and reactions in life taking into consideration the history and everything else bearing on the subject. This, of course, can be done fairly well with adults, but, without the psychologist's tests how are we to decide the mental status of children, as they are not yet of sufficient development to be judged from their adjustment or lack of adjustment to the problems of life in general as they have not yet met these problems?

Do we not, as a matter of fact, accept the opinion of lay people many times in making these classifications, and if the finding of the psychologist is not to be accepted, will it not be just as well for the intelligent layman to decide these matters in most cases? In doing so, a layman of average intelligence takes into consideration the history of the individual, his success or failure in his work, and everything else bearing on the subject. Perhaps I have misunderstood your statement relative to the value of these mental tests. The point to my question is, if we are not to accept the tests of the psychologist, how are we to decide the mental status of the individual except, as I stated, from the ordinary person's point of view?

Dr. Blanton: I should say I would accept the opinion of intelligent lay people many times. I should feel justified in accepting Dr. Kuhlmann's findings in many cases. I am not thinking what I would do in most any case. I don't want to become, as has been said, curdled and frozen into creeds that can't be broken up. I should think from a practical standpoint you should accept the psychologist's findings right along. I should say the psychologist's findings should be better than those of the intelligent layman because the layman has not studied along scientific lines; he has not been taught to divorce himself from his own emotions. He immediately gets his own emotions in there. Often untrained physicians allow their emotions to bias their judgment.

For instance: A girl might be obviously feebleminded. She might have had a baby or two out of wedlock. Although she had no habits of industry, the untrained doctor might say: "She is getting along all right. People say she is a nice girl. I don't see why we should shut her up for life." His own emotions are aroused. It takes a certain amount of technique in order to give a judgment that would be acceptable in some specific case. The ordinary, intelligent layman would not be able to give us anything which would compare with a test given by a well-trained psychologist; neither would it take the place of a psychiatric study.
If one doubt the profound influence of physical factors on the flow of consciousness, let him consider the effect of drugs or alcohol. Mental states imitating idiocy, imbecility, insanity, epileptic frenzy, and the actual state of mind that commits the most horrible and revolting crimes are produced by doses of alcohol. Is not the alcoholic idiot just as much an idiot while the physical or chemical state lasts as is the idiot in whom it unfortunately will not pass? Total or partial loss of consciousness is not attributed to ethereal factors. The cause is always sought within the body. In the case of the mentally afflicted, including the feebleminded and those mentally subnormal in varying degrees, it surely is a safe hypothesis to say: Here are individuals who suffer from physical ills. The insane who have had normal intelligence may be mentally restored, provided their physical condition can be restored to what it was when they functioned normally. The laws of nature are immutable, and, given the same conditions, the same results must follow. Unfortunately for the insane, it may not be possible to restore original physical conditions. Destruction of neural tissue or permanent changes may have taken place.

Since the causes of epilepsy have not been discovered, little advance has been made in the treatment of this disease. It is usually progressive, and mental deterioration is more or less rapid, with feeblemindedness or insanity or both as the final result. The feebleminded and the mentally dull are so from birth, with some exceptions due to certain diseases or accidents. It is reasonable to assume that if their physical condition could be made to correspond with that in normal individuals, they would become intelligent beings. However, there is no known record of the cure of a genuine case of feeblemindedness, and no science gives promise or hope that this unfortunate class will ever be normal.

Three groups of thought have attempted a solution of the crime problem. One group considers the criminal a normal individual who deliberately chooses to be a law violator. Punishment, severe and long continued, is the remedy offered. A second group regards the criminal in much the same light, but thinks that, as an erring brother, he can be returned to right thinking and living if only the right influences are brought to bear on him. Imprisonment is not designed as a punishment, and the whole aim is reform of the individual. This is to be brought about by industrial and other training, and moral and religious teaching and inspiration. Quick and easy parole on evidence of reformation, or even suspended sentences, goes with this idea. A third group regards the criminal as a victim, not of himself or his heredity, but of his environment with which through no fault of his, a cruel and unfeeling world has surrounded him. This group sends roses when the murderer is on trial or in prison; passes resolutions condemning courts, prisons, capital punishment, and society in general; and would quickly free the poor victim from the clutches of the law, with an apology for society’s harshness in even questioning him for his conduct.

Society is all to blame. This thesis is in agreement that society is largely to blame for crime and criminals, but little comfort will be found, by those seeking release from jail, in the remedy suggested.

### INFLUENCE OF HEREDITY

Heretofore we have not stressed the inheritance of mental traits, because there has been so large an element of doubt as to the nature of consciousness. It is easy to understand that physical structure is hereditary. Both the plant and animal world confirm this on every hand. When it is understood that mental qualities are based directly on physical and chemical conditions, and this is being proved experimentally every day, then the place of heredity will be established and real social improvement will begin.

A good illustration of the effect of the physical on the mental is reflected occasionally in the bringing of a damage suit by the relatives of a patient against a surgeon on the ground that the removal of the whole thyroid gland, in an operation for goiter, resulted in mental deterioration and insanity. Cretinism, a form of feeblemindedness, also illustrates how disturbed thyroid function produces grave mental defect. Castration and ovariotomy, both of the lower animals and of man, are followed by marked physical changes and by mental effects of the profoundest character, sometimes amounting to a changed nature, suggesting even a different personality.

It is not accidental that an inmate of an institution for the feebleminded may have a brother at the state reformatory, a sister at the institution for delinquent girls, or an uncle in the colony for epileptics; that his father is a convict, his mother a patient at a hospital for the insane; or that a grandfather died in the poor house. Low mentality and emotional instability, the latter also resting on a physical basis and hereditary, come up in succeeding generations as regularly as other physical qualities. The neurosis of the offspring may differ from that of the parent. Feeblemindedness may follow insanity or epilepsy. Either of the other two conditions may follow feeblemindedness, or the three conditions may appear successively in as many generations. The progeny of the moron may be, and often is, idiotic. Some offspring may show criminal traits; others become paupers, alcoholics, and drug addicts. Indeed, alcoholism is more likely the result than the cause of mental inferiority. Alcoholism, syphilis, and consanguinity have practically been eliminated as causes of congenital mental defect by investigations covering the last twenty years.

Some question the influence of heredity when they see great names with unknown or mentally inferior descendants. They forget that two persons are concerned in every birth, and that Copperfields are sometimes attracted to dumb-Doras, or that gifted women occasionally marry very stupid men. Some would have us believe that this is one of nature’s ways of maintaining a certain uniformity in the race, and of preventing the appearance of super-beings who would be too lonely in this world.
A better understanding of the working of heredity will make men and women pause before entering into life contracts with strains known to be tainted. There is no way to escape the laws of nature. Those of superior intelligence must marry persons of strong mentality if they would have insurance that their offspring will be bright. Mental inferiors must marry mental superiors if they would have even a chance that their children will be bright. The young man who declares that he is not “marrying the whole family,” when cautioned about the low mental level of his intended wife’s relatives, is just mistaken. It is too late to do anything on his side, but he is deliberately choosing one-half the ancestors for his offspring. If there appear low mentality, feeblemindedness, insanity, epilepsy, or lesser mental aberration, the old advice to those about to enter on matrimony holds: don’t. Likewise marriage of one of a superior with one of an inferior race usually ends unhappily. Amalgamation is disastrous to a higher race.

Eminence

Some one always rises to ask how this great person or that one came from low-grade ancestry. The answer is he didn’t. Boudoir was as much mistaken about the gutter as a source of great intellects as he was about several other things. Extensive studies made by scientists confirm the truth that something can not come out of nothing in human procreation any more than in the material world at large. Galton’s study of about 1,000 eminent men showed more than 500 relatives of equal eminence. He concluded that persons do not attain great eminence unless they have outstanding natural abilities. Cattel’s studies of American men of science confirm Galton’s conclusions. Cattel found that about half his subjects came from 1/30 of the population. Of thousands of American families that might be mentioned, the celebrated Randolph family of Virginia, which gave to the world in Thomas Jefferson the most brilliant and versatile intellect that America has produced, is but one example. John Marshall, Richard Bland, Robert E. Lee, and other prominent Americans were of this family. The laws of heredity registered no less truly in the ancient world. Alexander the Great had a stimulating environment and was instructed by Aristotle, one of the greatest teachers of all time, but his father was Philip of Macedon and his mother Olympias.

