

## Provincial Training School, Red Deer, Alberta

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### CHANGES IN POPULATION

On January 1st, 1941, there were in residence 216 patients (113 male, 103 female), and on December 31st, 1941, 251 patients (129 male, 122 female), an actual increase of only 36 patients, although there were 62 admissions.

Table 10, attached to this report, shows that of the 252 in residence, 101 (40%) were totally helpless either physically or mentally, or both, 37 (14.7%) were epileptic, 20 (7.9%) were Mongols, and 4 (1.6%) were psychotic (insane) as well as being mentally defective.

#### *Additions.*

During the year, 62 patients (34 male, 28 female) were admitted. All were voluntary. Fifty-eight were first admissions—one, a female idiot of 17, had been on the waiting list for fifteen years. Only four were re-admissions.

Of the 58 first admissions, 8 came from Ponoka and 1 from Oliver. Seven of the 8 cases received from Ponoka were girls following eugenic sterilization, the other was a boy of only twelve for whom there had previously been no room at the Training School. The patient from Oliver was a child of eight.

The ages of the newcomers ranged from 3 years to 29 years, the average for the whole group being 12 years and 1 month.

Twenty (34.5%) of the first admissions were idiots, 21 (36.2%) were imbeciles, and 17 (29.3%) were morons. Or, taking the classification used at the Training School—29 (50%) were of the bedridden, infirm type; only 2 (3.4%) were of the mentally helpless "low grade" type, the type now forming by far the largest part of the 243 names on the waiting list; 16 (27.7%) were capable of attending either the sense training or grade school class, and 14 (2.4%) were "full-time workers," or so-called "helpers," mostly the latter. It is interesting to note also that 10% of these first admissions were epileptic, 12% were Mongols, and 19% were definitely delinquent.

Of the 4 re-admissions (all girls), 1, aged, 23, was returned for nocturnal enuresis, 2 as generally unsatisfactory (conduct and temperament rather than lack of ability), and 1 because her employers were moving to the Coast. Two had been paroled in 1940 and 2 in 1941.

#### *Separations.*

The outgoing patients totalled 27 (18 male, 9 female), and consisted of 11 discharges (7 male, 4 female), 2 (1 male, 1 female) transfers to other Provincial institutions, and 14 (10 male, 4 female) deaths.

Of the 11 patients discharged, 5 boys and 3 girls went out to work. All were morons and "full-time workers." One had been in residence over 12 years, one almost 7 years, and 2 others over 5 years. As indicated above, 2 of the girls were returned later in the year. Three others went home—one, an infirmary case, was taken home three days after admission by her lonesome mother; another infirmary case went home for Christmas, developed pneumonia and died; the third was a child who went home epileptic, psychotic and unimproved.

Of the 2 patients transferred, 1 went to Ponoka, actively psychotic, the other to Oliver following strangulation of a fellow patient.

The 14 deaths included 1 from accidental drowning, 1 from strangulation, 1 from mesenteric thrombosis, and 1 from tumour of the brain. Other causes are given in Table 9c. Of the 14 deaths, 12 (9 male, 3 female) were idiots. One of the female idiots had been in the Training School almost fifteen years; and of the males, 1 had been here over 22 years, another 20 years, and a third almost 17 years.

#### *Applications for Admission, etc.*

During the year, 67 applications for admission (38 male, 29 female) were received. Only 34 of these (18 male, 16 female) were filed, leaving the total of those on the waiting list (Table 11) at 243 (127 male, 116 female), despite the 58 first admissions made during the year, admissions to the Mental Hospitals, and names removed owing to death, etc.

Twenty-seven suspects (14 male, 13 female) were also reported during the year (Table 12), bringing the number of known defectives still at large, but not on the waiting list, to 352 (189 male, 154 female).

These are about the average yearly figures for applications for admission and for suspects.

#### EUGENIC ACTIVITIES

During the year, 7 patients (5 male, 2 female) were sterilized. Since the Sexual Sterilization Act came into force 12 years ago, 147 Training School patients (omitting 2 out-patients) have been eugenically sterilized (47 males and 100 females). Forty-three of these had been sterilized before admission to the Training School. Ninety-one of the 147 have been discharged. The other 58 still in residence form 23% of our total population.

Of the 91 patients discharged (33 male, 58 female), 14, all girls, are known to be married, whilst only 2, both of whom had been flagrantly promiscuous before admission to the Training School are known to be immoral, 1 of them married.

#### STAFF CHANGES AND ACTIVITIES

During the year the staff increased from 55 to 81. This was mainly due to the opening of the farm dormitory and the new building and partly to the introduction of a 9-hour day for nurses and attendants, instead of the previous 9½-hour day. The increase consisted of 15 student nurses (12 for the new buildings and 3 for the 9-hour day); 2 attendants (1 for the farm dormitory and 1 for the 9-hour day); 5 domestics, 1 kitchen maid, and 1 laundry maid. New appointments were: 1 full-time occupational therapist (Mrs. Vernon) and 1 assistant medical officer (Dr. E. B. Akhurst). Other changes were the placing of a student nurse instead of one