Public Provision for the Feeble-Minded
(a Symposium)

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Adequate Provision for the Feeble-Minded

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INTRODUCTION

This Bulletin contains the views of those best qualified to express them in relation to the proper care of the feeble-minded. The almost universal opinion herein expressed shows the necessity for segregation and institutional care and places the obligation upon the State.

An appropriation for the erection of an institution for the feeble-minded in Philadelphia is now before the Legislature in which the Commonwealth is asked to give only an amount equal to that to be given by the City.

This campaign to procure proper buildings in Philadelphia is not a movement against appropriations to private hospitals, but aims to impress the importance of the State's performance of its full obligations to its own dependents before taking up the subject of other appropriations.

An Act "to prevent the procreation of idiots, imbeciles, and feeble-minded persons by the process of sterilization under certain circumstances, and prescribing the conditions under which it may be performed" has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

The rights of the individual have been well guarded in this Act, which should have the hearty support of all those interested in the betterment of present conditions.
Public Provision for the Feeble-Minded  
(a Symposium)

Walter S. Cornell, M.D., Neurologist to the Division of School Inspection, Bureau of Health, Philadelphia.

As the examiner of children in the Philadelphia public schools suspected of feeble-mindedness, with a similar function for some of the large charity organizations and the House of Detention, it is my experience to see about two hundred children every year who are surely subjects for permanent custodial care. About five or six hundred others are seen whose mentality is doubtful, and who might well be placed under careful observation and under special class teaching.

At the present time much of the usefulness of my official position is destroyed, because we (meaning the educational committee of which I am the medical member) know of no place to send feeble-minded girls. Elwyn is full. The girl, Irene C----, about the worst case described in the second bulletin of this series, was refused there last week, doubtless for this reason. As for the boys, the Spring City institution has co-operated to its best ability, but aside from the fact that it is about full now, Spring City is so far away from Philadelphia that we cannot induce parents of high-grade feeble-minded children to send them there. The result is that the paupers and the children of low grade and repulsive appearance are the only ones handled easily at the start.

We need laws which recognize feeble-mindedness and distinguish the condition from that of insanity. We need not only a legal definition of feeble-mindedness, but definite terms for the three principal grades of feeble-mindedness as described by Barr, with recognized terms for each. At the present time such ignorance exists on the part of lawyers and even physicians that the "expert testimony" given in lawsuits involving the subject is usually absurd. The lack of standard definitions adopted by the medical profession and the State adds to the chaos by making our judges not only medically ignorant, but helpless.
We need more and better teaching on the subject of feeble-mindedness in our medical schools.

We need institutions for the feeble-minded in different parts of the State. Each should accommodate from six hundred to a thousand people. The large cottage plan, which is healthful, least expensive, and most conducive to the happiness of the children who comprise most of the inmates, should be followed. By having the institutions close to the centers of population, parents can be induced to place their children in them.

We need three types of institution: that for the high-grade cases, that for the low-grade cases and that for feeble-minded epileptics. The latter two will fill up automatically. The preservation of the community from the strains of degeneracy, however, lies in making the institutions for high-grade cases so clean and decent and lacking in repulsive features that parents can be induced to send their children there.

Francis X. Dercum, M.D., Professor Nervous Diseases, Jefferson Medical College.

The feeble-minded of the State require special provision separate from that given to the insane or to epileptics. This I regard as essential.

The demand upon the State can best be met by institutions which give the opportunity both for mental and physical training and for general care. In practice it is found that the degree of practical education and training possible in individual cases varies very greatly. For high-grade imbeciles, institutional care should consist, first, of a certain amount of elementary education, school or kindergarten training, together with physical occupation—if possible, outdoor occupation. Manual training, work in the shops, farm work, gardening, are the things which naturally suggest themselves in this connection. In a degree such patients can be made to be contributory to their own maintenance. In a large number, such as the middle-grade imbeciles, however, a very limited amount of mechanical training or simple out-of-door occupation is all that is possible; for the still lower grade of imbeciles, no provision can be made other than that of general hygienic care.
W. W. Hawke, Superintendent, State Hospital for the Insane, Warren, Pennsylvania.

