

## Quebec Alienist Here From Geneva

Dr. A. H. Desloges, Director of Insane Asylums, Talks of Hygiene—Continuation of Birth Control.

The new attitude shown towards mental hygiene was one of the most important outcomes of the recent international Medical Congress at Geneva. In the opinion of Dr. A. H. Desloges, Director of Provincial Insane Asylums and Venereal Diseases, who has just returned from a forty-day sojourn in Switzerland, where he was Canada's medical representative. While he was in Europe Dr. Desloges also attended the Congress of Mental Hygiene in Belgium, and was much impressed by the amount of discussion and discussion given to subjects such as feeble-mindedness, its causes, treatment, and the adequate institutional accommodation. Intelligence tests were more and more coming into favor, he said, in determining whether or not a patient has criminal tendencies, and if he is of normal or abnormal mentality. During the coming year, the Congress members will present themselves in all new forms of tests, and reports that will probably show great strides in this branch of medicine will be presented at the meeting of world representatives next year.

The Conference which began at Geneva moved about to Geneva, Zurich, Lyons, Basle, Leyden, Dares and Bern, where the delegates heard lectures from medical officers of Switzerland and members of the League of Nations, and visited institutions, laboratories and dispensaries throughout the country. They were thus enabled to become thoroughly acquainted with the most perfect social hygiene system of the world, where all branches of medicine, including food inspection, prophylaxis, social and mental hygiene have reached a high degree of operation.

But while Doctor Desloges was much impressed with many phases of the social medical system in Switzerland, he was shocked at the new attitude that is developing there in regard to birth control.

### A Bad Remedy.

"Propagandists have taken the view that the population is increasing to such a greater extent than wealth, that the habitable space in the country is limited, that a very strict form of birth control is necessary. It has become imperative for everyone to become acquainted with all methods of birth control, and for women who have borne five children to be sterilized. In some parts of the country a vote in favor of legalizing abortion was taken and defeated by almost a negligible majority. If it is taken again, it will go through," Dr. Desloges declared.

The outcome of this present attitude in the opinion of Dr. Desloges is disastrous. "If all these things are practised the population will decrease fifty per cent. in less than three generations, and the effect on morality can hardly be estimated," he said.

"The optimum family was given a great deal of consideration," he continued. "I pointed out that the attention of authorities in such countries as Germany and Switzerland should be called to the fact that the drug traffic between those countries and Canada was going on to such an extent. Following this suggestion, it was decided to inform the Government that both the production and shipping of opium to occidental countries should be stopped."

The treatment of gonorrhea in Switzerland, received Dr. Desloges most profound admiration, as the disease is so prevalent in that country, nearly sixty per cent. of the inhabitants being affected. Iodine was used largely in treatment, he said, and was even added to candles and salt preparations. Further report of this work will be given at the congress next year, and "it is felt that gonorrhea is important in investigating immobility and criminality."

"There were no further developments along the lines of cancer and tuberculosis cures," he stated. "Rest and regime are still the only things that doctors can prescribe to patients suffering from tuberculosis, and radiation and surgery in cancer cures. Insulin was looked upon with favor, he said by doctors from all over the world in the treatment of diabetes.

### Cannot Prevent.

"Representatives from the United States were very anxious to start a movement for the prevention of what they called the 'White Slave Traffic.' Investigation into this term resulted in the discovery that the traffic as such, was almost negligible, and that the term was misused for prostitution. European doctors expressed the opinion that it was impossible to prevent prostitution and that it was better to tolerate it than have it scatter."

Dr. Desloges expressed his surprise that in spite of the high development of health conditions in Switzerland, there was little attention given to school inspection, industrial inspection, and tuberculosis inspection, and the organization of mental hospitals were anything but modern.

In a report which he will prepare for the Provincial and Federal Governments, Dr. Desloges will point out the need of adjusting the impression which exists very largely in Europe,

that the United States Immigration quota applies to Canada. This wrong idea would prevent Canada from receiving the best class of immigrants, he said. *Montreal Star, Oct. 15.*

### Improved Prison System

WINNIPEG (Can. Press)—Satisfaction with the reformative measures adopted in Canadian penitentiaries was expressed by Hon. E. J. McMurray, Solicitor-General, and member for North Winnipeg, following a Dominion tour of inspection of penal institutions.

