

reception unit and the heavy admission rate. When improvement is sufficient, the patient is released upon the signing of an agreement by relatives promising to look after the patient and return him if his return becomes necessary. He may be kept indefinitely on parole. Discharges of improved patients are made by the State Board of Control upon recommendation of the superintendent. Recovered cases are discharged by the superintendent.

All patients go from probate courts to the state hospitals. They may be transferred from the hospitals to the asylums upon authorization by the State Board of Control. The asylums are for those requiring less nursing and medical attention.

A patient may be released from a state hospital following the hearing of a writ of habeas corpus. I have only once known the issuance of such a writ in the case of a patient in a state hospital. At the Asylum for the Dangerous Insane, located at St. Peter State Hospital, it is another story; but that we shall consider later.

Dangerous Defectives. If at the time of the examination in probate court the defective is found to be dangerous to the public, he is committed to the Asylum for the Dangerous Insane, and can only be released upon examination by a new Board of Examiners, and only if they find that such person if at liberty would no longer be dangerous to the public. This re-examination is held in the county from where the original commitment was issued. (Chapter 136, Laws 1927).

From the Courts. There is established at St. Peter State Hospital the State Asylum for the Dangerous Insane for the purpose of holding in custody and caring for such insane persons, idiots, imbeciles and epileptics as may be committed thereto by courts of criminal jurisdiction or otherwise, or transferred thereto by the Board of Control, and for such persons as may be declared insane while confined in any penal institution, or who may be found mentally infirm and dangerous.

Whenever any person under indictment or information and before trial or during trial shall be found to be insane, an idiot or an imbecile, and to have homicidal tendencies, the court commits him to the Asylum for the Dangerous Insane, to be returned to the committing court on recovery and dealt with according to law. If not homicidal, he is committed to a state hospital and not to the Asylum for the Dangerous Insane.

Whenever a person on trial is found not guilty by reason of insanity, he is committed to the state hospital unless the court or the jury is of the opinion he had homicidal tendencies, in which case he is sent to the Asylum for the Dangerous Insane. When he recovers the superintendent so certifies, also stating that no one would be endangered by his release, and thereupon the court may order his release.

It is at the Asylum for the Dangerous Insane that an occasional writ of habeas corpus is answered. The superintendent must convince the court that the patient is properly detained, else his release would be ordered.

From Penal Institutions. The officer in charge notifies the State Board of Control whenever an inmate is alleged insane, and it authorizes an examination of the inmate by a probate court after first obtaining the

opinion of a psychiatrist. In case insane, the inmate is transferred to the state hospital or Asylum for the Dangerous Insane. When recovered, the inmate is returned to the penal institution upon order of the State Board of Control. While in the hospital or asylum his sentence goes on and may expire, in which case he is dealt with as are other insane.

From Other Institutions. Inmates alleged insane are examined by probate court and committed as are those from the community. The Board may authorize a state hospital to care for feeble-minded or epileptic who are not insane. This occasionally happens in the case of the feeble-minded, usually as only a temporary measure.

The Non-resident. In case the insane person is not a legal resident of the state, the State Board of Control authorizes the commitment, and as soon as the legal residence is determined the patient is deported.

Mrs. La Du: We have, among our state wards, another group of the mentally handicapped, the feeble-minded, and I now introduce Dr. J. M. Murdoch, superintendent of the State School for Feeble-Minded. He will tell you by what paths individuals enter and by what paths they leave the State School for Feeble-Minded.

J. M. Murdoch, M. D., Superintendent, School for Feeble-Minded: The path to the institution for the feeble-minded too frequently comes down through generations preceding the birth of the individual. For some it begins through accident preceding or at the time of birth. For others, in accidental causes in childhood or early childhood diseases. For all intellectual growth is arrested in early years.

Frequently the condition is aggravated by lack of understanding of the limitations of the child by those who care for or come in contact with it, and often the condition is not recognized until the child has entered school or has been brought to the attention of the child welfare board on account of delinquency or dependency. However, it is not the intention at this time to go into the question of the causes of feeble-mindedness or the care, training and treatment of the feeble-minded, but rather to consider the procedure to be taken when a child is found who, on account of mental defect, is thought to be in need of institutionalization or supervision by the state.

The state of Minnesota, always in the vanguard in social legislation, has given special consideration to the feeble-minded, and has wisely dealt with this problem, and in the time available we can best come to an understanding of the procedure necessary to obtain entrance to and exit from the institution by reviewing the law governing admission, parole and discharge.

Under Chapter 344, Laws of 1917, as amended by Chapter 77, Laws of 1919, persons who are adjudged to be feeble-minded are committed to the care and custody of the Board of Control.

To have a person so committed—quoting the law.