The professional and lay mind recognize in the feeble-minded a limited amount of mental power below the normal, usually showing a lack of proper judgment in the ordinary affairs of life and conduct; with this idea, the senile that becomes forgetful, requiring more or less personal attention and help from his normal associates, will not be considered in this article. We will, however, confine ourselves entirely to the man or woman that is recognized as being feeble-minded from birth or early infancy.

The intelligent layman will recognize this type of individual almost as readily as will the physician, and if several types of feeble-minded are brought together, the difference in the intelligence of the individual, ranging from the very low idiotic grade to the type of constitutional inferiority, can usually be readily detected. In the latter case, however, which is a condition above that of the usual imbecile, but below the normal, the environment, family history, and the entire personal history of the individual must be considered before an opinion can be formed.

There is a story that Michael Angelo, the great sculptor, was one time walking up the mountain side, along a narrow path, with a party of gentlemen, when a huge boulder, nothing more than a rough rock, impeded their progress. Michael Angelo stopped and gazed at this rough rock, his companions wondering at the long delay. Finally he said, "Gentlemen, there is an angel in that marble." However critically ill a patient may be, there is always some good tissue in the patient upon which the physician depends to assist and support the body while an endeavor is made to restore the diseased part. There is some good in everything, and however bad a person's mind may be, or how limited his mental capacity, as long as the body lives there is hope of building upon the good tissue and developing what is best in the individual, and it is our duty to the community as citizens to do this. When a person's limb is amputated as the result of accident or disease, there is no hope of ever restoring that limb. The physician, however, provides a crutch in order that the individual may go through life with the best possible comfort. Just so with the feeble-minded. Although the mental power in the feeble-minded can never be expected to become normal, mental crutches can be provided so as to make that individual of as much use to the community, to his friends, and himself, as is possible.

The chief mistake in educating or endeavoring to assist the feeble-minded is in overeducation or education along the wrong lines. As the mental power of the feeble-minded will always be
limited, it is not right that their education should be along liter­ary lines, but more of an industrial nature, the statistics through­out the world showing that a large percentage of the feeble­minded educated to read and write develop immoral tendencies, many of them becoming out-and-out criminals. Those educated largely upon industrial lines, such as farming, wood carving, carp­entry, housework, and work where manual labor is required, become quite adept and of considerable use in their environment. It may seem hard to a parent to part with a child suffering thus, but it is the duty of the parent and also the State to see that the feeble-minded be confined in institutions for this particular type of individual, and so confined during the natural life of the indi­vidual, as the average physician and layman are not capable of treating or properly caring for this type of individual in the com­munity at large. A large percentage of this class is admitted to the several insane asylums throughout the State, both public and private, and the individual derives but little or no benefit from such treatment, as the insane asylums are equipped solely for the care of the insane, and the contact of the insane and the feeble-minded is always a detriment to both types of patient. As the State of Pennsylvania has not provided adequate care for the feeble-minded, however, the only alternative for the more vicious and dangerous type of this class is confinement in the several insane asylums throughout the State, their life under these conditions usually being that of custodial care, with little or no recreation or employment other than light manual labor, in but few instances systematically performed and supervised.

Asexualization (an operation to prevent propagation) has been advocated for a number of years, and adequate laws should be enacted to allow this procedure. This should not be done, however, entirely with the idea to allow the patient freedom out of an institution, believing the community is protected as long as they cannot propagate. If this were done and the individual allowed to be freed from an institution, the female patient would be in great demand by the white slave coterie, and the patient would be detrimental in all respects excepting the power to propagate.

The feeble-minded are content with but little pleasure, showing very little of the finer sensibilities or poetic sense to appreciate changes of surroundings, travel, or the finer qualities of the mind appealing to the normal individual; usually lacking initiative, following a mode of life due more to instinct than to education, and not grasping the finer qualities of observation. All the feeble-minded should be under a guardian, and all in­herited money left in trust.

