

P667

REPORT
OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MENTAL HYGIENE
IN CO-OPERATION WITH
THE WEST VIRGINIA MENTAL HYGIENE COMMISSION
ON A
Mental Deficiency Survey
OF
WEST VIRGINIA
MADE TO THE
Governor of West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

1920

UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO LIBRARY
130 St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A5

REPORT
OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MENTAL HYGIENE
IN CO-OPERATION WITH
THE WEST VIRGINIA MENTAL HYGIENE COMMISSION
ON A
Mental Deficiency Survey
OF
WEST VIRGINIA
MADE TO THE
Governor of West Virginia

1920



TRIBUNE PRINTING CO., CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Charleston, W. Va.,
November 29, 1920.

Report to his Excellency, Governor John J. Cornwell, of the survey of Mental Deficiency, conducted by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, in co-operation with the West Virginia Mental Hygiene Commission.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

INTRODUCTION.

Upon the invitation from the Governor of West Virginia, the State Board of Control, and the Board of Children's Guardians, The National Committee for Mental Hygiene, commenced during the month of June, 1920, a Mental Deficiency Survey of this State.

The following carefully selected State Commission was appointed by the Governor to co-operate with The National Committee for Mental Hygiene in this survey.

Chairman, Dr. L. V. Guthrie, Supt. Huntington State Hospital;
Vice Chairman, Mrs. Woodson T. Wills, Pres. Federated Women's

Clubs;

Secretary, Mr. L. H. Putnam, Exec. Sec. State Board of Children's Guardians;

Mr. James S. Lakin, State Board of Control;

Mr. J. Walter Barnes, State Board of Control;

Dr. V. T. Churchman, Pres. State Board of Health;

Mr. L. L. Friend, State Board of Education;

Mr. J. L. Pauley, Sec. Treas. State Federation of Labor.

It was our purpose to find out what sort of a problem Feeble-mindedness was to the State; the principal question being, not so much what was the percentage of Feeble-mindedness in the general population, as what instances of social maladjustment are to be attributed to mental defects, or, are sufficiently marked to become the concern of public authorities.

In this connection it has been our aim to determine the relationship of mental defect to adult crime; juvenile vice and delinquency; prostitution, vagrancy, dependency and pauperism.

Finally, we wished to know what percentage of the public school children were mentally defective, and because of such handicap, might furnish the State defective dependents and criminals of tomorrow.

The following report contains information gathered by a staff of physicians, psychologists, and social workers in their study of the inmates of the state prison, the state industrial schools, orphanages, state children's home, county almshouses, county jails, and finally the public school children of the state.

The State very generously donated the services of Dr. L. V. Guth-

rie, the Chairman of the Commission, and Miss Maud Davis, of the State Board of Children's Guardians; while during the latter few weeks of the survey, two special investigators have been employed to assist the staff. Dr. Guthrie's special services have been in connection with the studies of the county jails, county almshouses, and in general, advising in regard to the work throughout the state.

The facts contained in this report consist of data secured from a systematic examination of the inmates of various state and county institutions, and in selected and typical public schools of West Virginia.

METHODS EMPLOYED.

The methods employed in our investigation were as follows:

1. *Selection of type of cases needing examination.*

The study included a social and personal history, a psychiatric and psychological examination of each and every individual. In no instance did we assume that one individual rather than another in Penitentiary, Industrial School, Children's Homes, Orphanage, Jails and Almshouses was in need of a mental examination. Nor did we rely at any time upon personal opinion or general observation to select our cases for us; instead, in each and every instance a systematic individual examination was given, except in public school cases; cases here were selected for individual examination by means of histories gotten upon each and every child; group tests given to every child in the class, and finally, a list from the teacher of all cases she felt were in any sense a problem. This gave us three methods to use as a routine thing in the case of each school child, in order to determine whether he should have a prolonged individual examination or not.

II. *Character of mental examination given to each individual.*

Attached to each case record was a history blank. This blank contained data bearing upon the medical, criminal, alcoholic, dependent, etc., history of members of the individual's immediate family. It contained also data on the individual's personal history—developmental facts, both physical and mental, diseases, injuries, etc., affecting the individual during the course of his life and his present state

of physical health; age at which he entered and left school, and grade reached; if in school, the grade and type of work done; the conduct and behavior, including the delinquent history of the individual, his employment record, particularly statements as to whether he had been regularly or irregularly employed, whether he had only followed odd jobs, or whether he had never done any work or had merely done housework at home; finally, whatever facts could be gathered bearing upon personality make-up, the mental traits and characteristics, temperamental difficulties, etc., of the individuals examined.