Mental Traits

It is sometimes suggested that a slow, plodding person, by dint of perseverance can keep up with the progress of one with brighter intellect, and this is cited as proof that after all it is not heredity that counts, but other qualities. This argument leaves out of consideration that like begets like, and that one’s physical being is a sum total of inheritance from his ancestors. Not only brain structure, but organs, glands, everything goes to produce a well or poorly balanced whole. Mental qualities and traits, being based on physical structure and balance, are inherited by the dozen if not by the hundred. Perseverance is just as much an inherited quality as intellect. The whole emotional life also grows out of physical properties and varies and fluctuates accordingly, but, as Professor James notes, it seems often temporarily cut off all proportion to the causative physical factor. However, fluctuation is always within the limits of the permanent conditions set up by heredity. Love, hate, and other emotions vary directly as the general ability and intelligence level of the person entertaining them. Great lovers have ever been great characters. Pompey was not surpassed in fiction in this role. The love of a dullard is but a pale and sickly thing, and not of much price.

Musical Talent

No one would seriously claim that a child inherits the ability to compose a sonata or to perform on the piano without any previous study or training. We do know that children have inherited physical entities that enable them to become musical composers and performers of note at a very early age, and that both the composition and the performance would remain alien to the vast majority if taught and trained a lifetime. No symphony dances for expression in the brain cells of most of us. Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart were sons of musicians, and showed their extraordinary ability at an early age. Mozart began his studies at three and was a composer at six. Mendelssohn, whose grandfather was an eminent philosopher and father a prominent and wealthy banker, began his career in the earliest years of his childhood. The Bach family had 30 or more great musicians running through eight generations. It is true that every great artist spends years of the hardest work in mastering the technique of his subject, but ability to concentrate on the task and put forth the long-continued effort necessary to mastery had to come from some place. Peculiar mental ability plus industry, both inherited, are necessary to genius. If genius and a higher order of intelligence habitually appear under good surroundings rather than under bad, it is because the parentage has been the kind that is satisfied with no less than the better things that society holds out as a reward to greater and larger service.

Intelligence and Environment

No individual is of low intellect because he lives in a crowded, filthy tenement or shack along the river. The tenement and shack are, with a few exceptions, but the outer reflection of his inner state. The river population of cities will continue just as long as large masses of people are so poorly equipped mentally. Breeding places for crime cannot exist without tenants. A few years ago, a great builder had a vision of a city without the usual fringe of wretched living conditions. Every worker was to have clean, decent quarters, and to this end every house was equipped with a bathroom with proper fixtures. It was a rude shock to find that some families made a coal hole of the bath tub, while others had never had such a good place in which to store a few bundles of potatoes. Furnishing clean, decent quarters, however desirable, does not always inspire cleanliness. The defective mind is uncomfortable in good surroundings, and longs to wallow in filth, to which it quickly reverts when left to itself. Brand new
jail, finished in marble and containing every modern convenience, are soon spattered with tobacco and filled with filth and vermin unless some mind other than that of the prisoners enforces cleanliness and orderliness. As Robert Louis Stevenson says in *The Amateur Emigrant*, one must make his real migration before he climbs aboard ship if he expects to find himself any different on reaching the other side. Wastrels, vagrants, and drunkards in Dublin are wastrels, vagrants, and drunkards in Boston.

**INTELLIGENCE LEVELS**

The army tests furnish the only real basis of judging the mental quality of our population as a whole, but since 1918 a number of surveys have been made that are of interest. The army tests were applied to a large and representative section of the population, without stopping to get the consent of any individual to be tested. They were uniform or correlated. Two per cent of the white draft tested under 8 years mentally, 5 per cent under 9 years, 10 per cent under 10 years, 17.6 per cent under 11 years, and 30.3 per cent under 12 years. Three per cent of the negroes were under mental 6, 8 per cent under 7, 16.7 per cent under 8, 32 per cent under 9, 32 per cent under 10, 64 per cent under 11, and 79 per cent under 12. The white officers ranked well above the white recruits, their medium score being 17.26 years mentally.

The Indiana Committee on Mental Defectives made a report in 1919 covering the survey of the 92 counties in the state. Such a committee lacks both the means and the authority to conduct a survey on the scale carried on in the army. Naturally only the most obvious cases are reported, part of whom are already in institutions. Homes are not searched for husbands and wives with the minds of children. On the basis of mental defectives found, the report places the percentage at 2.11 of the total population, distributed 1.65 per cent feebleminded, .32 of one per cent insane, and .15 of one per cent epileptic. The feebleminded are more than five times as numerous as the insane, and the insane twice as numerous as the epileptic. Applying even these figures to the population of Minnesota, we should have, on an estimated population of two and one-half millions, 41,250 feebleminded, 2,759 insane, and 3,759 epileptics. The latest report of the State Board of Control of Minnesota would indicate that the Indiana percentages are too low. On June 30, 1924, there was a population of 6,881 in the hospitals and asylums for the insane. Milder cases left in the communities would represent nearly or quite as many more. Comparison with the results obtained in examining the white draft indicates that the survey probably took in the feebleminded under mental 8 only.

Although there are more than five times as many feebleminded as insane, most states make five or six times as much provision for the latter as for the feebleminded. Minnesota has one institution for the feebleminded and six for the insane. This is because an insane patient is more demonstrative of his defect, and may be considered immediately dangerous. We hasten to isolate and treat smallpox or scarlet fever, but the tuberculous, the syphilitic, and those suffering with other insidious diseases, go about their business, certainly without isolation and often without treatment. It takes a conflagration to attract attention. Our remedies are along the line of hiring more and more firemen instead of reducing the number of blazes. Feeblemindedness is the unending and ever-increasing source of the other forms of mental defect—insanity and epilepsy; and pauperism, desertion, divorce, dependency, social distress, prostitution, vice, and crime follow in its wake. It is the spring that must be dried up if there is to be a relief from these ills of society.

**Recognition of Mental Defectives**

The great trouble is that most of the damage is done by the higher grade feebleminded, who are not recognized as such. One has to be a grinning idiot before the public notices his mental status. Yet these poor creatures do not escape the lust of the vicious. Many an idiot, so low mentally that she is incapable of knowing that she has become a mother, gives birth to one or more children. Even responsible officials may not recognize the real condition of mental 7's, 8's, and 9's, and occasionally prominent citizens, with a love for humanity as their stated motive, can see no difference between these unfortunate and the rest of society. Persons seeking the release of the feebleminded often use the expression that the patient is no more feebleminded than they are, and sometimes those who have to see females go out, only to return with other mental defectives in arms, are tempted to agree.

**The Female**

The higher-grade feebleminded female is a greater menace than the male. The latter is faced with making a living on equal terms with superior intellects, and his condition is more quickly recognized. Fewer marry because of their economic handicap. But mental defectiveness is no bar to the marriage of the female, and no handicap in her sequestration as a wife. Here there is no competition. She cannot be discharged as are other incompetents. She may be a poor housekeeper, without ability to care for or train children, garrulous, silly, wasteful, a human incubator, but nobody thinks much about it unless she may have married a high-grade husband, as often happens. He may wonder what is the matter, or why his children make such poor a showing in school, if indeed he does not have to number mental defectives or rough-necks among them. Many a youth destined to become a factor in the business or professional world is attracted to the pretty face of one of the morons who sit on the back seats in the high schools and smile out such sweet "I don't believe I know" answers to all questions on the lessons. Some of these marriages go to divorce courts, with or without triangle complications. It was the same in the days of old. Socrates sought comradship away from home, Goethe was maladjusted throughout the earlier years of his life, and Shakespeare found in London companions more congenial than in Stratford. He visited Ann Hathaway, whom he had married when he was 18 years of age, but seldom. Incidentally, these immortals were exceptionally well born.
A Proletariat

There are those who treat the whole matter of mental defectiveness lightly, and contend that we need large numbers of inferior mentality to perform the menial work of the nation. They overlook the fact that 32.8 per cent of the white population already ranks between 12 and 14 years mentally, and that 30.3 per cent of whites and 79 per cent of negroes are under 12. It is the percentage below 12 that we need have concern about. This country wants no proletariat and needs none. We have no pyramid or Chinese wall to build, and modern invention is replacing needed manual labor with machines. National safety lies in a reasonable homogeneity of our population. Nations that have disregarded or encouraged a proletariat, as workers or fighters, have ended in disaster. Witness Russia today, where the so-called workers are in control. It is a high crime to have brains, and the intelligentsia is being methodically murdered or escapes the executioner's axe by suicide. It will take thousands of years to restore the damage that is being done by destroying the higher levels of intelligence. Rome fell before hordes of barbarians after encouraging a proletariat which, with the colonies, was supposed to furnish the soldiery for leaders of the aristocratic party. But the proletarian militia got in the majority, and dictated the terms under which it would fight, if at all. The beginning of the end dates from the times most similar to our own, the days of Juvenal, Martial, Pliny the Younger, and Tacitus, and extending into the reign of the Antonines; times in which riches, magnificence, and splendor went side by side with want and poverty; when the middle or agricultural class was disappearing, and the government was highly patronizing, and looked to for everything. Even those who under other circumstances could have taken care of themselves were thankful for the dole. In describing crime conditions, Juvenal tells how murder and robbery flourished on every hand, and how criminals fled to Rome for safety from their rendezvous in the Pontine marsh, in case the latter was raided, even as to New York and Chicago now from the smaller cities.