**Conclusions.**—First: All feeble-minded (referring to those mentally deficient from birth or early infancy) should be placed
in an institution for life. The State should provide separate institutions for this particular type of individual, and in no instance should they be confined in the several insane asylums or almshouses for the care of the dependent. Second: The individual should be educated on industrial and household lines alone, and not upon educational lines. Third: Asexualization is advisable under proper regulations.

Edward R. Johnstone, Superintendent, New Jersey Training School for the Feeble-minded, Vineland, N. J.

The feeble-minded of Pennsylvania are an expense to the taxpayer whether in proper institutions or at large. This expense is found:

First, In damage done: policing, court trials, and temporary detention for punishment for those who are too weak to resist temptation. These are released after their terms of imprisonment, only to go through the same course again.

Second, In the housing of such cases: in hospitals for the insane, almshouses, children's homes, etc., where they are cared for, but not taught to contribute anything toward their own support.

Third, In the fact that many of the females become the irresponsible mothers of illegitimate children who must, in time, be cared for. (The English commission, which has just finished a five years' investigation there, finds that the progeny of feeble-minded mothers is nearly double that of normal women.)

Fourth, In the homes, because, for all excepting the highest grades, practically the entire time of one member of the family is required to care for the defective member, while in the institution there is only required an average of one employé for five cases, thus releasing four normal persons for the duties of citizenship.

Fifth, The moral expense is shown by the evil effects of these irresponsibles in every community, for nearly every day the newspapers chronicle crimes committed by this class with a sentence, stating that —— has always been considered "not quite right."

Sixth, As these middle- and high-grade cases grow up in the homes, they are a constant source of irritation. They teach the younger children bad habits and annoy the older ones by
insisting on being present whenever visitors call, and embarrass­
ing both visitor and caller by their foolish remarks and actions.

The first step in their detention and care should be the estab­
lishment in the various public-school systems of special classes
in which the middle grades (imbeciles) and the highest grades
(morons) should be received and retained as long as it is safe
to have them in their homes. This will relieve the State and the
community of the expense of their maintenance. These classes
will also be the clearing houses in which the merely backward
may be separated from the actually defective. Here they should
have industrial and manual training such as will be useful as
they grow up. This is the practice now in several large cities.

The State institutions will take the lower grades and the
higher grades who are dangerous (sexually or otherwise), and
here, too, they must be trained to usefulness. In the present
institutions they learn to make clothing, shoes, mats, mattresses,
etc. They do painting, carpentering, mason’s work and plumb­
ing quite well under direction, and in poultry and stock raising,
dairying and general farming, they actually do a great deal
toward self-support.

A proper bill should at once be passed providing for the
unsexing of this class. Other bulletins of this series show con­
clusively the danger of leaving these people with the powers of
procreation, and there is a small number (large enough, how­
ever, to be worthy of note) who, if unsexed, might well be
returned to their homes, where, under reasonable care, they
might earn enough to keep themselves.

I would offer a word of warning against putting too many
in one institution. Most of our institutions find their names in
the newspapers only when some unfortunate disturbance occurs
or is said to occur. The larger the institution, the more likely
this is to happen, and while the man who grows up with an
institution may administer it successfully with twelve to eighteen
hundred inmates, the problem becomes a very serious one
when, because of death or removal, a new man must take up the
reins. The superintendent of any large institution will tell us
that more than one thousand is too many to turn over to his
successor.

Porter R. Lee, Secretary, Society for Organizing Charity,
Philadelphia.

The care of the feeble-minded is not one of those social prob­
lems whose solution is difficult. As in the case of tuberculosis,
we know with practical certainty what social policy would elimi­
nate feeble-mindedness. It is all the more deplorable, therefore, that we have not taken the steps to control this evil which science and experience have indicated to be necessary. There are too many causes of poverty, crime and disease which neither our experience nor our knowledge is adequate to remove to justify our delay longer in controlling so obvious a cause as feeble-mindedness.

