

*Work 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 chances 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 turn 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 cannot see the necessity of his remaining longer in the school; but if returned to the old environment too soon all progress made will soon 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 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.

THE EPILEPTIC

D. E. McBroom, M. D., Superintendent,
Colony for Epileptics, Cambridge

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 the 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 of 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 the Feeble-Minded at Faribault. Owing to the crowded conditions there, and realizing that the high grade epileptics 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. At 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 as feeble-minded to the custody of the State Board of Control. This method has just been explained to you by Dr. 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 having a cessation of spasms covering a number of years and with a minimum amount of degeneration having taken place, 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 only has to make a written request for his release and we have no way whereby we can hold them. However, I am trying to establish a procedure whereby they must give us three day's notice in writing before the day of dismissal. This will prevent their walking out of the institution at times when they are momentarily upset because of a recent spasm or some other irritating circumstance.

To summarize: I will say that the matter of all admissions and the dismissal of all probated cases, lies entirely with the Board of Control, and the question of discharge of voluntary patients is left to the judgment of the Superintendent. Upon admission to the institution all patients are treated alike, regardless of the method of commitment. No special favors are granted to the voluntary admissions, although many of them arrive with this idea in their minds.

THE DELINQUENT WOMAN

Miss Florence Monahan, Superintendent,
Reformatory for Women, Shakopee

It was in the minds of the members of the program committee for this meeting to point out the legal steps necessary to commitment to the various state institutions. I am sure it is not necessary to remind you that the path of the delinquent woman is the well known primrose path, or the "Great White Way". This pathway is marked by bad home conditions, bad companions, both leading to bad habits, poor standards, and lack of self control. Many are low grade mentally, borderline insane; some are lazy and shiftless. Their attitude toward work is like that of the character in Kate Douglas Wiggin's *Rose o' the River*,—"I've tried all kinds of labor. Some of 'em don't suit my liver, some disagrees with my stomach; and the rest of 'em has vibrations."

All women committed to the State Reformatory for Women must be over eighteen years of age, must be guilty of a gross misdemeanor or felony, and must be sentenced for at least one year. Either before or after arrest the evidence of commission of a felony by the woman in question is brought before the Grand Jury, and if that body thinks it of sufficient weight to indicate probability of guilt an indictment may be returned. A preliminary hearing is held in the Municipal or