This history in each case was obtained partly from the individual and partly from the institutional authorities. In the case of the school children, the teacher was relied upon to furnish whatever information it was possible to secure. To be sure, by this method we did not have as well rounded studies of careers, particularly of our delinquents, as was desirable, but the data we secured we found most helpful in our final diagnosis of the case.

Following the history, a psychiatric examination was given, on one hand ruling out or eliciting the existence of mental disease or deterioration; on the other, bringing to the fore certain abnormal personality types—shut-in type, the emotional, the egocentric, the inadequate personality, etc. Finally, by means of psychological tests, the intellectual level and certain abilities of each person were ascertained. In this connection we used the Yerkes-Bridges Point Scale and the Terman revision of the Binet-Simon. The Porteus Supplementary Tests were used, but not in every instance. However, in all cases the Point Scale was used.

Assembling this data, we arrived at our diagnosis. Very naturally we found great numbers of cases in which a decision could not be reached; it is not believed that the results in these cases, whatever they may be, would in any great measure influence the generalizations to be drawn from the data we secured.

WHAT IS FEEBLEMINDEDNESS?

Feeble-mindedness is a condition of arrested mental development by reason of which the person so affected is never able to perform his duties as a member of society, in the position of life to which he was born; is never able to exercise reasonable prudence, good judgment, proper self-control, or normal ability to profit by experience.

Feeble-minded persons fail to appreciate and measure up to the

social and moral standards of the community in which they live; not because of viciousness and depravity, but because of the perpetual state of childhood in which they must always dwell.

Three main types of feeble-minded persons are recognized—the idiot, the imbecile and the moron.

The idiot is so deeply defective that his mental development never exceeds that of a normal child of about two years; he does not possess sufficient mentality to avoid ordinary physical dangers.

The imbecile has a higher mental development than the idiot, but his mentality never exceeds that of a normal child of seven years. He is able to avoid ordinary physical dangers, but can never be made self-supporting.

The moron has a higher mental development than the imbecile, but his mental level does not exceed that of a normal child of about twelve years. He is able to avoid physical dangers; he is also capable of being made self-supporting; but, owing to his permanently sub-standard intelligence he is not able to manage himself and his affairs with ordinary prudence, and does not have sufficient judgment to compete upon equal terms with his fellows.

Probably seventy-five percent of all feeble-minded persons are morons, individuals who often pass for normal, but, because of their mental defect are the source of a vast amount of our most serious social problems. This is not a condition due to poverty or lack of opportunity for training and education, but is the result of abnormal brain conditions, of incomplete brain development.

Accidental factors, such as disease and injury of the brain will cause feeble-mindedness and such conditions may have happened to any of us. But in probably more than two-thirds of instances, feeble-mindedness is the result of defective germ plasm; the expression of defective family stocks which transmit this condition from generation to generation is in accordance with well known laws of heredity.

Feeble-minded persons are especially prolific, reproduce their kind with great frequency, and through such reproduction provide an endless stream of defective progeny which is a serious drain to the resources of the nation. There is now, no doubt as to the potency of this hereditary defect in blighting future generations.

Studies of defective families in most every state of the union have shown how closely linked feeble-mindedness is to hereditary pauperism. Such studies have demonstrated how well feeble-mindedness has

furnished a legitimate outlet for the charitable impulses of the general public and social organizations, from generation to generation.

Facts are now at hand from state wide investigations and intensive studies of particular social problems which go to show that this condition is one of the large factors underlying crime, prostitution, pauperism and dependency.

The depredations, the immense loss growing out of the criminal behavior and dependency of these persons, furnish one of the most satisfactory arguments for a comprehensive state policy of protection against the menace of feeble-mindedness.

During the last year the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and the territory of Hawaii, not hitherto providing special and separate institutions for the feeble-minded, made large appropriations for such state schools. Massachusetts, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin already having separate state institutions for the feeble-minded, appropriated large sums for the construction of new institutions.

Throughout the country there has been a general quickening of public interest in this matter, and within a period of twenty years the growth in state provision for the feeble-minded has increased 750-1000%.

