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brightic, and the nervous system thus impaired will show an impaired
ous system in the children of varying type, or developing into defects the
form of which seems largely a matter of seeming chance.

We are not free to do that which will interfere with others' freedom or
well-being, and the marriage of epileptics certainly does just this to the
spring. By such measures, we strike at the root of the evils, while by nurs-
ing and liberating the defectives we merely try to bend and direct and make
healthy the branches, and often perpetuate the defectiveness.

The following are recent books and articles treating of this subject:

   Vol. 1, p. 660.
6. "Causes • Conspiring; to Produce Mental Enfeeblement in Children." J. Savoy
   March 2, 1895.
   1895.

CARE OF THIS ADULT FEEBLE-MINDED.
BY ERNEST BICKNELL. SECRETARY OF THE INDIANA BOARD OF STATE
CHARITIES.

Much is said about the number of criminals and the number of insane
persons in Indiana. Our two big prisons are crowded with convicts. Four
large insane hospitals will not hold our insane. We have but one institution
for feeble-minded; yet to-day there are as many feeble-minded persons in
Indiana as of criminals and insane added together. According to the last
United States census there were five years ago 5,568 feeble-minded persons
in Indiana. Our single asylum for this class of unfortunate-a school, we
call it-has a capacity for about 500 inmates. Some 5,000 then are in the
county poor asylums, orphan asylums, are being cared for by private effort,
ar are wandering about as vagrants and beggars.

It was not until 1879 that Indiana became aware that she owed anything
to her feeble-minded citizens. Since then she has done well. Her liberality
has established a magnificent institution with its great farm.

The 500 inmates are well cared for. They are clothed and fed, and given
such training of hand and mind as they are capable of receiving. But what
about the other 5,000? Does the state owe nothing to them?

For convenience let us separate the broad subject into three divisions:
1. Labor and cost of support of the feeble-minded.
2. Happiness of the feeble-minded.
3. Protection for the feeble-minded themselves and for society.

CARE OF THE ADULT FEEBLE-MINDED.

As matters stand to-day, the feeble-minded citizen does not amount to
ninth as a laborer. He is more likely to be a dead weight upon his family or
the community in which he lives. In many instances a single feeble-minded
person proves to be such a burden that his whole family is kept in poverty
and wretchedness in its efforts to properly care for and support him. It is
like putting on brakes while the wagon goes up hill. In the poor asylum
the feeble-minded inmate is of some use, but not a great deal. The superintendent
has so many duties that he cannot take time to give the feeble-minded inmate
special attention. Everyone who has had experience with these inmates
knows that they are unreliable and of little use except under close supervision.

With proper training and supervision they could earn a considerable part of
the cost of their support, but in our poor asylums they cannot have the train­
ing or the supervision. The earnings are therefore exceedingly small.

Dr. F. H. Wines of Illinois, at the International Congress of Charities
at Chicago, during the World's Fair, said:

"Some idiots can be made self-supporting, just as an animal can bo. I can
take' a horse and make it earn money, but it cannot earn money for itself.
I can make an idiot earn money for mo, but it cannot earn money for itself.
I can protect that idiot, as I can a child, but the idiot cannot protect itself.
So, when a family is in circumstances to take care of its own idiots, well
and good; it is far better that they remain where they have the benefit of
natural parental affection. But the great mass of families with idiotic children
cannot do it. For this reason idiots have to be collected together under
the charge of trained attendants and held for life."

The average cost of supporting a poor asylum inmate a year in Indiana
is about seventy-one dollars above what he earns. The average cost of sup­
porting each feeble-minded person kept in his own home we have no
means of knowing, but it is probably as great as in the poor asylum. Sup⁠-
posing we have a large number of these persons brought together into one place,
where buildings have been constructed especially with a view to the needs
of feeble-minded persons, and under the supervision of a sufficient number of
officers who are skilled in the work and whose whole time is given to it.
Wo then have an opportunity to train the weak minds and clumsy hands as
fully as they are capable of being trained. The inmate works always under
the direction of skilled officers. Each inmate is employed at what; ho can do
the best advantage. They can be divided into groups according to their
dispositions and ability. Some are found who show a natural aptitude for
oaring for cows; others do better in gardening; some are better fitted for
housework; a certain per cent like tools, and can be taught to use them with
sufficient skill to manufacture mattresses, brooms, shoes, clothing, and do
various kinds of construction and repair work. Each group works under its
particular officer, and in this way works to the best advantage. The result
is (hat the average amount of profitable labor done by each inmate in
the large institution is much greater than when ho was at home or in the poor
asylum. At the same time he is better fed and better clothed than when at
the poor asylum, because he is in the hands of specialists who look after his
welfare in every particular. Experience has shown that steady employment
is the best remedy for the restlessness, viciousness, and discontent of feeble-
mined persons.

