

Afternoon.

Conference reconvened at 2:45 P. M.

Discussion of Mr. Hodson's paper was resumed.

A paper entitled, "War Economies Actual and Possible," was read by Ralph W. Wheelock, Chairman, State Board of Control.

Discussion followed.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly conference at the State Train-ins School.

The following is printed at the special request of J. N. Tate, Superintendent of the School for the Deaf:

Red Cross Work (Junior and Senior)—112 pairs socks, 12 pairs wrist-lets, 83 sweaters, 36 wash cloths, 10 helmets, 23 scarfs, 2 knitted afghans, 6 baby blankets, 5 baby comforts, 38 pairs infants' layettes, 36 odd pieces layettes, 14,322 surgical dressings, 36 hospital garments, 449 sets knitting needles.

Money turned into patriotic funds: Thrift Stamps, \$763.51; First Red Cross Drive, \$47; Second Red Cross Drive, \$208; First Liberty Loan, \$6,500; Second Liberty Loan, \$6,500; Third Liberty Loan Drive, \$3,500; Y. M. C. A., \$165; Junior Red Cross membership and entertainment, \$104.31; total, \$17,777.82. Officers and teachers of institution are supporting two French orphans, and helping with several others.

Adjourned.

Ralph W. Wheelock, Chairman State Board of Control: Ladies and Gentlemen, I think that Mr. Yanz is entitled to very sincere -congratulations on the fact that this is the first quarterly conference of the year, at least, where all the superintendents have been present. I am sure he will appreciate the compliment implied in that statement.

The program today is divided between two widely separated topics; and is the first paper is devoted to a subject in which my colleague, Mr. Vasaly, has been and still is very deeply interested, I am going to ask him to preside. Mr. "Vasaly,

Chas. E. Vasaly, Member State Board of Control: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—A recent writer said that the Kingdom of Evil was divided into five great principalities: Disease, ignorance, vice, poverty and crime. A great many folks, at various times, have tried to set the boundaries of those principalities, but have differed somewhat as to what they are; and it is a striking thing that the subject upon which Mr. Hodson is going to address us takes into consideration all these five' boundaries. It reaches out in its various ramifications into many, many problems of human life; certainly into all of those bounded by these principalities. His subject is, "What Minnesota Has Done and Should Do for the Feeble-minded."

In that connection it would seem to be entirely proper to say a word about a tendency in this country which appears to me unfortunate, which we see shown in the press, in the magazines, in speeches, and addresses, and so on; that is, because we are engaged in the greatest war in all history, we must for that reason necessarily stop constructive thinking and constructive doing. It seems to me that if there ever were a time when it was necessary to direct the attention of the people to the constructive things, the things that last, it is in a time like this.

The problem of the feeble-minded is one that is going to be with us for a long, long time unless we do something to correct it. Certainly it is a constructive thing to try to study it, to try to resolve what may be done and to do it after we have found out what we ought to do. If it is true that because we are in this most colossal war we ought not to do anything else, it would seem that the doctrine ought to be popular in noble France, which has perhaps suffered more than any other country, and yet France has adopted constructive legislation and constructive policies in the last three years that would have been almost unthinkable before the war. The same is true in England and Italy. The other day they passed a revolutionary educational act in England which most people feel would hardly have happened before the war. If those countries which have suffered so much, far, far more than we have, are able to do those things, if they are able to set the best thought of their countries to the consideration of the things that enter into the intimate life of the people and their future destiny, surely we in America can do the same. And that is one of the reasons why I believe this subject is a most timely and most interesting one and will be a most valuable and profitable one for us to discuss, and I hope we all will take part in the discussion.

Mr. Hodson.

WHAT MINNESOTA HAS DONE AND SHOULD DO FOR THE FEEBLEMINDED.

William Hodson, Director Children's Bureau, State Board of Control.

In 1879 the state of Minnesota established a commission to visit hospitals for the insane for the purpose, among other things, of selecting idiotic and feeble-minded persons to be transferred from the hospitals and placed under the control of the institution for the deaf, dumb and blind at Faribault. The trustees of that institution were authorized to establish an "experimental school" for training such patients, and an appropriation of \$11,000 was made available for the years 1879 and 1880. In 1881 the beginning of our present school for the feeble-minded was authorized by the legislature as a "Department for Training Imbeciles." The growth and development of the school, which began with less than a hundred patients, to its present size and usefulness, with a population of 1664, is familiar history.

Minnesota has often been congratulated for its early recognition of the problem of feeble-mindedness. From 1879 to 1917 the course of legislation has been on the side of developing the school, increasing its physical accommodations, the addition of a farm colony; in 1909 the establishment of the highly important and valuable research department. The legislation of 1917 marks the beginning of a new state policy with respect to the feeble-minded. As that legislation has been operative for a year, it seems worth while at this time to consider its purposes and results.

The new law provides for compulsory commitment of feeble-minded persons to the care and custody of the State Board of Control. Heretofore it has been impossible to place feeble-minded persons under state care so long as they, or their parents, or guardians, objected. Admission to the school at Faribault was voluntary and the length of detention a matter of the will of the patient or of those in authority over him. Manifestly the

well-being of the 'Community required permanent control by the community of those who, because of mental defect, are a menace and a constant source of actual and potential danger. The principle is so well recognized where crime and insanity are concerned, that one is at a loss to explain the delay in applying it to the feeble-minded.

The terms of our present law constitute a complete recognition of the fact that serious interference with personal liberty must be based upon sound reasons of public policy. A feeble-minded person is defined as "any person, minor or adult, other than an insane person, who is so mentally defective as to be incapable of managing himself and his affairs and to require supervision, control and care for his own and the public welfare." This language follows, in the main, the definition contained in the 'English. Mental Deficiency Act; it establishes a practical "conduct test." Actions and conduct harmful to the individual and to the community are a basis for restraint of liberty.

Yet conduct is not the sole test, for the law refers to one who is "mentally defective," and the determination of variance from normal intellectual capacity is, in all but obvious cases, a matter for expert opinion after examination by methods known to the psychiatrist and psychologist.

It is therefore provided that the State Board of Control shall furnish an expert examiner upon request by the probate judge who has jurisdiction over the proceedings. When there has been a judicial determination that the patient is feeble-minded, he is legally committed to the care and custody of the State Board of Control, and the Board is thereupon the guardian of his person, with full authority to protect him and order his movements, that others may be protected. The Board is given authority to place him, whenever advisable, in a proper institution. The significance of this form of commitment justifies further comment.

The problem of feeble-mindedness is now recognized to be one of diverse phases. State control is the first essential, and the second is flexibility of treatment—the adaptation of the method of supervision to the needs of the particular case. We no longer believe that all feeble-minded persons must be herded together in institutions. Unfortunately the problem is not so simple. A feeble-minded child may need training at the School for the Feeble-minded, but that training may eventually fit him to take his place in the community where he will still need watchful care. A high-grade defective adult of the moron class may be in no sense a subject for institutional restraint, but he will probably need the help and assistance of someone who will find work that he can do, and protect him from exploitation. As long as a patient can be made useful and happy in the community by the addition of proper supervision, it is poor economy to take him from the community; but it is equally poor economy to leave him there unaided and without direction. Public opinion will never sanction wholesale confinement in institutions, even of those who are defective; but intelligent people will be equally prompt to insist that the state exercise proper control over those who need it for their own and the public welfare.

The present law reflects the opinion that no single formula ever solved any human problem. Where the feeble-minded are concerned, each case must be individually considered. It may require a period of training and then release, in the community under supervision, or the conditions may

show- that permanent confinement is necessary. There will be many cases where institutional care is entirely inadvisable and where guardianship alone will suffice.

Dr. Fernald, of Massachusetts, has said, "The state will never be called upon to place all the feeble-minded in institutions. Many cases will never need segregation." In speaking of a probation or parole system he says, "Our psychologists tell us that while it is hard for the feeble-minded to learn, it is still harder for them to unlearn, and with many of the feeble-minded the acquired habit of being moral and useful will enable them to lead useful lives outside the institution."