PREVALENT AND COST OF CRIME

Crime is the ever present concomitant of social instability and disorder. It is one of the most serious problems with which society has to deal, and in America particularly has almost got beyond control. There were approximately 10,000 murders in this country in 1923. This is against a record of 90 in England and Wales for the same period. Chicago has its murder a day. New York has twelve times as many murders as London and more annually than any country of Europe except Russia. Washington is 2,600 per cent more murderous than London. In three years mail bandits have secured $16,000,000. Bank robberies occur so often that they occasion no surprise and little concern. The American Bankers' Association reported 165 bank holdups for the first ten months of 1924. In Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma alone there were 437 robberies in the last three years. The Bankers' Association estimates the annual cost of crime at $3,500,000,000, which is more than twice as much as was spent for public elementary and high school education in 1922, according to the United States Bureau of Education.

The cost of feeblemindedness, insanity, epilepsy and allied diseases, pauperism, and crime, combined, would more than equal the value of the three principal farm crops for 1924: the corn crop, $2,405,468,000; the wheat crop, $1,133,590,000; the cotton crop, $1,487,250,000.

These crops constitute more than half the value of the products of the nation's farms, the total for 1924 being estimated at $9,500,000,000. A large part of this money is taken directly from the public in the form of taxes, another part in losses, and the remainder in various charities. Community chest and other organizations raise approximately $250,000,000 a year, most of which is directly chargeable to mental defectiveness or the habits and qualities directly associated with it.

THE STUDY OF CRIME

The ills of society that absorb a large part of the productive energy of the agricultural workers, or of almost half the nation's population, certainly merit the efforts of the best brains in the country. And these ills will ultimately reduce to one problem, that of low or distorted mentality, which will be found due to physical qualities traced to heredity. It is already known that pauperism has its genesis there, and close and long-continued study will discover the same source for most crimes.

Psychopathic Laboratories

People naturally shy at suggestions for psychopathic hospitals and laboratories. They think that such institutions merely furnish a means for letting criminals escape the consequences of their acts, and this has been true in far too many instances. There are those who would not go so far as to free offenders on the basis of the findings of a psychopathic laboratory, but who consider it necessary to build and equip suitable hospitals wherein the convicts may be confined. They think it a grave injustice to send a mental defective to a reformatory or prison. As a matter of fact, if no murderer were ever put to death and no criminal sent to prison except those absolutely sound mentally, there would be no executions and the prisons would becomeesome inclosures. The purpose of a psychopathic laboratory is to find out the mental status of the subject. The prisoner need not be freed nor sent to a "hospital" from which he could escape a few hours later. The institutions we have are inadequate in type and structure for the care of our prisoners. Few men are going to stay long in prisons from which escape is easy, and walls are still necessary. It would be possible to classify prisoners according to their mental and physical condition and work out their entire treatment on that basis. This means that every prison should be a laboratory, a hospital, and a school, headed by men deserving the rank and pay of university presidents, and officered by the highest type of men possible to obtain. Proper value would of course
have to be attached to experience. In states where prison officials are appointed through political influence their tenure is ended with changing administrations. This has prevented the training of such a group of thinkers as will be necessary to solve crime problems.

**Mental Status of Prisoners**

Those who have an opportunity to observe closely the populations of correctional institutions, reformatories, and prisons, know that mental defect, which should be understood to include all forms of mental instability, even though the subject has the knowing faculty apparently unimpaired as is often the case with the psychopath, is the big factor in the responsibility for crime. They also realize how closely it is related to heredity when they trace the family connections of prisoners. Mental examinations in these institutions have revealed that from 30 to 89 per cent of the populations are definitely feebleminded. A large per cent are insane when convicted or become insane after imprisonment, their condition being erroneously ascribed by some to the rigorous treatment accorded them as prisoners. Some are epileptics, and still others are emotionally unstable. Drug addicts and alcoholics are counted in every prison population.

According to the Report of the Georgia Commission on Feeblemindedness, printed by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, 1918, 72.5 per cent of the inmates of the state prison graded 12 years or under mentally. This was a mixed population of whites and negroes. Ninety-four per cent of the negroes tested 12 or under. Of the women prisoners confined at the women's branch of the prison, 78 per cent had a mental level of 12 years or under. Forty-two and two-tenths per cent of the males admitted serving previous commitments and 23.8 per cent of the females. Examinations in typical Georgia jails gave similar results. Thirty per cent of white inmates and 73 per cent of negroes showed mentalities of 10 years and under. To use the language of the report, "Seventy per cent of the inmates of these jails either are subnormal mentally or are handicapped by such serious pathological mental conditions as feeblemindedness, epilepsy, mental disease or deterioration." Chapter 12, Volume 15, The Memoirs National Academy of Sciences, reports that 65.4 per cent of the white offenders at Camp Dix were below the average, or C rating (about 13 years), and only 19.4 per cent above it. Twenty-one per cent had an intelligence rating of E, designating a mentality of about 9 years and under, too low for military service. Comparison with the white draft shows that these low-grade men are two or three times as likely to commit offenses as men of average intelligence and from four to six times as likely to get into trouble as are men of superior ability.

It is known to all who are experienced in penal work that homo-sexuality, which is coming to be regarded by neurologists as a type of degeneracy belonging to mental deviation, probably to dementia praecox, flourishes in every penal and correctional institution in the land unless recognized and controlled by a strong hand. Some reformers, who have sought to find a solution to the crime problem in fads and fancies while ignoring the facts of biology, have not only overlooked this condition entirely as an indication of mental inferiority and irresponsibility, but have been apologists for leathome practices, if they have not in truth condoned them.

**Prostitutes**

Examinations of prostitutes at Newport News during the war showed 88 per cent below the age of mental 11. Fifteen per cent of the whole group studied revealed, on psychiatric examination, other abnormalities, such as alcoholism, drug addiction, epilepsy, and dementia praecox. These results compare with the findings of the Georgia Commission, and with reports from dozens of other reliable sources. Prostitution is the principal source of the insanities resulting from syphilis, paretics forming about one-fourth of the insane hospital population. Most of these cases die within one or two years after confinement. The remainder of insane patients are principally dementia praecox and manic-depressive cases, both hereditary. Hence insanity is a disease almost 100 per cent preventable. It will not be prevented so long as we allow the bulk of mental defectives to go on breeding their kind undisturbed in the community, or so long as we shuffle them in and out of institutions with no check on procreation while they are out. The same conditions apply to the penal and correctional institutions where there is no thought of interfering with the reproductive powers of known defectives as they go forth on parole or have their liberty between sentences.

**Detection, Conviction, and Punishment**

Offenders, whether feebleminded, psychopathic, or borderline, know what is expected of them and they are influenced by such considerations as sure and speedy punishment or the failure of courts to convict. Those who argue that punishment is no deterrent are blind to the facts. While industrial and other conditions in Great Britain have not been as good as in this country for the past few years, yet the murder rate there has been less than two per cent of our rate. British justice is proverbial. We need high-grade police systems undisturbed by politics where cities will have the benefit of an accumulation of experience and training on the part of its officers. We shall also have to quit arresting and trying for murder those brave members of the force who, in the course of their duties in protecting the public, occasionally kill a gunman resisting arrest. Commendation and not censure is merited. The chief of police has need to be a high-power executive who can select and train intelligent men in the services with the assurance that they will all belong to the system for life if they wish. We have been woefully short in the detection of crime.

The judicial system should be so organized as to attract and hold qualified and fearless judges, who will see that justice is done to all concerned. Every little while newspapers report actions of courts that are hardly believable and that are calculated to cost such courts the entire loss of confidence of the public. One dispatch recently related how a judge had held a young man in contempt of court and fined him for not appearing
would be a letting up of the crime wave.