But this growth of understanding and appreciation was at first very slow, far more so than that of the humane care of the insane. The early years were marked by a difficult period of great public distrust and doubt; a period representing a total lack of recognition of the meaning, size and menace of this problem; a period, however, followed by a rapid and wide-spread interest in adequate state care, suitable training, and proper supervision of mental defectives. It is of more than passing interest to note, that once started, no state institution for the feeble-minded has ever been abandoned. Further, it is significant there is not a single state institution for the feeble-minded in the United States today, but that has a long waiting list.

With legislation for a state institution for the feeble-minded in West Virginia this coming year, every state in the Union with the exception of four far western states, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, will have joined the solid phalanx of states, seeking to find a solution of the ever increasing and urgent problem of feeble-mindedness.

And yet with it all, no state has taken cognizance of more than 10% of its defectives.

Colonel Bailey in his report, of "Feeble-mindedness in the Army" states, "that of 10,101,506 registrants between the ages of 21 and 31 years, there were 65,650 male mental defectives." He further says, "if mental deficiency runs uniform among persons of all ages, there will be 353,210 male defectives in the United States."

It is interesting to note that not more than 40,000 mental defectives are receiving proper care and training in institutions for the feeble-minded.

Where are the others? Many of them are to be found in the State Prisons, Reformatories, County Jails, County Almshouses, Juvenile and Adult Criminal Courts, Houses of Correction and detention, Homes of Refuge, cared for by relief societies and helped by charitable organizations and churches.

Colonel Bailey says, that, "feeble-mindedness was by all odds the largest problem that the expert on mental diseases had to deal with in the Drafted Army." He says, "Mental defect is three times more frequent than drug inebriety, concerning the terrors of which the daily press keeps us constantly informed; it is twenty times more frequent than disabling alcoholism, to prevent which our Federal Constitution has been amended; it is three times more frequent than insanity in provision for which there is a general quickening of interest throughout the country, and for the cure of which, at least half a dozen of our states, have developed systems of the highest order of merit".

MENTAL DEFECT AND DELINQUENCY.

The part played by mental factors in delinquency, is no longer considered an academic one.

The great frequency of mental defect, mental disease, epilepsy, and psychopathic states in general, demonstrated to be found among inmates of penal and correctional institutions throughout the country, have proven conclusively that there is a definite causative relationship between crime and the mental condition of the offender.

The following tables, showing the results of our study of the inmates of the state penal and correctional institutions, and of inmates of county jails, present no new information along these lines, but simply corroborate the findings of other investigators in different states.

Five hundred and thirty inmates were studied at the state penitentiary at Moundsville, of these 27 were women, and 503 were men. There were 334 white, 196 black inmates.

Table 1 shows offenses for which these individuals were sentenced.

TABLE I.

Offenses	Number of Inmates	Offenses	Number of Inmates
Robbery	25	Bigamy	4
Murder	184	Assault and Battery	5
Manslaughter	8	Auto Theft	4
Forgery	40	Obstructing Train	2
Breaking and Entering	46	Malicious Cutting	1
Grand Larceny	71	Wounding	12
Highway Robbery	46	Robbing Post Office	3
Burglary	18	Arson	1
Shooting Man	4	Receiving Stolen Property ..	1
Felonious Assault	1	Escape	1
Sodomy	2	Bor. Money under False	
Rape	15	Pretenses	1
Carrying Gun	2	Kidnapping	1
White Slavery	3	Felony	1
Larceny	10	Jail Breaker	1
Violation of Prohibition Law	5	Violation Interstate Com-	
Stealing	1	merce Law	1
Violation of Narcotic Act ..	2	Fighting	1
Attempt to Kill	1	No Record	4
Embezzlement	1		—
		Total	530

It is interesting to note, that 51% of the inmates were repeaters, individuals in whom the state had failed to accomplish that which it set out to accomplish—reformation.

The majority of the inmates at the state penitentiary are young adults; 56.7% being under 30 years of age, at that period of life when reformatory methods intended for the reconstruction of character and personality are yet possible of successful application.

TABLE 2.

Actual Age of Penitentiary Inmates.	
10-20 years	81
21-30 years	220
31-40 years	159
41-50 years	52
51-60 years	14
61-70 years	3
71 years+	1
Total	530

The great majority of these individuals have received very little education. 70%, more than two out of every three persons, having had no schooling whatever, or never got further than the fifth grade in the public schools. 37% plus, more than one out of every three persons, either had had no schooling or never got further than the second grade.

TABLE 3.

