope of prevention," he said. "Tracing stages of progress and development, however, he said:

"A fourth phase just beginning to emerge has to do with economic, social, and mental influences. Income, standard of living, and opportunities for social intercourse relations to individual and community health. Mental hygiene, which is coming to be recognized as a part of the public health, deals with problems of defects and delinquency in children and criminality in adults, with nervous and mental disorders, with the classification, treatment, and custodial care of the feeble-minded and insane, and related questions."

The report summarizes the work of 1921, listing among other important items a pledge of \$2,000,000 to Harvard for a school of health. Continuation of the work of the Institute in the Orient is also promised, together with a renewed and more vigorous campaign against malaria, hookworm, and yellow fever.

ON MENTALITY AND FAILURE IN LIFE

Editor Times-Star:

Sir—The opinion is growing more firm and definite that the whole problem of delinquency, anti-social conduct, and abnormal behavior is an extremely complex one and can never be met satisfactorily until such a time as judges, probation officers, officers of correctional institutions, psychiatrists, and social workers can work together in order to obtain the best and full results of their knowledge and experience.

These individuals, our delinquents, that our courts, acting as clearing houses, are dealing with, are without doubt persons who, for certain definite reasons, are making a failure of life; that is, they are not only social problems, but the cause of their social and anti-social acts is their incapacity to resolve and readjust their personal social contacts. I use the word "incapacity" advisedly.

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ROYAL VICTORIA COLLEGE MCGILL UNIVERSITY MONTREAL

(Founded and endowed by the late Rt. Hon. Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal.)

For women students, resident and non-resident, preparing for degrees in the Faculty of Arts (B.A., B.Sc., B.S.S., B. Com.) and in the Faculty of Music. Students are eligible for scholarships. Applications for residence should be made early, as accommodation in the college is limited. For information apply to The Warden.

for it is found that the large majority of delinquents are either mentally defective or come under the heading of some one of the different forms of abnormal personality, even though proper tests show them to be of an average intelligence. Thus, we find delinquents who are constitutional inferiors, that is, so-called border-land cases, who, though testing but little below the average intelligence, still are not low enough to earn the feeble-minded class, and still have some peculiar traits that prevent them from coming up to the full social standard set by our social rules, such as an undisciplined temper or a craze for dancing, both of which may be felt by the patient to be beyond their control and detrimental to his or her happiness and usefulness in life.

Then there is the class which we speak of as constitutional psychopathic personalities, such as a young girl who had an overwhelming desire to get away and be alone, had hard feelings toward every one, and some slight melancholy, by spells, though she was a church worker, and had ambitions for education and to become a missionary, abounding in physical health, and passed a good average mental age test. When these spells would come to her she would leave home for no other cause, and remain away until the spell passed. She was what is called a good girl, with a good social attitude and considerable emotional capacity. But since these individuals are of a more sensitive nature they are the more apt to show symptoms of mental disorders that are due to conflicts of instincts with conventional standards, and while in these spells do social acts for which they may be arrested and, if not understood, even punished, though in reality they are innocent in the eye of real justice, and would sell all else they hold dear if they could but have control of their abnormal condition. Some of these patients (and they really should be patients and our courts, social laboratories instead of mere clearing houses) are shown on testing to be of super-normal intelligence, another proof of the waste of mentality, of brains, going on all about us due to our present ignorance and lack of proper testing and classification of our mentalities, though we still maintain that "brains" is the wealth of our nation.

There is also a large, either unknown or misunderstood, class of a constitutional affective defective type, that is, defective feelings. They differ from the above classes in that the former have some capacity for natural affection and normal emotional response, and show some reaction to arrest, as shame, etc., while this feeling defective type have a minimum of emotional or pulsive characteristics, a more placid nature, and little inclined to stir up trouble. They are also usually physically inert, called lay. These cases show little capacity, if any, for real affection, and are usually without any sexual reaction at all, so much so that these are matters of indifference to them. These are the individuals that are generally characterized as "shallow," superficial, but on account of the emptiness of their natures fail to derive the satisfaction that the normal people derive from work, friendship, family relations, or desire to win social esteem. Such a case was that of a girl of nineteen who had a mental age of 16.5 and an intelligence quotient of ninety, and in disposition was placid and even-tempered. When asked what she considered her worst fault she said that she guessed that she was just lazy, that she hated to get up, and then just fooled around and couldn't bring herself to go to work regularly, so just got into the habit of "dolling up," and it was easier to be kept than to work, though there was little or no pleasure in either. This type of delinquent, the psychopathic inferior, is inferior in several standpoints, stability, adaptability, poor balance emotionally, and has inferior standards of conduct. These poor creatures have a condition inherent in them for which they are in no way responsible and over which they are suffering from mental disorders which are seldom recognized in our delinquents at the time of arrest, though if a proper examination was made, for the sake of real justice, they would be found to have inadequate emotional reactions, or lack of affection, the lack of energy, and the lack of natural sexual feeling.