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freed—a strange conclusion. Likely there is no suitable "hospital" for
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and a sister had been of unsound mind, with a record of commitment to a
recently a well-known prize fighter and a preacher and his paramour, on
trial for murder, were successful in saving themselves from the gallows,
receiving prison terms instead. The prize fighter got off with a sentence of
from one to ten years because it was adduced in court that his parents
and a sister had been of unsound mind, with a record of commitment to a
hospital for the insane. The preacher and his fair parishioner had disposed
of a wife and husband, respectively, by the poison route. Testimony was
to the effect that the minister engineered both deaths, but an alienist testi­
fied that he had the mind of a ten-year-old child, and this evidently had great
weight with the jury. It is quite likely that the truth was told in both
cases respecting the mental status of the defendants, but that would have
constituted no valid reason for freeing them.

Far too many offenders make pleas of insanity or other forms of mental
irresponsibility with the expectation of going free, and they are too often
right in their calculations. The trial court hears the evidence and decides
that since the defendant was shown not to be responsible he should be
freed—a strange conclusion. Likely there is no suitable "hospital" for
such a case, or the "brain storm" has passed, never to recur again. If
these defectives knew that a plea of mental deviation would be taken for
what it is actually worth and that proof of such mental condition meant
life confinement in a hospital from which there would be no escape, there
would be a letting up of the crime wave.

MENTAL DEFECTIVENESS IN THE SCHOOLS

The effects of mental deficiency are not confined to the underworld.
Our educational efforts are being undermined by it. The school system of
America was established and has proceeded on the theory that all pupils
could be advanced through the various schools provided, without regard to
their inherent capacities. The old-time orator harangued student bodies
with great fervor on the wonderful opportunities afforded by the schools in
particular and the land of the free in general. The parents of any boy
might swell with pride at the thought of their youngster becoming president
of the United States and many and great were the rewards immediately
ahead for all within the sound of the speaker's voice. Many a life disap­
pointment has come from taking this theory too seriously.

Inherent Capacities

The report of the results of the army tests indicates that more than 47
per cent of the white population is below 13 mentally and 80 per cent of the
negroes, who ranked three years lower. At Camp Lee the experiment was
tried of separating some of the negro recruits on the basis of skin color for
the purpose of comparing intelligence ratings. This experiment demon­
strated the effect of white blood. The lighter negroes invariably did better
than the darker ones by from one to two mental years, and the percentage
of darker negroes was greater among the illiterates than among the literates.
At the conclusion of the chapter of the report on "Statistics on Education
and its Relations to Intelligence Examinations" is the unqualified statement,
"Distinctly more than average intelligence would seem to be prerequisite to
a college education and almost as strictly a prerequisite to graduating from
or even entering high school."

The C, or average group, mental age 13 to 15, contained 29.47 per cent of the white draft and 5.3 per cent of the
colored. Only 23.3 per cent of the white draft and 2.8 per cent of the
colored tested in the C+, B and A groups, above mental 15, and distinctly
above the average. If these are added the mental 34's (14 to 16 men­
tally), and this is the age of the average high school freshman, the per­
centage of whites with mentality above the grade school level will stand
36.2; and of colored, 5.6.

School Attendance Laws

State school attendance laws and the proposed amendment to the con­
stitution of the United States, giving Congress the power to enact a law
prohibiting the labor of "children" under 18 years of age, clearly are framed
without reference to the above facts. If the purpose of the law, as avowed,
is to keep all persons in school until they reach the age of 18 years. The
proposed constitutional amendment is aimed particularly at the southern
states, where large numbers of negro "children" under 18 years are employed
in the cotton fields and in the mills. Seventy-nine per cent of the colored
draft rated below 12 years mentally, sixth-grade intelligence, and their aver­
age mental age was only 10.1 years, or fourth-grade intelligence. At Camp
Funston nearly a thousand negroes were examined by the Stanford-Binet
scales. They rated between five and nine years mentally, with considerably more than two-thirds showing a mental age of either six or seven. Imagine these men in high school! To try to hold either negro or white children in school beyond their inherited capacities would be like starting a draft horse in training to trot a mile in two minutes. You would train him to trot as fast as he could and after that all effort would be wasted. He would not make the mile in two minutes if trained until the age set in the proposed constitutional amendment. He simply is not that kind of a horse. The proposition is a violation of his ancestry.

Keeping children in school after they have reached their maximum accomplishment furnishes a good illustration of the effect of environment. Every living thing is affected by its environment and in turn affects it. The feebleminded and the simple-minded are greatly affected by their surroundings while those inheriting ability strongly affect, or even entirely make, their own environment. As has been observed, it is only the dead fish that always go with the current. Compelling the dullard to remain in school after he has passed the years of controllable childhood first makes him a truant, punishable by law by confinement in a correctional institution, and later a vagabond and criminal, when denied an opportunity to work and make an honest living. But this is only one side of the picture. Forcing large numbers of persons of inferior mentality into the high schools is seriously influencing not only the standards of scholarship but also the social standards of the student body. Courses of study in particular subjects must be diluted to bring them within the range of the lower mental levels, and electives in "easy stuff" must be provided to allow credits enough for graduation. This is a decided disadvantage to the brighter students, and it is a distinct loss to society not to have such students make the best of their high school years. Social standards are pulled down to the jai of the borderlines, whether the latter walk to school or come in limousines. The morals of a whole student body suffer when older pupils, with no interest in school and with more knowledge of the world, are forced into the classes. In passing large numbers of mental 13's and 14's through high schools, many totally unfit to pursue collegiate work are appearing at the colleges and universities for admission. Money has to be provided by taxation from an already overburdened tax-paying public or by raising big endowment funds to meet the additional expenses of increased attendance. This would all be very well if the students admitted were all of college grade, but some, as stated above, do not and never will have the capacity for work in higher educational fields. Others have graduated from the diluted courses of the preparatory schools and can become acceptable students only after further preparation, unless the colleges and universities in turn dilute their courses of study. Unfortunately this is being done, and in many institutions (originally) of higher learning, it is a social handicap with the main student body to do high grade work.

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tion of like nature. The expense accounts of the trips of those agents from Washington to San Francisco and elsewhere would make interesting reading matter for the taxpayers. Those who have seen government bureaus and agencies trying to function in Washington for a country of more than a hundred million population cannot but feel that, with one person in every 12 gainfully employed working for some form of government and with a total yearly expenditure of $10,000,000,000 in taxes (more than the value of all farm crops raised annually in this country), to cover the cost of all government in the United States, we have gone far enough in the direction of employing ourselves to look after ourselves.

The Value of Employment

While state compulsory school attendance laws are justified for children under 14 years of age, their extension to apply to those up to 16 and 18 is of doubtful value, especially when it is considered that the lower mental levels reach their maximum school accomplishment by the age of 14, and works a real hardship both on the well-to-do and on the poor. Those of us who have sons but have no work for them are obliged to watch them grow up in idleness, because employers do not wish to be constantly inspected and watched by enforcement agents, nor do they have the time or inclination to study out all the details of long drawn-out statutes relating to children. Their easiest solution is to require all workers in school vacation time, as well as during the remainder of the year, to be above the age limit set by the statute. The poor, who would be materially aided by having 14 to 18-year-old children employed, are deprived of this help and the community makes good the deficit by community chests and other charitable means. Surely it is not injurious for a boy to work reasonable hours. On the contrary, there is no stronger factor in his proper development than regular employment. To increase employment is to decrease delinquency, and to withhold employment is not only to encourage delinquency but to enlarge the demands on charity.

RELATION OF MENTAL DEFECTIVENESS TO CHARITY

Every year the numerous charitable organizations find it necessary to increase their budgets. The cry is always for more, and already it is necessary to form organizations that can exert influence in order to raise the amounts required. It is no longer charitable giving, but assessments through drives and quotas. Originally all charities were intended to afford temporary relief to worthy members of society who, through misfortune and circumstances beyond their control, were in need of help. Now the largest percentage of money raised for charitable purposes goes to persons and families who are born incompetents and who have to be directly aided or managed year in and year out. It is safe to say that the 10 per cent of the population under 10 years mentally claims 90 per cent of all money and effort expended in this way. Many families appear on the records of six or eight or more organizations. A mentally defective father has difficulty in getting and keeping employment. A mentally defective mother cannot properly care for her home or family and is wasteful and irresponsible. Large families are the rule with mental defectives. Given, then, a father of poor earning capacity and interrupted employment or one who spends a large part of his time in jail, a mother wasteful and unable to look after her household, or both, throw in a number of children, and here will be found want, misery and disease, as is so well illustrated by a recent news dispatch:

MOTHER OF 16 AT 35, HAS MIND OF CHILD

Father Jailed, Family Starving—Wife’s Mentality Pronounced That of 8 Year Old

Carbondale, III., Jan. 19.—Wed to a man three times her age when 14 years old, now at the age of 35, Mrs. Bertha Ledbetter, wife of Rufus Ledbetter of Halldayboro, near here, is the mother of 16 children, including one set of triplets and three sets of twins. (And the poor woman has 10 or 15 years to go.)

