

WORK OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN
WESTERN CANADA
IN MAY AND JUNE, 1927.

The Medical Director, Secretary and Acting Director of Education of the National Committee have just completed five weeks' work in Western Canada. It was found possible to be of service to Governments, Boards of Education and other organizations in giving advice concerning mental hygiene programmes. Ministers of Health, Superintendents of Education and other officials were keen to discuss their problems and have invited the Committee to make surveys and reports and to co-operate with them in instituting measures for the prevention and treatment of mental abnormality.

A short account will be given of our activities in the four Western Provinces.

British Columbia

The survey of this Province made by the National Committee in 1920 continues to stimulate progress. In 1925 the British Columbia Government appointed a Royal Commission on Mental Hygiene, and at the last session of the Legislature more than one million dollars was appropriated for the organization of a Psychopathic Hospital in Vancouver and for an additional unit for chronic mental cases at Escondale. The Commission at the present time is studying the problem of mental deficiency and has requested the continued co-operation of the National Committee. It is probable that steps will be taken in the near future to make adequate provision for defective individuals.

When present plans are completed, British Columbia will be in a position to give Dominion-wide leadership in mental hygiene. The medical staff in the mental hospitals are keen, energetic, capable psychiatrists. Staff