These cases are closely allied to other affective disorders as found in our mental hospitals, whose feeling disorders are due to such causes as emotional shock, strain or conflict in their instinctive life (it may have been in childhood), the difference being that these persons of constitutional feeling defect show an

indifference to their past experiences and a lack of conflict or distress. They lack what we call feelings. They are apt to look upon them as "hardened," or as "don't care."

so we have come to understand that, as there are degrees of mental defect, there are also degrees of feeling defect, and to recognize, in justice to these individuals, that the one is no more responsible, for their condition and acts, than the other.

Any opinions, of either civil or religious law, that fosters upon these poor, incapacitated human beings, theories of responsibility indicate their inadequate knowledge of the facts of these abnormal personalities.

Any one who has had to do with mental defectives knows that there is a great variety of reactions and behavior and capacity for affection among them, and that they have not the intelligence which is necessary to be in order for them to analyze and to understand their peculiar traits; therefore we are not justified in judging them in the brief examination that is usually afforded to the delinquent after arrest, but in justice they should be observed and tested for some time and under various situations when it will be found that, in a large majority of cases, there exists either a low mental capacity or abnormal difficult personality traits, which all the punishment that has been or can be instituted can never eradicate or even improve.

Why attempt to take them out of a bad environment, put them into a worse, and tell them they must get well. If we had a little more proper information concerning the personalities of our delinquents (both juvenile and adult) would not the cause of justice be furthered, by enabling us to handle the individual with more insight—justified

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SAYS CULTURE OF THE ESKIMO MOSTLY IN SONG

Christian Leden, Norwegian Explorer, Lived in Igloos for Many Years and Has Come to Tell About It.

(Roland Ellis, Jr., in New York Evening Post.)

Christian Leden, the Norwegian explorer, is now in New York, after many years spent among the Eskimos. En route he stopped in his native land to entertain King Haakon with the story of his life among the people of the furthest north. When interviewed here the other day he told many adventures, revealing the habits and customs of a race as yet little studied.

No other white man was with Mr. Leden. He lived with the Eskimos and slept in their crowded igloos, made of ice and kept always below freezing to prevent the roof from thawing and dripping down upon the sleeping occupants.

He tells strange tales of the Eskimo women—of how, when they are old and unable to continue the ceaseless wandering, they are killed, and themselves conveniently asking to be led to some high cliff and pushed off. The young women, however, are not so casually treated. Often a bride will run away from her husband as many as three times, returning to her father's home. And each time the patient husband goes back, pleading and coaxing, and fetches her gently home again instead of battling her over the head with the bone of a whale. Once accustomed to each other, however, they usually remain faithful—though occasionally two couples will become quite chummy and trade wives.

The Simple Innu Language.

The Eskimo, or "Innu," language is peculiarly logical, Mr. Leden says. Ideas are easily expressed. For instance, suppose you want to say, "He says that you will also go away quickly in like manner and buy a pretty knife." Why, any one should want to say such a thing is beyond imagination, but in case you did you would say in Innu: "Savikislin-jaristokasuaromaryottitog"—just like that. It is very simple. One word saves you all the trouble of saying a sentence.

And once you have succeeded in learning Innu perfectly you may, if you have journalistic ambitions, become a reporter on the Aktagadillutit Mallinamark Tusarumnasassuk Univak, published in Greenland, which means in English "The Something for Reading Accounts of all Interesting Subjects."

Here you may indulge your literary fancies to your heart's content and write of everything from igloo interiors to the latest scandal at the North Pole.

It is during the long polar night that the Eskimo has time to rest in his igloo and sing his songs, which Mr. Leden has carefully studied.

Eskimo Songs.

Knud Rasmussen and Fridtjof Nansen and also Heinrich Johannes Rink, who

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so we have come to understand that, as there are degrees of mental defect, there are also degrees of feeling defect, and to recognize, in justice to these individuals, that the one is no more responsible, for their condition and acts, than the other.

Any opinions, of either civil or religious law, that fosters upon these poor, incapacitated human beings, theories of responsibility indicate their inadequate knowledge of the facts of these abnormal personalities.