

lic school. I understand it has also been considered by the board of managers of the Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum, and, in conference with Col. Faulkner, it has been decided that the first thing to do is to ascertain whether, under existing law, children committed to the Washburn Home by decree of the courts can be legally transferred to the state public school—whether the fact that a child has been found to be dependent and, under the law of the state, assigned to the guardianship of the Washburn Home as a dependent child, would be authority for its transfer to the state institution without further court procedure. This is a question about which we decided to consult the attorney general. This is the beginning of the proceeding to determine upon some plan by which such transfers could be accomplished.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH.

Dr. A. C. Rogers: With regard to the research work, all that we can do at the present time is to report the preliminary work. As is already well known by both the Board and the superintendents, we have one agent in the field under the supervision of the School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics—Miss Devitt, who is with us today—looking up the family histories and the social conditions of certain children who are in the institution at Faribault. Miss Devitt has reported in a preliminary way on seventeen families so far. These seventeen families involve, so far as we have looked them up, fifty-four feeble-minded persons, with a number of insane and epileptics. As an illustration of the findings, we have one family showing the first generation of which we have any knowledge, 4; second generation, 31; third, 119; fourth, 80; fifth, 9, or a total of 243 individuals, in which number there are 21 feeble-minded persons. The next group shows 12 in the first, 37 in the second, 21 in the third; 70 persons involved, in which number there are 3 feeble-minded, 4 epileptics and 3 insane.

With regard to this first group. There were three sisters, one aunt and an illegitimate child of one of the sisters in the institution. In this family were six girls and one boy. The girls all were feeble-minded. Since the boy died in early childhood, we are unable to say whether he would have been feeble-minded or not.

(Then followed remarks and the use of the chart.)

In making these investigations Miss Devitt has found almost absolute co-operation. The whole subject is to be treated from a purely scientific attitude, and no knowledge is given out to reveal the identity of the individuals.

Another point: We have instructed Miss Devitt to be exceedingly careful not to put down anything because she is looking for it. We naturally, all of us, have unconsciously a little prejudice, and we are very likely to interpret things in a way favorable to what we are looking for.

There are a great many practical difficulties in securing scientific accuracy as to information. For instance, a person is spoken of as being alcoholic! Some persons would call him alcoholic if he occasionally took a glass of beer, yet it is important to determine the true alcoholics.

Another thing that is often accredited as a cause of death is cancer, concerning which there is general ignorance. Of course, in all these investigations, physicians are consulted freely.

The general investigation so far involves 17 families; 1,491 persons have been charted, and 54 feeble-minded persons found.

Report on expenditures: So far the total expended—except the January salary of \$75—is \$601.11, which includes typewriter purchased, the case for carrying these briefs and some printing materials, and we have ordered about \$35 worth of tests and apparatus.

I haven't had a chance to talk with the other members of this Board's committee with regard to this work, but I have no doubt that the time is pretty nearly ripe for the work to be taken up along some other lines. Mr. Randall and Mr. Wolfer are interested in it particularly, and whenever they feel that the time is ripe for it, I think there are funds enough for a beginning.

F.L. Randall, State Reformatory: I shall be obliged to defer to the opinion of those who have given it more attention than I have. I should be very much pleased to have a talk with Mr. Wolfer and to get his views on it. Perhaps he may be ready to express himself now.

Henry Wolfer, State Prison: We have been giving this matter some considerable thought since we first discussed it. Our physician at Stillwater—with the aid and guidance of men with whom he is now in correspondence, especially Dr. Healy of Chicago and two or three other persons who have given the matter a great deal of attention—is trying to formulate a routine for examinations whereby we may be able to classify subjects for examination, one that will give an idea of the mental and physical condition of the prisoner. Before we undertake to do any field work, it seems to me that we should have that form of classification. Perhaps I am mistaken. It may be that if we get a person familiar with it, he can make his own classification.

The Chairman: Your idea is that, after you have made this thorough survey, you would select certain cases that gave certain results to determine what ones would be likely to be the most helpful in making these investigations? Classifying and getting this test in the process of examination would naturally lead to the history of each individual case, and from that information one would be able to make a better selection.

Mr. Wolfer: We have already done some of this work under the direction of the secretary of the National Prison Association for the Russell Sage Foundation. They gave a certain amount of money to the National Prison Association for the purpose of investigating this field, and the secretary wrote me, giving directions for the test work, and he informed me of six others in the United States who had expressed a willingness to make the test, and he offered to pay any necessary expense connected with it. We took that up and gave them a report which was very satisfactory to them. The result of these investigations in the various states will be a part of their report at the next National Prison Congress.

