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Seventeenth Biennial Report

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1911/12

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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MINNESOTA

For the School Years 1911 and 1912

Thirty-Sixth Report of the Series

C. G. SCHULZ, Superintendent



1912.

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**SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED AND COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS.
REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING
JULY 31, 1912.**

POPULATION.

	Males	Females	Total
Present August 1, 1910.....	576	512	1,088
Present July 31, 1912.....	633	603	1,236

APPLICATIONS.

	Males	Females	Total
Total received for biennial period.....	208	184	392
Total received to July 31, 1912.....	2,102	1,679	3,781

ADMISSIONS.

	Males	Females	Total
During the biennial period there have been admitted....	243	239	482
Total admitted to July 31, 1912.....	1,832	1,420	3,252

DISMISSALS.

The following is a memorandum of dismissals for the biennial period:

	Males	Females	Total
Cared for by parents or relatives.....	59	49	108
Supporting themselves	5	2	7
Removed from the state.....	2	5	7
Transferred to hospitals for insane.....	1	7	8
Transferred to the School for the Deaf.....	.....	2	2
Discharged as normal and returned to home.....	1	.....	1
Escaped, whereabouts unknown.....	6	.....	6
Escaped and returned to reformatory.....	2	.....	2
Total.....	76	65	141

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION.

On August 1, 1912, the population of the institution was distributed as follows:

	Males	Females	Total
Department for Feeble-minded:			
School	251	238	489
Custodial	320	356	676
Farm colony	54	.....	54
Department for Epileptics.....	109	96	205
Department for Incurables.....	1	1	2
Total.....	735	691	1,426

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

During the biennial period, covered by this report, the department of research has been established and is able to make a report on its two principal phases. First that of the mental ages of the inmates of the institution as determined by the Binet-Simon test; and second, reports concerning the heredity of a portion of the inmates of the institution. Dr. Fred H. Kuhlman, director of research and psychologist, has completed a survey of the mental ages of the inmates and the following extract from his report will explain itself:

"The statistics herein submitted are compiled from the results of the mental examinations made during the period from September 1, 1910 to August 1, 1912. The basis of classification used is the average intelligence

of the normal child at the different ages. A given mental age of a feeble-minded, means that he has the general intelligence of the normal child of the corresponding chronological age.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

DISTRIBUTION OF MENTAL AGES IN EACH DEPARTMENT.

School and Training Department. Total Examined, 597.

Mental age.....	1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of boys.....	18	17	26	44	59	51	37	16	17	11	2	1
Number of girls.....	13	11	26	38	58	50	31	19	14	12	5	3
Total.....	31	28	52	82	117	101	68	35	31	23	7	4

Farm Department. Total Examined, 50.

Mental age	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of boys.....	2	1	2	21	7	7	6	2	2	0	0

Custodial Department. Total Examined, 637.

Mental age.....	1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of boys.....	148	39	32	19	19	13	10	3	4	0	1	1
Number of girls.....	159	26	36	36	26	20	9	10	4	3	4	3
Total.....	307	65	68	67	45	33	19	13	8	3	5	4

Epileptic Department. Total Examined, 203.

Mental age.....	1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of boys.....	2	7	11	12	14	10	14	21	12	6	2	2
Number of girls.....	10	11	2	8	11	14	13	14	9	4	4	0
Total.....	12	8	13	20	25	24	27	35	21	10	6	2

Average Mental Age in Each Department.

School and Training.....	6.4	Custodial	3.5
Farm	6.9	Epileptic	7.2

Total for All Feeble-Minded, Excluding Epileptics. Total Examined, 1,270.

Mental age	1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of cases.....	338	95	125	151	183	141	94	54	41	28	12	8

Relation of Mental Age to Chronological Age, Excluding Epileptics.

Chronological age	1-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-17	18-20	21-30	31
Number mental age.....	1.8	2.8	4.1	4.9	5.5	5.8	5.0	5.5

Chronological Age at Time of Admission, Excluding Epileptics.

Chronological age	1-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-17	18-20	21-30	31
Number of boys.....	43	108	123	103	70	46	37	60
Number of girls.....	36	95	98	102	80	66	71	58
Total.....	79	203	221	205	150	112	128	118

In these tables, the epileptics housed with the feeble-minded in custodial buildings because of low grades of intelligence were classified as feeble-minded only. The custodial department also includes a number of cases of higher grades of intelligence belonging chiefly to the following classes:—(a) cripples; (b) cases with periodic dementia; (c) incorrigibles; (d) cases employed as helpers in custodial work.

