

this absolute necessity public opinion must be educated along the lines previously referred to in this paper.

There are classes, however, which sentiment fails to reach and who must be protected from themselves. There are in the Province of Ontario hundreds of feeble-minded girls and women without proper custodial care. They are to be found in every Refuge and Infants' Home in the Province, and many of them have had several illegitimate children. It is not a difficult task to predict the future of such children. Coming into the world as they do, with the stigma of imbecility stamped upon them, they are more than likely destined to become a public charge. Imbecility and heredity are the most prolific of the known causes of pauperism and crime. The time has surely come when more attention should be paid to preventing the propagation of the species. If for no other reason than economy it must seem desirable to make special provision in this country for the care of feeble-minded women and thus prevent these poor degenerates from perpetuating their kind. The cost of protecting feeble-minded women now is normal. The cost of neglecting them is appalling. Many of these poor creatures are practically unprotected, while others have found a temporary haven among the old people in our Refuges. The segregation of these degenerates is a question that is being settled in other countries where establishments have been founded for the custodial care of feeble-minded women of the child-bearing age. Such institutions are a necessity and must prove helpful as a means to prevent the increase in the number of degenerates, which are a public charge, increasing from year to year. No legitimate effort should be spared to prevent the propagation of degenerates, and no one who is properly classed as feeble-minded should ever be allowed to become a parent. The same is true concerning all who are really degenerate, of whatever class.

What avails the continuous increase of hospitals, asylums and similar institutions, if the numbers to occupy them grow faster than their accommodaions? How can we possibly leave the world better for our work if we do not, at least, begin some action to stop this vicious stream at its fountain head? Those who have faithfully and patiently wrestled with this perplexing problem have concluded that the only course to be taken is to separate all true degenerates from society and keep them by themselves in carefully classified groups, under circumstances which will insure that they shall do as little harm to themselves and their fellows as possible and that they shall not entail upon the next generation the burden which the present one has borne. Establishing colonies or industrial refuges for these unfortunates is what is termed "segregation."