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MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The 37th Annual Session of the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded opened at the Michigan Home for the Feeble-Minded and Epileptic, Lapeer, June 9th, 1913. The meeting was called to order at 2:45 P. M. by the Secretary, Dr. A. C. Rogers. Dr. J. Murdoch was chosen temporary chairman, the Vice-President, Dr. J. K. Kutnewsky being absent.

The following names were presented and favorably acted upon for membership in the association, namely, for associate membership: Mr. Frank Blake, Clinton, N. Y.; Dr. B. Cogswell, Flint, Mich.; Dr. G. Kirby Collins, Sonyea, N. Y.; Miss Helen Hill, Darling, Pa.; Dr. Wm. J. Hixon, Vineland, N. J.;

Miss J. Hoffman, Rochester, N. Y.; Miss Mary E. Judson, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Dr. Henry W. Kennard, Owings Mills, Md.; Dr. John R. Haynes, Los Angeles, Calif.; Miss Louise Lombard, San Francisco, Calif.; Miss M. Elizabeth Maguire, Rochester, N. Y.; Miss Leila Martin, Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. Edna H. Potter, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Dr. Edw. J. Reed, Jr., Camden, N. J.; Dr. F. J. Severance, Mansville, N. Y.; Miss Florence Ward, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Miss Gladys VanDeusen, Grand Rapids, Mich.; for active membership: Dr. Frank Barrows, Buffalo, N. Y.; Dr. A. P. Bussey, Ridge, Colo.; Mrs. Cordelia Caswell, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Dr. Carl J. Hedin, West Pownall, Me.; Mr. Joseph Wood Wilbur, Kalamazoo, Mich.

On motion, the following committee was appointed by the chair to draft resolutions relating to the deaths of President Carroll and Dr. Geo. H. Knight, viz: Dr. Keating, Dr. Bliss and Prof. Johnstone.

The first paper on the program, "State Provision for the Feeble-Minded," was read by Dr. Murdoch. Discussion followed by Drs. Bernstein, Mogridge, Smith, Mr. Johnstone, Drs. Cobb, Little, Rogers and Wilmarth.

A paper was then read by Dr. George S. Bliss on "The Cottage Plan in the Care of the Feeble-Minded." This paper was discussed by Drs. Murdoch, Bernstein, Rogers, Mr. Johnstone, Drs. Wilmarth, Little and Bliss.

The evening session opened at 8 o'clock with the presentation of a paper by Dr. H. G. Hardt on "Infantile Cerebral Palsy in a Report of One Hundred and Eighteen Cases," illustrated by slides. The subject was discussed by Drs. Bliss, Bernstein, and Murdock.

There being no further papers for the evening, a brief, informal discussion of field work and eugenics followed.

Dr. H. H. Goddard, Vineland, N. J., showed some lantern slides of charts relating to the work in New Jersey, with the following explanations.

We began the work in Vineland by starting with the known cases in the institution, and working back as far as we could go with the idea that the results would be rather prophetic of what

we might expect in the future under the same conditions. As you may see from the charts, the process of reproduction of defectives will be stopped in the cases of patients in institutions, but the process is going on with the rest of the families. While we can not prevent what is going on outside, we can keep records that will provide some pretty accurate and valuable knowledge for the future. I think when we have followed out the histories of cases in the different state institutions, we will have touched a sufficiently large percentage of the cases in the state to warrant some generalizations. So far, we have looked up 325 cases, but some of them are related. We are surprised however to find how little we ran into the other institutions. There is a story current that some state has reported that they traced all of their troubles back to a hundred families or so. We did not find anything like that. We found only a few insane and a very few in hospitals for insane at the present time who are connected with our charts. We have not so far, from our end of it, gathered any information that shows that the families of our patients and the families of criminals in state prisons, run back to a few families. We have found very little connection between families where there is insanity and families where there is a great amount of feeble-mindedness. However, between insanity and epilepsy, one authority has found a closer correlation. We have had rather varying results in our work along this line. We found that the feeble-minded came from cruder, more simple stock; while insanity came from an over-developed stock; stock in which the nervous system is, as you might say, on a hair trigger basis.

Dr. J. M. Barrett, Supt. Psychopathic Hospital, Ann Arbor, Mich., said: I am interested in a survey of this state at the present time. The last Legislature set aside an appropriation of \$5,000 for Eugenic work in Michigan, and it is largely for the purpose of starting this commission that I am here. I am sure I shall be very glad to get some ideas to put into practice in this work which I hope will be rather thoroughly done in Michigan. It is hardly possible for us to make a complete survey at this time. We have four institutions, all of them working along

these lines; yet we have no way of correlating the work in the State as a whole. We have no accurate data to work from. It seems possible at this time when so much interest is shown in the subject of Eugenics, to do considerable along this line, yet I doubt if it will be possible to make a survey of the State to the extent you mean.