Among the general facts that these results indicate, attention may be called to the following: (a) more cases are admitted whose mental ages range from 4 to 7 than for other grades. Relatively few of the higher grades

are admitted. According to the assumption, undoubtedly in the main correct, that the smaller deviations from the normal occur by far the most frequently, the larger deviations decreasing very rapidly in frequency, the number of the higher grades of intelligence that come to the institution constitute an insignificant percentage of the total number of cases existing. (b) Up to about the chronological age of 15, the number of boys admitted exceeds the number of girls. Beyond the age of 15, the girls exceed the boys in number. (c) There is no significant difference between the grade of intelligence of the boys and the girls. (d) The condition of feeble-mindedness is on the whole not stationary throughout life. Intelligence improves on the whole to the chronological age of about 15. After this, it remains stationary."

In connection with this report or mental survey, it may be of interest to the teachers of the state to examine the following.

SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION.

Prepared by the principal, Miss Margaret McLean, to show the relation between the mental ages and the character of training given.

I. Kindergarten—Two teachers. First division, 27 boys and girls; average chronological age, 6.6 years; average mental age, 3.5 years. Second division, 30 boys and girls; average chronological age, 10.6 years; average mental age, 3.6 years. Both divisions out doors with teachers, 40 minutes daily, for walks, games, use of playground apparatus, etc. In addition to regular kindergarten, much sense-training is given.

II. Grades—1. B Primary, 24 boys and girls; average chronological age, 9.9 years; average mental age, 5.7 years. Work: Preparation for A Primary; reading; from blackboard; writing; phonics; spelling; numbers; art and construction; sense-training. All children go to special classes in groups: Music, 15 minutes; gymnastics, 20 minutes. Girls have sewing, 40 minutes daily; boys, hand work in room. All who need it have special work in articulation.

2. A Primary, 26 boys and girls; average chronological age, 11.9 years; average mental age, 7 years. Work: Reading, First and Second Readers; writing; phonics; spelling; numbers; art and construction; sense-training. All pupils go to special classes in groups: Music, 15 minutes; gymnastics, 20 minutes. Girls have sewing, 40 minutes; boys, sloyd, 40 minutes. All who need it have special work in articulation.

3. Class A, 28 boys and girls; average chronological age, 14 years; average mental age, 8.8 years. Work: Reading, Second, Third and Fourth Readers; writing, spelling, language, numbers; hygiene; geography; art and construction; sense-training. All pupils go to special classes in groups: Music, 30 minutes; gymnastics, 30 minutes; sewing or sloyd, 40 minutes. All who need it have articulation.

4. Class B, 73 girls in 5 divisions. First, 16 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 14 years; average mental age, 5.9 years. Work: Sense-training; hand work. Second, 11 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 15 years; average mental age, 6 years. Work: Reading, First Reader; writing; spelling; sense-training; hand work. Third, 12 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 15 years; average mental age, 7.3 years. Work: Reading, Second Reader; writing, write letters; spelling; numbers. Fourth, 12 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 10.1 years; average mental age, 5.5 years. Work: First lessons in sewing. Fifth, 22 girls, 1½ hours; average chronological age, 15.7 years; average mental age, 4 years. Work: Sense-training; games; physical exercise; hand work.

5. Class C, 48 boys in 3 divisions. First, 15 boys, 2 hours; average chronological age, 13.5 years; average mental age, 6.5 years. Work: Reading, First Reader; writing; spelling; numbers. All have 20 minutes in gymnasium and 40

minutes in sloyd or net; some have articulation. Second, 13 boys, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 17.5 years; average mental age, 7.5 years. Work: Reading, Second Reader; writing; spelling; numbers. Third, 20 boys, 1½ hours; average chronological age, 14 years; average mental age, 4 years. Work: Sense-training; games; physical exercise; hand work.

III. Special Classes—1. Articulation, 28 boys and girls; average chronological age, 13 years; average mental age, 6.2 years. Work: Development of speech, correcting speech defects, oral work with deaf pupils. These pupils come from all grades, singly or in groups of twos and have from 10 to 20 minutes work daily.