Mrs. Ledbetter was examined yesterday by a commission of physicians who pronounced her feebleminded with a mentality of an 8-year-old child.

A few days ago the family was found lacking clothing and food. Charity organizations furnished the family aid. Ledbetter, the father, has been in court charged with violation of the prohibition law.

Under these conditions, a kind and sympathetic public is bound to relieve actual suffering, especially of helpless children. But a contributor to these constant calls for funds has a right to know what part of his contribution is going to affect the problem for the better, and what part makes it possible for the mentally incompetent to carry on and aggravate the situation by bringing forth more of the same strain. It used to be said that the Iowa farmers raised more corn to feed more hogs to buy more land to raise more corn, and so on ad infinitum. The relief of the mental defective in society constitutes a similar circle but there the parallel ceases, for this circle is a most vicious one.

Social work is sometimes criticized because so much of the money spent goes into overhead. The answer of social workers is that it should all be overhead. This view is sound provided the total is a diminishing factor, for if helping incompetents to walk results only in a lengthening line on charity crutches, is it not time to get at the root of the trouble? If one-half the money raised for charitable purposes were applied to the prevention of mental defectiveness, real progress would begin. Ernest P. Bicknell, when secretary of a board of state charities nearly 30 years ago, expressed the matter thus: “Feeblemindedness not only tends to perpetuate itself through heredity, but it fills the ranks of vice, contributes heavily to crime
and swells mightily the hosts of pauperism. Our best efforts will be neces-
sary if we check this rising tide of evil. The three children (several other
members of the family have been counted since) of feeblemindedness—
idiocy, Pauperism and illegitimacy—are monstrosities from which we must
protect ourselves. We have not protected ourselves, and the "rising tide"
continues upward.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES UNDER MODERN CONDITIONS

People are beginning to ask where all the defectives are coming from,
and why the great increases in expenditures for charitable purposes. Mental
defectives are simple-minded or disturbed in their mental processes, and are
likely to be unsocial or even anti-social in their behavior. The complexity
of modern civilization is too much for them. Give a moron or dementia
praecox case a 50 horsepower engine, to which he may add white mule and a
danger, and the damage he may do will range from destruction of
property to wholesale manslaughter, or premeditated murder, as he takes
the highway at 50 miles an hour. At least two persons in every hundred
are totally unfit to drive a motor vehicle, and ten times that number will
always be unsafe drivers because of their mental handicap, yet the driving
of these death engines is all but universal. Figures just published for
Minnesota show a death rate of 14.7 a hundred thousand of population in
automobile accidents, or about one in a hundred deaths. Statistics being
completed by the bureau of the census for last year reveal a toll of 22,600
lives, 678,000 personal injuries, and an economic loss of $600,000,000.00 in
the nation at large. Probably three-fourths of motor accidents could be
canceled to the 17 or 18 per cent of drivers testing below 11 years mentally.

School attendance officers, county and school nurses, and active welfare
agencies, have brought thousands of cases of mental defect to light. Modern
living conditions in cities turn up others. Flat dwellers may be unwilling
to have the mentally unfit as neighbors across the corridor. High rents
and living conditions are to be reckoned with. Recently two morons aban-
don their baby because they couldn't support it in the car! Very
extended health work and disease prevention reduce the effect of contagious
and other diseases, provide safer supplies of milk and foods generally, and
cut down infant mortality, which used to be very great among the lower
mental levels. Public-spirited citizens and societies endow homes for
children, for cripples, for adults, and for the aged, where the incompetent
and the unfortunate are received on equal terms. Now as a special and
permanent provision for old age, but what is being done to make such provision unnecessary by
guarding the quality of succeeding generations? This nation is still so
young that no one can be sure it will perpetuate itself. Its total history of
only 150 years is but a day in the general scheme of things.

Who indeed can be sure that our civilization is the greatest the world
has known? A half dozen civilizations equal to ours in most respects, and
perhaps superior in some, have passed within the brief span of man's
knowledge of human history. It is thinkable, in view of the millions of
years the earth probably has been habitable, that civilizations enjoying the
use of everything now known to science and vastly more have flourished
and disappeared without a trace. This all but happened to the matchless
Greek and Roman civilizations, and would have resulted during the middle
ages had the forces of darkness had their way. Priceless treasures of his-
tory and literature, of art and architecture were destroyed, but enough was
saved to give the modern world a picture of the earlier accomplishments of
the race. It may seem inconceivable that man's present knowledge could
be wiped out and that the race would again have to feel its way upward by
slow degrees, but this could happen through changes in the earth's surface
or in reversion to barbarism from multiplication of the unfit and loss of the
higher levels of intelligence.

THE PRESERVATION OF SOCIETY

We have laid a heavy hand on practices, influences and conditions that
undermine the public health or morals. Nobody pleads the sacred rights of
the individual when contagious diseases spread, and we have shifted from
toleration to positive contempt and avoidance of individuals who cough and
spray their neighbors or fellow passengers with disease germs. Lepers
have been segregated for life. Valuable property housing unlawful practices
may be padlocked, causing the owners serious loss. Property may be con-
demned, either because it is a menace to the public or because it is required
for the use of the public, by right of eminent domain, without regard to the
feelings of the owner. Why, then, should we be so tender about the pre-
rogatives of those who are mentally unfit to manage themselves, who are
an ever increasing burden on the public, who cause both loss of life and
loss of property, and who are the principal cause of all human misery and
suffering?

Immigration

Immigration laws have been framed with the idea of not admitting
mental defectives, but no adequate means of examining immigrants has
been provided. The result is that thousands of foreign-born defectives
crowd our public institutions and mingle with the population at large. The
gates will have to be better guarded in the future, if this condition is not to
continue.

Marriage

Strictly enforced marriage laws requiring certification of candidates by
designated, qualified representatives of the public would be helpful, as the
chief source of feeblemindedness, epilepsy, insanity, poverty, and crime, is
the offspring of low-grade parents, who never should have been allowed to
marry or reproduce their kind. Ten per cent of the white mothers of the
country are under 10 years of age mentally, 18 per cent under 11, and 30
per cent under 12, if the results of the army tests are a guide. The corre-
sponding percentages for negro women are 48, 61 and 80. These women,
either because they do not share in the knowledge possessed by women of
higher intellectual levels, or because of indifference or constitutional disinclination to act, or from choice, are far more prolific than any other class. Social workers in extending relief to these families not infrequently find one or two-room shacks or quarters with 8, 10 and 12 children to the family, and from 4 to 6 children are very common. American men of science average only a fraction over 2 children to the family and college women with more than 1 or 2 children are the exception. If we are going to allow these feebleminded women to remain at large with reproductive powers intact, it would be logical at least not to interfere with their instruction in birth control, as practiced by the rest of society. The 20 per cent of mothers under 12 bring into the world almost, if not altogether as many children as the higher 70 per cent, and the lower levels of mentality would have exceeded the upper long ago if the mortality among their babies had not been so high. With the help of benevolent agencies this handicap will gradually be overcome in so far as disease and lack of care and attention have increased the death rate. Indeed, mental defectiveness with its attendant ills is increasing at an enormous rate. The Royal Commission of England, after a four years’ study, reported that feeblemindedness was increasing at twice the rate of the general population. We know that insanity in this country has increased four times as fast over a period of 40 years.

There are now in the Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded five brothers. There is another brother under commitment who has not been admitted. They are the children of a feebleminded couple between whom a marriage was arranged for exhibition purposes at a county fair, as a joke—and a ghastly joke it has turned out to be. With the admission of the sixth child the annual expense to the public will be approximately $1,500.00. As the children are very young and are healthy, their average expectancy, with the care they will receive in an institution, is not less than 40 years. Sixty thousand dollars represents a pretty high priced exhibition.

There are numerous families represented in the institution by from two to six members, counting only brothers, sisters and parents. One hundred thirty-two families contribute a total of 346 inmates on this basis. If cousins, aunts and other relatives are counted, the number to the family runs much higher. The central filing system in the office of the State Board of Control shows a family with nine immediate members scattered among the School for Feeble-Minded, the State Public School, the State Prison, and the State Training School. Another is shown with the mother at one of the hospitals for the insane and three sons in penal and correctional institutions.