Kindness to the feeble-minded themselves demands that they should be cared for together where they can be useful to themselves and saved from the moral degradation which attends them as free agents in a community. Justice to society, as a whole, demands that they be segregated where there is no possibility of their propagating feeble-minded offspring, and where they have no opportunity to spread disease and to slip easily into crime and dependence.

Adequate care in institutions for all the feeble-minded of the State would mean an enormous saving in dollars and cents to private charitable institutions and public hospitals, reform schools and prisons, which are now bearing the brunt of the State's indifference to the feeble-minded problem. Equally important is the menace to the moral tone of every community in the State involved in the laissez faire policy now pursued.

Charles K. Mills, M.D., Professor Nervous Diseases, University of Pennsylvania.

During the long period of my professional life, in which I have been especially interested in the study, care and treatment of those suffering from nervous and mental disorders, I have been continuously confronted by the inadequacy of the provision for their feeble-minded and defective classes made by the great city of Philadelphia and the State of which it is the chief municipality. I have elsewhere discussed the problems of the care of the insane, the epileptic and the inebriate. Notwithstanding the partial provision made through the institutions at Polk and Spring City, the State has done comparatively little for its feeble-minded and epileptics; it has not kept step in this respect with the march of other great commonwealths like Massachusetts, New York and Ohio.

In the Philadelphia General Hospital we are daily confronted with the question of the proper disposal of idiotic and feeble-
minded children. In the nervous wards of this hospital we are compelled at times to place these defectives with adults suffering from the most serious and, to others as well as to themselves, demoralizing diseases.

In hospitals like that of the University of Pennsylvania we are also not infrequently confronted with the impossibility of dealing properly with the feeble-minded. Children and youths are brought to the outdoor service and are sometimes admitted to the wards for study and treatment, with the almost invariable result of leaving the staff of the institution, as well as the family of the patient, dissatisfied and despondent, because of the inability to do what could be done in such cases if the proper means were at the disposal of the physicians.

In private practice I have repeatedly seen a mother or other member of the family injured in health through efforts, often made in vain, to care for defective children, and again and again I have had knowledge of a family kept in financial distress because of its inability, without great sacrifice, to care for such unfortunates.

In every community is to be found a large class of backward or feeble-minded who are not usually regarded as such. Too defective to carry on the struggle of life advantageously with the means at their disposal, and yet presenting a development above that of the class usually considered as requiring institutional care, these borderland cases require some special provision on the part of the State. In properly organized institutions wards or pavilions might be erected, and particular forms of training and treatment adopted for them.

It is manifestly the duty of the State to provide as generously as possible for these dependent and defective classes methods of care and treatment more effective than can be had at their homes.


"Detect early; Protect always" is the keynote in regard to provision for the feeble-minded.

The expense of proper provision for all the feeble-minded would be far less than the expense the feeble-minded now entail
in our courts, jails, penitentiaries, maternity hospitals, foundling asylums and almshouses.

We should safeguard the community against the irresponsible acts of the feeble-minded. We should safeguard the feeble-minded against the temptations they have constantly around them in the community, and which they have not the strength to withstand. We should insure them kindly treatment and at the same time develop and utilize their working capacity both for their own good, and that the cost of maintenance may fall as lightly as possible upon the taxpayer.

For all the feeble-minded who cannot be trained or properly safeguarded in their homes, the State should provide care, training and employment, so that the young may be trained and the adults may find a congenial home where these childlike men and women may lead contented lives, working and playing, happy, harmless children to the end.

J. Prentice Murphy, Secretary, Children's Bureau, Philadelphia.

As a social worker with special interests in children's welfare work, I should like to voice the concern often expressed over the failure of Pennsylvania to provide more adequately for its feeble-minded children. One of the results has been to nullify the plans put forth by public and private charities in various parts of the State involving reasonably complete provisions for the defective, dependent and delinquent children which each community is called upon to shelter. As these terms have definite meanings in law, it is not necessary to elucidate them further, other than to say that the defective class includes the feeble-minded. Ample high-grade care should be offered to each, for lack of proper care in one class affects the other two, and this is just what is happening in our State.

