

mentally defective and 10% border area cases. In another Institution for girls, 10.5% were feeble-minded and another 16% border area cases. If I remember rightly, the figures since then have remained about the same, and it is pleasing to be able to report that though the investigations were made in different years by different medical officers, the results obtained in the individual cases were practically the same. The medical officer examining had not before him the result of the previous year's examination.

Work has also been done in other institutions, and in one of the Pretoria Rescue Homes 25% of the inmates were found to be feeble-minded. That Rescue Home and two others in South Africa have been licensed under the Mental Disorders Act, and each now forms a permanent refuge for such of its inmates as are diagnosed as feeble-minded. In the Pretoria Institution, a special house is set aside for these patients, but they are not rigidly kept to that part of the institution, being moved from time to time as seems most suitable, in the treatment of the case. It is hoped that in the course of time, all the Rescue Homes in South Africa will be licensed to maintain a certain proportion of feeble-minded girls.

I do not know whether your experience is similar to mine, but I have found that there is a stigma attaching to Rescue Home Girls, and so many people say "What is the good of employing these girls? They only get into trouble again." I feel that this is largely due to the fact that the feeble-minded have not been recognized in the past and consequently they were discharged to service or other work at the end of the year during which they could be legally detained. The normal girl who meets with misfortune generally can make good and give a good name to the Home. The feeble-minded girl or moral imbecile cannot, and gets into all sorts of trouble; this had not been understood, or that she was the girl who brought discredit on the work of the institution and the normal inmates as well. It is also my experience that what has been said of these girls applies "*mutatis mutandis*" to those leaving reformatories and industrial schools. It is surely a matter of fundamental importance to the institutions, their inmates and to the general community, that the feeble-minded should be sorted out, notified, and kept under proper supervision and control. If discharged from the Home it would only be to go to suitable guardians who would have full knowledge of the risks to be run and the steps necessary to avoid them.

More than 10% of the inmates of the Barberton Gaol, which is for prisoners sentenced as habitual criminals, were found to be seriously defective. Many of them were only medium grade imbeciles, and yet they have been sentenced time after time and indeed passed the greater part of their lives in prison. One man whose case I will cite has been in