Sterilization

The sterilization of the mentally unfit is a just and humane method of effectually shutting off strains of mental defectives and affording society the protection that it must have, if it is to be preserved on the present or a higher level. Vasectomy and salpingectomy, the former a simple operation and the latter a relatively simple one, are the remedies indicated, although Dr. M. W. Barr, chief physician, Pennsylvania Training School for

Feeble-Minded Children, who advocated and performed sterilization operations more than 30 years ago, recommends castration and ovariotomy. The latter operations leave the patient without sex desire and render them perfectly safe and harmless. There can be no question that these should be resorted to in extreme cases of degeneracy, including rapists. If a changed nature does come about in a degenerate, it can only be for his good and is therefore an advantage to the subject as well as to the people at large. As mental inferiority is recognizable in the feebleminded, by far the largest and most dangerous group of mental defectives, at a very early age, proper measures should be taken then, before contacts are formed or damage done, and no mental defective should ever be released from any public institution with the power of procreation. Persons who are themselves normal but who are capable of transmitting mental defect because of tainted heredity should not be denied the right of voluntary sterilization.

Life Commitment

Commitment of youthful offenders who are found to be defective, and here it is important to find evidences of latent insanity or epilepsy, should be for life and not until the age of 21. Most murders, robberies, holdups and other desperate crimes are committed by persons who were previously inmates of correctional or penal institutions and who should never have been released. The only way to stop recidivism is to hold these defectives in the first place. Every superintendent of a correctional institution has seen inmate after inmate leave his doors who he was certain would commit murder or other serious crimes. There is no excuse for the habitual criminal.

Segregation

Permanent segregation of mental defectives in suitable institutions while entailing an initial burden would be far cheaper and better than to allow them to be at large to reproduce. In fact, segregation would cost much less than the actual outlay expended, publicly and privately, on these individuals at present if the upkeep amounted to a per capita cost equivalent to that of other classes of public charges. This would not need to be the case. The higher-grade defectives could be permanently segregated in a way that would make them mostly or entirely self-supporting. This plan would afford the public the protection desired if the relatives and friends of the patients did not succeed in getting them released for longer or shorter periods. This is a big proviso, for experience has shown that the public, with its limited ability to recognize mental defect, is slow to commit persons to institutions for life and not satisfied to leave them there after they are committed. Segregation would be indicated for those who could not safely remain in society after sterilization.

Parole

The failure of people to grasp the importance of absolute segregation has led up to the proposal of another plan of handling mental defectives, that of commitment and “parole.” The subject is allowed his liberty, usually
after a few years' training in an institution, but is under the watchful eye
of an agent of the state. The plan would be ideal if it would work, but
it won't with all classes, or with many classes, especially with females.
A feebleminded woman would have to be under constant supervision
for a period of 30 years or more, covering her child-bearing age. Such women
become the easy victims of the vicious at 20 years of age, as readily as at
16. There are many women in the Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded, who
have given birth to their first babies at 20 to 30 years of age, and there is
one, at least, who became the mother of several, beginning in the late
thirties. Feebleminded girls are not inclined to be sexually immoral except
in the case of an occasional over-sexed or perverted individual, yet they
contribute the large percentage of illegitimacy cases, of which there are
about 1,500 reported officially each year in Minnesota, and the crimes incident
therein, as infant abandonment and murder. The feebleminded girl
does want the attention of men and is easily induced to comply with their
desires. No previous acquaintance or familiarity is required. Any unprin-
ciplized man, finding her alone in the house for only a few minutes, may
quickly take advantage of her mental helplessness. She wishes to be agree-
able, or, as one girl said in explanation of her misfortunes, her "mind was
not strong enough one way or the other." That states the situation per-
fectedly. Prostitution comes in the same way. The moron is first a victim
and later finds prostitution one of the few pursuits in which a mental 19
can compete and make a living. Officials who tell so proudly how many
of their illegitimacy cases they settle out of court by the marriage of the
persons involved cannot be sure they have done society a service, or that
happiness will flow ever after. The mental status of the bride should
first be established.

The parole idea can give a good account of itself for a check-up of a
few years, but extend the period to 30 years and the proposition is unhink-
able. After 10 years it is safe to predict, and the prediction is not based
on fancy, that one-third will have disappeared from sight; another third
will have been returned or incarcerated elsewhere after a season of illegit-
imacy or of vice and crime: and the remainder will be married and running
to form. Of course any kind of supervision is better than no super-
vision at all.

If people have the native intelligence and stability to support themselves
and not be a menace to society, they should never be committed to an
institution for the feebleminded in the first place. This step puts a brand
on them that can never be effaced and makes necessary a readjustment when
they are released and returned to society. They have also had to experience
more or less contact with imbeciles and idiots. The only good derived is
a certain amount of training and discipline which could be provided just
as well, or better, in their local communities at less expense to the public
and with the further advantage of permitting uninterrupted community life,

It is these women ranging in mental age from 8 to 12 years, women
in stature and reproductive power, children in mind, who are the mothers
of most of the abandoned and neglected children, imbeciles, idiots, insane,
epileptics, paupers, criminals, and misfits and incompetents generally. Their
physical attractiveness when young and their demure manners may strongly
appeal even to men of unusual intelligence at their most egotistical stage,
and win them homes on Summit, Euclid, or Fifth Avenues, or on Riverside
or Lake Shore Drives. The introduction of such elements of heredity into
highly intellectual strains accounts for curious mental twists of genius, but
they are not at all marks of that quality and are a hindrance to its develop-
ment.

No amount of institutional training, supervision on "parole," or uplift-
ing, will make a moron anything else than a mental defective, capable of
transmitting mental defect not only to her immediate offspring but to suc-
ceeding generations in widening circles. At least four generations are
required to remove the danger of a throwback. A training and a veneer
of manners, by which the public is further deceived, may be obtained, but
the trainee is a moron still.

Mental Tests in Industry

It would help greatly in finding and weeding out incompetents if all
business concerns were so organized as to select their employes with some
regard to their mental capacities. One taxicab company has found that
by eliminating the unfit through mental examination its accidents, accom-
panied by injuries, loss of life, and claims for damages, have been greatly
reduced. Railroads and transportation companies in general would find
that careful selection of their employes would not only make for safety but
would reduce friction and trouble all along the line. Mistakes in promo-
tion would be less frequent and men of greater capacities would be found
to take positions of trust and responsibility.

Training of Teachers

Since it is of the highest importance to identify mental defectives in
their earliest years, the public school is the natural place to make the
identification if it has not been made sooner. It would be possible to train
all public school teachers, especially for the elementary schools, to recog-
nize the higher grade feebleminded, who so often escape detection and who
are usually considered normal children by their parents and other relatives.
Teachers are blamed for their low marks or failures. These pupils some-
times make a fair showing in the first years of their school life, while the
memory is largely drawn on, but fall further and farther behind as they
attempt to advance through the course. A feebleminded child can not do
acceptable work above the sixth grade and is not a proper subject for
trade school education, as so many seem to think.

Survival of the Fit

It is in the hands of the intelligent people of this country, for they
are as yet in the majority, to say whether they will inaugurate a plan for
the survival of the mentally fit or continue the present fatuous policy of
the survival of the unfittest.
Florence Monahan, State Reformatory for Women: I should like to ask Mr. Hanna about his understanding of the child labor amendment. Our state already has the power to prohibit the labor of children under the age of eighteen if it seems fit. As I understand the child labor amendment there is no thought of prohibiting labor of children under eighteen except dangerous labor. I think it is an entirely wrong conception of the bill to think there is any thought of saying that all children under the age of eighteen years should go to school. I have never heard anyone believing in the child labor amendment give it such an interpretation as that.

Judge Hall: The present law in Minnesota is this: Every child shall attend school until he is sixteen unless he has completed the eighth grade. If a child is fourteen years of age and has completed the eighth grade, ordinary studies in English, you can not compel him to attend school. If he has not, he must attend until he is sixteen. That, in short and brief, is the educational law in Minnesota.

The child labor amendment simply gives Congress the power to legislate as Congress sees fit for the welfare of the child. There is nothing said about education. In Minnesota, as I have stated, we legislate as to education. We also define in Minnesota certain kinds of occupation that a child may be engaged in, and that a child under fourteen may not be engaged in certain commercial or industrial occupations or any particular occupation outside of domestic affairs; that a child under sixteen shall not be engaged in dangerous occupations—certain chemical manufactories, lead and arsenic, mines and other matters—but I suppose that many of us do not realize that in Minnesota we have laws regulating labor even to the age of twenty-one. The law says that no woman or girl under the age of twenty-one shall be a night messenger. The national child labor law simply gives Congress the power to pass on these various phases as to what is for the welfare of a child under and up to eighteen years of age. Congress would have no power to say what a child over eighteen should do. Of course it is true we might compel a feebleminded child to stay in school up to the age of sixteen years if he had not completed the eighth grade, and of course it is true, as Mr. Hanna says, we have repeaters that cause loss of money.