The report of a committee appointed in Indiana, in 1916, to study defectives, is as follows; "While well defined cases of mental disease are best treated and cared for in the hospitals, it is unnecessary and unwise to so curtail the liberty of the borderline cases. It becomes no small part of the problem to devise wise and humane methods of community care which will effectively extend a protecting and helping supervision over the large number of defectives inadmissible to state institutions."

Since the new law became effective, there have been approximately 140 commitments of feeble-minded persons to the State Board of Control. In presenting some results, I shall consider only the first one hundred, as reported by Miss Ecel Hays, of the Children's Bureau. Thirty-five of these are not registered by the Children's Bureau as requiring institutional care-

Patients below or above the age of possible parenthood, and without vicious tendencies, usually need personal supervision in their own homes, or the finding of a home if they have none. Oftentimes it is a matter of adjustment between the patient and those about him, which can be made by the agent after investigation. In one case the patient was able-bodied but irresponsible. A relative was informed of his condition and promptly placed him on a farm with people who understand the situation and will make allowances. One girl of wayward tendencies was placed with a woman of unusual understanding, and has received careful supervision so that possible danger is remote. The girl is learning useful things and is receiving wholesome discipline. She is surviving her "test of liberty."

The remaining sixty-five cases were of an institutional character, but of varying degrees of urgency. Obviously the woman of childbearing age, who is without home supervision and of wayward disposition, should be given first consideration. Thirty-five cases of the sixty-five mentioned were given priority of admittance under a plan approved by the State Board of Control and Mr. Hanna. Twenty-one of these were girls ranging in age from fourteen to thirty; eleven were eighteen years old or under. Of the twenty-one girls, eight were either pregnant or had illegitimate children. One girl had had two illegitimate children, and was pregnant for the third time. Thirteen girls between the ages of fourteen and thirty who were not pregnant and who had not given birth to a child, were nevertheless in-correctible and promiscuous in sex relationship.

There is another class of feeble-minded patients whose condition demands immediate attention. Young children living in homes lacking in cleanliness and decency, or where neglect and abuse are found, have been given priority of admittance. There were ten such children among the commitments. One child's mother was a public prostitute. In another instance

the child was a sexual pervert and was a menace to the children of the neighborhood. Other children were found living amidst poverty and ignorance.

There are, in every community, feeble-minded adults who have criminal tendencies, destructive temper, or are sexually irresponsible. There were ten commitments of that character, and the patients have been sent to the hospitals for the insane for the districts for the -counties from which they were committed. In one instance a patient had to be sentenced to the Reformatory because of his dangerous disposition and vicious conduct, and because there was no other immediate provision available.

It is obvious that any plan of state-care for defectives which does not provide ample institutional facilities is not worth considering. Any system of parole, after-care or guardianship without confinement in institutions is but an idle theory unless it is possible to house those who really need detention. The institution is the very base of the pyramid upon which must be built the plan of supervision of patients in their communities, for supervision will often fail, and there must be recourse to detention. It is unthinkable that there should not be provision for the low-grade, helpless idiot. It should never be necessary to reject such patients for lack of room. The education and training of the higher-grade defective children is an obligation no less compelling than that of educating normal children, and there should always be room to receive such children, who cannot profit by home care or the public schools. Good sense does not tolerate the rejection of pupils in public schools for lack of room. Why should we be less solicitous about our defectives? Children of defective parents are almost sure to carry the defective inheritance. The state cannot permit its feeble-minded girls and women to corrupt the human stream, and those patients should always be under institutional care unless thoroughly adequate provision is being otherwise made. How much longer will it be possible to say that the state has not room enough to confine in institutions those who transmit forces of devitalization and destruction?

Heretofore we have cared for the feeble-minded and the epileptic at the same institution. It is difficult to appreciate fully the injustice of such a classification. For those who are normal save for epilepsy, it is a humiliation to live with and be treated as the feeble-minded. All thinking people are agreed that there should be a complete separation whenever increased institutional provision is made.

There are 1,664 patients at the School for Feeble-Minded, and the institution is crowded far beyond its capacity. Mr. Hanna has constantly felt the pathetic pressure of some 500 to 600 who seek voluntary admission. I have already pointed out that the State Board of Control has guardianship by commitment of some 140 patients. Some of these have already been received. Many more will undoubtedly need admittance, and within the next two years, if the present rate continues, the Board will have under its guardianship 450 to 550 patients. More than half of this number will be in need of institutional care, based on the past year's experience. It is likely that many persons now on the waiting list at Faribault will be committed, thus reducing the number of voluntary applicants.

At the Rochester Hospital for the Insane, Dr. Kilbourne estimates that 6- per cent are feeble-minded. In numbers this would probably mean between

90 and 100. Dr. Phelps at the St. Peter Hospital estimates that there are 30 imbeciles and 6 that are designated as epileptic and feeble-minded. The State Public School at Owatonna has 28 feeble-minded pupils, and Mr. Merrill points out that they are a distinct handicap to his work from every point of view. Mr. Tate estimates that there are 8 or 10 feeble-minded children in the School for the Deaf. Mr. Fulton finds about 15 of the boys at the Training School who are definitely feeble-minded; this means from 30 to 35. Mrs. Morse has found 30 definitely feeble-minded girls at Sauk Centre and 25 cases on the (borderline. Mr. Scott reports about 30 definitely feeble-minded prisoners in the Reformatory. Statistics from the other state institutions were not reported, but they will probably show a ratio similar to that found in the institutions of like character listed above.

It is not fair to assume that all subnormal persons in institutions other than the school for defectives are misplaced, but will anyone deny that the definitely feeble-minded belong in an institution designed to meet their special needs and not in institutions provided for the care of entirely different types? Mrs. Morse has put it well when she says that patients who are below the mental capacity of normal rehabilitation should be in schools for the feeble-minded. I believe that a conservative estimate of the number of feeble-minded patients improperly placed in state institutions would be not less than 200, and probably the number is larger.

As further evidence of our institutional needs, a report from the Department of Vocational Guidance of the Minneapolis schools shows 188 persons definitely feeble-minded and in need of state care. Reliable figures are not available at this time from any other city in the state, but there is abundant proof here, as elsewhere, of the pressing need for greatly enlarged facilities. Mr. Hanna, if I understand him correctly, believes that the school at Faribault should not be enlarged, and that our future development should be in another direction. The course of our future development in this matter is one of great importance, and it is wise to see what light can be thrown upon the problem from the experience of other states.

The Massachusetts School for the Feeble-minded at Waverly, the Vineland School of New Jersey, and the Rome State Custodial Asylum, have carried on experiments in the way of farm-colony care for the feeble-minded, which have challenged attention everywhere. These colonies have been located on undeveloped land, which is cleared by the patients. Comfortable but inexpensive buildings are erected, and the patients live in families of one to two hundred in a building. The plan is started with a view to future expansion as the need arises, and large tracts of land are purchased in the beginning. The per-capita cost is relatively lower than in the large and expensive institution. The land as cleared is rapidly enhanced in value, and later the soil can be tilled. But the business aspect is only incidental, because the simple environment and outdoor life are suited to the needs of the feeble-minded, and because the colony plan is the humane method of state care for defectives. If this plan could not be maintained on a self-sustaining basis, it would still be economy to adopt it, and the patients would lead happier and more useful lives, even though the amount of work they are capable of performing is relatively small.

Dr. Walter Fernald, of the Massachusetts institution, says in his report of 1916: "Our tillable land at the colony is now in a high state of cultiva-

lion as a result of the constant efforts of the boys. The total value of our farm products during the past year was \$67,286. During the year the boys at the colony cleared six acres of rough land ready for plowing, built 606 square yards of cement sidewalk, 1,750 square feet of cement partitions, 618 square yards of basement, 2,200 square yards new roads, and resurfaced 1,800 square yards of roads. This work was in addition to the work done by the boys in the construction of the new cement cow barn and hayshed, and the fireproof bungalow for 15 boys."

The colony of which Dr. Fernald speaks has 2,000 acres and four sets of buildings, with a population of 300 boys. The colony is really four colonies, for each group is about a mile apart, and the grouping is based upon differentiated treatment for different types, and the total cost for buildings and furnishings per capita was \$200.

