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EDITORIAL.

Prophylaxis.—The continued growth of our institutions, and the demand for increased accommodations due to the pressure of the waiting list are giving rise, in many quarters, to consideration and discussion of means of prophylaxis. The long term—practically for life—during which the children must be kept in an institution makes larger accommodations necessary and materially increases the expense and gives increased emphasis to such considerations.

Recently efforts have been directed toward the suppression of the marriage relation between the unfit, for while the problem of heredity is but vaguely understood, yet it is firmly believed by those of large experience with defective humanity, that there are certain physical and mental conditions in the parent which render very improbable the advent of healthy offspring. During the last winter bills to this end have been before the legislatures of Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota,

Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. These bills sought to prohibit marriage between persons either one of whom was subject to dipsomania, insanity, epilepsy, feeble-mindedness, syphilis, tuberculosis, or venereal disease. To this end a certificate from a medical board stating that the persons desirous of being married were not subject to the above conditions was made necessary in order that a license might be issued.

In Minnesota the bill became a law but applied only to the insane, feeble minded and epileptic when the woman is under forty-five years of age. The medical board was eliminated and the clerk of the court was made responsible, in that he was forbidden to issue the license if he knew either party to be subject to the above conditions. In practice this knowledge will probably be very limited in its effect, for it seems to be the general feeling that marriage is an inborn right of the sexes. While the law can not make men righteous, and the common law marriage can not be prevented, yet it seems that the marriage law is at least a step in the right direction. It can at least be made "to pay" if it stops one of these unfortunates from being brought into the world,

In Pennsylvania they have made an attempt to yet at the matter in another way and at the same time ameliorate the condition of the child. A bill has been introduced and passed by the House providing for the unsexing of certain degenerate persons when such is recommended by a committee composed of a surgeon, a neurologist and the superintendent of the institution in which the person resides.

Others are seeking this same end by means of segregation. And this is probably our most available prophylactic measure. Put in order to reap its full benefit it entails much more extended accommodations than any state as yet affords. A better result could be obtained in many states if the state would obtain control of the child when it is admitted to an institution or declared an imbecile. However, progress is being made in this direction. A law was passed in Indiana this last winter providing for the care of adult imbecile women in the School for the Feeble-Minded until they reach the age of forty-five years.

In Connecticut the state retains control of all persons declared imbeciles, the town officers being made responsible, and the women being kept in the almshouses.

NOTES AND ABSTRACTS.

Provision for the Feeble-Minded in Glasgow, Scotland.—Dr. W. W. Ireland writes that the Glasgow Parish Council, who have within their area about half a million of inhabitants, are beginning to make special provision for the idiots and imbeciles dependent upon them. They have erected a building for some of these cases within the grounds of Wood-