

VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

DR. D. GRANT M. D. SUPER

WATERBURY June 5, 1912

Hon. John A. Mead.

Rutland, Vt.

My dear Governor.

Referring to yours of the 31st ult.

and enclosure from Spencer L. Dawes, M. D., Commissioner On The Alien Insane of New York, will say, that we have gone over our records and find that we now have, as patients, one hundred and thirty-two (132) born in foreign countries, as follows: Canada, 70; Ireland, 26; Italy, 9; England, 4; Germany, 4; Scotland, 4; Sweden, 3; Wales, 3; Russia, 2; Switzerland, 2; Iceland, Austria, Poland, France and Greece, 1 each.

As far as we are able to learn only three of these are deportable under the present three year limit.

Several years ago an agent of the National Government visited us and somewhat hurriedly went over our records, (they were not tabulated at that time) and said that 15% of our inmates could, and should, have been deported had their cases been considered in season.

In the matter of deportation, as in many other matters, the old adage, - "What is every body's business is nobody's, - holds true. An alien is sent here with a very limited history, if any. The officer who accompanies him, many times, knows absolutely nothing of his history; many times we do not know to whom to appeal for information and the case goes by default.

In a few cases I have notified the authorities of the town from which the patient came that if he was discharged from here he would probably become a charge upon that town, or if he died that town would have to bury him, and they have taken up the matter and had the patient deported. In several other cases we have got what information we could and have taken the matter up with the Immigration Inspector of this district, and in that way got the patient deported.

At the present time it is costing the State of Vermont \$25,000, annually, to support aliens, in this hospital alone, who never should have been admitted, or should have been deported, had the matter been looked into carefully. This is not intended as a reflection upon any one, but is simply a defect in our legal machinery.

Vermont, like all other states, has a great problem before it to provide some means to prevent the prop-

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agation of degenerates of native stock. Am inclined to the opinion that the percent of degenerates among our aliens is not greater than among our native population, but that is no excuse for admitting degenerates into this country when it could, by more careful and intelligent supervision, be, to a large extent, prevented.

Am very favorably impressed with the utility and practicability of the New York law that causes the appointment of a Commissioner On The Alien Insane. Such an officer, if he be the right kind of a man, could in time relieve the State of a great financial burden, lessen crime and greatly improve our social condition.

Another point which you wrote me about some time ago is, the question of sterilization of degenerates. If such methods are practical, and am inclined to think they are, if properly, thoroughly and intelligently carried out, would result in a great saving to the state, financially; improvement in social and moral conditions, and increased comfort and happiness to many of the subjects upon whom it was performed. We have several patients in this hospital who, if such a method was adopted, could become self supporting.

There are hundreds, probably thousands, in Vermont, who are simply "breeding like rats" and whose progeny are, intellectually, morally and socially worse than rats. Proper and intelligent selection - segregation or sterilization, whichever seems best in a given case - is the only remedy to prevent this, and the other states in the union from becoming burdened and disgraced by these unfortunates.

Very respectfully yours,

Jan D. Grant