Dr. A. C. Rogers stated that over 200 families had been examined in Minnesota; that "Family," used in this sense, means all the persons, so far as they could be determined, who are related to the persons or "sibs" from which the study originated in the institution. That the average number of feeble-minded found in these families equals nearly four and one half to a family, or nearly three and one half times as many as represent the family in the institution. That the number of insane only equals about .75 to a family and that there is little correlation between mental defect and mental alienation. That there are many pauper families that have not heretofore been recognized in the community as feeble-minded and many families that have had to be helped by the community for several generations are typical examples of this, so that the relation between feeble-mindedness and pauperism is becoming increasingly evident. That in the matter of criminality, a close correlation between it and feeble-mindedness also exists; one family chart studied, showed nearly every member to be mentally deficient and nearly all were criminals.

In the matter of arousing public interest in mental deficiency and securing Legislative support, Prof. E. R. Johnstone said: "Our committee took, first of all, the people on the waiting lists of the various institutions, and then sent letters asking if admission was still desired. Where it was, they were directed to renew their petitions and send us names and addresses of business men in their locality. We wrote personal letters to the business men, suggesting that the reason these defectives were not cared for was because we failed to get appropriations. The final result was that just prior to the convening of the Legislature, every member was flooded with letters regarding patients on our waiting lists. We wanted every member of the incoming Legislature to know the condition of affairs. The Governor said he

could not control the situation, and that it was up to the Legislature. At that time, we had been twenty-two years trying to get an appropriation. That year we succeeded in getting three-fifths of what we asked for. I think about \$350,000 was appropriated anyhow. This year, we have appropriations for two additional buildings. We appeared before the Committee with charts and the charts talked. I believe that a thing of this kind would act in other states as it did in New Jersey. The point of the whole thing is that we must go to the people and tell them what to do instead of going to the state-house and lobbying.

Dr. George S. Bliss related the story of a Massachusetts senator who was importuned by the father of a boy near the bottom of the waiting list at Waverly until the Senator said "Call off your man, Fernald, call him off. I will vote for anything you want, but call your man off."

Dr. H. H. Goddard suggested that the best effect would be realized in each state from data gathered in that state rather than by importing facts from other states. "You must trace up the families in Michigan if you want to have the legislature in Michigan believe the reports."

Dr. E. J. Emerick, Columbus, Ohio, thought it was easier to get an appropriation where there was a Central Board of Control. Ohio now has a Central Board very much interested in the segregation of defectives. The Board has planned a sort of clearing house for observing all children who are to be sent to institutions. The Legislature did not however appropriate the money asked for this year for this feature. In Ohio, it is claimed that about 50 per cent. of the children sent to the Reform School are feeble-minded. By this clearing house, it is proposed to take care of the readjustment. The plan is to have all doubtful cases taken to this special institution, where they are to be studied and the question decided as to what institution they are to go to. We have an appropriation, I think, of about \$210,000 for new buildings, and hope to be able to put up one building we can use temporarily for an observation cottage, until the next Legislature appropriates funds for a permanent building for this purpose.

Dr. Murdock: My understanding is that all children who go before the Juvenile Court are to be sent to the new institution, which will serve as a clearing house for Juvenile Courts all over the State. Is this correct?

Dr. Emerick: The children are to be given a thorough examination mentally and physically, and put in the best shape possible. If adenoids or other physical conditions require attention and an operation is necessary, it will be performed before they leave. They will be kept there for observation as long as the workers wish them. The field worker goes to the family and finds out all she can there regarding the child. If the child has committed some minor offense it will be sent indefinitely to this institution and kept there as long as considered necessary to study his case. Our Board was given the power to examine and transfer cases.

Dr. Wm. Healy, Chicago, Ills.: The possibilities under the State Laws vary tremendously. The right to have an operation performed without the consent of the parents is not general. Trouble would be made in many places, should it be done. I believe they are having some trouble in regard to this in Minneapolis now. Undoubtedly the ideal thing to do before relegating any individual to an institution is to give him a thorough examination. Col. Adams of Illinois has been trying to get this done for a long time. One great difficulty is in getting a place large enough to receive them all. In Illinois, a judge can not sentence children to institutions for feeble-minded, without the consent of the parents, but he can send them to prison. A boy of seven years came up for trial repeatedly for stealing. Being obviously defective, he received but a short sentence only to be returned almost directly after his release for the same offense. He should of course, be permanently segregated in an institution for the feeble-minded.

Thursday, June 10th.

During the forenoon, the delegates and visitors visited the schools.

At 11:15 A. M. the Association came to order in the Assembly Hall.