

With the reports that many imbeciles, after training, are independently capable of earning their own livelihood, I am not prepared to agree. Without continuous supervision little can be expected from them, no matter how highly trained and educated they may be; their whole disposition and temperament, away from control, in the vast majority of instances, completely negatives the supposition. A few improvable cases may be rendered capable of earning a modest competence, but a few, and only a very few, are successful. In nine cases out of ten, when such patients are said to earn their own living, it will be found that they have some advantages in the line of continued supervision. There can be no doubt, therefore, that it is the duty of the State to provide some means of permanent guardianship for these cases if friendless, and the need could be admirably met by the creation, in all institutions for the feeble-minded, of a separate department for improvable cases, who, after having undergone their period of training, could be drafted into work-shops of various kinds, or do farm and garden work under the supervision of an inspector. In this way they could be made in a large measure self-supporting—perhaps even a source of revenue to the State. The model institution outlined by Dr. W. W. Ireland, than whom we have no higher authority, would consist of three separate departments; a custodial department for the extreme and non-educable class; an educational department for those capable of being taught and trained; and a semi-custodial department for those whose education and training has been completed; these three departments to be distinct buildings at a moderate distance apart, but all under the same superintendence.

As respects special accommodation for epileptics, Canada is even worse off than she is in that for the feeble-minded, because, up to this date, no separate provision whatever has been made for them. Like the idiot, they have either been kept at home, confined in poorhouses, or scattered through the various wards of insane asylums. Every principle of justice and humanity is opposed to the indiscriminate mingling of epileptics, lunatics and paupers, and Ontario, to her credit be it said, has already taken steps to right this wrong by founding an epileptic asylum at Woodstock. This, it is expected, will be ready for occupation during the present year, certainly not before it is urgently required, since, by statistics compiled by Dr. Russell, of the Hamilton Asylum, in 1893, there were at that date no less than 292 epileptics among 4,251 asylum residents, with probably more than double that number scattered through the country, a burden to their friends and a menace to the public.

The peculiarities and requirements of epileptics are such as to characterize them as a distinct class, for whose well-being separate accom-