I wish to state this, while I am on my feet: I certainly enjoyed Mr. Hanna's paper. I think there is a decided menace to society from the feebleminded, as he has outlined it, and that we have before us the greatest loss of money. The whole idea, moreover, is based on "graduations." The thing is, how far are you going to dip down? It is going to be hard to establish that line of division. There isn't an exact line, there is a gradation. You can dig lower or you can stay up higher.

To explain briefly: Heredity is conceded to be an appalling fact, but heredity is not a definite result. It is a "trend," a "tendency," a "pre-disposition." Rarely, if ever, are all of a large family definitely involved; usually "one or a few." Going further, only about 25 per cent of the insane as committed have recorded against them even this "one or a few." Fifty to 75 per cent have no known heredity. Even twins have been known of as widely differing in character.

Among the feebleminded there is something the same. None will imagine that the 25 to 50 per cent found in the army tests originated just at that age or time; there had been such indefinitely back in the past. Moreover, a like percentage probably exists among adults.

Among the insane the most of the defective or feebleminded cases—and there are a great many—have avoided marriage. Rather few have illegitimate children. Rarely do we get a known prostitute and prostitutes have few known children.

If we allow up toward 50 per cent of the population to be feebleminded, defective, insane or defective otherwise, can you imagine the other 50 per cent able to vote them into isolation, segregation or other penalty? We all fall short of perfection more or less. Moreover, we are all not exactly equals in mental ability, in emotional stability, or in the power of the will.
J. T. Fulton, State Training School: Judge Hall's statement expresses the facts as we have found them. Children are compelled to go to school in Minnesota until they are 16 years of age unless they have completed the eighth grade previous to that time, and that without regard to their mental condition. No provision is made to excuse feebleminded children from school attendance. That works a hardship on the children themselves as well as upon the teachers in the schools, and I am certain that it works a hardship upon the institutions that deal with children, as feebleminded boys and girls are not infrequently expelled from the schools and sooner or later are committed to the state correctional institutions. If these schools obey the law, they are obliged to compel these unfortunate children to attend school.

I am reminded of Mr. Lincoln's statement that "God must love the common people, he made so many of them," and the half-joking remark so often made that unless this thing is stopped, some of the rest of us will have to go to work casts a gratuitous reflection on the working people of the world. The greater part of the world's population have been working people and will continue to be working people. Just because a man works with his hands is no reason why he should be characterized as feebleminded. Just because an individual belongs to the great body of men who are "beaters of wood and drawers of water" is no good reason why he should be regarded as possessing a deficient mentality. The Savior of the world was a carpenter, and when God Almighty picked out the best home on earth for His Son. He selected a working man's home in which His child was to be developed and in which He was to grow up.

Every one who possesses ordinary powers of observation and who has dealt with large numbers of children can readily recognize a feebleminded child if it is a definite case. The place where the expert in psychology and psychiatry comes in, I suppose, is in detecting the borderline cases.

Mr. Vasaly: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I didn't hear all of the paper; I know it must have been very good because the author is a scholar and Rochester. Mr. Swendes remembers her. She was also at Fergus Falls. I do not profess to be one myself—have come to that conclusion. I do not believe it is the proper solution. I think segregation and psychiatry comes in, I suppose, is in detecting the borderline cases.

With reference to the feeblemindedness as regards the delinquent, I have a few figures that I want to call to your attention because I think they will interest you and I am sure they will interest Mr. Hanna.

We received at my institution from last October 19 to January 20 this year, 156 men. These 156 men had a mental examination, and I just received a report from Dr. Kuhlmann's office the other day. Out of that number 34 were morons, 27 borderline, 37 dull, 18 average, 13 bright, 8 very bright, 17 superior, and 2 very superior. I am inclined to think if a similar survey had been made ten years ago the per cent of morons would have been greater still. It is quite evident from the figures that the larger percentage of crime is being committed by those over the borderline. I think that is true of those going to the prison, also.

In two days I received 9 men belonging to one gang. There was just one defective in that group. All the others were bright.

It seems to me that the great problem, as Mr. Fulton indicated, is to find some means of taking care of the borderline cases and the very bright. There is something missing in the education of the very bright, the superior, and the very superior. There is something wrong with them. Each may have his own idea about that, but I believe if they knew more about real religion and got the proper training in that regard, they wouldn't be in my custody. Then again, as bearing on that point, out of 44 parole violators in the last biennial period, of those returned to the institution three were low grade mentally. We have more trouble with the bright fellows on parole than we have with the feebleminded because they are not so subject to discipline and parole. I don't have much trouble with the feebleminded on parole, which goes to show, it seems to me, that by proper supervision in the community we can to a very large extent minimize the problem. It is bad enough as it is, but we can minimize it by proper training and by proper care.

C. J. Swendsen, State Board of Control: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vasaly and I are very good friends, as you all know. I don't think there are any better friends in the state. We have been sitting in here ten years side by side. We very often have had a difference of opinion, but there was never a misunderstanding; but on this question of sterilization Mr. Vasaly and I never did agree. We don't today.

The case Mr. Vasaly referred to, I remember very well. She was a beautiful girl. She was operated on and became a very notorious girl in this state. If she had not been operated, she probably would have had five or six children and most likely we would have had them to care for.

I also remember another girl, who my friend, Mr. Vasaly, will recall. She was paroled from the School for Feeble-Minded twice, and each time she came back she brought a baby. If that girl had been sterilized that would never have happened.
Years ago at Fergus Falls there was a woman who would come to the institution every time she was pregnant. She came disturbed mentally and gave birth to a child five or six times in the hospital for the insane and then went home perfectly normal. The last time she became pregnant she was not sent to the hospital in time. In her mentally disturbed state she took an axe and cut off the head of one of her children. If that woman had been sterilized the first time she came to the hospital for the insane, a thing of that sort would not have happened. What her children may be, we don't know. It may be the father was normal; the children may have a fair chance in life.

Personally, I am very much in favor of sterilization if it is safeguarded. We must be very, very careful not to do an injustice to anyone, but I feel that a number of these girls, and men also, could go out in life and be self-supporting if they were sterilized. I know the opposition will say they might become prostitutes and spread disease. They will do that anyway whether they are sterilized or not, so if they were sterilized I think it would help. We all believe in segregation and supervision.

I was called out so I could not hear Mr. Hanna's paper, which I know was a splendid one. I feel, however, that Mr. Hanna is a little bit pessimistic when it comes to the question of the parole of the girls. Personally I believe in that system. It is true we have only started, and we are working on a small scale, we are in the experimental stage, but we do hope to develop the matter of parole so that girls may go out and become self-supporting. I think it is one of the big problems of the state of Minnesota today to develop that particular work. Let these girls go out in life and let them live a normal life under the strictest kind of supervision and they will be self-supporting. From an economical point of view it is of course a great thing for the state, and just think what it is for the girls! Here are girls who can enjoy life. They are almost normal; in many matters they are normal. They can be out under supervision, surrounded by kind friends, and become self-supporting. I wonder if we realize what it means for these girls and what it means for the state as such? Personally, I am very much in favor of the parole system.

Mr. Vasaly: I should like to ask Mr. Swendsen a question. This is a matter of biology. If it is wise and proper to sterilize the feebleminded, why not equally right and good to sterilize those having tuberculosis, for a matter of biology. If it is wise and proper to sterilize the feebleminded, then let them, sterilize them first.

Dr. Kilbourne: The treatment of insanity lies principally in prevention. A celebrated scientist in the Westminster Review some years ago, stated that he performed that operation and that it rendered these men amenable to discipline; from being most troublesome people they became quiet. That is another argument. It is a simple operation for men. You do take a risk with women, but if a person like this man comes and demands that his wife be sterilized, why can't it be done?

Miss Monahan: If in a family of five or six children you find one child is feebleminded, what is to prevent feeblemindedness from being handed on by all the children if it is inherited? It must be potential in the normal children as well as in the feebleminded child. If you are going to carry it to a logical conclusion, it would be necessary to sterilize the father, the mother, all the brothers and sisters, and all the relatives.

