

THE RUTLAND COLONY - (FOR GIRLS)
OF THE STATE SCHOOL FOR FEEBLEMINDED CHILDREN

The Vermont Legislature of 1925 authorized the establishment of colonies for the School for Feeble-minded Children and appropriated for this purpose an annual sum of \$5,000, together with the colony earnings, for maintenance. One Colony for Girls has been established and has been in operation since May, 1925. It is in a comfortable rented house, situated in an industrial section within two blocks of the State Reformatory for Women located at Rutland, Vt. One matron is in charge and is assisted in the household duties by one girl "detailed" to this duty. The capacity, with re-arrangement of sleeping facilities, is 20. However, at the time of this survey there were 12 girls at the Colony, two of whom were employed and received maintenance outside the Colony.

The Colony plan for the rehabilitation of certain mental defectives is a commendable undertaking and in keeping with modern scientific ideas concerning the training of certain of these individuals. This Colony at Rutland is a credit to the School for Feeble-minded Children at Brandon. The pride, faithfulness and loyalty of the girls, so states the superintendent, contributes much to the success of the Colony. In this modified and supervised community life, they have come to look upon the Colony as their home. Exceptions are few. Several girls have been returned to the institution for illness; one girl was returned for incorrigibility, one attempted to run away; one was considered an unjustifiable risk in that she expressed an interest in a man, although no overt advances had been made, and one was returned after receiving bodily injury at the hands of an employer.

There are daily more requests from the community for the services of these girls than can be met. The matron very properly investigates, in a limited way, all such requests for work. The acceptable requests alone would well justify the operation of the Colony to its full capacity.