

of pure pyramidal type. The closeness of the internal capsule to the basal ganglia would account for this.

All persons in this condition do not belong in an institution of this type, only about sixty-three percent, possibly. There is a young man out in a western state who is in this condition and who is working for his Ph. D. He is physically helpless. So you see it depends on where the region affected is and where the disturbance first started. If it did not start in the cerebral cortex, the chances are very good that there will be no particular mental deterioration as a result of the disease.

I think I have kept you long enough.

Mr. Foley: Thank you, Doctor Wylie. That was a fine talk. It was very interesting, and I am sure we all appreciated it.

The next number on our program is to be a talk by Miss Thomson, who worries a great deal about this class of people who are on the outside. I should like to have Miss Thomson tell us what some of her greatest worries are.

THE FEEBLEMINDED OUTSIDE OF THE INSTITUTION

Mildred Thomson

Supervisor of the Feeble-minded, State Board of Control

"The feeble-minded outside of the institution" may, of course, be quite inclusive and take in all of those who might be considered feeble-minded whether actually known to the state or under guardianship. If we agree, as do many authorities, that at least two per cent of the population can be considered definitely feeble-minded, there are approximately 60,000 in this group, but if there are five per cent of sufficiently low mentality not to be expected to adjust without assistance in an environment which is not simple we would have 150,000. Either figure is sufficiently large to be startling. Of this large number, however, approximately 3,100 are in Faribault and Cambridge, and less than 3,000 others are under guardianship. More than 200 of these are held in other state institutions (I believe every superintendent here has one or more such inmates, or has had until recently), and every superintendent without doubt has others who are really feeble-minded but not under state guardianship. This group, especially those in an institution because of delinquency, forms an exceedingly serious problem since ordinarily there is a very limited period of supervision for them after leaving the institution, and no control over marriage and the establishment of a family. Another 1,100 of those committed to state guardianship should be in some institution if there were space, while the group which is most interesting and the one to which this subject can and should be limited is composed of between 900 and 1,000 morons, mostly adult, who to a large extent have spent some time in an institution. Again I can say that many in this group are known to some superintendent besides Doctor Murdoch and Doctor McBroom, as some have been in several institutions in the course of their careers.

Most of the institutions have persons on parole under some definite plan of supervision, but for all except the feeble-minded there is a more-or-less definite period after which there is discharge and the supervision is ended. The feeble-minded (and now the epileptic) are, however, committed to the guardianship of the Board of Control, and discharge is only possible by return to the court with proof that the patient is not feeble-minded, except that a ward or the family of a ward may file for discharge of guardianship and the Board of Control fail to present a case in opposition. Discharge may then be granted by the court, the case going by default, I presume we might say. This policy has been followed where it seemed marriage might contribute to the adjustment of a feeble-minded ward who is also sterile. However, some of us who have the problem of making personal adjustments feel the law might well be amended so that the Board of Control could give permission for the marriage of a feeble-minded ward if sterile. As it is, I believe we are evading the word though not the spirit of our marriage law.

The supervision of feeble-minded wards is done by our local child welfare boards, the only direct supervision by the state being of a group living in Hennepin and Ramsey counties but having settlement elsewhere. There are comparatively few men and boys under supervision, the group supervised from the state office being divided between boys and girls in the proportion of about six to ninety.

In St. Paul we have a center, Lynnhurst Girls Club, which serves as a permanent home for some, as a step in outside parole for others, and as a center of recreation and place for convalescence in case of illness for the whole group. When started in 1927 it was felt this would be largely self-supporting, as it was expected

to serve as a more-or-less permanent home for a group of about twenty girls who would work in laundries, or other commercial places of routine employment, and thus pay adequate board. However, there is almost no employment of that type available today, and not even the amount of cleaning by-the-day in private homes that there was previously. Thus the club is being largely supported by the School for the Feeble-Minded and is more definitely a training and recreation center, making it possible to relieve tension at the institution by giving a trial to difficult problems for whom other plans would be impossible. Some of the girls adjust well under supervision and others are continuously rebellious of attempted interference with a life of low moral standards. The social worker is the tangible evidence of lack of "freedom"—and "freedom" means perfect happiness! Thus there are runaways from time to time, often with disastrous personal results rather than the looked-for happiness.

The boys have not had the same opportunity as the girls, as domestic work with wages, varying according to the ability of the girl, can be found for many of the girls. Unless a boy has a home to which he may return, work except on a farm is almost impossible to find, and even in that we have had little success, possibly because we do not know so well how to look for it. There are some occupations in the city possible for them, but living arrangements are more difficult to make.

Supervision in both amount and quality varies greatly in different counties, some child welfare board members giving routine reports, and these at infrequent intervals, while others spend much time in really helping the wards meet and solve their various problems. The need of supervision for an unlimited length of time for the feeble-minded is, I believe, ordinarily necessary and advisable and our law makes possible a well organized plan for such supervision. In most cases it is an asset both from the standpoint of the ward and the community. The higher-grade wards inclined to be delinquent do, of course, occasionally assert they "have served" their "time" and should be "free," but as a whole it seems to me, as well as to social workers I have talked with who supervise the feebleminded in eastern states, that Minnesota's laws offer the basis of a good program. It may be there should be discharge of some as the number under supervision may otherwise increase to an impossible extent. There has been much discussion as to what should be the conditions for such discharge if a change in law were proposed, but as yet no suggestions have seemed feasible, and it appears better to have the large case load rather than to adopt a policy of discharge which would be found to be a mistake. Perhaps some of you may have suggestions which would help.

Mr. Foley: Thank you, Miss Thomson. I know you are delighted to have had the opportunity to bring your troubles to the attention of the rest of us.

Doctor Murdoch tells me that luncheon is ready to be served, so we will stand adjourned.

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