

3. That the Commissioner of Mentally Disordered and Defective persons should be notified and keep a register of all children diagnosed in the schools as being feeble-minded and that after school age the Union Government should be responsible for their care, treatment and control.

The principles were agreed to, and arrangements have already been made between the Provinces of the Transvaal and Natal and the Government, and regulations drafted. In these all the recommendations made by the Departmental Committee regarding children in industrial schools were accepted in so far as they applied to school children, and further regulations made the procedure more definite. The Director of Education was made responsible for notifying the Commissioner in Mental Disorders of all defectives, whether attending schools or not. (Information regarding those not attending school could be obtained through the various School Attendance Officers.) The Principal of the school was made responsible for drawing the attention of the School Medical Officers to the cases of children who were backward for more than a certain period without a reasonable cause. It was further agreed that where there was difficulty in regard to the diagnosis, members of the medical staff of the nearest Mental Hospital would be available for consultations.

Naturally, as soon as the defective patients began to be sorted out in all the institutions and schools as I have described, the shortage of accommodation for this class of patient became more and more serious. There were in South Africa at that time beds for the feeble-minded only in Mental Hospitals, in the Rescue Homes which had been licensed, and in a small home known as Adam's Farm, close to Cape Town.

With regard to the numbers of adult feeble-minded in South Africa, there are no figures except those I have already referred to, but in a very important report by Dr. C. L. Leipoldt and Dr. J. M. Moll on the Schools of the Transvaal, they state that about 8.4% of the children examined were feeble-minded, which means that in the Transvaal Province alone over 750 defective children were attending school. If that percentage holds good for the other Provinces, the total number of defective children attending schools in the whole Union would not be less than 3,000. Fortunately, the Union Government were able to buy from the Cape Provincial Administration the Alexandra Hospital which was opened on the 1st June of this year, and accommodates 800 patients. During the War this Hospital had been used as a Military Hospital and afterwards workshops were built for the training of discharged soldiers. These are now no longer needed for that purpose and have been taken over and are most suitable for the training of our feeble-minded patients in industrial pursuits. There is a good garden, well equipped laundry and workrooms, as well as excellent and well built wards, so that the