Dr. Rogers: It is becoming so well understood now by those who are giving any attention to the subject that criminality is not hereditary, but the result of environment and mental deficiency together. Therefore it was thought by the committee—and I think we were justified in this by

the information that comes to us from all sources—that mental deficiency was the first thing to look for. Dr. Healy's investigations led him to believe that the recidivists and so-called real criminals all get into criminal habits before they are eighteen years of age, so that we can't help but feel that we are working along the right lines now.

Dr. Tomlinson: To show some of the difficulties in the way of this work, I will spring a bomb now that I had expected to preserve for a while. I have been doing some work of this kind for about ten years in a general way, so far as I had the time, and I have been following the plan that we do in our research work, "carrying on control observations." While I have been tracing the histories of some of our patients, I have also taken normal individuals whose families I knew, and traced them. The three families that I have had an opportunity to get information with regard to have shown nearly as large a number of insane, feeble-minded and criminal among the normal persons whom I knew personally as there were among the insane people. In other words, in one family, the present representatives of which are above reproach physically, mentally and morally, there have been, within three generations, three insane persons, two criminals and two feeble-minded. In tracing back from these normal individuals, back three generations on each side, on the father's side and on the mother's side, within those three generations we found insanity, feeble-mindedness and criminality, in the direct lines. All the present generation are normal. It simply shows that the mistakes of Nature tend to rectify themselves.

Another interesting point in my investigations—which of course are not complete, I simply refer to them—has been the tendency on the part of the defective toward sterility, the disappearance within three generations. Last summer I had an opportunity to make some investigations in plants. I was led to it by conditions in our part of the country due to drouth, etc., and I found confirmation of my investigations in the very same conditions within two or three generations of the plant that I found with regard to human beings. Being interested in corn, I made it the subject of investigation because I had had an opportunity to study the conditions which tend toward the development of the defective plant and then the disappearance of the plant, and then, where the same seed had a better opportunity and was planted year after year, its gradual coming out again into a good grain. But there is this difficulty, if you select the class of people whose history ought to be investigated on account of their condition, the tendency is to find that same condition running through a number of generations. In other words, if you hunt a Jukes family, you will find a Jukes family.

Warden Wolfer: Isn't it the Jukes family that needs attention more than the other?

Dr. Tomlinson: Investigation is made for the purpose of determining the conditions out of which feeble-mindedness, criminality and insanity develop. It seems to me that if we don't carry on these control experiments alongside of them, we are likely to draw conclusions that are not warranted by a wider study of general conditions. So far as the work in our institutions is concerned, what would guide me, at least in my selection, would be to simply choose an individual whose family can be traced without re-

gard to his condition, because the important thing is to study his family. We know that he is insane, but to get the degree of his insanity is not so important as to get the history of the family. So far as the individual is concerned, what we want to know is what developed in him the conditions that made the stress effective. It is the condition we are after, not him.

Mr. Randall: At our institution we have not succeeded in getting the man whom we want. We are looking for a medical man who is a psychologist, who will make a specialty of our work and adhere to that line, and until such a man is obtained I do not believe it is advisable to take up the survey work at the reformatory, or to undertake the determination of the mental and physical condition of the men received. As soon as we get the right man, we shall start him in on that work. If help is needed at that time, we shall be very glad to report at the May meeting, and I think that by that time we shall be able to ask definitely that a certain amount of work be done at our institution to be paid for out of this fund. Until then I don't believe we should be warranted in starting any work based on this fund. We should like to have the work done, so far as we may, by one well qualified person until his examinations and researches have covered a sufficient number of cases, so that valuable deductions may be made from them. I am inclined to the opinion that the work at the prison and at the reformatory is likely to be about equal. At the present time we receive about two hundred men a year.

Warden Wolfer: Two hundred and fifty.

Mr. Randall: The numbers are so considerable that it seems to me that it would be a very difficult thing for one person to carry on the work of examination and survey, our files being very voluminous, and at the same time look after the medical department, and on the basis of believing that one man can't do all the work, I expect at the May meeting to ask that a certain portion of the appropriation be set aside for the work that I have indicated.

Dr. Rogers: Dr. Tomlinson raises one or two points that I want to say a word about. I think we are apt to draw wrong conclusions from such preliminary work as this. It is surprising that we find the very strongest people in our community belonging to the same families with the mentally deficient. That is just exactly what we would expect. We do want to find out where the real so-called degenerate veins or sources are. While I agree with the Doctor in a general way that Nature tends to rectify her mistakes, the feeble-minded are prolific. Those who approach the borderland, in whom the condition of defect is not recognized and who are allowed to marry and intermarry, are prolific breeders of defectives. If left to a different sort of civilization, where protection were not extended to them, whether Nature would correct herself by the survival of the fittest is a question. It is something that must be spoken of with explanations or with reserve when we say that Nature corrects herself so far as the feeble-minded are concerned.