Dr. Fernald further says, "Boys who had become restless, unhappy, and troublesome at the home school, who felt aggrieved at seeing things they couldn't have, and at seeing other people enjoy privileges which were denied them, these boys now make our estate their home. They never go to town. The house-mother of their colony represents to them what a mother is to a normal boy. This is the nearest approach to family life which many of them are capable of knowing."

'I shall not soon forget the impressions I received at Vineland, N. J., when I visited the colony maintained there. The simple buildings were models of comfort and convenience. They were built with the aid of the labor of patients who were all busily engaged about the farm, performing more or less useful work. They seemed contented and happy and were learning the routine of farm life so far as their individual capacities permitted'.

Minnesota has an abundance of wild land which needs clearing. Our climate is, of course, colder than that of the states where the farm colony plan has worked so successfully, but there are no insurmountable objections. Is it not practicable to establish in northern Minnesota a colony for the epileptics, so that a! of them may be transferred from Faribault, and another colony for the feeble-minded; perhaps as a beginning, for the males only? The more able-bodied men and boys can be transferred from Faribault, and others could be sent there by commitment. The plan is not an untried experiment, but a proved success; and I believe Minnesota will do well to adopt it immediately, with such adaptations as local conditions may make necessary. The need for additional facilities is so overwhelming that immediate provision should be made for not less than 500 patients, and this should be regarded simply as a beginning.

It is also clear that if the present plans for supervision of patients outside the institution are to be made effective, the State Board of Control will need at least two additional trained agents who can devote all of their time to that work. There should also be a trained psychiatrist on the staff who could make examinations in probate court when requested by the judge under the commitment law. None of our state institutions save, of course, the School for the Feeble-Minded, has a skilled mental expert on its staff. There should be someone to examine all inmates at the institutions. Dr. Kuhlmann cannot multiply himself sufficiently to meet our present needs, and he has important research work to be done.

This expert could also aid in the establishment of mental clinics in the various localities of the state, especially in the large cities, perhaps under the supervision of the county child welfare boards. Our charitable agencies, the schools, and the courts, are working blindly at times for lack of complete knowledge of the person with whom they are dealing.

There should be a clinic available for the use of all, where examinations could be made and where proper information could be obtained. Our cities have medical clinics; mental clinics are at least equally necessary, for diagnosis is a prerequisite to intelligent treatment. One hesitates to think of the number of men who are repeatedly before the criminal courts on serious charges, who may be utterly irresponsible because of defective mentality. Jails and prisons do nothing for such people; they need a very different handling. A clinic with an out-patient department would be of inestimable assistance in our problem of parole supervision. The clinic will make possible helpful and constructive action and will be a registry for the feeble-minded of the community.

Any state plan for the care of the feeble-minded must relate itself definitely to the public school system and to the work of the department of special classes and the departments of vocational guidance. Under our compulsory education law, every child should come to the attention of the school authorities; and if there were a proper mental examination of the pupils, the school record would eventually constitute a complete registration of the feeble-minded. Of course there is no such examination made save in special instances.

We are only slowly being committed to general physical examinations, but we know what good results have been achieved where it has been tried, the hidden defect disclosed, the obvious defect remedied. Mental examinations are in the same case. I can cite no better authority than the War Department, which has established mental clinics in certain of the cantonment cities, and they are being extended. Mental examination discloses defects and aptitudes, limitations and capabilities, and the men can be assigned in accordance with their special talents. It is a prophetic development in a hitherto unexplored hinterland. If our school system is to be adapted to the child and not the child to the system, we shall have to know what the child needs or is capable of, mentally as well as physically.

How can this knowledge be obtained save by psychological inquiry? All of our school children will one day be examined both as to body and mind. Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, at the present time examine children who are obviously backward or behind in their grades for the purpose of putting such children in special classes suited to their particular needs. The state grants a special bounty to every school maintaining such special classes, and children are received who are not more than six years retarded; in some oases four years retardation is the maximum. Minneapolis has twelve such classes, with an enrollment of about 200, and a need of more classes for about 120 additional children. What the number might be with complete examination, one can only speculate. St. Paul is now caring for approximately 150 mentally subnormal children. Duluth has seven special classes, with an enrollment of 105.

But what of the rural counties? There are 122 children in various parts of the state being cared for, and in scarcely no county is there anything'

which approaches adequate examination. The larger number in need of special training in the cities gives a glimpse of what the real problem is in the rural districts; for no one should be deceived into thinking that there are fewer backward and feeble-minded children outside the cities than in.

It is surely as important to train properly subnormal as normal children. We are not justified in making any less provision for one group than the other. The special classes should be greatly enlarged and extended, with proper equipment and competent teachers. There should be attached to the classes social service workers doing work akin to that now done in some communities by the visiting teachers; i.e., establishing contact between the home and the school so that there may be mutual sympathy and understanding. The child, after he leaves the school, must not drift unaided; that is the real test time of his training, and he should be helped to adjust himself to the community on a basis of self-help. It is again a question of wise supervision.

When the mental examinations become a part of general routine, the records should be tabulated yearly, and all pupils too far retarded for special class-work should have state care and should be reported to the State Board of Control. It may then be necessary to commit to the Board, but at all events complete registration will have been effected, which is the basic need in adequate state care.

Dr. Fernald has said that "the problem of the mental defective in the home, the school, the street, the police court, the jail, the brothel, the pauper asylum, constitutes one of the great sociological and economic questions of modern times." Minnesota has faced that problem with courage and efficiency in the face of the fact that scientific thought on the feeble-minded has been developing slowly out of the confusion of conflicting counsels. The record of our state and of the men who have directed the state's policy is one of great achievement. We have done better than some other states, but our responsibility is measured by the work to be done, by the claims of defective human beings, and not by what someone else has failed to do. A good record is sometimes a danger, for it may lull public opinion to sleep and we may only dream about the problem of the present and the future. These are days when conservation of human vitality becomes of supreme importance. The preservation of healthy life is patriotism plus humanity plus good business for our civilization. The human values are of peculiar significance in wartime more than in time of peace; neglect of them is less justified now than ever before. If adequate provision in these matters be called visionary and impractical, I can only reply that sometimes the difference between what is regarded as visionary or practical is measured only by the increased effort necessary to secure that which approaches the ideal. The feeble-minded of the state in the poignant tragedy of their condition, are deserving of the utmost consideration.

The Chairman: I think we will all agree that Mr. Hodson has given us a comprehensive and very valuable survey of the situation as it exists at the present time.

The subject is one of profound interest and one upon which many of you have opinions, I am sure. I think perhaps it would be proper to ask Mr. Hanna, Superintendent of the School for Feeble-Minded, to lead the discussion.

G. C. Hanna, Superintendent, School for Feeble-minded; Mr. Hodson's paper has shown an extraordinary grasp of the whole situation, and I want to say at the outset that I endorse practically everything he has said. I think the paper covers too big a range to undertake to discuss it in all its details, and I will confine my discussion to one or two points.

In working with our long waiting list, I have found out in the last year that there is a big field, I think to some extent an unexplored one, in dealing with the parents of these feeble-minded children. Parents who have feeble-minded children are very much like patients who have various diseases and seek different physicians and places where they may find a cure. Often parents of low-grade children, idiots, and imbeciles, have the hope that there is some place where their children can at some time be cured of their feeble-mindedness, and that is one of the things that leads them to make application for admission to the School for Feeble-Minded. They have often heard that the School for Feeble-Minded can restore abnormal children to normal mentality. Of course that is not the case. The most that could be done would be to improve them through training, especially the higher-grade.

I find that when parents come to the institution and are frankly told that their child is not improving, and that the best thing they can do is to take him home, often that is what is in their hearts to do. We have been able to very appreciably decrease our waiting list by explaining matters to parents of this class of children. Mothers, especially, like to be told that they can do just as much for their child as we or anybody else can do, and perhaps more.

I think this is one of the fields in which the state will have to work in the future in order to help meet this great problem. It will not be possible, even with a very large program, the program Mr. Hodson has offered, for the state to take care of all the feeble-minded; not in years. When there is no danger of the child's becoming a menace to the community, and many are not obviously a danger to the community, it can be sent back home. Many children who have been sent for recently and who have been brought to the institution with the idea on the part of their parents that they were to be left for a cure, have been taken away the next day when the parents' attention was called to the fact that they could do just as much for them at home. I wish, therefore, to ask the consideration of the meeting to this one phase of the question of making provision for the care of the feeble-minded.

