forms, or reports and returns. Effective means of treatment, from the same cause, are practically almost tabooed by the laborious records that have to be made of their use, and new departures in providing care for the insane would be largely restricted by the provisions of the present Bill.

Restraint, by mechanical and chemical means, are evils in treatment from which the insane in this country have, after long effort, fortunately escaped. The legislative tendencies of the past few years, however, make it patent that there is danger of their falling victims to a still more insidious and pernicious evil, deliverance from which would be still more difficult and tedious. This legal meshwork which is being woven around the treatment of the insane may be fittingly described as "red-tape restraint."

Defective Children and Imbeciles.

The report of the Departmental Committee on "Defective and Epileptic Children," and the contemplated developments of the Barony Parish in Glasgow, point to new and very striking sociological departures.

The importance of dealing efficiently with these defective children cannot be too strongly emphasised, for there can be little doubt that they furnish a very large proportion of our social failures, criminals, lunatics, unfortunates, and incapables. What proportion of these classes respectively thus originate there are as yet no data to determine, but from the more thorough investigation and observation which is now proposed we shall learn not only this, but probably also many of the reasons of their occurrence, and of the best means of diminishing their number.

"Feeble-minded" the Departmental Committee interprets as excluding idiots and imbeciles, and as denoting "only those children who cannot be properly taught in ordinary elementary schools by ordinary methods." The committee objects to the term "feeble-minded," and recommends that they shall be spoken of as "special class" children. It wisely refrains from attempting any definition of the mental state, but contents itself by formulating the procedures by which such children shall in practice be brought under "special class" training.

The term "special class" will probably overcome the objection which parents would manifest to their children being

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classed as "feeble-minded," and in its vagueness and want of definition embraces every possible variety of ordinary unteachableness, whether from physical, sensory, or mental defect.

The separation of imbeciles who require only nursing and care, from those capable of being taught and trained, which the Barony Parish is about to carry out, is another progressive step of great importance in dealing with this class, and may be expected to give better results than those hitherto attained.

The education and training which is given to the defective minded will, however, be of little real value if the efforts at making them useful members of society cease at the age of puberty.

Training in industrial habit for a considerable time after the age of sixteen is necessary to prevent their becoming social failures. Many of the special class children, for example, if left to their own devices or the influence of their relatives, will only have been rendered more efficient criminals.

Voluntary philanthropic organisations will probably be the most efficient means of watching over these classes after the school age, and in aiding them to start satisfactorily in life; fortunately many such bodies are already coming into existence, but much more comprehensive and systematic organisations will be required if the recommendations of the committee come into practice.

The need of legislation of this kind is most urgent, and it is not too utopian to anticipate that it would in course of time result in a considerable diminution of the numbers whom we are now obliged to class as social failures.

The Early Treatment Clause.

The joint committees of the British Medical and Medico-Psychological Associations have formulated a recommendation in regard to this clause, which is practically identical with that in the present Scottish Lunacy Law.

The indications given in the Lunacy Bill preclude any sanguine expectation that an extension of the means of treatment in the early stage of mental disorder has much likelihood of being accepted.

The increasing accumulation of lunatics in our asylums, and

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