"When any person residing in this state shall be supposed to be feeble-minded any relative, guardian or reputable citizen of the county in which such supposed defective person resides or is found, may file a verified petition in the probate court of the county, setting forth the name and residence of the supposed feeble-minded person and the facts necessary to bring such person within the perview of

the act. Whereupon the probate judge shall after investigation, if the petition be sufficient, direct that the alleged defective person be brought before him, and when necessary the court may issue a warrant directed to the sheriff or any constable of the county, or to any person named therein, requiring him to bring such defective person before the court for examination.

"§957 County Attorney to Appear—Whenever a judge of probate orders an examination he shall notify the county attorney of the time and place of said examination, who shall appear on behalf of the person to be examined and take such action as may be necessary to protect his rights. The court may and on request of the county attorney shall issue subpoenas for witnesses.

"§958 Board of Examiners—How Appointed—When such person is produced in court the probate judge shall designate two licensed physicians resident in the state who with the probate judge shall constitute a board to examine such person and determine as to his defectiveness. Where the proceeding is for the adjudication of feeble-mindedness, the probate judge shall notify the State Board of Control of the filing of the petition and that a hearing will be had thereon not less than ten days thereafter, whereupon the Board may at its discretion designate some person skilled in mental diagnosis to attend the hearing, examine the alleged defective and advise the board of examiners. Provided that if the alleged defective person is obviously feeble-minded or an inebriate the probate judge may dispense with the appointment of any board of examiners, with the consent of the county attorney, and may himself hear and determine the matter.

§959. (As amended by Chapter 136, Laws 1927.) Examination and Report—The board of examiners shall hear all proper testimony offered by any persons interested and the court may cause witnesses to be subpoenaed. When the examination is completed, the board shall determine whether or not the person examined is a feeble-minded person, an inebriate or an insane person and shall file in the court a report of their proceedings, including the findings, upon such forms as the State Board of Control may authorize and adopt.

"§960. (As amended by Chapter 231, Laws 1927.) Commitment of Feeble-Minded Person—If the person examined is found to be feeble-minded, the court shall order him committed to the care and custody of the State Board of Control, as guardian of his person. Thereafter the Board shall have power whenever advisable to place him in an appropriate institution, or in a home established or approved by the Board of Control for the purpose of giving care and supervision to a group of such feeble-minded wards engaged in gainful occupation, or to exercise general supervision over him anywhere in this state outside any institution through any child welfare board or other appropriate agency thereto authorized by said Board of Control."

As a basis for intelligent action the board of examiners and court must have complete and accurate information as to the person's history and condition. This includes the following:

Family History, with as complete information as possible, especially concerning defectiveness in relatives.

Home Conditions, including economic conditions; character of dwelling; number of persons in the home including lodgers; reputation in the community; attitude of family as to school attendance of children; and especially attitude of the family toward the child under consideration.

Chronological age and mental age as determined by a competent mental examiner or psychometrist.

School Record;
Medical Record;
Word Record;
Record of Delinquency.

A form for tabulating this information may be obtained from the office of the judge of probate, and this form should be filled out as completely as possible and filed with the court.

A child obviously feeble-minded should be sent to the institutional school when six or seven years of age unless the home conditions are especially good, the mental level is such that he or she can receive suitable training in a special class, and such a class is available. If entrance is delayed it is far more difficult to train the child for adjustment in the community. At present far too many feeble-minded, particularly girls, are sent to the institutional school when quite grown up and then only after they have gotten into serious difficulties. With these the chance of successful adjustment outside of the institution is materially lessened.

Criteria for selection for **outside supervision** of children committed to the guardianship of the State Board of Control as feeble-minded are:

Non-aggressiveness in boys;
Eligibility for work;
Facility for special class placement;
Reliability of home available;
Understanding by the family of the child's limitations.

Criteria for selection for **institutional care** of children committed to the guardianship of the State Board of Control as feeble-minded are:—

Complaint in boys of menace to others;
Complaint in girls of sex indulgence;
Aggressive personal reactions;
Broken disorganized home;
Unreliability of home;
Lack of understanding by family of the child's limitations.

So much for the paths into the institutional school for the feeble-minded. And now as to the paths out.

Owing to the large number of the feeble-minded and the fact that only a small proportion can be cared for in the institutional school, it is extremely desirable that, after special training and sterilization, as many as possible be returned to community life. This is the policy of the Board of Control.

Homes or clubs have been established or approved by the Board of Control for the purpose of giving care and supervision to groups of girls paroled from the institutional school. These girls are engaged in gainful occupations. They are no longer a burden on the taxpayer and are economically independent.

Girls are paroled and placed in selected private homes where they aid in the housework, have suitable social contacts and careful supervision. Boys who are suitably trained and industrious are placed on farms.

The criteria for **outside supervision** after training in the institutional school are:—

Industriousness;
Limitation of social contacts;
Reliability of the home;
Understanding of limitations by those with whom the person is to be placed.