The Chairman: Dr. Todd.

A. J. Todd, University of Minnesota: I have nothing to offer, Mr. Chairman, except to pat Mr. Hodson on the back, and I hope the state is going to have sense enough to carry through his excellent program.

I want to endorse the proposal for the mental clinic. I think that is an extremely important part not only of the program for the care of the feeble-minded, but also of the program for the care of the incipient insane and all types of mental defect. We constantly run into the problem of what we can do to maintain a clinic for that particular purpose; some place where people can go to procure the information necessary for intelligent treatment of the cases with which they are dealing.

I should like to ask Mr. Hodson as to the cost of these colony buildings.

You spoke of those at Vineland as being v&ry simple and constructed by the patients themselves.

Mr. Hodson: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Fernald, of the Massachusetts institution, reports that the cost of the buildings and furnishings was \$200 per patient. That did not include the land; they had to buy that.

What the cost was at Vineland, I do not know, but I am inclined to think that it was somewhat higher there than in Massachusetts.

C. E. Faulkner, Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum: What was the average number of patients?

Mr. Hodson:.. Three hundred patients as an average in Massachusetts.

The buildings themselves, while very comfortable and very well arranged, were quite simple and suited to the needs. Two of the buildings were fireproof.

H. K. W. Scott, State Reformatory: How many patients to a building?

Mr. Hodson; The number varies, Mr. Scott. I do not believe that at either Vineland or Templeton there are less than fifty to a cottage.

The Chairman: You understand this is a free forum for praise or disapproval.

Arthur F. Kilbourne, M. D., Rochester State Hospital: Mr. Chairman, I am reminded of that quotation that "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." If all these illustrious gentlemen refuse to say anything, the rest of us must necessarily be somewhat timid.

This is a very great subject, and covers a lot of ground. It is my opinion that the state should care for every feeble-minded person in some institution, unless they can be properly cared for at home.

Now, what is proper supervision in a home? The feeble-minded, to be properly cared for outside of an institution, must have a special nurse, governess, teacher, or some responsible person to keep them under constant supervision. I refer to the feeble-minded woman.

We could not do without our idealists; they point the way sometimes, along which we go as far as we think we ought to, and drop them. As Mr. Hodson says, Dr. Fernald speaks about the wise supervision at home. Now, there is very seldom wise supervision at home. There might be for a harmless boy, but there isn't for a girl or a woman.

What class of the feeble-minded is the most undesirable in the community? The moron, the high-grade. I have seldom had a moron admitted to our institution that was not unmoral.

You talk about having a waiting list of five or six hundred feeble-minded persons. Bless your soul, you will have a waiting list of ten thousand unless we adopt a law authorizing sterilization, and I think that this association ought to go on record as advocating such a law. What is it that prevents the passage of that law? Is it sentiment? It seems to be. You say that the feeble-minded would be happy in a community. Why, they are happy almost anywhere you put them if properly cared for. And the conditions at home are not always of the best.

Dr. Fernald is quoted as saying you should keep the feeble-minded at home in a moral and useful atmosphere. You cannot accuse a feeble-minded person of being immoral. They are irresponsible and unmoral. Consequently they have got to be taken care of where they cannot increase the feeble-

minded' of this state. They might be useful to a certain extent, but are very apt to be unmoral.

The able-bodied feeble-minded male is often a danger to the community. You don't know what he is going to do. He sets fire to buildings and commits many unlawful acts and must of necessity be confined in some institution.

I think the colony system, as advocated by the article just read, is a mighty good one, but I do not think they ought to be put in buildings other than fireproof; but you can't erect fireproof buildings for any two or five hundred dollars a bed.

The Chairman: May I interrupt you, Doctor? Wouldn't you confine fireproof buildings to the lower grades, not necessarily the higher grades, who have some volition of their own?

Dr. Kilbourne: Unless it is in a colony up in the woods, where they might build them of logs, I would think the state might better never put up a building other than fireproof. I think it is false economy to put up a cheap building.

Dr. Todd: Is there -such a thing as a fireproof building?

Dr. Kilbourne: Yes.

The Chairman: We have told the legislature so for a good many years.

Dr. Kilbourne: That is the reason I am sticking to my assertion now.

I would not ask the legislature for a cent for new buildings for the institution I represent if the money were needed to provide the institution at Faribault with room to take care of all the feeble-minded. I think it is the very first duty of the state to do that.

Pardon me for taking up so much of your time.

R, M. Phelps, M. D., St. Peter State Hospital: Mr. Chairman, I did not come thinking I should have anything special to say on this topic. However, in the paper, as it went along, I noticed a touch upon two of my somewhat favorite topics.

One is the -conduct test. It is rather peculiar. Theoretically there is some obscure and technical decision to make, hut usually the decision as to what you do with a person insane, epileptic, or feeble-minded, depends on his "conduct." A patient is sent to the hospital for the insane without any figuring especially as to the degree of mental deficiency. The question is: What is his conduct? That is the deciding practical point. I was interested to see it rather advocated here with regard to the feeble-minded. It runs all through the whole list of defectives.

Then, too, there are the gradations of feeble-mindedness to be met. There are gradations of epilepsy to be met in the same way. A great many epileptics are also feeble-minded, and, by the way, quite a number of our insane, as they come in with an attack of insanity (not coming as feeble-minded), having an actual mental disturbance that ordinarily goes by the name of insanity, have been feeble-minded before. You can recognize it. Of course there are lots of traces that we would not designate as feeble-minded. Lots of people have traces of feeble-mindedness in habits or disposition, and so on that I am fond of tracing back, but there are a good many, also, who have shown actual demonstrable feeble-mindedness before this attack of insanity.

There are not only gradations, hut there are mixtures. Your epileptics

and imbeciles mix very badly. I am going to use the term "imbecility" instead of "feeble-mindedness." Imbecility mixes "with insanity and with epilepsy—with each one. Perhaps that is enough to just call attention to this idea of mixtures and gradations.

As for an examination of all the people who are to be committed as criminals or who are likely to be, I should think that would be a practicable and a good thing. It would have to be a judicial sort of affair. The trouble is lawyers will have to come in, and they will always call experts for each side, called as partisan men—but for the benefit of the judge I should think he should be allowed to have a judicial examination impartial as far as it can be, and a decision upon the mental capacity of the person who is to be committed as a criminal,

In sending people from the prison to us, over half of them are marked as insane from the time of their commitment to the prison. Stated baldly, three-fourths of them are no more insane when committed to us than they were when committed to the prison. If the proportion holds good throughout, you are getting quite a large number of people at the prison who could have been, possibly or probably, by a mental examination at the time, diverted before their commitment. Of course, when it is a manifestly open case of insanity, the lawyers will usually see to that, but it is the more or less obscure and slightly concealed cases that go through in that way, especially if they are without money for defence.

Then, another thing: I think in every community, if you stop to think over all the people you know, you will find some that are not mentally sound and yet are not immoral. I think that certain degrees of feeble-mindedness can exist without a tendency to immorality. I recall one family who was rather extra moral, good, and in a careful sort of way accumulated money and had a good position in society. I wouldn't like to put down imbecility as necessarily meaning that the persons who are imbecile will become immoral.

Dr. Kilbourne: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, right there, on that last remark: It is not so much the female that is immoral; it is the man. She has no moral sense and can hardly be educated to any. She is unmoral.

The Chairman: Dr. Du Bois.

J. A. Du Bois, M. D., Sauk Centre: I do not know why Mr. Vasaly should have me upon his list, unless he desired to present to you this morning an absolute and undeniable case of what you might call feeble-mindedness. That statement appears to amuse you; well, now I trust that you will not take umbrage when I say that "there are others."

