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A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION BY GRADES OF DEFECTIVE DELINQUENT WOMEN IN AN INSTITUTION FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED

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The frequency of delinquency among the various grades of the feeble-minded has been estimated upon the basis of the less general observations of social phenomena. The assumption has been rather generally made that the moron girl is more likely to be delinquent than the imbecile or the idiot. To test the index of this frequency, a brief survey of the female population of the Minnesota School for the Feeble-Minded was made to ascertain what per cent. of the moron girls had been delinquent in comparison with the percentages of delinquents among the imbecile and idiot grades.

The institution population, of course, represents a selected group. It is to be expected that a larger proportion of the defective delinquents of the lower grades will be arrested and committed to an institution than those of the higher grades whose defect may escape detection. It is probable, therefore, that the percentage of the lower grades is relatively high in this portion. It must be taken into consideration, too, that the institution receives a larger percentage of the existing feeble-minded of the lower grades. Of the existing number of idiots, Kuhlmann estimates that 37 per cent. are in institutions; of the feeble-minded; 18 per cent. of the existing number of imbeciles and only 2 per cent. of the existing number of morons. When we take into consideration the fact that only about 10 per cent. of all existing feeble-minded are idiots, 20 per cent. imbeciles, and 75 per cent. morons, it increases the probability that the lower grades of delinquents among the feeble-minded will be found with greater frequency in the institutions.

<sup>1</sup> "Distribution of the Feeble-Minded in Society." F. Kuhlmann. *Law and Crim.* VII-2. July, 1916.  
2 *ibid.*

To make the terms of the comparison of the different grades nearly equal, since the idiots and imbeciles are more apt to be recognized and committed to an institution before they have a chance to become delinquent, I have considered only cases which were committed to the institution after fifteen years of age. The classification of cases is based on the mental age as determined by the Kuhlmann Revision of the Binet-Simon scale. Cases with an intelligence quotient of 0—.24 (which is the equivalent of mental ages from 0—3.8) constitute the idiot group; cases with an intelligence quotient from .24—.49, or mental age 3.9—7.9 constitute the imbecile group; and an intelligence quotient from .50—.74, or mental age 7.7—11.3 constitutes the moron group. The total number of girls above fifteen years of age at the time of admission was 392; of these 100 are known to have been delinquent either because they had been previously committed to an institution for delinquents for some overt act, or because of immorality. Many of the cases are unmarried mothers whose feeble-mindedness was first recognized after the birth of one or more illegitimate children. Only the undoubted cases are included and, of course, many whose delinquencies are not known have not been included.

#### Frequency of Delinquency by Grades.

	Idiot.	Imbecile.	Moron.
Number of delinquents .....	2	52	46
Total population of institution.....	182	296	181
Percentage of delinquents for total female population .....	1	17.5	25.4
Number of females above 15 .....	55	195	142
Percentage of delinquents among females above 15 .....	3.6	26.6	32.3

In the first line of the table is shown the number of delinquents for each grade. The second line gives the number of idiots, imbeciles, and morons in the institution. The third line gives the percentages of delinquent idiots, imbeciles, and morons in the total female population. The number of female

idiots, imbeciles, and morons above fifteen years of age and in the last line, the percentages of delinquents for the three grades based upon the number above fifteen years of age.

It is significant that the percentage of delinquent inmates is so high when we consider that only 2 per cent. of the inmates ever reach the institution.

The following table shows the distribution of the cases according to mental age:

Mental age .....	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Number of cases .....	1	1	2	10	17	23	11	14	9

Similar tables seemed impracticable in the study of the number of delinquents among the male inmates of the institution because of the meagre data which the records afforded. Some idea of the distribution may be gained, however, from a study<sup>3</sup> made by Dr. Kuhlmann to determine the number of feeble-minded among the reformatory cases.

In a population of 370 inmates, 10 per cent. were found in the imbecile grade and 121 were of moron grade; none in the imbecile grade. As Dr. Kuhlmann points out, it is expected that among the reformatory cases would be found a high-grade feeble-minded. The distribution is as follows:

Mental age .....	5	6	7	8	9
Number of cases .....	1	3	6	8	32

The percentage increases with the increase in mental age which would seem to indicate the same tendency that is apparent in the study of the delinquent girls.

SUMMARY.

- (1) The institution population is a highly selected one.
- (2) A larger percentage of the existing feeble-minded in the lower grades are committed to an institution.
- (3) The frequency of delinquency is greater among the higher grades of feeble-minded women in an institution than among the feeble-minded.
- (4) Most of the feeble-minded in reformatories are high grade.

## DUTY OF THE EMPLOYER IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CRIPPLED SOLDIER.

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We must count on the return from the front of thousands of maimed soldiers. We must plan to give them on their return the best possible chance for the future.

Independence cannot be placed on monetary compensation in the form of a pension, for in the past the pension system has shown a distinct failure in so far as constructive ends are concerned. The pension has never been enough to support in the average disabled soldier, but it has been just large enough to act as an incentive to idleness and semi-dependence on relatives or friends.

The only compensation of real value for physical disability is rehabilitation for self-support. Make a man again capable of earning his own living and the chief burden of his handicap drops from him. Occupation is, further, the only means for making him self-reliant and contented.

Even after the outbreak of hostilities the European countries neglected the establishment of vocational training schools for the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers. They had both the humanitarian aim of restoring crippled men to the greatest possible degree of self-reliance and the economic aim of sparing the community the burden of unemployment on the part of thousands of its best citizens. The movement had its inception with Mayor Edouard Herriot of the city of Lyons, France, who found it difficult to reconcile the pressing need for labor in the factories and munition works with the men who had lost an arm or a leg but were otherwise self-reliant and well were idling their time in the public squares. He therefore induced the municipal council to open an industrial workshop for war cripples which has proved the example and in-