If this work could be carried on more generally throughout the country we could trace out these markedly defective veins more rapidly. There has been a movement on foot in New York to bring about collaboration with foreign countries, though there has been nothing particular accomplished yet. Miss Devitt has found some cases where it would be very advanta-

geous if we could get some additional information from abroad. Of course, the records abroad are very complete, if we could only get at them. The difficulty in the Western states is the transient population; and it is much more difficult to work out these pedigrees here than in the Eastern states.

Dr. Tomlinson: If Dr. Rogers will take the trouble to look over the reporter's notes, he will find that I said that Nature tended to correct her mistakes, not that Nature did.

What I really wanted to call attention to was that it seems to me we must correlate all this work. When we come to do work in our hospitals, it will lead us into the work that has been done in Dr. Rogers' institution. It is this correlation that is going to do us the most good. In some cases feeble-mindedness is produced, in some criminality, in some insanity, without any evidence of criminality. Finding an explanation of these conditions is going to be the important result; not the mere fact that they exist, but why do they exist? If preventive measures are going to be taken and investigations become fruitful, there must be the determination not of mere facts, but of why they exist as they do. That is why I spoke of what seemed to me to be the importance of these control investigations. Naturally I am biased from the point of view of what I have been doing for many years—I see that side of it—but I have read with a great deal of interest reports of work of this kind that is being done abroad, the investigations that have been made, and its extension, and that when you get a large enough number together it works out very differently than when working from a small number. The difficulty with investigations has been that they have been based on a preconceived idea instead of leaving conclusions to follow the results of the investigation. Alongside of every feeble-minded child, every insane person, or every criminal, whom we investigate, we should take a family, or individuals in a single family who are apparently normal, and go back with their history so that we won't draw false deductions simply because we investigate one side only.

C. J. Swendsen, State Board of Control: The family to which you referred, Doctor, were all normal?

Dr. Tomlinson: The particular branch to which I referred is normal. In this generation, so far as I was able to find out, there are no abnormal representatives.

Mr. Swendsen: Is there any assurance that insanity, criminality and feeble-mindedness will not appear again?

Dr. Tomlinson: No.

Warden Wolfer: My idea is that, in order to get some sort of an idea as to the groups and classification, we shall have to select say one representative from each group and then conduct these examinations. Of course, the time is never coming, I imagine, when we are going to be able to trace every person. It would take an immense amount of money and probably as large a number of field workers as we have inmates in the institution—that statement may be a little exaggerated, however.

Miss Saidee Devitt, School for Feeble-Minded: I think it could be done with a few workers. Of course, in the East one can work a little more expeditiously than one can here in the West.

Warden Wolfer: Naturally every field worker will run into information that is needed by the others, and by exchanging sources of information that could be utilized to advantage. I have talked with our physician about it a great deal, and he is giving the matter very serious study now, and is getting ready to do some of this foundation work; that is, to make the preliminary examinations so that when the field worker is engaged we shall have material to commence on in whatever way seems to be advisable.

Miss Devitt: All the institutions should co-operate. When your field workers are in a certain section of the country they may be able to send us the data we need, and thus save us a trip to that territory. If there is complete co-operation, it saves a great deal of labor.

Dr. Rogers: I think that one of the most important things that has been suggested is to get all who are engaged in the work together—probably have our eugenics headquarters here in connection with the Board, where everything can be co-ordinated. Certain things could be kept here for general reference. All should meet occasionally, and each help the other by exchanging lists and all those things.

Warden Wolfer: I should think there might be some advantage in the operatives' meeting at the different institutions.

Miss Devitt: That is necessary. We did that in the East.

Dr. Rogers: But in the East they have no general board.

Miss Devitt: I came to Minnesota with a little trepidation, because I knew that the work here was so entirely new. I think Dr. Rogers was a pioneer in the movement. With us in the East the work has been carried on for several years, and we have gotten some remarkable results. I think perhaps New Jersey is in advance in the work. But when I met the people here I found that they met me in about the same way that the people did in the East. They receive me very pleasantly and oftentimes cordially. With one single exception, I have been received very well. The family who did not receive me very cordially was English, and they carried the idea that everything American was vulgar and curious. They were not rude to me in any way, but they perhaps thought I was trying to go into the matter too deeply. The woman thought we had no right to any family history. If there is any feeling about giving their history, I think it is best to drop it. With that single exception, the people have been very willing to co-operate, and I think we have gotten the foundation of some very interesting family histories when worked up more fully, and of course we hope to do this.

