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trained nurses. How does it benefit an attendant in a school for the feeble-minded to know how many streptococci, etc., she can discover under the microscope? Training of that sort, it seems to me, unfits good women to be attendants.

We propose to have our attendants come on one month's probation. If satisfactory, they then begin the regular training. I believe one year of training is enough. I do not think the course should be over one year and at the end of that time a diploma should be given if the attendant has proved worthy of it. I do not think they should be trained for outside service or for caring for invalids especially, but I do feel that training should be planned to fit them to do properly the work the institution has to do.

Attendants are a very much underpaid class. Our scheme of wages for female attendants is \$18 per month; at the end of six months, \$20; at the end of two years, \$21; then each year an additional \$1 per month until a maximum of \$25 is reached. I believe that proper training of this sort will lessen the number of attendants needed in an institution. I believe, also, that the better care given will justify a better wage at the end of the training and this would increase the efficiency of the institution by enabling us to retain the services of our best people instead of losing them as we do now.

As we have outlined it, the attendant in our course of training would begin with the study of the feeble-minded child, just as we now have the students of the medical schools do. That is, the pupil in training would be shown groups of children, illustrating different forms and degrees of mental defect and given instruction forms in regard to the needs of that particular group. They would be told the limitations of each group, methods of caring for each particular type, etc. I believe in doing this in a practical way without a lot of medical, psychological or pedagogic theories.

We believe here in training attendants to act as assistants in different lines of our work. This training is given by the specialist in that particular line. We have carried this out to a certain extent already. The low grade children you saw at the West Building are cared for by trained assistants who have been under the supervision and instruction of our physical director. At the 9 o'clock class, two attendants act as assistants; with the 10 o'clock class, two more

come on duty, etc. In this way we have at least a dozen attendants who have been given this training. The attendants become greatly interested in this work and are fascinated by it.

The other special teachers have different attendants who bring classes to them and then remain to assist in the work. This is done in our manual-training department, industrial-training department, hand-work department, etc. We have at this time some twelve or fifteen trained assistants all highly trained in their particular branch. From these trained assistants, trained by the specialists, information in regard to the work radiates to other attendants. Our attendants feel complimented if they are selected to take classes to these special teachers. They feel that they are assistant trainers and are pleased to be selected for such positions.

When I look back and think that during my twenty years of service-I have had to deal with 5000 or 6000 attendants, I feel sure that, as a class, these young ladies have left our school better fitted as wives and mothers; that their children have received a higher standard of care than would have been the case if they had not had our training. When I think how much more we might have done, how much better fitted they might have been if we had been able to carry out our plans, I feel that we have much to do in teaching the principles of ordinary nursing, the practical details of hygiene and sanitation, etc. I do not believe we ought to make trained nurses of them. I do not believe we ought to try to compete with the training-school nurses.

Dr. Rogers: I am heartily in sympathy with Dr. Fernald's remarks on the plan outlined by Dr. Bernstein. Some points have occurred to me in connection with this matter. Our training school started eight years ago. Our physicians spent a great deal of time on anatomy and physiology and found it very difficult indeed to get the young ladies and gentlemen who are acting as attendants, to become very much interested in the subjects as presented in lectures. As a rule, these young people had not received much education in the public schools. We get very few who have had any high-school training, and the young people who come to us from the grammar grades have not had the mental discipline which would enable them to get much value from lectures. This shows the necessity of having the course just as simple as possible and as practical as possible. It occurs to me

that to successfully carry out such a course as Dr. Bernstein has outlined would call for attendants who have a higher standard of education and who have received more mental discipline in the public schools or elsewhere. Another difficulty we found was in interesting young men in these classes. Two or three of the very best attendants we have among the men could get absolutely nothing in the training classes. They could not answer correctly one question in fifty. I have in mind one young man, who is, I think, the best man we have ever had—the most trustworthy with the boys, most interested in the care of them, the best man in his understanding of the boys and in his ability to teach them habits of decorum and deportment. This young man could get absolutely nothing from the training-class work. Shortly after the organization of one training class I was talking to one of Dr. Richardson's assistants at Washington, of their training class, and he told me they had given up entirely the giving of diplomas to men. They simply selected such men as appeared to be suitable for the work, gave them all the advice they could from day to day, but had no training class for them. It does not seem that this should be so, but I am simply giving you the results of my observations and experience. I believe thoroughly in the training classes for women, and if found practicable, for men. Fifteen of our pupils have received their diplomas and are doing excellent work.

Another thing Dr. Bernstein suggests that we were never able to carry out, but which I would like to see done—is to change attendants from one class of cases to another, from one kind of work to another. We found so much objection to this that we did not try to carry it out, but I think it would be a splendid thing to have the attendants become familiar with the care of different classes of children.

We also tried a cooking class for attendants but never made a success of it. I shall watch Dr. Bernstein's experiment with considerable interest and hope that he may be successful. It will be a stimulus to the rest of us and encourage some of us to try it again.

OTHER PROCEEDINGS.

At the evening session of the first day's meeting, a paper by Dr. Carson, on The Mongolian Type, was read by Dr. Keating. Following this, a paper by Dr. E. G. Brackett, of Boston, on Operative Treatment of Spastic Deformities in Feeble-Minded Children, was

read. (Page 13, Vol. XI.) Discussion by Drs. Fernald, Bernstein, Mr. Johnstone, and Dr. Brackett.

The morning of June 6th was devoted to visitation of the custodial training department where the children were engaged in weaving, braiding, shoe-repairing, and random work. At 11:15, A. M., the association again assembled and listened to the following papers: Reading and Language, Miss Miner; A Child Who Hears, yet Cannot Talk, Miss Bancroft; Methods of Speech Development, Miss Boyd; Special Classes for Mentally Defective Children in the Boston Public Schools, Dr. Lincoln.

At the afternoon session the association listened to a paper by Professor Naomi Nosworthy, of Columbia College, New York City, on Suggestions Concerning the Psychology of Mentally Deficient Children. (Page 3.) This was followed by a paper on Psychological Work among the Feeble-Minded, by Dr. Henry H. Goddard, Vineland, N. J., (Page 18.) and Dr. J. J. Thomas, of Boston, read a paper on Some Cases of Mental Defect from an Out-Patient Clinic. In the evening, Dr. E. W. Taylor, of Boston, presented a Demonstration of a Series of Defective Brains and Dr. Fernald followed with the exhibition of an interesting set of slides showing classes of Mongolians, cretins, and other distinct types of the feeble-minded.

The assembly hall was then transformed into a gymnasium and the children of the school, under the direction of teachers, gave a very interesting series of athletic exercises.

On June 7th, by special arrangement, the express on the Fitchburg road carried a special car for the accommodation of about thirty members of the association who were bound for the Farm Colony at Templeton. A drive was made to the Colony group and dinner served at the Eliot group, after a visit to the farm home and to the Naragansett group.

A short session was held at Eliot for report of the committees. The committee on organization reported as follows: For president, Dr. Bernstein; for vice president, Miss Mattie Gundry; for secretary and treasurer, Dr. A. C. Rogers; for editor, Journal of Psycho-Asthenics, Dr. A. C. Rogers who was authorized to select his own associates.

It was recommended that the association consider the question of the publication of the Journal as an annual.