

## JOURNAL OF PSYCHO-ASTHENICS.

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### EDITORIAL.

The "Cure" of Feeble-Mindedness. — Occasionally, a writer on the training of the Feeble-Minded, uses the term "cure" as the object and actual result, in some cases, of such training. The use of this term, while correct in the sense of treatment, is unfortunate because misleading to the public, by whom it is interpreted to mean a restoration to a normal condition, an achievement entirely impossible in the case of a feeble-minded child. The conditions is not one of deviation from a state of normal health, caused by some temporary excitation or depression, that having passed, leaves the functional activities of the child in a healthy and normal condition.

Psycho-Asthenia is a permanent, though not necessarily complete, arrest: of mental development. In the latter case it is hopeless idiocy. The condition of the child might be compared to that of an imperfectly constructed locomotive, so deficient in steaming qualities, or whose rough bearing's develop so much friction, that it never will be of any value to haul loads. The engineer may improve the conditions and if it can be made to run at all, the

slow inefficient operation of the machinery may by this very process reduce the friction and the construction is so radically wrong that more than this never can be accomplished.

So with the feeble-minded child, the organization is permanently defective. Imperfect brain-cells or imperfect nerve-cells or both, are a permanent handicap functioning itself lessens the resistance to repeated activities, and consequently, the result. This is the process of development expressed in the simplest terms, but the limitations are absolute and permanent. It must be remembered that the normal child possesses a spontaneity which the defective child does not possess. The rapidity with which sensory impressions are received by the normal child during his first seven years, gives him an advantage in the store house of brain impressions from which ideation and knowledge are formed, that never can be overcome by the defective child. Development within limitation may be accomplished such development depends upon the degree of original handicap. Slow development, if constant, often characterizes eventual development of strong efficient mentality and character, but this must not be confused with arrested development.

The Training School is the name of an excellent local monthly published by the New Jersey

^New Jersey.

Training School

A School for Feeble-minded has been opened at Watertown, Wisconsin, the auspices of the German Lutheran church. Prof. W. K. Weissbrodt is in charge. The school opened in April with seven pupils followed by eight more within a few days. Prof. Weissbrodt has taken hold of the work with an intelligence and enthusiasm that give abundant promise of success.

We are glad to print the following announcement as the first definite promise of Mr. Johnstone's long-cherished hope of inaugurating a training school for teachers for the feeble-minded:

#### A Summer School for Teachers

The first session of the Summer School for teachers to better fit them to teach backward children in the special classes of the public schools, will convene at the New Jersey Training School at Vineland, New Jersey, July 11th, and continue until August 20th.