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EDITORIAL

THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

Mr. Justice Hodgins, after hearing a great deal of evidence and giving much earnest thought to the question, has reported upon the care of the feeble-minded, and the best methods of finding out how many there are of this class and where they are located. He emphasizes the following important truth:

“That if the cardinal fact could be assimilated that the elimination of the mental defective from the school and from the street and from the agencies engaged in reforming character would render the efforts of teachers and social workers comparatively easy and empty the jails of over half their inmates, and that these unfortunates can, if taken in time, be made comparatively happy and useful, there would be little time lost in bringing about that desired result.”

The commissioner then goes on to state that the work of finding out the number and location of the feeble-minded should begin in the schools, the jails, the reformatories, and other institutions. All female defectives of child bearing age, and male repeaters of crime, should be kept under permanent observation. The opinion is advanced that many of these feeble-minded persons, if placed under proper care when quite young, may be made happy and rendered capable of governing their own conduct.

Mr. Justice Hodgins calls attention to five of the above matters as specially urgent:

- (1) Special classes in the public schools for the mentally defective.
- (2) To transfer to Orillia all “admitted defectives” from other institutions.
- (3) Removal from the Juvenile Court and the Children’s Aid Society of all mental defectives to a proper institution.