

work, and are capable of being employed in many simple routine occupations, but they require more or less supervision in their work, and many of them are so irresponsible, wayward, and undependable that employers find them almost more trouble than they are worth. Their chief defect, however, is one of wisdom. Although they may earn money, they are quite incapable of laying it out so as to provide for their wants. They can rarely learn from their mistakes or profit by their experience. Many of them are gentle, confiding, simple creatures, who will fall in with any suggestion made to them, whether for good or for evil, and are thus quite at the mercy of their environment. If this is good they will lead placid, harmless, contented lives; if it is bad they will just as readily lead a life of immorality or crime."

The writer has a great deal more to say about the fourth and most dangerous class—the *moral imbeciles*. Dangerous because they, and the other class of feeble-minded and morally defective persons, possess certain defects and tendencies "which will result in their readily contracting and spreading venereal disease."

"The moral imbeciles," he writes, "differ from the feeble-minded in two important respects. First, intellectual defect is much less obvious. . . . They are imaginative, cunning . . . many of them of quite attractive appearance. . . . They have no moral sense; they are fundamentally incapable of appreciating the difference between right and wrong. . . . They will lie, thief, injure and destroy without the slightest compunction or shame. . . . They are inherently incapable of conforming to the legal and moral codes of society." Lastly, the author brings the category of offences to a conclusion by stating that a considerable number of moral imbeciles have erotic tendencies which impel them to go out of their way to seek sexual intercourse. In the expert opinion of the writer, it is mainly through the moral imbecile that venereal disease is contracted and spread. The latter part of this interesting pamphlet contains a summary of the main provisions of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, in so far as they affect mental defectives suffering from venereal disease

B. K.

### PRINCESS MARY AND PRACTICAL NURSING.

Princess Mary now attends at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, on two mornings a week for a course of instruction in practical nursing, and shares in the work of the probationers under the direction of the Matron and Sisters.

## THE IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

### A PRESERVE FOR V.A.D.'S.

The following Instruction, just issued by the War Office, giving preference to V.A.D. Nursing Members and Special Military Probationers, will have far-reaching results in relation to freedom of contract between trained (civil) nurses and the Army Nursing Service. It will presumably, for many years to come, close Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service to open competition in the nursing world, and reserve it entirely for the employment and remuneration of V.A.D. Nursing Members and Special Military Probationers:—

#### ARMY COUNCIL INSTRUCTION,

No. 678 of 1918.

WAR OFFICE, 15th June, 1918.

#### 678. Conditions under which V.A.D. Nursing Members and Special Military Probationers may be admitted to Q.A.I.M.N.S.

The following regulations have been approved for V.A.D. nursing members and special military probationers who desire to become trained nurses with a view to entering Q.A.I.M.N.S.:—

1. Candidates must have served in approved military hospitals for at least two years and have earned the scarlet efficiency stripe.
2. Applications must bear the approval of the Matron and C.O. of the hospital before they are transmitted to the War Office.
3. If approved by the War Office, candidates will, from the date of approval, be styled "Probationers for Q.A.I.M.N.S." and will be allowed to proceed at once for training in a civil hospital for a period of not less than three years.
4. When fully trained and certificated, a Q.A.I.M.N.S. probationer will, if approved by the War Office, be admitted to Q.A.I.M.N.S., if a vacancy exists at the time. If no vacancy exists at the time, she will be admitted in a future vacancy when the candidates senior to her on the list have been absorbed.
5. If appointed to Q.A.I.M.N.S., seniority will count from the date of acceptance as a probationer for Q.A.I.M.N.S., and all service for which pay from army funds has been drawn as a V.A.D. or special military probationer, will count towards pension.

6. No pay from army funds will be issued when a probationer is undergoing civil training, and the time so spent will not count towards pension.—*2/Gen. No. 683 (A.M.D. 4).*

By Command of the Army Council.

R. H. BRADE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)