Frequently a feeble-minded child who comes to the institutional school from a poor environment will in a few months of special care, with proper food and regular hours for sleep, attention to bathing and exercise, and through simple hygienic measures, so improve in appearance that family and friends can not see the necessity of his remaining longer in the school, but if returned to the old environment too soon all progress made will be lost.

The Board of Control and the institutional school officials are always most eager to arrange for the parole of all persons suitable for outside supervision when an appropriate environment is available. Application for parole should be made to the Board of Control, who will advise with the institutional officials as to the suitability of the child for parole and with the county child welfare board as to the suitability of the home.

The club houses conducted by the Board of Control and other agencies are admirable stepping stones in the development of the individual for life in the community.

Where a parent, guardian, relative or friend of a person committed to the care and custody of the State Board of Control is unwilling to abide by the ruling of the Board as to the necessity for further care and custody, they have recourse to the court. However, such action is inadvisable and is seldom taken as the Board of Control is only too willing to be relieved of guardianship when in their judgment further care and custody is not required for the welfare of the individual or the protection of the public.

Mrs. La Du: We have another group of the mentally handicapped who are cared for in the Colony for Epileptics, at Cambridge. Doctor McBroom, superintendent of that institution, will tell you about the paths of the wards of the state who are admitted to that institution. Doctor McBroom.

D. E. McBroom, M. D., Superintendent, Colony for Epileptics: Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very glad that I am to speak to you near the close of this symposium as it will enable me to cut my remarks to a minimum, as the field has been well covered.

The path of the epileptic is a very turbulent one and has many ramifications. In fact, the different types of patients we encounter in this work might fit into any of the classifications that you have heard about this morning. As we all know, epilepsy is a progressive, degenerative process, so that the majority of these patients sooner or later degenerate sufficiently to become feeble-minded, a description of which you just had given you by Dr. Murdoch, of the School for Feeble-Minded. It is also true that a very large percentage of these people are afflicted with psychoses of some kind, which means they follow the path of the insane; and owing to an inferiority complex, which is nearly always present, many of them become delinquents; and, due to their instability, practically all are dependents; so that I think the field of epilepsy touches more or less every specialty as represented here today.

The state of Minnesota has for many, many years taken care of the epileptic patient in the School for Feeble-Minded at Faribault. Owing to the crowded conditions there, and realizing that the high-grade epileptic and the feeble-minded patients were more or less incompatible, the Board

of Control saw fit to establish a separate Colony for Epileptics in 1925. This was located at Cambridge. Up to the present time we have three new, spacious buildings which are now filled to capacity, and contracts have just been awarded for the erection of two additional buildings.

Minnesota has no special law governing the commitment of epileptics to the State Board of Control. At the present time we have two separate and distinct procedures which are followed in this state. The first and most efficient, and the one which covers the vast majority of cases, is that of committing these patients to the custody of the State Board of Control as feeble-minded. This method has just been explained to you by Doctor Murdoch, wherein the family, relatives or anyone who is a resident of the state may file the complaint and it becomes the duty of the judge of probate court to set a time for the hearing of the case. At this hearing the county attorney represents the patient and it is his duty to see that the patient gets a fair trial or hearing. Two regularly licensed physicians are called who serve as examiners and assist the judge in making his decision.

If the patient is found to be feeble-minded to the extent of having an I. Q. below 70, he is then committed by the probate judge to the custody of the State Board of Control. The State Board of Control then assigns the patient to any of the institutions under their jurisdiction that they may see fit, and the patient's name is placed upon the waiting list and is usually called for in the regular order of commitment, although there may be times when the Board may, at its discretion, advance a case a little ahead of its turn; but this rule is only applied in cases of very extenuating circumstances.

The other method of admission to the Colony is that of the voluntary patient. In these cases we insist that the I. Q. be 70 or above, with a clean-cut diagnosis of epilepsy. Under these conditions an epileptic patient may place an application for voluntary admission, signing a blank to abide by all the rules, laws, and regulations of the State Board of Control and the institution and the name is placed upon the waiting list to be called whenever a vacancy exists. The State Board of Control, through the Children's Bureau and Miss Thomson, who has charge of the department for feeble-minded, handle the waiting list and take care of these patients as rapidly as possible, but no preference is given them over these committed by court.

The cases which have been committed to the guardianship of the State Board of Control by the probate court are held until discharged or paroled by the Board of Control. There is no sentence given, nor is a patient discharged by reaching any certain age limit; and of course discharges because of a cure are practically nil, so that most epileptics are assigned to the Colony for the rest of their lives, unless they have a cessation of spasms covering a number of years and with a minimum amount of degeneration having taken place, when they may be released by order of the Board of Control.

In the case of the voluntary patient, the release is an entirely different procedure, and I do not believe a very satisfactory one. The voluntary patient has only to make a written request for his release, and