2. Vocal music, 80 boys and 56 girls in 5 chorus classes. First, 32 girls, 20 minutes; average chronological age, 21.1 years; average mental age, 6.4 years. These girls are from domestic and industrial classes. Work: Gaynor songs, Songs of the seasons, Merry melodies. Second, 24 boys, 30 minutes; average chronological age, 16.6 years; average mental age, 9.6 years. Work: Alto in choir, such songs as "Song of the Armorer," Nevin; "Out on the Deep," Lohr; "The Boatswain," Molloy. Third, 13 girls, 16 boys, 15 minutes; average chronological age, 10.5 years; average mental age, 6.5 years. These pupils are from primary classes. Work: Action songs, Songs of the seasons. Fourth, 20 primary boys and girls, 15 minutes; average chronological age, 10.9 years; average mental age, 5.9 years. Work: Song primer, Mother Goose songs, Gaynor books. Fifth, 31 girls, ½ hour; average chronological age, 19.6 years; average mental age, 9.2 years. Work: Soprano in choir, such songs as "A Perfect Day," C. J. Bond; "Flowers Lullaby," Watson.

3. Band and orchestra, 17 boys and 10 girls; average chronological age, 17.7 years; average mental age, 9.5 years. Instruments: Cornet, 5 pupils; altos, 5 pupils, trombone (slide), 1 pupil; bass, 2 pupils; violins, 4 pupils; clarinet, 2 pupils; tenors, 2 pupils; baritone, 1 pupil; bass viol, 2 pupils; drums and traps, 3 pupils. Pupils are from primary and industrial classes. The orchestra plays for dances, two evenings in the week, for children, and for all school entertainments. Concerts are given monthly by the band. Throughout the summer, the band gives two evening concerts every week on the lawn.

4. Gymnastics, 51 girls, 65 boys in 7 classes. First, 11 boys, 3 girls, cripples; average chronological age, 13 years; average mental age, 6.5 years. Work: Corrective work, games. Second, 15 girls; average chronological age, 10 years; average mental age, 6 years; all from primary rooms. Work: Tactics, free exercises, dancing, games and apparatus. Third, 15 boys; average chronological age, 10 years; average mental age, 6 years. Work: Same as in second class. Fourth, 22 boys; average chronological age, 14 years; average mental age, 7 years; from A primary, class A, class C, net and sloyd. Work: Tactics, free exercises, apparatus and games. Fifth, 17 boys; average chronological age, 14 years; average mental age, 8 years; from school and manual training classes. Work: Military tactics, free exercises, light and heavy apparatus, gymnastics, games. Sixth, 19 girls; average chronological age, 15 years; average mental age, 7 years; from domestic and industrial classes. Work: Tactics, free exercises, dancing, apparatus and games. Seventh, 14 girls; average chronological age, 18 years; average mental age, 9 years; from industrial classes. Work: Tactics, free exercises, folk and gymnastic dances, apparatus and games.

5. Arts and Crafts. Morning classes: Basketry, reed and raffia, all reed, 2 days weekly; pottery, 1 day; painting, 1 day; leather tooling or stenciling, 1 day. Indigenous materials used—corn husks, rushes and willow. Arts and Crafts teacher supervises art and construction work in afternoon as follows: B primary, ½ hour; class A, ½ hour; A primary, ½ hour. Work: Water colors, crayons, construction work, school room decorations, using cutting and pasting with other work.

6. Domestic Science. Term, 3 months; number, class of 6; two changes monthly; time, 2½ hours daily; average chronological age, this term, 22.9 years; average mental age, this term, 9.7 years. Work: Cooking, plain; class cooks own supper; serving of meal cooked; dish washing; general cleaning, 1 day each week. All birthdays in class are specially observed.

IV. Manual Training—1. Sewing and Lace, 130 girls in 6 classes. First, 20 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 18 years; average mental age, 7 years. Work: Turn hems, baste or oversew, running stitch; make sheets, towels, pillow cases, bags; sew carpet rags, etc. Machine, 8; lace, 3. Second, 17 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 16 years; average mental age, 7.4 years. Work: Same as above. Machine, 5; lace, 3. Third, 23 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 15 years; average mental age, 8.9 years. Work: Plain sewing, embroidery, fancy work, darning, patching, crocheting, knitting, etc. Machine, 8; lace, 3. Fourth, 11 girls, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 23 years; average mental age, 7 years. Work: Same as Third Division. Fifth, 27 girls, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 21 years; average mental age, 8 years. Work: Same as Third Division. Sixth, 20 girls, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 21 years; average mental age, 7 years. Work: Same as Third Division. Machine, 11; lace, 4.

