

community. The residuum will have to remain in training schools, working at the trades and occupations which will enable them to produce much that is needed for the upkeep of those institutions, or in colonies where farm work, reforestation, road-making, clearing land and such like pursuits will fill up their time and keep them contented. In this way there will be a continual flow of inmates into training schools and thence into social life again or into colonies, while their places in the training schools will be taken by those younger in age whose destination has been determined by their record in the special classes in the ordinary schools or by medical examination.

This rotation is of course the ideal to be kept in sight and its successful accomplishment presupposes much in the way of endeavour, outside and beyond the schools. That work will have to be done by skilled psychiatrists by study and observation, and by social workers in the practical sphere of supervision, and must be systematic and continuous in any well-thought-out scheme, in order to reach those who either miss the school entirely or are of a class not readily amenable to its discipline or need as much care out of school as in it. It is very encouraging to find an enthusiastic worker such as Dr. Wallace, Superintendent of the Wrentham (Mass.) Training School, expressing the opinion that a considerable proportion of the feeble-minded can be successfully handled in their own homes or in new homes which may be found for them under thorough supervision (1918 Report.) In a later stage in the present Report I give the views of those competent to form an opinion, whose experience and the statistics they have collected, shed a flood of light upon the subject.

The emphasis, however, must be placed on this end of the problem instead of on the other, at which are found the lunatic asylums, the penitentiaries, gaols, and reformatories. These up to the present time, have been the chief receptacles of those who, uncared-for in their earlier years, have been allowed to develop into criminals and law-breakers, occupying a large place in the work of the police and of the courts. Communities must recognize that the cost of arresting, condemning and incarcerating those who are dangerous to society or obnoxious to its laws and the far greater expense of guarding against their actions or suffering because of the crimes they commit, must be faced if they are not willing to spend an equal amount in an endeavour to prevent crime. To do this there must be given to those who are mentally defective, and so prone to err, such an environment and supervision in their earlier years, as will prevent or deflect their downward drift.

The great and dominant want in connection with this subject is the systematic endeavour to prevent instead of to cure. Both are difficult and expensive, and the latter is all but impossible. The former has not yet been tried here. But while the attempt to prevent is costly and tedious, it does in many cases result in good to the individual and untold good to the State, and if pursued with sincerity, will do so in many more. To understand that abnormality can be detected, watched and prevented from developing into anti-social activity is the first requisite. If persuaded of that, the means by which care must be exercised is next to be studied. Heretofore we have failed to realize that the evil which forced itself upon our attention in the deeds of the criminals was in a large measure due to mental deficiency. These criminals were punished and became, perhaps, for years, public charges. When discharged they returned to their evil ways and so continued to be not only a menace, but an expensive one. It was not recognized that they were largely the outcome of a wrong system founded on ignorance.

An effort must be made to change that attitude and the change is one which