

The great majority of these defectives receive no education or training, and no adequate protection and supervision. We know that feeble-mindedness is highly hereditary, but in most states there is no legal obstacle to the marriage of the moron, the most numerous class of the feeble-minded.

There are many reasons for the lack of a formal accepted programme. The problem can not be solved by a simple formula, which can be expressed in one definite piece of legislation. It is an infinitely varied and complex problem, according to the age, sex, degree and kind of defect, presence or absence of hereditary traits or criminal and anti-social proclivities, home conditions, etc. The idiot, imbecile, and moron present different needs and dangers. Each of these groups has different troubles, according to their age and sex. Rural, sparsely-settled communities, with homogenous racial population, have conditions which differ from those of urban industrial centres, with cosmopolitan racial complications.

*Census.*—The first step in a rational programme would be the beginning of a complete and continuing census of the feeble-minded of the whole state,—this would state and define the problem. Many privately conducted surveys show the feasibility of such a census. The data for this census would be furnished by physicians, clinics, court and jail officials, social workers, town officials, teachers, etc. No doubtful case should be so registered. Only those persons whose mental defect has been scientifically diagnosed should be registered. The register should be highly confidential and accessible only to properly accredited persons.

This co-ordination of existing records would be available for social workers, school authorities, and other agencies, and would be of enormous service in the solution of the individual problems which the feeble-minded constantly present. This alone would mean a great saving in time, effort and money.

This official census would give a logical basis for intelligent management of the mental defectives of the state.

*Supervision of the Feeble-minded.*—A census of the feeble-minded of the state would make possible and desirable some provision for a central governmental authority responsible for the general supervision and assistance and control of the feeble-minded of the state, who do not need immediate institutional commitment. This state supervision of the feeble-minded should be directed by a state commission for the feeble-minded, or a properly constituted state board of health, or other similar body. Its responsible officer should be a psychiatrist, with special knowledge of mental deficiency, and its many social expressions.

The local administration of this supervision could be carried out by the use of existing local public organizations, existing local private