with feeble-minded children, and I invariably found they were clever mechanically—well, as clever as the other children, and sometimes more so. They can draw easily and write, and do anything in the cutting line. I remember one child who could not speak so that a stranger could understand him, and could not read a line or spell a word, though he was twelve years old; but he could copy a head-line splendidly, and do the drawing better than any of the other pupils.

Do you not think that these children should be taken from the regular classes in the Public Schools, where they are only a drag, and where they feel their incapacity most keenly, and given special instruction along mechanical lines, so that they might develop and enter into a larger life through what might be said to be the only possible door of entrance for them?

The late Inspector Fotheringham of South York wrote in 1905:

I come across not a few children lacking mentally as I go my rounds through York County. One, sometimes two in a school—but not in all schools. Without keeping a record, I should say one in ten schools. That would be about four per thousand. If I guess at that, then there will be about forty or fifty in York County. I am inclined to think that the number of such is increasing, but I have no exact data. I greatly wish something could be done to provide suitable training for such unfortunates. They get little good in school—sit moping and brooding over what little they know, but learn very little.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The establishment of Auxiliary Classes means expenditure of public funds, but it really comes under the head of irreducible public expenditure. Unless cared for permanently in a suitable institution of the Farm Colony type, where they are partly self-supporting, the mentally-defective are always maintained at the public expense, or by private benevolence.

Residential Training Schools such as are sanctioned by The Auxiliary Classes Act are well adapted for the care of those whose relatives are able to pay all the expenses of such