

Provincial Training School, Red Deer, Alberta

(D. L. McCULLOUGH, B.A. (Sen. Mod.), M.B., D.P.H., D.P.M.,
Medical Superintendent)

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION

On January 1st, 1938, there were 215 patients (112 male, 103 female) in residence, and 214 (111 male, 103 female) on December 31st, 1938.

During the course of the year there were 14 additions—9 first admissions (7 male, 2 female) and 5 transfers from Ponoka and Oliver (2 male, 3 female).

There were no re-admissions, but one patient had previously been in Ponoka (1935) for five months as an epileptic.

Separations totalled 15; 5 patients discharged on parole (1 male, 4 female), 5 males transferred to Oliver or Ponoka, and 5 deaths (4 male, 1 female).

The admissions were all, without exception, of the voluntary type. Their ages ranged from 5 to 25 years, with an average of 13 years and 2 months.

The ages of the 5 patients discharged on parole averaged 22 years and 1 month; of the 5 patients transferred to Oliver or Ponoka, 25 years and 9 months; and of the 5 who died, 27 years and 7 months.

The net result has been a decided reduction in the age incidence of those in residence, quite contrary to the usual trend.

One of the patients transferred had been here for over 13 years and two over 15 years. Of the 5 who died, 1 had been in residence in the Training School for about 13 years, 1 almost 15 years, and 1 for 3 months short of 20 years.

There was only 1 elopement, that of a girl just admitted from Ponoka following her sterilization. She was returned later.

In addition to the 5 paroles, 3 boys were tried on farms in the Fall. Two were returned, and 1 is still on trial.

These and other interesting facts are set out clearly in the appended Tables. Table 10 shows the deaths covered such diverse conditions as Status Epilepticus, Diabetic Coma, Broncho-Pneumonia, Pernicious Anaemia and Cerebral Compression due to spontaneous subdural haemorrhage.

Table 11 shows 41% of our population to be of the totally helpless type from either physical or mental causes; 19.6% are epileptic.

NUMBERS OF DEFECTIVES

Thirty-six applications for admission were added to the waiting list (23 male, 14 female), bringing the total at the end of the year

to 179. These are all active cases, many of them of a pitiable or tragic nature. This total comprises:

	Male	Female	Total
Infirmary (physically helpless) (sex ignored)			43
Low Grade (mentally helpless)	34	21	55
School Children (under 16)	13	20	33
Adult Group (over 16)	30	18	48
			179

Forty-one suspect forms were received (24 male, 17 female), bringing the number of defectives known to us but not definitely seeking admission to the Training School to 539.

Table 14, summarizing these figures, shows 214 patients (111 male, 103 female) in residence at Red Deer; 179 (101 male, 78 female) seeking admission to Red Deer; 188 (130 male, 58 female) mental defectives "not insane" in Ponoka, Oliver and Claresholm, and 539 cases reported, bringing the total of known and ascertained mental defectives for the Province of Alberta to 1,120.

DEFECTIVES EUGENICALLY STERILIZED

No new cases were presented to the Eugénics Board during the year, as all possible cases had already been presented and the new admissions old enough for sterilization had already been operated on at Ponoka before being transferred here. Four cases approved of by the Board late in 1937, but held back owing to mumps, were operated on. Table 15 gives the status praesens.

Of the 117 patients who have been through the Training School and have been sterilized:

- 46 are still in residence (21.5% of the population at the end of the year);
- 22 are in other mental institutions;
- 4 are deceased;
- 42 are out, adjusting well or reasonably well, and are definitely not sexually delinquent; five of these were married before sterilization and ten have married since;
- 3 are out and have returned to previously well established habits of sex delinquency.

This is not a large enough group to permit of definite conclusions, but as far as it goes it does dispose of the argument that sterilization will favour promiscuity and sex delinquency.

HEALTH OF PATIENTS AND STAFF

Although there were many individual cases of illness and many minor accidents and injuries, the health of both patients and staff, as a whole, was satisfactory, and we were spared the recurrent waves of widespread epidemics of the previous year, disrupting routine and dislocating various activities.

In January spontaneous fracture of the thigh occurred in a debilitated, bed-ridden cripple. Healing occurred in reasonable time.

In February and March "colds" and "sore throats" gave rise to an unusual amount of acute otitis media. For several weeks lancing of ear drums was an almost daily occurrence, sometimes two and three in a day. Four of the staff were affected. Later acute laryngitis and sinusitis were not uncommon.