A large Institution such as have here described could only be estab­
lished and maintained by the state. But the question of cost comes in. How
In the office of the Board of State Charities to-day are records of hundreds of families from which examples could be given. I have selected sixty-one and every other person who has given attention to the subject could cite them. I could fill many pages of this paper with illustrations of the evil of feeble-mindedness without heeding the curse of vice and illegitimacy which are its inevitable accompaniments. In feeble-minded persons the animal passions are usually present and are often abnormally developed, while will and reason, which should control and repress them, are absent. The feeble-minded woman, thus lacking the protection which should be her birthright, falls easily into vice. She cannot, in her weakness, resist the persuasions and temptations which beset her. When the baser passions are strong, she must not only oppose them but resist the influences from without but her own dominating desires. She is not to be condemned and punished, but rather to be pitied and helped in every possible manner. On the other hand, society is also entitled to protection. Many have been the instances in which the presence of a feeble-minded woman or girl in a village or country neighborhood has been a veritable curse to the community. Unable to control her debasing propensities she has become a source of temptation and corruption to young men and boys, who otherwise would not have been led into vicious habits. Irresponsible and innocent of intentional wrong, she yet brings to our very doors the most destructive and insidious of evils.

The immorality and demoralization which thus often accompany the feeble-minded woman through life leave in their train a harvest of illegitimacy and pauperism beyond the power of words to adequately portray. The three children of feeble-mindedness—idocy, pauperism, and illegitimacy—are monstrosities from which we must protect ourselves. They are a triple burden upon the prosperity of the people and a threat against the best in morals and education. With these helpless women mingling more or less freely in society, no remedy for the present conditions, growing worse every year as they are, seems possible. It was easy to give illustrations of the evils of which I am speaking, until my hearers would turn away sick and weary at the sad recital. A few cases of individuals and groups, however, may serve to indicate how widespread the evils are to-day and the rapidity with which their magnitude increases.

In cases where feeble-minded children have become mothers they are counted twice in this classification. This accounts for an apparent discrepancy between the total and classifications.
In one of our Southern Indiana counties is a family of which from one to six members have been in the poor asylum at all times for thirty and probably forty years. Many of the members have died, but their descendants have always been ready to take their places in the ranks of pauperism and vice. It is impossible to secure a complete record of this family, but from the fragmentary history which is available and which includes probably not more than half the whole number of members, the following facts are taken. One of the oldest of the family now living was born in 1823. He is feeble-minded. His first wife was feeble-minded. Four children were the result of this marriage, two sons and daughters. All were feeble-minded. These children were named Mary, Margaret, Andrew, and George Washington. The first wife died, and in his old age this man married a second time, his second choice being also a feeble-minded woman. The two daughters which were born to the first wife of this man were, as I have said, feeble-minded. Both are living to-day and are inmates of the poor asylum. Neither has ever married. Mary has borne six or seven children. Two or three have been dead for years, and their mental condition is not positively known. Two daughters now living are in the School for the Feeble-minded, and a son, who died within a few years, was feeble-minded. A third daughter is feeble-minded and is the wife of a feeble-minded man. They are not in the poor asylum, but live in a neighboring county, where they are given assistance by a township trustee. This couple has one child, of whose mental condition I have no information. The other sister, Margaret, has a daughter, feeble-minded and unmarried who works in another county, and a feeble-minded son now in a School for Feeble-minded. This woman has also borne two or three children, now dead, but all said to have been feeble-minded. Of the son Andrew, we have no record. He is dead, and probably died in youth. The son, George Washington, married a feeble-minded woman and a feeble-minded son was born to them. George Washington afterwards separated from his wife, and later married a second feeble-minded woman. Before marriage this woman had borne an illegitimate child by George Washington. This child was also feeble-minded. It should be remembered that nearly all the persons referred to in this family record have been during the whole or part of their lives a burden upon the community. Every member of the family, so far as known, has been feeble-minded. Probably one-half the members of the family have been illegitimate. Those who have entered into the marriage relation have had little or no respect for it, and there is much doubt as to the legitimacy of the children born to married mothers. The history of this family is not closed. As it stands to-day, there are probably thirteen members supported wholly or chiefly through public funds. Hardly a year passes that other feeble-minded illegitimate children are not born into the family. The burden upon the taxpayers grows greater and the curse of feeble-mindedness and illegitimacy spreads.