"I have impressed very forcibly," said Mr. McMurray, "with the scientific attitude and kindly interest of the

penitentiary officials in the welfare of the inmates. In this department of human endeavor, undoubtedly advancement is being made as in every other line of human thought and effort. The average prisoner is not a man different in every way from his fellow men, but exceedingly like him, and the treatment for human advancement used outside of prisons is being applied with marked effect inside the Canadian institutions to-day."

Having spoken in praise of the Prince Albert penitentiary as an institution of the most modern kind, Mr. McMurray said it was undoubtedly the case that the prisoner has the opportunity of working in the open air under the system adopted at this and other penitentiaries has a better

chance of reforming than was the case in former days. "Prisoners have now a greater variety of work," the Solicitor-General stated, "and many of the products show fine skill and good teaching. They now manufacture for many of the departments of the government and in this manner one of the greatest problems is being solved, that of employing prisoners at work that interests them, educates and fits them for easy adaptation of society when paroled."

"The parole system," Mr. McMurray explained, "is designed to assist the prisoner to pass gradually from prison life into the ordinary life of the community, passing through the stages of absolute control to partial control and finally to independence of life and action. This parole system has

been very successful in redeeming men who have fallen into ways of living that brought them into conflict with the laws of the land and has saved the country large sums of money, and it has been particularly successful in the fact that a very small percentage of paroled prisoners are afterwards convicted of crime."

Mr. McMurray emphasized the need for the public, particularly business men and community associations, to lend their aid in this work by assisting the authorities in finding employment for men as they come from prison.

Speaking of the progress made with tourist traffic in British Columbia, the Solicitor-General urged the importance of good roads throughout the west, and offered the suggestion that there should be another national park as an additional attraction for tourists from the United States.

"The great national park at Banff is being developed," he said, "but I think a large park should be established between Winnipeg and Banff, possibly in the Otta Valley some-where. If properly advertised I think that would be a popular and very interesting break for the tourist passing from Winnipeg to the West."

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### ON FOOT OVER FROZEN SEAS

Three thousand five hundred miles on foot across frozen land and frozen seas, the discovery of two new lands, meals of boiled seal skin and ox-hide, wading for miles through icy lakes of water above a solid sea-top, and finally to be "marooned" on an Arctic island and dramatically rescued—with the thermometer sometimes down to 80 below zero, and blizzards blowing—such are some of the features of Harold Noyce's "With Stefansson in the Arctic."

Noyce, who was commander of the relief expedition to Wrangel Island last year, was nineteen when he went in the whaler that discovered the lost Stefansson on Banks Island in 1913—Stefansson, the head of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, who, when his ship was crushed in the ice, calmly set off northward with two companions across the frozen Beaufort Sea, intending to live on what he could find!

### Sleeping in Snow Huts.

The world gave him up for dead, while he was, in fact, discovering Borden Island.

Noyce joined Stefansson, and this book is the record of two years' exploration with Stefansson hundreds of miles north of the Arctic Circle, living mainly on seal and caribou, and sleeping in snow huts.

By the time he was twenty-one Noyce had done more than 2,300 miles by sledge and dog-team. He had been the first man to set foot on Melghen Island—away north of where Franklin and his crew perished.

Stefansson took possession of this land in the name of the King on behalf of the Dominion of Canada. This was on June 16th, 1914. There were three men on the trip.

The return from Melghen Island took them across an area previously reported as land, but this supposed land "they found buried under some hundred fathoms of salt water." They found themselves "out at sea on nearly impassable ice."

Next year—1917—Noyce went with Stefansson still farther north across the frozen sea—about level with the top of Greenland—and the little party barely escaped disaster.

### Ensnared in Ice For Seventy Years.

Later a wonderful thing happened. They came to Delay Island, off Melville Island, and saw a pole sticking up from a pyramid of rocks. Near it was the depot left in 1853 by Captain Kellett, of the Franklin Search Expedition.

"Great oaken barrels, three tiers deep, stood cased in ice and snow. We opened some of the barrels. Some contained heavy woolen sweaters; others fine brass-buttoned, scarlet-colored, and satin-laced broadcloth pea-jackets; others had highly-colored, handily-designed mittens. There were barrels of long leather sea-boots, felt shoes, knitted underwear."

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