

discovered that in our two counties, it (the House of Refuge) is being made a home for the feeble-minded, imbeciles, the idiotic and the insane, as well as a home for prostitutes," and that nine-tenths of the inmates had no business to be there. The Advisory Committee appointed by the Province of Ontario and the city of Toronto in 1916, of which Mr. Featherston Osler, K.C., was President, reported that there were eighty-three mental defectives in six Homes for children in Toronto; over one hundred mentally defective boys in the Victoria (Mimico) Industrial School, and thirty mentally defective girls in the Alexandra Industrial School; fifteen or twenty were in the gaol and the same number at the Women's Industrial Farm.

These figures are supported and supplemented by statements made before me by those connected with the various institutions. I give the percentages of the mentally defective inmates:—

Mercer Reformatory for Women	23%
Salvation Army Home	30%
Salvation Army Maternity Home	50%
Children's Aid Society	80%
Alexandra Industrial School.....	85%
The Haven	75%

In the 10th Report, 1915, on the Feeble-minded made by Dr. MacMurchy, the number of the mentally defective in these institutions is given as 313 and in schools as about 400. At the Men's and Women's Gaol Farms the figures were given me as follows: 35% to 40% out of 280 inmates of the Men's Farm and 30% to 40% of those at the Women's Farm. These, it was said, as is evident, when discharged, go out to spread vice and crime.

Mention should also be made, as an evidence of awakened interest, of the plan outlined to me by Dr. Gordon Bates, who explained that war conditions had prevented its consummation. It was intended by the city of Toronto to establish colonies within easy reach of the city and to spend \$150,000 on them, caring for 200 children. It may be that this scheme can now be revived in a somewhat different form, as it indicates that there is an appreciation on behalf of the city of Toronto that the time for action has come.

(1)—WHY THE FEEBLE-MINDED ARE A STATE PROBLEM.

The fact that the Province assumes without question the duty of educating its children, the fact that a new view of the national importance of proper environment for the population has arisen which is insistent for good housing, sanitation, amusements and leisure time—the fact that life's handicaps such as blindness or mutilation by war or accident, are regarded as deserving of special help—these facts in themselves would indicate that mental deficiency must be the very serious concern of the State.

But when to these more general considerations are added the grave statistics which link crime and mental deficiency together, so that feeble-mindedness, unwatched, has become almost synonymous with vice, then it is beyond the need of argument that the Provincial authorities must impose upon themselves, and those public bodies which represent the entire population, the burden of the care, and, if possible, the cure or minimizing of this serious evil.

The reason, necessity and extent of this is well set out in an article published in 1918 by the New York State Board of Charities. I would draw particular attention to those sentences in it which I have underlined:—