

law in the causes of criminal behavior and its treatment, to note the veering away from the old conception of a set punishment for a set offense—a step, we feel, in the right direction.

(3) *Reform.*—Just as after years of discussion in medical, legal and academic circles the Behavior Clinic finally emerged, so too, after much discussion and finally through the concentrated efforts of the Behavior Clinic, an institution for defective delinquents and a radical change in the commitment of that type of offender, have been evolved. Though the need has been long standing, it was not until Dr. Harry R. Hoffman cohesed the general agitation into concrete meetings, committees and potent propaganda, that an amendment to “An Act to better provide for the care and detention of feeble minded persons”, was finally passed by the State Legislature. In September, 1933, a theory became an actual reform. By this law defective delinquents are committed directly to the State Department of Public Welfare who in turn, after receiving an intensive psychiatric study at the Diagnostic Depot in Joliet, are classified and committed to the proper institution. In those instances where a patient has been examined by the Behavior Clinic the findings of the Clinic are accepted without further examinations; thus the time and expense of the psychiatric group at the State Penitentiary are saved.

*Personnel.*—It is intended that all the members of the staff will eventually be placed under Civil Service. Thus far only the supervising psychiatric social worker falls in this category. The psychiatrists were selected by the Chicago Institute of Medicine; the psychologist and medical stenographers were appointed by the Director of the Clinic. The staff as it was originally conceived, consisting of two half time psychiatrists, a full time psychologist, a resident physician, two psychiatric social workers and stenographic service, was barely adequate. With the depleted budget, effective since March, 1932, which eliminated entirely the services of the resident physician and one social worker, and cut the psychologist's services to half time, the Clinic has been working under a handicap, despite which the case load has increased and the service widened, especially since the Courts have become acutely aware of its existence and dependent on its services.

The Behavior Clinic has now been in existence for 32 months. We feel that it has well justified its establishment not only for its work as an advisory psychiatric service to the Courts, nor as an economy measure effecting a savings to the County, but more important, for its inculcation into the spirit of the law and the philosophy of those practicing it, the conception of the offender as a mentally sick individual in need of study and treatment rather than a pariah to be punished according to the heinousness of his offense.