In certain centers, such as Philadelphia, many feeble-minded children, including a number of improbables, are, by reason of the shocking conditions in their homes and the absence of proper institutions, being forced into the care of organizations designed primarily to receive normal children. Such a process is disastrous, and involves a most unwise expenditure of funds. A children's society or institution may mix dependents with certain
classes of mild delinquents without suffering much or any impairment in its efficiency, but this is rarely possible with defectives either way. Few agencies for normal children are equipped for the training of feeble-minded children, and all three groups suffer more or less—usually more—from the mixture. This covers the standard of child-saving work in Pennsylvania. A number of excellent dependent children's institutions in and around Philadelphia at this time are stocked with many subnormals, and are rendered largely unable to help those classes of children for which they were planned and which they should care for as part of a well-developed system.

Failure to act promptly in a matter of child dependency often means a more severe social disease at a later time, for neglected dependent children soon graduate into delinquency and then must be provided for by the community at a very much greater cost than would be the case if they came up as dependents. Some of the operations of this vicious circle can easily be checked if the State makes possible more care for the feeble-minded. Private charity bears a very heavy burden in Pennsylvania, far more so than in many other States, for upon it rests the final load and responsibility for most of the care given dependent children and a fair share of that given delinquent children, and this in spite of State subsidies.

The Children's Bureau can speak authoritatively only for Philadelphia, which it knows well. Many difficult child problems come to it, but none more hopeless of solving nor more disturbing in their influence than those which concern the feeble-minded children. Under these circumstances more adequate provision for this class is imperative.

Charles S. Potts, M.D., Professor of Nervous Diseases, Medico-Chirurgical College, Philadelphia.

That there should be an institution supported by the State in which the feeble-minded can be properly cared for and, when possible, be made to a certain extent self-supporting by proper methods of education, is of the utmost importance. During my service in the detention wards and those for nervous diseases in the Philadelphia Hospital, I am continually coming in contact with such cases for whom the only provision that can be made
is either the hospital for the insane or the wards for nervous diseases. In neither of these places is it possible to teach them anything that is for their betterment. On the other hand they are thrown into contact with adult patients who teach them just what they should not know and this class only too readily learns. In dispensary work also cases are frequently seen for whom much might be done if there was a proper place to send them, but, their parents being too poor to pay, they are deprived of an opportunity to, in a degree, become self-supporting, and ultimately become charges on the State in either the almshouse or penitentiary. A number of such cases are seen in the dispensary for nervous diseases of the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital every year. I am acquainted with an imbecile girl of about 25 years of age who was taken from a home when 18 years old, has since worked in a boarding-house, receiving no pay for her services, and during this time has given birth to several children, none of whom, fortunately, have lived.

Wm. W. Richardson, M.D., Chief Physician, Department for Men, State Hospital for the Insane, Norristown.

There is no class of dependents so poorly provided for by the State of Pennsylvania as the feeble-minded. By feeble-minded I mean the imbeciles and idiots as distinct from the insane proper. I know from personal observation that this is particularly true in the eastern part of the State, in the neighborhood of and including Philadelphia. This hospital in particular is frequently asked to take imbecile children simply because there is no place else for them to go, although it is recognized that an insane asylum is an entirely unsuitable place for their care and detention.

The new institution for feeble-minded and epileptics at Spring City will partly take care of this need when it is completed, and the State should certainly see to it that money be provided in generous amounts, so that this institution can be completed and thus do its share in caring for the feeble-minded and epileptics of the eastern part of the State.

There is, however, a large class of adult feeble-minded persons that should be segregated in a colony or institution of a different character. The chief aim in segregating this class is to prevent them from reproducing the species and thus constantly
increasing the number of defectives of a similar character. By placing these patients in a farm colony or some such institution, they can be made nearly self-supporting, and at the same time be protected from moral and physical degeneration to the detriment of the race.