I have been a good deal interested in what we have heard during the past hour, and I have been considerably amazed, also, because in the attempt to define and measure up mental incapacity there has appeared so much of delightful and unexpected mental confusion. When Dr. Kilbourne, in quite ex cathedra fashion, was laying it down to us that every case of moral delinquency was one of feeble-mindedness, there came to my vision the greatest actress of our time and also a recognized genius in other lines. Would I dare to present to this audience Sarah Bernhardt and my friend Dr. Kilbourne, and demand of you that you select one of the two as an instance of feeble-mindedness?

The trouble is that when we try to make an exact measurement of the

human mind, we have a very imperfect measuring stick. The grossly feeble-minded we are all of us competent to pass upon. But in the borderline cases we cannot even trust our experts. And the reason is self-evident, for the greatest enigma to the human intellect is that intellect itself. There is no expert, there is no man so skilled in measuring what we call mentality at the present time—nor do I believe he will come for many, many years—as to tabulate that mentality with mathematical exactness. What shall be the standard? What is the normal mind? I think the matter can be treated in a very general way only. There was a most excellent expression in the paper read this morning to the effect that no single formula ever solved any single human problem.

In this connection I recall an essay in a late number of the *Atlantic Monthly*, entitled "Science in the Humanities," by Ellwood Hendrick, in which he has this paragraph which appealed to me: "We children of earth have our weaknesses, and we are not missing the mark when we assert that every one of us is, in one respect or another, feeble-minded." History is full of these instances of deficiency and sufficiency existing in the same individual. If I had met Old Sam Johnson almost two hundred years ago, in his untidy clothes, with his cumbersome and generally uncouth appearance; lumbering along the streets of London, with his peculiar way of scuffing and snorting, his habit of touching the posts he passed and going back if he happened to miss one, there is no doubt I should have thought him feeble-minded. But, on the other hand, I might perhaps, if I had not been feeble-minded myself, have risen to the conception that I was in the presence of one of the sanest men of the eighteenth century, upon listening to his observations which related to the questions before that century.

If you will allow me to shift from the serious side of this problem, I desire to relate two or three incidents which have lately come under my observation, hoping thereby to add to the facetiousness, as well as the confusion, of this occasion. The illustrations can apply to the question before us, and are drawn from the common life.

Many of you will recall, at the last quarterly meeting, a little affair that happened at the station at Willmar, where we were liable to pass a sleepless night owing to the perverse and unreasonable attitude of the agent. His language and conduct were such as to lead me to classify him as absolutely feeble-minded. I am not so sure, however, if the trouble had not been settled before morning, that, under the leadership of our friend, the Honorable Chairman of the Board of Control, Mr. Wheelock, we should not all of us have gone into the same class as a close second.

In our car, coming up from town, we passed a very romantic spot, a little stream and an old ruined mill. My companion visitor, a lady, said: "What little creek is this?" Our lady chauffeur, a resident of this charming little city of Hastings and evidently loyal to its many attractions, in a perceptibly frigid manner replied: "I beg your pardon. This is not a creek. This is Vermillion Hirer." Now, which was feeble-minded, our chauffeur, or the lady on the back seat?

In the town in which I live there is a man earning his own livelihood; he is a useful citizen and attends faithfully to his daily duties. He always has worked his way through life and will never become a public charge. He came into our institution one day and said to me: "Who represents the

Public Safety Commission?" I asked him why. "Well, there is a man here who ought to be arrested," I said: "Who?" Evidently fearing an escape, he did not give me the name. I asked what he had said. He replied: "I heard him say, 'The flower of our manhood is being taken toy our government for war.'" Possibly the gentleman mistook the word "flower" for "flour." In that ease, of course, he was saner than I thought.

But this man represents a considerable portion of our citizenship. They are the basis—when fired by more acute minds—of the mob spirit which uncivilizes our country.

Now, I want to close these rambling remarks by again asking the question how you are going to put your little gauge on the human mind. Can the human mind devise an instrument with which to measure, except in a very general way and by no means accurately, the human mind? There is something there that you do not measure. You can devise any system you wish, you will find yourself at loss. And, besides, what shall be your standard? I believe there is something to be said in favor of the sane intellect that ignominiously faded from earth some two thousand years ago in Palestine. But in his mute submission to insult, pain, and punishment, he was an exhibition of feeble-mindedness to the wisdom of the age in which he lived. I am sure, too, that were he living today, and stripped of all the halo which the imagination of mankind in the past has thrown around him, he would be called a "mollycoddle" by the puissant swashbucklers of our own times.

So, you see, we are in the presence of a tremendously 'great question, and we may speak about it, as I am speaking now, in a very confused way; but so far as solving his question, we shall not do it today at this meeting. At least, let us be modest enough to leave some things to the future to decide. I am willing to pass along this problem to the coming generations.

The Chairman: The Doctor is always interesting. Dr. Kilbourne mentioned sterilization. Of course the Doctor is very well aware, from his knowledge of this subject, that that is one of the obvious remedies proposed, and yet it is one that has been attacked. In fact, Dr. Rogers, who for many years favored sterilization, came to doubt somewhat both the wisdom and the efficacy of that remedy.

Dr. Kilbourne: I have seen the time when he did not doubt it for a minute.

The Chairman: I acknowledge that. But in his later years he began to question whether, after all, without segregation you were not promoting immorality without solving the question of feeble-mindedness.

Dr. Kilbourne: Now, Mr. Chairman, which is the lesser of two evils, immorality with offspring or immorality without offspring?

The Chairman: Dr. Todd, are you going to accept Dr. Kilbourne's theory?

Dr. Todd: So far as I have been able to follow the literature on the subject, there have not been any real scientific facts brought out as to the effects of the operation as heretofore performed. We have a committee appointed by the American Institute of Criminology, which is supposed to engage in research work on this problem, to find out regarding the physical and mental effects in those cases where such operations have been performed, but we have not been able to make up our minds yet as to what

the facts really are. There are medical men and psychologists who have given us contrary testimony.

I have no particular brief to file for sterilization, while looking for something to solve these problems. I believe I am rather predisposed to, favor sterilization, but I hold off from fully commending it until my fears on this one point are settled: namely, it is so easy that there is great danger that communities will sit back and content themselves with a cheap and nasty solution of a problem which does not admit of such a solution. I am thinking particularly of the child-bearing feeble-minded woman, who might be turned loose in the community without protection. The community would have satisfied itself in one respect: procreation of certain misfits would be cut off; hut would have in no wise provided a proper guaranty that that girl would be protected against designing males. When sterilization is justified by scientific research, has accomplished the results we want to see it accomplish, if there is brought along with it a guaranty that the persons subjected to this operation will be properly provided for, there should be no hesitancy in adopting it.

Mr. Scott: How many states have adopted sterilization?

Dr. Todd: There are not very many. In Iowa the law was set aside. In Indiana, where the law is still in operation, it was suspended by order of the Governor. In Washington and California, I understand they still perform the operation. I am not sure about Michigan. There are one or two others.

Of course a great deal of objection has arisen which we can hope to overcome by educating public opinion, but there is still the question of the scientific effect. Then the state will have to satisfy its citizens that these people are going to be properly protected and not simply turned loose.

Dr. Kilbourne: Why appoint a committee to determine the scientific effect? There are many men and women who are sterilized. They can watch them for the scientific effect. Supervision does not seem to entirely prevent increase of feeble-minded; but it must be strict supervision or sterilization.

Mr. Scott: I have been particularly impressed by the Importance of the suggestion offered by Mr. Hodson, in his excellent paper, concerning the establishment of a separate institution for the care of the borderline and distinctly feeble-minded inmates of the State Prison, the Reformatory, State Training School, Home School for Girls, and other state institutions, that are clearly fit subjects for custodial care.

At the Reformatory we have, as stated, about thirty decidedly feeble-minded inmates and a number of the borderline class. All have either pleaded guilty or have been convicted of crime. It has been suggested here that the men we refer to are incapable of committing crime, with which suggestion I do not agree. My personal experience with the feeble-minded that are found in our prisons has convinced me that they are, with possibly a few exceptions, entirely capable of committing crimes of a most serious character. I have this feeling, however, with reference to certain of our mental defectives, that had they been subjected to a more careful supervision at home, by the authorities in school and on the streets, the particular crimes for which they were sent to the Reformatory would not have been committed.