Charles F. Dight, M. D., Minneapolis: Let me say, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the last point made by Miss Monahan, that since perhaps about ten per cent of the entire people of the United States are unfit eugenically.
to reproduce their kind, many of them though normal mentally having defective germ plasm, it would be useless to try to put into operation measures that would at once prevent reproduction of all of the many millions of socially unfit—the feebleminded, insane, epileptic and recidivist criminals.

To try to do this would be such a radical step that society would not cooperate in it. But we may expect cooperation in our efforts to check reproduction of the obviously unfit who, because of brain defect, are dangerous persons or incapable of caring for themselves, and who in this state are legally committed to the guardianship of the State Board of Control. This as a first step may be extended, as society awakes to the importance of it, to the prevention of reproduction of high-grade morons who are a greater menace than the actually feebleminded.

The second step in eugenic measures will, no doubt, be that of educating the public in regard to these tremendously important facts we have heard discussed at this meeting and which will lead worth while young people to look up the pedigree of their would-be fiancée and use some care in selecting a marriage mate. To aid in this a list of names of the hereditarily fit and unfit should be available. The State Board of Control seems to be the body capable of assembling such a list, aided by reports from the State Department of Education.

The first and second points raised by Miss Monahan can now be answered scientifically in the light of our present knowledge of the laws of heredity about which more has been learned in the last 25 years than during all preceding time. Suffice it to say that feeblemindedness is potential in many persons who are normal mentally, because of the fact that some, but not all, of their reproductive cells are defective. Such persons are "carriers" so-called. If one of their defective cells be the one to unite in fertilization the child that develops from it may be defective. Thus feeblemindedness often appears, according to the laws of heredity, in children of mentally normal parents, the defect extending back to the germ cell.

If a person who is a carrier of feeblemindedness in his or her germ plasm, though normal mentally, marries a carrier of similarly defective germ plasm, though normal mentally, it may be expected that about one-fourth of their children will be feebleminded. When both parents are actually feebleminded by heredity, then all of their children will be feebleminded.

I think that any person who has made a careful study of human biology will agree with the statements in Mr. Hanna's paper with scarcely an exception. If our legislators, before whom there is now an eugenics bill for consideration, could hear the paper read, it would persuade them, I believe, to pass the bill.

The time will come, in my opinion, when, if our civilization is to survive, the states will have to grade their citizens as to their hereditary soundness, their inborn mental capacity, their physical structure and its efficiency, and then prevent reproduction of the unfit.

I submit, for what value there may be in it, an individual eugenics program that I formulated, which was printed in The Medical World, Philadelphia, August, 1924, and which should be observed by young people.

1. As you would avoid being stung by a scorpion or bitten by a rattlesnake, so should you shun marriage with one who has occasional epileptic seizures; who is or has been insane; who is feebleminded or belongs to the moron group.

2. Learn, if possible, whether in the last three generations any of the conditions named have existed in any member of the family strain into which you think of marrying. If they have, there is a chance that any member of that strain, though normal mentally, may be tainted—may carry in some of his or her germ cells determiners of the defects that should be avoided or lack some determiner for normality. Look up the pedigree of your would-be fiancé.

3. To aid you and others in this matter, urge your friends and legislators that there be assembled at your state capitol a list of names of all persons, and their near kin folk, in the state who have had epilepsy, insanity, and who are feebleminded or high grade morons; this list to be used only to forestall marriage and reproduction of the unfit. In lieu of this, urge that the unfit be sterilized by vasectomy. They then can marry.

4. If you belong to a sound stock and have a good heredity, prize that above all things. Encourage others to cultivate pride in good heredity.

5. Choose a marriage mate that is free from inheritable defect; who has a sound constitution; who belongs to a healthy, long-lived and sound stock, and has some worthy purpose in life; who has ability that wins success and who possesses the homely virtues that gain respect. Pass by the superficial and butterfly admirers and the person who uses alcohol to excess or who has venereal disease. Information regarding the latter should be given in the marriage license. The germ cells of such persons are likely to be impaired. Then the effects of these diseases which are often innocently acquired by women, cause endless suffering requiring surgical operations.

6. Remember and take pleasure in the fact that if you make choice of a good marriage mate, nature will take care of all the rest, insofar as your happiness and usefulness are linked up with the forces of heredity from which no person can escape.

7. Remember, young man, that your choice in marriage is a choice of a mother for your children, and your choice, young woman, is a father for your babies. Your choice actually decides whether your children will be gifted, or of medium ability or mentally subnormal and whether a pleasure and an honor to you or a burden and disgrace. Society, too, knowing that you will make a choice, guided perhaps largely by sentiment, for love with most persons is blind, should be enough interested to weed out the obviously unfit so that your choice
cannot be a seriously wrong one. Remember, also, that young people especially need to be familiar with the essential facts of heredity and the principles of eugenics to avoid unfortunate marriages, for the bad results of which in disappointed parents and the loading of delinquents and defectives in society, no amount of education, good laws, prayers, tears or hospital care can ever compensate.

Judge Hall: Many of us have been thinking that there are some matters that we have not yet taken into consideration for the control of feeblemindedness in Minnesota which ought to be initiated. From Dr. Kuhlmann's report it would seem that about 4 per cent of the population of Minnesota is feebleminded, possibly a little higher, 5 per cent. Some of these reports indicate that from 100,000 to 130,000 are feebleminded. If we have 100,000 feebleminded in Minnesota and but 2,000 feebleminded and epileptics segregated, what are we going to do with the other 98,000? What are we doing with this immense problem? They are marrying and being given in marriage. We are just barely scratching the very edges of the problem.

Personally I have been very much interested in the program which Dr. Kuhlmann laid down in 1921 before the social workers at Hibbing, where he stated that Minnesota should begin in the first grade of its public schools and examine every child. Each year, if we took up the first-grade pupils and continued it, you would begin to establish a continuing census, and then in the course of a few years you would have a census of the feebleminded persons in Minnesota. Special training could be given to that type of pupils when they were young. This census also should be a bar to their being allowed to marry. There ought to be a strict penalty against any clerk issuing a license to a person on that census list, providing that a person could be removed from that list by court action. That might be a beginning of a real program for the care of the feebleminded. Just at present we are only taking care of the delinquents who come to our attention.

Rev. E. J. Nystrom, Board of Visitors: I have listened with the keenest interest to the papers and the discussion, both this morning and this afternoon. I especially admired Mr. Hanna's presentation, and yet, it seems to me it gave us too gloomy an aspect. Dr. Phelps relieved us a little.

We have heard today about the crime wave and have tried to explain it. Is that inherited? Why should that crime wave come just now? Is it on account of a low mentality that has suddenly broken out? We read in history that we have had periods when nations rose and periods when they declined. I do not know whether America is on the crest of the wave of development, but if the percentage of the mentally inferior increases so much faster than the percentage of the educated and mentally superior, we are in a bad state at present. The educated and fit have one or two children and many have none, while the unfit propagate very fast. That has been going on now for two generations. Soon we won't have any sane people left. Still I do not feel that the outlook is so gloomy that there is no escape from mental inferiority. It is remarkable that some of the greatest minds in the world today came from the lowest strata. On the other hand we have feebleminded children whose parents and forefathers were very highly educated and of great mentality.

Now, if there isn't a power that heals these mental ailments, we are doomed. Again, if there is such a power, then there is hope for us. At the same time we consider that science is very necessary and very beneficial, but if you stop there and only by legislation try to heal the ailments of humanity, the aspect is very gloomy. There is a power outside that is able to step in when our means of procedure fail.

Mrs. La Du: I just want to add a few words. First, I want to thank Mr. Hanna for presenting the scientific, biological facts of this problem of feeblemindedness in the splendid way in which he did. It takes courage to do that. None of us like these disagreeable things. We don't like the philosophy of gloom or pessimism. Sometimes if we look at it in this way we receive, as we did from Mr. Hanna's paper, so many scientific facts within so short a time that it is overwhelming and overpowering, but yet it is time that intelligent people should take cognizance of these facts. Whether or not we go to the extremes to which he goes: whether or not we believe the statements which scientists have made, we know enough of them to realize that it is the biggest problem in Minnesota; and I think it is time that those trained along these lines, the psychologist and the psychiatrist, should outline a program of prevention.

I think we should look at this problem from the standpoint of prevention. It is easy to talk about prevention, but it is harder when it comes down to a practical application of it. We have a splendid leader in Dr. Kuhlmann, who has outlined an excellent program, as Judge Hall told you, and I think we ought to talk on that side and get away from this philosophy of despair which we are always going to face if we are going to talk at all times about the cure and do nothing to prevent increase of the incurables. It is our duty and our responsibility to study, outline and carry out a program of prevention in the future as well as to care for those who are afflicted.