Demands of this nature should certainly outweigh the requests of private hospitals that care simply for the general sick. There are plenty of private and local sources from which hospitals of this character can and should properly derive their incomes, but it is emphatically the duty of the State to care for the defective and dependent classes, and the State has already recognized this demand by establishing certain institutions for their care. More such institutions are urgently needed at this time.

Henry Sykes, M.D., Chief Resident Physician, Philadelphia General Hospital.

I was much gratified to receive information that the Department of Health and Charities purposes calling the attention of the members of the next Legislature to the inadequate provisions made by the State of Pennsylvania for the care of its feebleminded and imbeciles. Personally, I feel this plea to the Legislature for the speedy enactment of urgent and long-needed legislation in behalf of these unfortunates cannot be made too strongly, and, officially, I feel that failure to do so comes very close to criminal neglect.

At the present time there are in the wards of the Philadelphia General Hospital seventy-six of this class of patients. Of these five are in the observation wards where we hold doubtful insane cases. The remainder (a number of them being cases which have been returned from Elwyn) are held in the Nervous Wards because the city has no place to send them. They are held here because they are unable to care for themselves and to prevent, if possible, the propagation of the species.

Every week I am compelled to refuse admission to several of this class of cases. When asked where they can be admitted I am compelled to state that the city or State has not provided a place for them. When Spring City, the State institution opened, we expected great relief from that source, but only male
cases are received there at present, and these must be very select
high-grade imbeciles on the same order as those admitted to
Elwyn.

There certainly should be some place for low-grade im­
beciles and idiots, as these cases are more objectionable in the
children's and insane wards of a hospital than are the high­
grade cases. In my opinion some provision could be made for
this class of cases at Spring City by the construction of two
buildings, one for males and the other for females.

In emphasizing the importance of preventing the propaga­
tion of the species the attention of the Legislature should be
called to the great increase in the number of feeble-minded cases.
Legislation should be enacted to halt this increase. The mem­
bers of the Legislature should consider the advisability of pass­
ing obligatory laws for the castration of the male and ovariec­
tomy in the female.

As these poor unfortunates do not appeal to private charities
and consequently their entire care devolves upon the community,
the State of Pennsylvania should be ahead of our sister States
in the performance of this duty. Unfortunately, we are far
behind. Massachusetts, New York and Illinois are examples of
those commonwealths which have taken steps far in advance of
our own Commonwealth in caring for the feeble-minded. Mind­
ful and zealous as Pennsylvania has been in the performance of
her civic duties to the sick, the poor and unfortunates generally,
in this one respect she has long been dormant. Pennsylvania
can and should take the lead, and, by instituting advanced and
scientific treatment for this class of degenerates, present an
example to her sister States and the world at large.

Frank Woodbury, Secretary to the State Committee on
Lunacy, State of Pennsylvania.

The laws of Pennsylvania recognize three distinct classes of
persons suffering with mental abnormality as proper subjects
for legislation affecting their personal liberty and the control of
their property or estate: (1) The habitual drunkard and victim
of drug addiction; (2) the lunatic (including idiots), and (3)
the feeble-minded. With the last-named class is also grouped
the epileptic. Acts have been passed at various times author­
izing the legal commitment and forcible detention of the insane
within special hospitals, when the form of the mental disorder from which they are suffering is of a kind to make such restraint necessary, and when the detention is for their benefit. Other institutions have been established and supported by the State, especially for the reception and legal detention of the group of **feeble-minded**. In one of these, **epileptics** may also be received, but in none of this class of institutions may the insane be received for treatment. In case any of the feeble-minded patients shall be found to present or to develop decided symptoms of insanity, they are removed from these institutions by the authorities to hospitals for the insane.

