

work within the last quarter of a century or more, and such organization in institutions—modern library organization—is almost entirely lacking. There are no trained librarians—I speak in a general way—in any of our state institutions, and that is generally the case throughout the country. Now, when we observe how public libraries have increased in efficiency through the modern methods of library administration, the organized methods, it seems to me that the libraries of state institutions might in like manner profit by the application of such methods.

I was fortunate enough to hear a paper presented by our present speaker some time ago at a state library gathering, and I was very much impressed with the account that was there given of the work that had been undertaken in Iowa, and I am satisfied that some similar work would prove equally beneficial in this state. As I said, if it is a good thing for libraries that have to do with the general public, it certainly might reasonably be expected to be a profitable thing for libraries designed for special classes.

Dr. A. C. Rogers, Fairbault School for Feeble Minded: It seems to me that the adaptation of the character of the book to the individual is a good point. In this library organization, as I understand it, as applied first to educational institutions—colleges, universities—the librarian comes thoroughly in touch with literature on all subjects; consequently, when a student comes for a book, the librarian will know what series of books will contain the subject the pupil wants. Applying that same principle to state institutions, so far as it can be carried out by means of the limited training that we naturally have on the part of employes or teachers along that line, the essential thing is to learn the particular literature adapted to particular individuals. Very often a librarian in an ordinary community will learn the temperament of the patrons of the library. Often persons who have been accustomed to taking books from the library send a note bearing this statement, "Send me a book." The librarian knows what will appeal to that person and sends something which she believes will please that particular individual. I have known that to be done a great many times. People will depend on the librarian to make the selection for them.

In a public institution the study of patients or pupils by the person in charge of the library would make the application of the library particularly valuable. I might speak from a theoretical standpoint, referring, for instance, to the insane. It seems to me that a person who would know the temperament of insane patients or certain individuals and the particular illusions they wish to dispel, would be of great service.

With regard to the books for the feeble minded, of course, as a rule, they are simple, but our children are very fond of history and, we might say, the lighter class of adventure. We have a great many books of adventure that our boys and girls enjoy very much, and we have been very fortunate in having a principal who gave a great deal of attention to the selection of books. It has rested largely with her to issue them directly to the children.

Dr. H. A. Tomlinson, St. Peter State Hospital: There is an old and very true saying to the effect that "you may lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink," and this is particularly true of those you would urge to dip into the Pierian spring. Children read eagerly, because they want to know, but with adults it is different, and even sane people cannot be compelled to read.

Probably because of my intimate association with the work, there has seemed to me always to be more assumed wisdom on the part of the uninformed with regard to what may be, or ought to be, done for or with the insane than with regard to any other class whose welfare comes within the scope of philanthropic endeavor. Not only in America, but in Europe, people are constantly concerned with projects for the betterment of the condition of the insane, whose lack of training and experience make their efforts futile usually. If the money and energy that are wasted in these undertakings were applied practically in the care and treatment of the insane, their numbers would be rapidly reduced, and their condition, while under restraint, would be much less the subject of complaint and criticism. The reason for this statement is that people who have not gained their knowledge of the insane by living with them cannot rid themselves of the old superstition that the insane are less than human.

The books that will appeal to the sane person will appeal equally as strongly to the insane, and for the same reason. One of the most difficult tasks of the conscientious librarian is to keep people from taking out books that they ought not to read. The only difference between these people and our patients is one of degree. The morbid egotism is greater, and there is less mental capacity. The reason why so much of this uninformed effort is futile is because it is based on preconceived ideas, which ignore the relativity of the conditions in the environment of the patient.

The use of books in institutions for the insane is not a new enterprise, by any means. Both Pinel in France and William Tuke in England a hundred years ago urged the importance of stimulating the interest of the insane man in something outside of himself, by trying to get him interested in books. The function of reading and other mental instruction is not, however, in the treatment of the insanity, but in the restoration of mental capacity after the insanity has subsided.

In the Friends Asylum in Philadelphia, where I was an assistant at one time, we made great use of books; but there was a difference between the patients in that institution and those who form the majority in our public hospitals. In the private institution the patients were cultivated people, who were accustomed to read. Usually, however, the insane, if left to themselves, will select the wrong kind of books. They will select those books that stimulate introspection and minister to their morbid egotism. That is why the insane are so often eager to read the Bible; and they are more interested in the lamentations of Jeremiah and the denunciations of Isaiah than they are in the Beatitudes and the Gospel of St.