

pretty well established. It starts in a few cells in various parts of the body, and these cells, which may be called cannibals, continue to thrive at the expense of the healthy tissue until the cancer reaches a vital organ or eats into an artery. Internal cancer, which is the most common, is not easily diagnosed because the growth is practically painless in the earlier stages; but nevertheless if the patient consulted a doctor at the first twinges of mysterious pain there would in most cases be plenty of time for an operation. The problem is one for the surgeon. In the old days when there was little check upon patent medicine advertisements concoctions were sold which purported to cure cancer. Their effect was to ease the pain and thus soothe the sufferer into the notion that the growth had been arrested. Pain was lulled until the malignant growth had become so enlarged that an operation was out of the question and death ensued.

MENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

Members of the Ontario Provincial Association for the care of the Feeble-minded were addressed at their annual meeting held recently on the subject of "Community Control of the Feeble-minded," by G. A. Hastings, secretary of the mental hygiene division of a New York institution engaged in social and charitable work. Mrs. A. M. Huestis, president of the association, occupied the chair, and in referring to the work of the past year, stated that committees had been appointed to meet the medical officer of health and the police commissioners, with a view to enlisting their co-operation in dealing with the problem of feeble-minded and insane people in the province.

George A. Hastings gave in some detail the history of the progress of the association he represented in curing and preventing mental diseases. There are, he said, 35 mental hygiene demonstration clinics in New York state, with 2,000 patients. It is not fully realized to what a degree insanity and feeble-mindedness contribute to our social problems.

A very large percentage of our criminals, inebriates and moral delinquents suffer from mental disorder of some kind, and it is essential, continued Mr. Hastings, that scientific and systematic steps be taken to decrease the number of psychological cases. Many forms of mental diseases are curable, and about 40 per cent. of them can be prevented if dealt with at a sufficiently early stage. The chief instruments for the prevention of mental disease are demonstration clinics and psychopathic hospitals. The latter would deal with mild cases, and should be a training centre for teachers who come into contact with modified form of mental deficiency in their schools. Such clinics should be intimately