As an evidence of the effect of special individual treatment in such cases, it may interest you to know of a plan we have put into operation at the Reformatory during the past two years, which permits of segregating those men, taking them away from the general population of the institution, giving them special individual attention in a separate schoolroom a 'part of each day, and working them separately the balance of the day. The result has been that the conduct of the men has greatly improved; they have applied themselves much better to the work they are set to do; and their interest in their studies has shown a marked improvement. The time during which those men may be confined in the Reformatory is limited, however, and at practically every meeting of the Board of Parole we are confronted with the problem of disposing of their cases. To release some of the men we have mentioned is clearly unfair to the man, as he would very likely prove a menace to the community into which he would have to be sent, but release him finally we must, regardless of his likelihood at leading a criminal life.

The establishment of a custodial institution offers the only practical solution of this most serious problem, and I trust the time is not far distant when the legislature will make provision for such an institution.

Mr. Wheelock; I feel mentally quite normal for just a second.

Three things have been brought out here that suggest an idea to me that perhaps may be new to some of you and may not. The first is Mr. Hodson's classification of different grades of feeble-mindedness in the different institutions, from Red Wing to the Reformatory. The second is Dr. Phelps' suggestion that he has commitments from the prison of men who were on record as being insane when they were committed to the prison. And the third idea comes from Mr. Scott's remark as to the benefit of the special attention he has been able to give to those whom he classifies in that way.

While Dr. Kilbourne and Dr. Du Bois engaged in a little bout of words here, they both got far afield of the real issue, and that is what to do with the clearly defined cases of feeble-mindedness in this state. We do not need to worry about those of us who have our occasional aberrations but get back to normal.

My own idea is to have a central clearinghouse, a sort of psychopathic hospital, if you can extend that word to cover all sorts of conditions, mental and physical; or, in doubtful cases, where there was any question of their status either mentally, morally or physically, they could be committed to an institution and there appraised by a staff of experts along those lines, and then be distributed where they belonged. We have enough institutions, except perhaps a colony in the northern woods, and it seems to me that the scope of this work could be extended to cover that matter in a very satisfactory way by having a central psychopathic hospital—I am not skillful enough to use the right word—where all these doubtful cases could be examined and then placed in the institution where they could be best cared for.

It seems to me that is sufficiently practical to bring us back from the realms to which some of us have wandered, if you will excuse this from a layman without any scientific knowledge, who has been deeply interested in this work.

C. J. Swendsen, State Board of Control: Mr. Chairman and friends there was a tremendous responsibility placed upon the State Board of Control when the laws relating to feeble-minded children were passed at the last session of the legislature. Under the statutes as they now stand the Board is the legal guardian of every feeble-minded child in the state, and there are about ten thousand feeble-minded persons in Minnesota."

As the situation now is, the Board is almost helpless, and cannot do justice to its guardianship, the institution at Faribault being overfilled and having a waiting list of several hundred. Occasionally we may find a suitable home for a feeble-minded person, but that is very insignificant when one thinks of the number of feeble-minded in the state.

I would very strongly urge that every one here become an individual agent to do what he can toward influencing the next legislature to provide proper buildings for the care of these people.

Mr. Hanna is going to recommend to the State Board that an epileptic colony be started up north somewhere in the woods. I think I speak the sentiment of my colleagues when I say that we believe in having such a colony and that it should be started, if possible, next year so that the epileptics can be separated from the feeble-minded. Later on there should be another colony for a certain class of the feeble-minded. We want your cooperation, and I think we should not close this meeting without asking each one of you to help us so that when we go before the legislature for money with which to start an epileptic colony, we may have the backing of every social worker in the state. Then we shall get it. If we as a Board call the attention of the legislature to the necessity for it, we may get it and we may not. They do not always grant what we ask for. We want to arouse the state to a realization of the necessity for these institutions. I want to ask you to do all you can in this respect. I know there are persons here who can do a great deal; persons of great influence, especially some of the social workers.

You cannot build fireproof buildings for two or five hundred dollars a bed. We have fireproof buildings which cost twenty-five hundred dollars per bed. But that is another matter. For some of the epileptics and the borderline cases of the feeble-minded, the so-called morons, who as a rule are splendid workers, we may not need fireproof buildings. We could most likely take good care of them in one-story log cabins. But when it comes to the custodial cases, we must have fireproof buildings.

I have the same ideas with reference to sterilization that my friend Dr. Kilbourne has, provided it is safeguarded. Time and again we have received at our hospitals mothers who become insane at the time of pregnancy. They remain at the institution until after the birth of the child, when they become normal and return home. This procedure is repeated a number of times, and what can you expect from children born under such circumstances? The mothers are splendid housekeepers; mind you, and take good care of their family, but at that particular time they become insane. Wouldn't it be well to sterilize such a woman? I believe it would.

Otto W. Davis, Civic and Commerce Association, Minneapolis: Some of us came down to hear that kind of talk. It is music in our ears. It happens that my work is very closely connected, as many of you know, with

other social workers. The one thing they are most interested in having worked out, next to winning the war, is some way of solving this problem of care for the feeble-minded. They have begun to get just a little bit impatient with theoretical talk and academic discussion. They want to move forward, to capture something. They do not see any reason why we should not establish these colonies. Move! Move! Get a colony! Find out by experience what we can have in this state, but above all move in some direction.

I think I represent the social workers of the state correctly in saying that they feel that the epileptics and the feeble-minded should be separated, so that it would be more easy for us who are engaged in social work to get epileptics under proper care. As it is now, many hesitate to go. The program which Mr. Hodson has outlined I am sure would meet with no serious criticism. I think it would meet with the approval of all our social workers. The only criticism that might be voiced is that it is too modest. As Dr. Hanna said, it is utterly inadequate to meet the needs of the situation.

Dr. Kilbourne said it is a shame that the state has a long waiting list at the School for Feeble-Minded. When our Child Welfare Commission was laboring with this problem, we put heavy responsibilities on the State Board of Control deliberately. We were told at that time that the Board contemplated making an investigation which would enable it to formulate a plan of adequate care for the feeble-minded and have it ready for the next legislature. We have been waiting for the announcement of such a program. Mr. Swendsen has just given us a little of it.

It does not matter one whit to the social worker whether or not a feeble-minded girl, when she gets into trouble, commits an immoral act—we are willing to leave that to the theologians—but we are greatly interested in seeing that that child has suitable care. The state is not prepared today to offer that care, and the criticism that is going to come, if it comes at all, is because of the lack of preparedness—the lack of advocating a path that will make for preparedness on the part of those who are responsible under the law for the care of these children.

Let me say just a word, if I may, as to where some of us, I think, can help in putting through such a program as you outline. Some of you will recall that three or four years ago there was organized, as a result of agitation at our State Conference of Charities and Correction, a Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation, which has survived two sessions of the legislature. It did something. It has thus (far done no great harm. It desires to back programs for social legislation, and it is attempting to reorganize in order to get itself into shape to do so. It has recently changed its constitution so as to include in its membership the superintendent, or a representative appointed by the superintendent, of each state institution, because the State Committee on Social Legislation feels that he is the man most competent above perhaps all others in the state to give us the kind of advice we need on some of these problems. So we are going to ask you to act as ex-officio members of this Committee. Every proposition that "goes out as endorsed by this State Committee will have to receive the majority vote of our members, which ensures your being given an opportunity to express yourselves. We are going to have the referendum. If the State Board of Control has a program for more adequate care for the epileptic and feeble-

minded and will set it forth; I feel sure that our State Committee^a on Social Legislation will get behind it, will send out literature relating to it, will bring it to the attention of the legislators before they get down to St. Paul and are so busy they can give no thought to it, and just as far as we may be permitted to do so, we will grasp the opportunity to help. We are awaiting the word from you.

AFTERNOON.

The Chairman: We will resume the discussion on Mr. Hodson's paper with regard to the question of the feeble-minded, but I want to suggest that, since we have another paper coming and without any desire whatever, you may be sure, to cut off any discussion, you be as brief and pointed and direct as possible.

I shall call upon Miss Merrill, first of all.