Mrs. Morse: I feel that delinquency offers fully as important a study as any of this work. In our school we have the most dangerous class, the borderland case. It is more necessary that the borderland case be recognized than the other.

The Chairman: The chair would suggest that you place yourself in communication with this committee, of which Mr. Wolfer is chairman, with a view to having the work taken up at your institution.

Mrs. Morse: I should like very much to have it.

Dr. Rogers: So far as the cases at Sauk Center and Red Wing are concerned, I think perhaps our psychologist might be of some assistance. The most hopeful field, so far as those who have broken the law are concerned, is that of the children, those who come before the juvenile courts, those

upon whom no judgment has been passed. It is the easiest at that time to get all the information desirable, and the hope of the future in modifying delinquency is with the children of the juvenile courts. To the same extent, but in a less degree, the Red Wing and the Sauk Center people are much easier to handle than those who have gone as far as the reformatory or the prison. When a person has reached the place where he feels that society is absolutely against him, he is very reluctant to give any information; he feels that the door is closed anyway. I think those of you who are engaged in that work of those institutions will bear me out in this. For that reason it is very difficult to get the facts. It would be very easy to get the facts from those markedly deficient under Mr. Randall's care, and possibly from those under Warden Wolfer's, because they are so mentally deficient that there is less tendency to evade. To get the best mental survey of a person, the person must be absolutely frank and open. When Dr. Kuhlmann went to St. Cloud a year ago he was afraid it would be very difficult to get very satisfactory results with the inmates of the Reformatory, but there was very little trouble in getting the mental age records of those first selected by Mr. Randall as evidently defective. The interesting thing there was that just as soon as one boy was tested, somehow or other the other boys who were sent up knew everything that was to be asked. They knew what they would say on the questions to be asked, and it destroyed the value of some of the records.

Warden Wolfer: It seems to me that the time to examine a person is when he comes to the institution.

Dr. Rogers: The best time would be when he was under the jurisdiction of the court. The next best, when first admitted to the institution. This is an important point.

MINUTES OF QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF BOARD OF CONTROL
AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF MINNESOTA STATE INSTI-
TUTIONS, OFFICE OF THE BOARD, ST. PAUL,
MINN, FEBRUARY 2, 1912.
FORENOON.

Present: Members of the Board—P. M. Ringdal, Chairman; C. E. Vasaly, C. J. Swendsen. Superintendents—Coleman, Yanz, Kilbourne, Tomlinson, Dow, Rogers, Merrill, Randall, Wolfer, Ohlinger, Morse.

Present by invitation: Col. C. E. Faulkner, Superintendent Washburn Home, Minneapolis; Rev. L. A. Crandall, Minneapolis; Miss Saidee Devitt, Field Worker School for Feeble-Minded; Mrs. Mary A. McKusick, State Agent Home for Girls.

The meeting opened with the appointment by the chair of Superintendents Rogers, Wolfer and Yanz a committee to draft a resolution extending to J. N. Tate, Superintendent of the School for the Deaf, the sympathy of the Conference because of the loss of his wife by death. The following resolution was adopted:

"RESOLVED, That the members of the state board of control and the superintendents and warden of the state institutions extend to superintendent J. N. Tate their sincere and heartfelt sympathy in this time of his great Bereavement through the loss of his beloved wife; that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a copy transmitted to Superintendent Tate and his bereaved family."

C. E. Faulkner, Superintendent of the Washburn Home, Minneapolis, read a paper entitled "Co-operation Between the Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum and the State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children."

Discussion followed, led by Galen A. Merrill, Superintendent of the Minnesota State Public School.

The Committee on Program was appointed a Committee on Invitation, also, such committee to invite persons in institutions throughout the state, and others interested, to attend the quarterly conferences of superintendents of state institutions.

A recess was taken until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON.

Conference reconvened at 2 p. m.

Present: Members of the Board—P. M. Ringdal, Chairman; C. E. Vasaly C. J. Swendsen. Superintendents—Coleman, Yanz, Kilbourne, Tomlinson, Dow, Rogers, Merrill, Randall, Wolfer, Ohlinger, Morse.

Present by invitation: Col. C. E. Faulkner and Miss Saidee Devitt.

The Committee on Rules, appointed at the November Conference, requested through its Chairman, Dr. A. C. Rogers, that further time be given it to complete its report; that the Board of Control furnish it with all the rules which have been promulgated from its office; and that the Board's accountant make a synopsis of the methods governing the financial affairs of the institutions. It was the will of the Conference that such requests be granted.

Then followed a "Report on the Beginning of Research Work," by Dr. A. C. Rogers, Superintendent Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics.

Discussion followed until hour of adjournment.