2. Sloyd, 68 boys in 6 classes. First, 10 boys, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 14.5 years; average mental age, 6 years. Second, 11 boys, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 15 years; average mental age, 8 years. Third, 12 boys, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 16 years; average mental age, 7.5 years. Fourth, 11 boys, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 13 years; average mental age, 9 years. Fifth, 14 boys, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 15.5 years; average mental age, 7 years. Sixth, 10 boys, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 15 years; average mental age, 5.6 years. All these pupils come from primary and other school classes. Work: Bench work making such models as taborets, coat hangers, doll furniture, cabinet work, etc. Nine boys do simple hammered copper work, making such articles as bowls, trays, etc. All pupils are allowed to select their own models.

3. Net, 122 boys and girls in 6 classes. First, 21 boys, 12 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 14 years; average mental age, 6 years. Second, 17 boys, 7 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 16 years; average mental age, 5 years. Third, 7 boys, 12 girls, 40 minutes; average chronological age, 16 years; average mental age, 6 years. Fourth, 1 boy, 18 girls, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 19 years; average mental age, 6 years. Fifth, 10 boys, 15 girls, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 18 years; average mental age, 6 years. Sixth, 10 boys, 12 girls, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 19 years; average mental age, 6 years. Work: Bags—handkerchiefs, laundry; hammocks—doll, large; nets—horse, tennis.

4. Weaving, 21 girls and 2 boys in 3 classes. First, 5 girls, 1 boy, 2 hours; average chronological age, 18.3 years; average mental age, 7.5 years. Second, 9 girls, 2 boys, 1½ hours; average chronological age, 23.9 years; average mental age, 7.5 years. Third, 7 girls, 2 boys, 1½ hours; average chronological age, 22 years; average mental age, 8 years. Work: Cutting, sewing, dyeing of rags; weaving of rags into rugs and carpets, on treadle looms; weaving of linen towels, with inlaying of simple designs in borders.

V. Custodial and Epileptic Departments—Six training classes with younger children, chiefly custodial; each class, 45 minutes daily. Sense-training and the use of the hands. 1. Girls A class, epileptics included, 12 girls; average chronological age, 15 years; average mental age, 4.9 years. 2. Girls B class, epileptics included, 20 girls; average chronological age, 9.3 years; average mental age, 2.5 years. 3. Boys' class, 12 boys; average chronological age, 12.5 years; average mental age, 2.5 years. Games and marching. 4. Girls' A class, epileptics included, 22 girls; average chronological age, 12 years; average mental age, 3 years. 5. Girls' B class, 26 girls; average chronological age, 13.6 years; average mental age, 2.2 years. 6. Boys' class, 22 boys; average chronological age, 12 years; average mental age, 2 years. Two industrial classes for older custodial and epileptic girls; classes from 1:15 to 4:30 p. m., 52 girls; average chronological age, 27 years; average mental age, 7.5 years. Work: Making of towels and sheets; sewing of carpet rags; learning of simple crocheting, knitting and fancy stitches in needlework. Ironing class, older custodial and epileptic girls work in the laundry from 3:00 to 5:00 p. m., 25 girls; average chronological age, 24 years; average mental age, 7 years. Training in dressing, in bed-making, dish-wiping and other house work

is given children by attendants in charge of such work. Singing classes, Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p. m., a singing class for the older epileptic girls and for detail girls of custodial building, 45 girls; average chronological age, 25.5 years; average mental age, 8.5 years. Monday afternoon from 2:15 to 3:00 p. m., a singing class for delinquent and detail boys at the custodial building, 16 boys; average chronological age, 23 years; average mental age, 7¼ years. Sunday Gatherings: : Five hundred children of the various custodial buildings assemble in two large playrooms, or are seated in order in their own playrooms to listen to singing or Victor music from 30 minutes to an hour during the day. Seventy-five epileptic boys and girls have morning Sunday school with the school children and custodial children respectively. One hundred fifty custodial and epileptic boys and girls assemble at the main hall for chapel. Social Gatherings: Epileptic boys participate in weekly dance in the assembly hall. Custodial and epileptic girls, 200 in number, have a dancing party in a large playroom at their group once a month. Custodial and epileptic children attend the general entertainments given in the hall.