Miss Maud Merrill, School for Feeble-Minded: In behalf of the Department of Research, I wish to endorse Mr. Hodson's plan for registration of the feeble-minded. We consider that one of the most essential features of any state-wide plan for dealing with the feeble-minded is to find out who they are, and where they are, and to keep a record of such data. It has seemed to us, in our dealing with the special classes that have already been established in the public schools, that our best means of carrying out such a plan of registration is through the public schools. Under our compulsory education laws, of course all children are required to attend school, and through this means already at hand could be procured a register of the feeble-minded without going to the expense and trouble of organizing new and complicated machinery to accomplish the desired end.

Mr. Swendsen has spoken about publicity, about getting people to understand the situation, as preliminary to securing necessary action in the matter of caring for the feeble-minded. Our publications from the Research Department will be gotten out with such aim in view, to show people something about the extent of the problem as we have found it in our studies at the institution. To this end, in one of our studies, we have described a place in the state which we have called the Vale of Siddem, the inhabitants of which are well characterized as follows:

"All the wicked people
In the Vale of Siddem
Thought of things they shouldn't do
And then went and did 'em."

Colonel Faulkner: My interest in this subject grows out of my experience as a member of the Kansas State Board charged with the duty of creating and managing what was designated as "The Kansas State Asylum for Idiotic and Imbecile Youth." Admissions were limited to children not over fifteen years of age who were incapable of receiving instruction in the public schools. I was particularly interested in the work of the teachers and their ability to interest and train in many useful ways even the lower grades of the mentally incapable.

During my residence of twenty-one years in Minnesota I have followed the growth and development of the institution for the care and training of the feeble-minded and epileptic with steady interest and a growing con-

cern that the magnitude and importance of the work might be more fully comprehended by the general public.

As a member of our Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation I offered a resolution designed to commit the organization to a declaration that the time had arrived when there should be a larger and better provision for the needs of the feeble-minded and epileptic, and a separation of the epileptic to a home by themselves. The conservative members thought it was wise to proceed slowly, to find out what was being done and what was contemplated, before passing such a resolution.

A sub-committee, consisting of Mr. Hanna, Superintendent of the School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for 'Epileptics, and Dr. Aronovici, Director of the Wilder Charity, St. Paul, and myself, was appointed to investigate and report at a future meeting.

I am glad to be able to report here and in this presence that we have made extensive inquiries seeking information from experienced officials throughout the United States, and there exists an agreement of opinion that in Minnesota we have reached a condition when more adequate provision should be made for the care of the feeble-minded, when the epileptics should be separated to a home of their own, and when every effort should be made to acquaint the public with the menace to the public welfare which accompanies a neglect of those who should be dealt with as wards of public concern. The opportunities afforded by such meetings as this will stimulate the desired interest and effort.

Fannie French Morse, Home School for Girls: I am tremendously interested in the problem of the feeble-minded and the possibilities of the care of this group. Two years ago we awoke to the fact that there had been forming in our institution an accumulation of human material, an accumulation which was shaping itself into natural groups. Two of these groups represent so-called non-social groups; both of the defective type: one, easily recognized by anyone as the definite feeble-minded; the other, a group equally defective, but not of the more harmless type (the negative quality of the feeble-mind); rather, a positive type, that most intangible, misunderstood group, a group recognized, of course, as social offenders, but not in their true status: irresponsible, uncontrolled; the girl with the mental and moral twist; often mentally alert, but of mental disproportion; some mental deformity; erratic, positive, clever; often viciously inclined; often of pleasing personality; sometimes bright in the schoolroom; clever of hand. Such, of mental alertness, but mental twist; of capacity, but of perversion; of certain efficiency, and, often, of pleasing personal appearance; represent today our greatest social menace. These are they who return again and again to our institutions. For them the state should make special provision.

After years of observation and experiment. I am more and more of the opinion that there is a place for all human material; the thing is to find that place. Mr. Hodson's paper has given what is to me rather a new thought: the possibility of an adequate supervision of the feeble-minded in the community. Given enough parents or interested persons filled with the single-hearted devotion the care of such represents, a certain number of the first group of the mentally defective might be cared for in society; but I fail to see how, with anything like safety to the community, the second group

can be cared for outside the institution. For these, it would seem to me, there must be custodial care, at least until after the child-bearing period.

I want to see, in this state, after the Woman's Reformatory has been accomplished, an institution for this particular group; possibly an institution on the community or colony plan, where, lending to that institutional community of his or her capacity, the individual shall not only be happy, but, under the right kind of direction and control, shall be made a great producer for the state. Such a scheme worked out holds great possibilities.

It is this group that we, in our Sauk Centre institution, are training toward agricultural as well as intensified home arts. They are the greatest producers among us. This is the group which is making the butter and cheese; canning and drying vegetables and fruits in large quantities. This summer, as last summer, they are putting out a tremendous piece of work. I question if there could be found a group that in the end might make for more return care than this very group, under the right institutional direction.

So I join hands with you all in the hope and in the work for an institution for this high-grade, borderline case; an institution where they can be made happy, an Institution where they shall become, through their resources for production, largely self-supporting.

James J. Dow, School for the Blind: Mr. Chairman, with practically all that has been said today on this subject I find myself in general agreement. The few disputed or disputable points I should not be able to cast any light upon now, but I do want to express my great gratification in the long, progressive step that was made at the last session of the legislature in these new provisions for the feeble-minded. It seems to me that the scope and flexibility—not the completeness because there is nothing complete, but the approach to completeness—of that law is something which "the state of Minnesota has a right to very greatly congratulate itself upon, and I am reminded of the very great progress that has been made during the experimental period of dealing with the feeble-minded. These laws contemplate the protection of the individual person, the protection of society. Of course the individual person, as we have been told today, is to a large extent not protected yet, and society is to a large extent not protected yet, but the scope of the law is such that with proper financial provision and proper executive arrangements those protections can and undoubtedly will be made.

At the beginning neither the protection nor the care of the individual feeble-minded person, nor the protection of society, was thought of particularly by those who made it possible for the experiment to be tried. It was simply to relieve the congestion of the hospitals for the insane where these feeble-minded children and youth had been placed. That was the only possible leverage that secured the somewhat roundabout start of this work.

I saw the first group of children who were brought to Faribault from the hospitals for the insane. My vague recollection is that they numbered twenty-nine. They were placed in a rented building on the hill, where they could be supervised by the superintendent of the School for the Deaf. That was the beginning, and it was almost a device, one might say, by which the start was made. If the legislature of that time had known that a big institution was going to grow out of that movement, it would never have

got any start, but it has come gradually. We have grown into the idea, and now we are willing to do something direct. But that is ancient history.

There is one element of that history that I think should be made note of at this time. The man who made this small start possible by hammering year after year in his report for something to be done for these children, has not been mentioned here today, and I have never heard his name mentioned in any of the discussions from time to time. It was the superintendent of the School for the Deaf and Blind, Dr. J. L. Noyes. If you will take the pains to look over his annual reports of those days, you will find recommendations which were backed up by the Board of Directors at that time, and he is the man to whom this start is properly to be credited, and I today want to present that fact to you, to be made a matter of record, that his name may be associated with the beginnings of this movement in record as well as in fact. He was not a man who had personally anything to do with the feeble-minded or knew anything about the feeble-minded, but they kept cropping up in his institution, and he knew that there were many of them in the hospitals for the insane in that day. He used that as a lever to get this movement started and is entitled to the credit for it.

The Chairman: I will ask Reverend Father Lang, of Hastings, to say a few words.

Rev. Francis J. Lang, Hastings: Mr. Chairman, I had not expected the high privilege of taking any part in this discussion today, but now that you have been gracious enough to give me this opportunity, I just want to say how highly inspiring this meeting has been to me. Many things we have learned and one of the greatest is that the poor unfortunate people of Minnesota are in very good hands. Those of us who have the good fortune to be residents of Hastings congratulate ourselves very frequently that the state institution at Hastings is in such good hands as Mr. Yanz's and his fine assistants'.

