

of community treatment, though it had accomplished much good where it had been properly carried out. She was decidedly more favorable to the institutional system. She favored periodical examinations of the inmates so that those who had recovered to such an extent as to be allowed out, arrangements could be made for suitable work for them. The institution should keep a guardianship over them. She advocated sending as many as possible of these cases to farms. Marriage should be prevented in all such cases.

Dr. C. H. Hincks stated that many of these young feeble-minded children did criminal acts of the adult, and seemed pleased in such achievements. He said that he and Dr. Clarke had found where two such children had poisoned the minds of one hundred others. Out of 234 unmarried mothers there were 86 under 15 years of age.

Dr. Mary MacKenzie Smith, one of the lecturers for the Women's Institute, declared that she and two others examined 17,000 children in one rural district. Along physical lines many were found deficient mentally.

"I didn't find as large percentage in Peel country as up in Kenora section," said the doctor. "I found one in Oxford, where one boy had contaminated the whole school morally."

Rev. Father Bench said that one of the most difficult of problems was how to deal with the feeble-minded girl, as they became such easy prey for designing persons. The only safety lies in having girls cared for in an institution where work is supplied to them and by which she can earn her living. Great care must be taken not to allow them out too soon, or before the authorities are satisfied that these girls have learned self-control.

Father Bench drew attention to the fact that not all children classed as "deficient" were mentally incapable. There were many who were of normal intelligence, but with undeveloped will power that left them unable to do the right thing, though they were able to distinguish between right and wrong. He believed that for these children moral instruction, the simple Christian doctrine, would develop will power. To a question by the commissioner Father Bench said that he advocated religious instruction for all mental defectives.

Dr. Charles Hastings, Medical Officer of Health for Toronto, told the commissioner of the complete physical examination of every child in the Toronto schools. This, he said, would be of little value, however, unless it was followed up. The Government considered that it was its duty to punish the criminal, and it should equally regard as its duty the prevention of increases to the criminal ranks. The fact that most criminals were mentally sub-normal made that duty plain.