

feeble-mindedness. Yet many investigators utterly ignore this difficulty and take it for granted that a single criterion is already practicable and available.

"Whatever may be the method of determining feeble-mindedness, there remain these borderlines within whose limits some cases will appear normal and others feeble-minded, when judged by different criteria."

In this connection I draw attention to the Canadian Report of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, to March 31st, 1918, in which it is stated that,—

"Feeble-mindedness is another condition which requires special consideration. Numbers of men are returning each month in whom the major disability is a primary mental defect dating from birth or early life. Their records show that they have been inefficient as soldiers, and where earlier histories are available, it is usually found that they were likewise unable to make good in civil life. Exceptions occur in the case of certain of the higher grade defectives who had been able to get along in the simpler forms of manual labour or on farms, but who proved totally incapable of carrying on in the army."

(3)—PREVENTION: ITS HOPEFULNESS.

The second thought which should be ever present in dealing with the feeble-minded is that an appreciable proportion of that class can be, by care and attention at the proper time, made reasonably fit to support themselves or to earn something towards their own livelihood or support, whether at large or in an institution.

In talking the matter over with Dr. Walter E. Fernald, Superintendent of the Massachusetts Training School at Waverley, Mass. the leading figure in this work in the United States, he was good enough to draw a diagram illustrating the various degrees of feeble-mindedness and to point out that, out of the total, only one of these degrees was of the class which demanded permanent confinement. Of that class only $8\frac{1}{2}$ of the males, and of the females a larger proportion, had to be sequestered, the latter on account of child-bearing. I do not mean to say that the whole of the remainder are exempt from institutional care. They may need it, but for a limited period. Indeed it is just the control and training supplied by these institutions, that is the most potent factor in fitting the defective for a comparatively useful life if properly guarded as to environment and adequately supervised. The great aim should be to ascertain during their early years, chiefly through the schools, the individuals whose mental capacity is stunted because of defects which indicate feeble-mindedness. When so identified the training in special classes will demonstrate which ones are likely to develop favorably and those who are destined, if left to themselves, to become criminals or anti-social factors. To properly identify and care for this latter class is to master the root difficulty in regard to the feeble-minded. In these different divisions there will be found those who can be left to the care of their relatives or friends and who can get along with comparative safety and success.

Dr. Clarence M. Hincks, who is engaged in examining the school children in Toronto gives it as his opinion that where there are intelligent parents at home to continue the supervision of the child it is quite possible that the largest percentage of the feeble-minded could be thus cared for. Others, and perhaps the majority, will need institutional care and training and will for some years have to be watched and encouraged and their faculties trained to various industrial and manual pursuits. These last will again be subdivided into those who can be returned to social life, needing constant watching, but, under that supervision, able to do well enough to prevent them becoming a financial burden to the