63-BIT-MNT RETYPED EXCERPT FROM MILDRED THOMSON'S PROLOGUE

Mildred Thomson, Prologue (1963), page 96:

"Besides the Ramsey County committee which concentrated on a census, a group of persons who also had different bases for interest in the Feebleminded and Epileptic. This group functioned on a somewhat broader level. In addition to persons from private social agencies of both Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and from local and state departments of education, health, and welfare, there were several university professors. Discussions were to be planned under three general headings: (1) What was the problem of the feebleminded – its extent and manifestation, (2) Means of modification (3) What practical application could be made in this modification.

"Dr. Kuhlmann gave the first paper on the census. This group supported his desire for a law but did not concentrate on that subject. In addition to papers given by members from the fields of education, social work, and institutions, there were several from university professors: Dr. John C. McKinley on neurological aspects, Dr. Dwight E. Minnich on heredity, and Dr. George B. Vold on delinquency. For this group I reviewed the laws that dealt with the feebleminded from the time of territorial days, finding that they seemed to show an increasing social consciousness, at least until 1925.

"This committee continued to meet for over a year, sometimes twice a month. Some of the papers – though not all – were preserved and are in the library of the Department of Welfare."

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