In answer to the question, What is the State of Pennsylvania doing for the feeble-minded? I would say that training schools are provided, where weak-minded children are educated to the limits of their capacity for receiving knowledge. At Elwyn, a private institution in Delaware County, the State maintains 750 pupils. At Polk, in Venango County, is located the Western State Institution for the Feeble-minded, which has 1400 patients. At Spring City, near Phoenixville, there is the Eastern State Institution for Feeble-minded and Epileptics, with 350 pupils, which, however, is only about half finished. In all these institutions the inmates receive excellent custodial care and enjoy infinitely better treatment, as the rule, than they could receive at their homes, and they are given all the education that they can receive.

As far as the State has gone, it has built well. The institutions have large farms and gardens, in which the inmates find healthful occupation, and it need scarcely be said that the hygienic and domestic conditions are of a character best calculated to promote the health of those who are so fortunate as to be admitted.

What remains to be done? In the first place the provision is good as far as it goes, but there is needed greatly increased accommodation; there should be at least twice as many training schools as exist at present, as there are hundreds of imbecile children not provided for. It is to be kept in mind that imbecile children grow up to be imbecile adults, and these institutions, designed principally for the training and care of imbecile children, in the course of time will be filled with imbecile adults, and there will be no room in them for any more children. The remedy for this condition, which is now felt to be an incubus on these training schools, is for the State to establish at as early a period as possible a large institution or hospital for the reception of the adult imbeciles who cannot be discharged, because if allowed to go at large they would constitute an intolerable burden and menace to the community. This proposed institution might also receive and care for the harmless insane, espe-
cially the senile dements. It should have 2000 or 2500 beds. The Committee on Lunacy and the Board of Public Charities have, in their annual reports to the Legislature, repeatedly called attention to the pressing need for this new State institution, and have suggested that it might be located in the southwestern part of the State. It should be constructed upon a more moderate plan than the other existing State hospitals, and would require less expensive administrative arrangements. With a good farm and dairy attached to it, it might be made self-supporting or nearly so under good management. It is anticipated that at the present meeting of the Assembly a bill may be approved which will appoint a commission to build this much-needed State Hospital for the Chronic Insane and Feeble-minded.

Since feebleness of will and other evidence of weakness of mind are present in the habitual drunkard and drug habitué, this group might also be considered when discussing the feeble-minded. These drug victims are manifestly out of place in the hospitals for the insane, and should be treated in special hospitals, as they often require special medical care. I am glad to say that the State Medical Society has prepared a bill which will be submitted at the coming session of the Legislature, to establish a State institution for the care of inebriates in Pennsylvania. This project has been approved by the Board of Public Charities, and it is to be hoped that it will be successfully carried through by the Assembly and approved by the Governor in the near future.
WHAT IS NEEDED

SEGREGATION OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED SO THAT DEGENERATE STOCK CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED, AND THE FEEBLE-MINDED WILL BE SAVED FROM RUIN.

PROPER INSTITUTIONS FOR THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED. RELIEVE OUR JAILS, ALMSHOUSES AND INSANE ASYLUMS OF MISFIT CASES. DELIVER THE FEEBLE-MINDED FROM THE JAILS, ALMSHOUSES AND INSANE ASYLUMS.

SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE HIGH-GRADE AND LOW-GRADE CASES. THIS IS THE PRESENT URGENT NEED. THE HIGH-GRADE CASES IN AN INSTITUTION UNDER WISE MANAGEMENT ARE PRACTICALLY SELF-SUPPORTING—ARE ABLE TO DO FARM WORK AND SHOP WORK. IT IS CRUELTY TO SUCH PEOPLE TO PUT THEM IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HELPLESS LOW-GRADE IMBECILES AND IDIOTS. IN THE CASE OF CHILDREN, IN THE PAST, SUCH A POLICY HAS DETERRED PARENTS FROM PLACING THEIR CHILDREN IN OUR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

BETTER LAWS GOVERNING THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED. IN MANY STATES THERE IS NO DISTINCTION MADE BETWEEN THE INSANE AND FEEBLE-MINDED.