From one of the best of our eastern counties the following example is taken: Tills record begins with a feeble-minded man, dead many years ago. Of this man, we have no record. Two daughters were born to the couple, Mary and Susan. Both were feeble-minded. Further than this we know nothing of Susan. Mary married and became the mother of two daughters, Sarah and Florence, both feeble-minded. Both Sarah and Florence were in the poor asylum when girls, and both were afflicted with a disease which resulted from leading an immoral life. Florence married, and is now in the poor asylum. She has a child said to be feeble-minded, but we have no authen-
which exists among the feeble-minded has come to pass in spite of the best efforts of homes and county poor asylums to prevent it. Anyone who has given even the briefest attention to the subject knows how totally inadequate is the protection for the feeble-minded which can be given by these institutions. Dr. Walter Fernald, the superintendent of the Massachusetts School for Feeble-minded Children, in speaking of the feeble-minded, has said: "The tendency to lead dissolute lives is specially noticeable in the females. A feeble-minded girl is exposed as no other girl in the world is exposed. She has not sense enough to protect herself from the perils to which women are subjected. Often bright and attractive, if at large they either marry and bring forth in geometrical ratio a new generation of defectives and dependents, or become irresponsible sources of corruption and debauchery in the communities where they live. There is hardly a poorhouse in this land where there are not two or more feeble-minded women with from one to four illegitimate children each. There is every reason, in morality, humanity, and public policy, that these feeble-minded women should be under permanent and watchful guardianship, especially during the child-bearing age."

In the office of the Board of State Charities we have partial records which show that in forty-two county poor asylums are, or within recent years have been, seventy-five feeble-minded women who gave birth to 137 illegitimate children. These figures, taken in conjunction with those given in preceding pages of this paper, showing that in thirty-one county poor asylums are sixty-one families known to contain 267 different feeble-minded persons, may convey some idea of the extent of this great triple evil of feeble-mindedness, pauperism, and illegitimacy. In collecting these records we have felt that we are simply dealing with the surface indications. We have made no systematic effort to gather complete statistics, as this would be impossible while poor asylum records are kept as they now are. The great underlying facts of the wretchedness, and poverty, and immorality, and ignorance and cost we can only estimate or conjecture, but enough of the truth is tangible for us to know that the problem which we have to solve, is one of tremendous magnitude and importance.

In the famous study made by Dugdale of the Juices family in New York it was shown that, from a single feeble-minded woman descended many generations of paupers and criminals, while the worst of vices characterized a large majority of her descendants. Records were made of 709 persons who were descendants of this woman. Fifty-two per cent of all the women in this number were prostitutes. Of the 709 persons seventy-six were criminals. The history of this family, in its various ramifications, was obtained for a period of seventy-five years, and Mr. Dugdale estimates that the cost to the community of caring for the paupers and prosecuting the criminals of this family during that period was over one and one-quarter millions of dollars. The percentage of feeble-mindedness which descended from parent to child through all this wretched history was very great. Speaking of the evils resulting from feeble-mindedness, Prof. Charles H. Henderson of the Chicago University has said: "It is intolerable to permit such creatures to become parents, and so multiply and perpetuate pauperism, idiocy, and crime." This sentiment has been expressed in various forms by every person who has given the subject attention. Since all feeble-mindedness does not come from feeble-minded parents, but may be caused by sickness or accidents in infancy, or by prenatal influences, of which we know but little, there is little hope that any method of prevention can ever eliminate feeble-mindedness entirely from among the people. It does seem clear, however, that if those who are feeble-minded could be effectually prevented from bringing children of their own kind into existence, we should have cut off the greatest and most menacing source of supply.

Even though the protection of the feeble-minded on the one hand and of society on the other should draw heavily upon the public treasury, it would mone the less be in the interests of real economy. It is impossible to calculate what even one feeble-minded woman may cost the public, when her vast possibilities for evil as a producer of paupers and criminals through an endless line of descendants is considered. If the state can seclude such a woman and thus at one stroke cut off the possibility of a never-ending and ever-widening record of evil and expense, shall it do it? Can it afford not to do it? The people cannot choose whether or not they will support the feeble-minded. That problem solves itself, always in the same way. The feeble-minded must be supported by the public. It may be through the charity of neighbors and friends. It may be through the township overseer of the poor, or the county poor asylum, or the hospital, or the jail, or state's prison; but the public always pays the bills. And steadily, during all these efforts to assist the helpless feeble-minded, that unfortunate class continues to rapidly introduce his kind and swell the host of paupers and criminals. The state is the only agency by which the feeble-minded may be humanely and mercifully, but firmly, taken in hand and placed where they can be utterly prevented from producing the evils touched upon in this paper. Does not every sentiment of humanity and pity and business demand that the state small take this step? It would mean the expenditure of some money, it is true. It would mean the expenditure of a large amount of money. But it would immediately save at the same time an expenditure almost or quite as great by the counties or communities, and save in time to come so great a sum of money that the expenditures now needed to provide for these people would seem, beside it, comparatively small. I believe that the calm judgment of the people of Indiana, could they once fully and clearly understand the magnitude and gravity of this problem, would be overwhelmingly in favor of promptly taking such measures as promise to most effectively check the evils which have here been portrayed. When the dictates of humanity and public economy are in entire harmony it would seem that decisive action ought not to be so long delayed.