

## Care and Training the Answer To Many 'Feeble-Minded Cases'

Miss McQueen Cites Examples of What Can Be Done For Indigent Children

By Miss Flora McQueen

We frequently read articles by advocates of birth control, sterilization and other reforms, sounding a note of pessimism in regard to the coming generations of our country. These articles tell us that the low type families are on the increase, that the feeble minded groups are multiplying by leaps and bounds and that something must be done about it, presumably birth control or whatever measure is being advocated.

This is not meant to take issue with these articles or their writers, who, armed with a staggering array of statistics, have achieved a position well nigh invulnerable, but rather to ask a question, prompted by a recent experience. The experience was the close connection with an institution for undernourished children, which served several counties. Are all the vast numbers of children included in the statistics of the reformers and permanently feeble minded, is the question.

The children in the institution came mainly from indigent families. After about two weeks of regular, well planned meals and regular hours for rest in the day and sleep at night, with hardly a single exception, these children began to revive like withered plants that have been given much needed water.

I have in mind one particular child that was sent to us. James was thin, sallow, wore his mouth open constantly, dawled with his food, and, in general, seemed a hopeless case. The staff felt that something had been put over on them by the health authorities of the county from which James came. They had sent us a feeble minded child, a thing which the home strictly forbade. A caucus was held. Should the child be returned to his home at once? I was all for it. It was not fair to the other children to have such an one among them. The superintendent was inclined to give James a trial and her bent in this direction finally won the entire staff over to her way of thinking.

### Happy Reunion

At the end of the third week of his stay, James' mother came to see him. She was amazed. The improvement in him was not so apparent to us who had seen him daily, though even we had noted his changed expression. It took a long time—six months, to be exact, to bring James' cheeks to the right shade of rosiness and to his eyes that brightness, which is every child's natural heritage, but the day came when the attending physician pronounced James fit to go home. Really fit. I think I have never seen anyone so happy as his older brother, who came for him. I can hear him now as he grabbed James by the shoulders and giving him a brotherly shake, exclaimed, "Jim! You've grown a foot. Good gracious alive, boy. We haven't a place big enough to put you."

Six weeks later, James entered school. He led his class during that school year and at the close his teacher said of him, "James is a different boy. He used to be so stupid and he gave so much trouble that I dreaded him. Now he is so thoughtful that he is a favorite with the other children."

The history of James is the history of practically every child who entered that institution. Along with physical fitness came alertness. These two assets grew commensurately. Almost anyone on a statistics hunt would have pronounced any child in the group subnormal mentally, upon seeing them when first admitted to the institution, but these figures would have changed at the end of even three weeks of training. I use the word training advisedly, for it took patience of a courageous variety to train these children, first of all, to eat at all and to eat everything, as the rules of the table required—that was a task. The children from indigent families were inclined to eat too much at first, but even they often had strange ideas about diet. Some of them had a decided distaste for milk and butter, some hated vegetables and so on. The few children who were from more fortunate families wanted sweets only. The problem of getting these various tastes into the habit of a balanced meal is patent. In from two to three weeks, however, the appetites of all had been reduced to the same level. All were ravenous. They gobbled everything in sight. No further persuasion to eat was necessary.

### They Have To Leave

Another contributing factor to physical and mental health building was separate beds. Most of the children came from homes far too crowded to ever dream of a bed all their own. How they loved it! And we always

## On Winter Schedule

Southern Pines Library to Be Open Mornings and Afternoon After October 1st

The winter schedule at the Southern Pines Library will be resumed on October 1. Beginning with this date, the library will be open daily from 10:00 to 12:00 in the morning and from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon.

On and after October 1, a system of particular advantage to new members will be in force. New memberships will become effective at once, and will continue so for the balance of 1936 and throughout 1937. This means that prompt action will bring full library privileges for 15 months—October 1, 1936 to January 1, 1938—upon payment of the membership fee for one year. This item should be of especial interest to newcomers, and to those who wish to make their vacation memberships permanent.

wished we could give them one as a parting gift. One little boy cried night for weeks after he went home. We knew he loved us, but we felt that a few of those tears were shed in loving memory of the single bed in the corner! We were not jealous.

Bad eating habits are not common to the indigent alone. A friend was telling me recently of an artist—a highly successful one, too—who had a family of four pathetically undernourished children. The parents seldom eat with the children, consequently, the children eat when, what and if they choose. A nurse who had been in the family for years, frantically confided to my friend that she simply couldn't get those children to eat, while one of the boys related triumphantly, the different ways he disposed of his food while nurse wasn't looking. Still another one of the boys, my friend affirms, is "not all there" mentally. Is it any wonder?

So, the simple deduction. If we wish to reduce appreciably the number of feeble minded children contained in our statistics, the ignorant and less fortunate must be taught how to feed their children and the importance of a sufficient number of beds. The learned and financially secure must be enjoined to eat often with their children, who gain from their parents ideas of eating just as they form ideals of honesty and uprightness. These things accomplished insofar as it is humanly possible, many of the apparently stupid children will disappear from the lists of the feeble minded and develop into self-supporting American citizens.

### "BOB" REYNOLDS ENTERTAINS DEMOCRATIC RALLY HERE

(Continued from page 1) and informal meeting in the Wilrik Hotel in Sanford Tuesday night, at which both of North Carolina's Senators, Gubernatorial Nominee Clyde Hoey, Mr. Lambeth and several others spoke.

### Graphic Outlines of History by H. G. McELROY



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## Resettlement What and Why

Editor's Note—This is question eight of a series of questions and answers about the Resettlement Administration which are being published each week in The Pilot. Is the Resettlement Administration

moving families in large groups from one part of the country to another? Answer

No. Projects for the resettlement of families are set up as near to the area from which the families are to be moved as it is possible to obtain good land. In most cases the families do not have to move from the county in which they were originally located and only in the rarest instance do they move to another state. The only change for the farmer will be that he is living on good land rather than poor land. Otherwise he will have the climatic conditions he has been used to, he will raise the same sort of crops and will live in that part

## Record Enrollment in Cameron School

Figures Reveal 295 in Elementary Grades and 135 in High School

Cameron School opened Monday morning, September 7th, with an enrollment of over 400, the greatest number of students in its history. The principal address on this occasion was made by Rev. M. D. McNeill, a former teacher, who taught the first school in Cameron. In his impressive way he listed the qualities of a good student and urged all students to do their best. Prof. R. F. Lowry welcomed the students and visitors and in a few well chosen words explained the school spirit which all good pupils have.

Following is a list of teachers for

of the country to which he is accustomed.

Next week's question: "To what extent is the Resettlement Administration benefitting labor."

this school year:

First grade, Miss Mary Hunt and Mrs. R. F. Lowry; second, Miss Ellen R. Jones; third, Miss Minnie Muse; fourth, Miss Margaret Gilchrist; fifth, Mrs. M. D. McIver; sixth, Mrs. M. P. Snipes; seventh, Miss Nellie Williamson; High School, Prof. Lowry, History and Mathematics; Miss Jean Simpson, History and English; Mrs. Pete Phillips, Science, and M. P. Snipes, French and English.

Alabama has an Association of Ex-Slaves. The members met in annual conclave this week, swapping stories of Civil War days.

### M. H. FOLLEY

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