

The Committee consider that provision must be made for:

(1) The education and training of mental defectives to the full extent of such powers as they possess.

(2) The provision of an environment outside the general community—preferably in a large colony—for such mental defectives as need it.

(3) The careful selection of environment within the general community for such mental defectives as need not be excluded from it.

(4) The adequate supervision and help of those mental defectives who are living within the general community.

(5) The appointment of suitable officers (preferably medical psychologists) for the purpose of determining whether individuals guilty of undesirable conduct (or anti-social offences) are, in fact, mentally defective, and facilities for dealing with those who are so found by placing them, or replacing them, in colonies.

"It has been frequently stated," the report adds, "and is commonly assumed, that the 'feeble-minded' are extremely prolific, and that their stock increases at a rate so far in excess of the normal stock as to be alarming. It has never been quite clear what are the reliable data on which such belief has been founded, and recent critical examination of such data as are available does not support it."

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSE METHODS AND EQUIPMENT.

The British Science Guild has appointed a committee of technical experts on slaughterhouse methods and equipment. The chairman is Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arnold Wilson, who was chairman of the Industrial Health Research Board in 1920.

The terms of reference of the committee are as follows:—"To verify and tabulate information relating to methods of, and equipment for, the slaughtering of animals for food, with especial reference to sanitary, diabetic, and humane requirements; to investigate new methods and equipment; to convey information on the subject to local authorities and other bodies and persons."

#### BACTERIOLOGY IN THE ARMY.

A new bacteriological laboratory for the Aldershot Command has been opened in the grounds of the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, by Lady Leishman, widow of General Sir William Leishman, who died in 1926 while holding the appointment of Director-General, Army Medical Services. The building is to be known as the Leishman Laboratory to perpetuate the memory of an officer whose bacteriological studies were destined to have a tremendous influence on the health of the British soldier, particularly in regard to anti-typhoid inoculation.

#### NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

Writing in *The Times*, Dr. R. D. Gillespie and Dr. Doris M. Odum, of the National Council of Mental Hygiene state:—

The modern point of view is not so much that the punishment shall fit the crime as that it shall fit the criminal, and fit him to take his place again as a self-respecting and public-minded citizen. The work of the new committee appointed by the Magistrates' Association to inquire into the care of mental and nervous delinquents will, we hope, lead not only to the extension of facilities for investigation and treatment of the mentally or emotionally unstable offender, but also to the better use of the facilities which already exist. There are to-day in London and in a number of provincial towns special clinics which are at the disposal of magistrates, of police surgeons, of probation officers, and of all social workers, and at a negligible cost. In most provincial centres it is quite exceptional for an offender to be referred to such a clinic, and even in London the possibilities are still largely neglected.

#### NIGHTINGALEIANA

SCUTARI AND ITS HOSPITALS—Page 25  
By the Hon. and Rev. Sydney Godolphin Osborne.

Had Miss Nightingale and her staff taken up their post in the best regulated hospital conceivable, with 4,000 patients, their task would have taxed to the utmost their every energy. Here was an utter want of all regulation, it was a mere unseemly scramble; the Staff was altogether deficient in strength; the commissariat and purveying department, as weak in power as in capacity, there was no real Head, and there existed on all sides a state of feeling which was inclined to resent all non-military interference; whilst at the same time it was shamefully obvious that there was no one feature of military work. Jealous of each other, jealous of every one else, with some few bright exceptions, there was little encouragement from any of the officials, for anyone out of mere benevolence to lend any aid. The fact is, the stout denial of the shameful condition of the Hospitals, made to the authorities at home, and could not be made on the spot; the officials therefore walked about self-convicted. As a warm friend of the Government, sent out under the direct sanction of the War Office, I am satisfied it was the wish of Miss Nightingale to make the best of everything. She at once found the real truth, and cheerfully and gratefully availed herself of that help from irregular sources which at this moment has been her chief support.

My readers will very naturally expect that I should give them some particulars regarding this lady. I can only give the result of my own observation and experience; for on such a matter, I should be sorry to draw for my information from other sources. Miss Nightingale, in appearance, is just what you would expect in any other well-bred woman, who may have seen, perhaps, rather more than 30 years of life; her manner and countenance are prepossessing and this without the possession of positive beauty; it is a face not easily forgotten, pleasing in its smile, with an eye betokening great self-possession, and giving when she wishes a quiet look of firm determination to every feature. Her general demeanour is quiet and rather reserved; still I am much mistaken if she is not gifted with a very lively sense of the ridiculous. In conversation, she speaks on matters of business with a grave earnestness, one would not expect from her appearance. She has evidently a mind disciplined to restrain under the principles of the action of the moment, every feeling which would interfere with it. She has trained herself to command and learned the value of conciliation towards others and constraint over herself. I can conceive her to be a strict disciplinarian; she throws herself into a work—as its head—as such she knows well how much success must depend upon liberal obedience to her every order. She seems to understand business thoroughly, though to me she had the failure common to many "Heads," a too great love of management in the small details which had better perhaps have been left to others. Her nerve is wonderful; I have been with her at very severe operations; she was more than equal to her trial. She has an utter disregard of contagion; I have known her spend hours over men dying of cholera or fever. The more awful to every sense any particular case; especially if it was that of a dying man, her slight form would be seen bending over him, administering to his ease in every way in her power, and seldom quitting his side till death released him.

I have heard and read with indignation the remarks hazarded upon her religious character. I found her myself to be in her every word and action a Christian; I thought this quite enough. It would have been, in my opinion, the most cruel impertinence to scrutinise her words and acts to discover to which of the many bodies of true Christians she belonged.

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