This meeting today has been an inspiration to me personally, Mr. Chairman. Although not specifically my work, still the things that have been spoken of today certainly come under my observation day after day, month after month, year after year; and I want to say how reassuring it is to find men and women in Minnesota who make it their highest inspiration to look after those persons, old or young, who are unfortunate and have been made wards of the state. Then, again, it is inspiring to think of those men and women, you ladies and gentlemen, who in this time of the most colossal struggle of all history, while our own boys are engaged in it, still find enthusiasm to remain at home and keep on erecting the great buildings that are going to take care of the unfortunate and the wards of the state. These things are reassuring.

The technical and scientific things that have been entered into by the gentleman who read the paper this morning and those who took part in the discussion, are of course out of my sphere, but they are an inspiration to me. I only want to say that those of us who have been privileged by Mr. Yanz to be here today are highly pleased. "We feel confident that the poor unfortunate people of the state of Minnesota, could not be in better hands than those of the Board of Control and the social workers who have this day honored us by coming to Hastings. I thank you.

The Chairman: Judge Waite, have you something you want to offer on this subject?

E. F. Waite, Judge Juvenile Court, Minneapolis: I do not know how you read my mind, Mr. Chairman, but at last there is something that I should like to say, and I will say it very briefly. One is just an expression of a sentiment. My other suggestions will be practical.

The sentimental thing is that, as we have progressed from the "School for Idiotic Youth," I hope we may some time pass beyond the "School for Feeble-Minded." There is really something in a name, and there are other names that will serve the public purpose just as well as "School for Feeble-Minded" and will avoid some rather serious objections incident to the present name.

I hope the gentlemen of the Board of Control will not become too much alarmed if this process of committing feeble-minded children to their care, when they do not know what to do with them, goes on. The situation will not be made any worse by that. They may feel a sense of responsibility that they are not able to carry out in action, but that mental discomfort perhaps will be compensated for by a very practical advantage. There will be, as the months go by and the courts of the state are encouraged to act under this law, the definite selection of a class of people who, under all the safeguards of the law, are determined to be proper persons, by reasons of feeble-mindedness, for custodial care. Now, we know in general that there are ten thousand of them. We do not know the individuals, although the census will disclose some; and when you have found the individual, you have still to determine judicially whether he ought to be segregated under the law.

No stronger appeal can be made to the legislature in my judgment, than this: "Here are one hundred, two hundred, three hundred persons in the state of Minnesota who have been taken into court, who have been sat upon by experts and all their rights have been safeguarded, and it has been finally determined that the state of Minnesota must take care of them; We haven't any way to take care of them. What are you going to do about it?"

There is another thing. This new machinery, provided by the legislation at two years ago, makes provision, as you know, for County Boards of Child Welfare. The ideal thing in the way of permanent and competent custodial care for all these children is a long way off. Let us do the very best we can to provide it, and let us do the very best we can in the meantime. Let us use our influence in all possible ways to see that throughout the state there are organized these little groups of people who feel a sense of responsibility for their own neighbors. There you have your chance for preliminary selection. There you have your chance for some sort of supervision at a minimum of expense and in a way most acceptable to the local community, whose sense of justice must always be taken into account when these things are considered. People are going to be a little slow about submitting to the crowding into an institution of high-grade feeble-minded persons whom the ordinary individual cannot distinguish from the perfectly normal young man or young woman. While we are organizing the method of selection and getting people educated to the point of submitting to it, let us have this friendly supervision which we can get through close contact of the Board of Control with these county boards.

I had the privilege, some time ago, of visiting the institution at Red Wing—I go there from time to time, but never before was I so much impressed as at this time, as I sat on the platform and looked into the faces of those boys, that there were a large number of young men and boys there who were of very low mentality. Of course I could not say from looking into their faces whether they were in any proper sense feeble-minded, although anybody could tell that they were of very low mentality, and the suspicion was exceedingly strong that there were many persons there who were criminal defectives, and it seemed a tremendous pity that the superintendent of the school should be burdened as he is with the care of those persons. I have no doubt, without having particularly interrogated him on the subject, that a very large percentage of his trouble comes from this class. It seems a great pity that the discipline of the institution should be retarded by their presence there without some special means of segregation.

I hope the Board of Control is not going to be too modest in making its demands upon the legislature. Here is this general problem of feeble-mindedness. Here is this special problem of the youthful feeble-minded delinquent who can't be taken care of at Faribault, who can't be taken care of properly at any institution in the state of Minnesota. - Let us make a demand for what we need in these directions. Let us try to educate the legislature and the public in the direction so well set forth by the chairman. This is no time to economize in these matters; this is the time to spend freely, providing it is spent wisely, in making the best use of poor material and in protecting our country in the trying ordeals that are before us from all the social misfortunes which we can prevent by wise forethought.

The Chairman: I think Judge Waite has very fittingly closed the discussion. We could spend all day upon it, but we have a very important paper to be presented by my colleague, the Chairman of the Board, on other kinds of economies, which are actual and of great value at the present time, and by which I know you are going to be both surprised and edified. War Economies—Actual and Possible," by Mr. Wheelock.

WAR ECONOMIES—ACTUAL AND POSSIBLE.

Ralph W. Wheelock, Chairman State Board of Control,

This document can hardly be designated "a paper;" it is simply intended as a stimulant to the discussion which I hope will follow it.

In devoting a part of the program of this meeting to the discussion of war economies as applied to institution affairs, a double result is revealed. Not only have the exigencies of the present world-wide condition in economics been met in very encouraging fashion by the institutions as a whole, but new standards of administration have been set, that in large part will become permanent.

While the appropriations made by the legislature in 1915 and 1917 recognized in some degree the increased cost of every article entering into institution, operation, neither the Board of Control nor the legislature could have foreseen an average rate of 115 per cent advance in 80 odd commodities in every-day use during the fiscal years 1914 to 1918 inclusive. Detailed reference to this tremendous advance will be made later.

As showing further the size of the problem confronting the Board and its superintendents at the beginning of the fiscal year just ended, the apportionment of support funds for the current year—exclusive of fuel—was on a basis of \$2,028,000. At the end of the first quarter there was an excess - in expenditure of \$47,000 over the Quarterly apportionment, and recommendations went out all along the line to cut expenses in every possible direction. Consequently each succeeding quarter showed decided improvement, and as a result the fiscal year was closed well inside the total appropriation. The credit for this can be shared by all of us—board members, secretary, purchasing department, superintendents, stewards, cooks, farmers, supervisors, attendants, alike—and the splendid teamwork that has been developed promises well for future and permanent economies.

Going somewhat into detail as to the points on which these economies were effected, we find that in the one item of coal cost there has been an increase of from 60 per cent to 124 per cent, according to the size of coal purchased. Yet the reduction in tonnage, owing to the improved methods of firing, has been quite marked, and goes to show the possibility and desirability of making this means of saving more or less permanent.

The consumption of meat has been considerably reduced in the major portion of the Institutions, particularly during the last half of the year. During the last three months change in the schedule of meats furnished has also effected a notable saving. We find that the system used during this last quarter of the year has secured what amounted practically to clear meats at an average of 17c per pound as against 23c per pound for carcass beef. The percentage of increase on beef alone has been 85 per cent.

Sugar consumption has been quite materially reduced by conforming to the per-capita requirements of government regulations; although the price has advanced a full 95 per cent.

It has been necessary to purchase cereals in bulk, which seemed most available and most economical in price, as certain items of cereals heretofore consumed are off the market and others have become almost prohibitive in price. The increase along these lines has averaged 174 per cent.

Rice has been very largely substituted in place of tapioca, as tapioca costs 50 per cent more than the rice. A small amount of tapioca has been purchased for use on employes tables, but the fact that it has increased in price 233 per cent, while rice has increased only 193 per cent, shows why it cannot be generally used.

In the place of navy beans—increased 238 per cent—there was purchased during the first half of the year a brown bean, and for some of the institutions soya beans. The latter half of the year we purchased pinto beans from Colorado, at a price of from 8c to 9c a pound, and they have been found satisfactory.

There has been a slight reduction in the quantity of cheese consumed, although an advance of but 20 per cent in price would argue a much larger use of this very fine article of food.

In the matter of canned and dried fruits, it has been necessary to purchase only the varieties most available at reasonable price, as certain items had become entirely prohibitive and the variety of fruits furnished has consequently been somewhat lessened. The quantity of fruits asked for during the last six months of the year has been less than in former years,