VI. Miscellaneous—Sunday. All classes in Sunday school, 9:00 to 10:00 a. m.; evening service, 7:00 to 8:00 p. m.; all teachers on duty; Reverend E. A. Young, chaplain; orchestra plays; two chorus classes form choir. Monday: Orchestra rehearsal, 7:00 to 8:00 p. m. Tuesday: Dance for 1st Division, school children, 7:00 to 8:00 p. m. Orchestra plays. Wednesday: Band rehearsal, 7:00 to 8:00 p. m. Thursday: Mid-week holiday. Friday: Dance for 2d Division, school children and working classes, 7:00 to 8:00 p. m. Orchestra plays. Library: All children have access to a library of over 1,200 volumes. These books are selected by, and issued directly to the children who are alone held responsible for their care. The monthly circulation averages 450 volumes. Eighty-two periodicals are distributed to children, also. Entertainments: In addition to the weekly dances, one entertainment is given by pupils in music classes each month. Stereopticon or moving-picture entertainments are given monthly. An operetta is given by music pupils once each year. Domestic: Ironing, 122 girls in 3 classes are taught plain ironing. First, 48 girls, 2 hours; average chronological age, 22 years; average mental age, 7 years. Second, 33 girls, 1¼ hours; average chronological age, 18 years; average mental age, 7 years. Third, 41 girls, 1¼ hours; average chronological age, 24 years; average mental age, 6 years. Sweeping, 19 girls, 45 minutes; average chronological age, 18 years; average mental age, 4.5 years. These girls are taught to sweep, dust and arrange furniture in two large kindergarten rooms. Dining Room Work, 80 girls in 2 classes; 40 girls, 2 hours; average chronological age, 27 years; average mental age, 6 years; 40 girls, 1½ hours; average chronological age, 23 years; average mental age, 6 years. These girls are taught to sweep, scrub, set tables, etc. All who are capable of learning are taught to make beds and do any ordinary housework. Tailoring and Dressmaking, 20 girls, 5 to 7 hours daily; average chronological age, 24.9 years; average mental age, 8.9 years. These girls, under supervision of tailoress and dressmaker, help in making all garments for children. This includes boys' suits and much of the household linens. Printing, 4 boys, 6 hours daily; average chronological age, 22.5 years; average mental age, 10 years. These boys do the typesetting and presswork on all forms blanks, notices, programs, etc., used in institution. A monthly school paper, the North Star, and a quarterly magazine, the Journal of Psycho-Asthenics, are printed here. Garden: Classes of school children are detailed, in season, to garden work, picking berries, etc., as required. Small school gardens are organized each year. Other Employment: The farm, dairy, greenhouse, industrial shop, mattress shop, bakery, kitchen, laundry, boiler room, paint shop, general store and shoe shop, are all valuable agencies for training of elder boys.

THE STUDY OF INHERITANCE.

There is a well founded belief at the present time upon the part of those who have given the matter close attention that over 50 per cent of the cases of feeble-mindedness are the result of hereditary influences. It is for the purpose of determining, if possible, the larger sources of defectiveness from heredity that special studies of family histories has been taken up under the department of research at this institution. This is done by trained investigators, who confer with parents, relatives and acquaintances of inmates of the institution, and thus secure data for preparing family histories, such data being treated entirely as confidential material, the scientific deductions only being given publicity. Miss Sadee C. Devitt has had personal charge of this during the year.

From October 1, 1911 to August 15, 1912, there have been more or less complete studies made of 65 families, representing 99 inmates in this institution. In these, there have been found, among the 4,755 individuals involved, 284 feeble-minded, or an average of 4.37 to each family; 50 epileptics, 61 insane, 220 alcoholics, 83 migrainous, 3 chroceics, 9 paralytics or apoplectics; 11 syphilitics, 300 died in infancy, 134 died while young; then there were history given of 85 miscarriages and 7 still births. One hundred five were sex offenders, 22 showed marked criminalistic tendencies. There were 215 tubercular cases, 11 blind, 11 deaf, 3 tramps and 4 suicides. There were only 852, or 17.8 per cent known to be normal, though there are 2,275 individuals whose status is yet to be investigated.

It is not our purpose to make hasty deductions from the data obtained in our field work, but so far as it has progressed, our study confirms that of Goddard and other investigators, that in a general way, feeble-minded matings produce feeble-minded progeny and that there are families in which there is a defective strain in the blood, so that almost any member of such a family mating with a member of a correspondingly defective strain, even though the individuals may be normal are very liable to produce some progeny, who are defective.

One fact should be clearly understood, and it is a fact that is often overlooked by the teacher, and even by the physician, viz., that a true mental defective is always mentally defective and the question of education should, in such cases, concern itself with (1) an understanding of the real educational capacity commensurate with that permanent limitation, and (2) the employment of methods adapted to this limitation.

There is a necessity, as soon as it can be brought about, of a careful survey, psychologically and medically, of all retarded children in the public schools, for the purpose of differentiating the truly defective from those who are merely retarded. This work, which is already started in many places, should be encouraged and fostered.

A. C. ROGERS, M. D.
Superintendent.

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