Grade Reached in School (Penitentiary Inmates.)	
No Schooling	112
1st. Grade	36
2nd. Grade	52
3rd. Grade	78
4th. Grade	38
5th. Grade	55
6th. Grade	38
7th. Grade	34
8th. Grade	57
1st. High	6
2nd. High	12
3rd. High	2
4th High	5
Freshman in College	1
College Graduate	1
Total	530

44.9 percent of these individuals have the mental level of the average American child of twelve years or under.

TABLE 4.

Showing Mental Age of Penitentiary Inmates.

Mental Age	No.	Mental Age	No.
4-5 years	1	13-14 years	56
5-6 years	0	14-15 years	19
6-7 years	3	15-16 years	46
7-8 years	6	16-17 years	20
8-9 years	30	17-18 years	17
9-10 years	70	Adult	52
10-11 years	60	Unclassified	33
11-12 years	68		
12-13 years	49	Total	530

69.6 percent of these individuals were classifiable in terms of deviation from average normal mental health.

28 percent were Feebleminded.

There were 136 male defectives, and 13 female defectives.

2.8 percent were suffering from mental disease.

TABLE 5.

Mentality as Related to Color.

	White	Black	Total
Normal	52	45	97
Dull Normal	53	10	63
Sub Normal	76	39	115
Mental Defective	66	83	149
Psychopathic Personality	68	16	84
Mental Disease and Deterioration	14	1	15
Epilepsy	3	2	5
Psychoneurosis	1	0	1
Unclassified	1	0	1
Totals	334	196	530

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
 LIBRARY
 MORNINGTON, W. VA.

TABLE 6.
Mentality Related to Sex.

	Male	Female	Totals
Normal	93	4	97
Dull Normal	62	1	63
Sub Normal	111	4	115
Mental Defective.....	136	13	149
Psychopathic Personality	80	4	84
Epilepsy	5	0	5
Mental Disease & Deterioration	14	1	15
Psychoneurosis	1	0	1
Unclassified	1	0	1
	—	—	—
Totals	503	27	530

CASE HISTORIES.

There are many striking cases at the penitentiary of feeble-minded, insane, psychopathic and epileptic criminals, who have demonstrated by their repeated and serious delinquent careers, the danger they present to the general public.

Case A. Is that of a white man 39 years old, sentenced for rape of his own daughter. While this man is 39 years old, he has the intelligence of an eight year old child. He is feeble-minded.

Case B. Is that of a white boy 18 years old; he had previously served a sentence in a reformatory in Ohio. While stealing a ride on a train he was forced to get off. He decided to take his revenge on the railroad and attempted to wreck the next train. This boy is 18 years old with a mind of a ten year old child.

Case C. A white man 23 years old, sentenced for rape of a 13 year old child. This man is feeble-minded and has the mental level of the average American child of nine years.

Case D. A negro man 37 years old sentenced for killing a white woman with an ax. He has the mind of a nine year old boy. This man is seeking a pardon.

Case E. Is that of a feeble-minded boy 19 years old, sentenced for grand larceny. He has been arrested fifteen times.

Case F. Is that of a white man 33 years old sentenced for the murder of his wife. He is feeble-minded, having the mind of a nine year old child.

The following table shows findings from similar investigations in prisons in other states.

TABLE 7.

Inmates of State Prisons Feeble-minded.

Institutions	Authority	Number of cases	Percentage Feeble-minded
Sing Sing Prison (N. Y.)	Dr. Bernard E. Glueck..	608	21.8
Auburn Prison (N. Y.)	Dr. Frank L. Haecox....	459	35.6
Mass. State Prison (men)	Dr. A. W. Stearns & C. C. Rossy.....	300	22.0
Joilet State Pen. (Ill.)	Louise & George Ordahl..	49	28.5
Auburn Prison (women)	Mabel R. Fernald, Ph.D..	76	25.0
Indiana State Prison	Dr. Paul E. Bowers.....	100	23.0
San Quentin (Cal.)		150	30.7

Of inmates in prison throughout the country, where studies have been made, about 27.5 percent are found to be feeble-minded.

WEST VIRGINIA INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR GIRLS.

The following tables contain data bearing upon the chronological age, mental age, and frequency of abnormal mental conditions among girls at the Industrial Home for Girls.

TABLE 8.

Showing actual age and mental age of inmates at the Industrial Home for Girls.

Mental Age.

Actual Age	Mental Age.										Total
	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	17-18	
11-12	1	..	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
12-13	..	..	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0
13-14	..	1	...	1	1	5	2	....	....	....	10
14-15	1	..	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	....	14
15-16	1	1	2	3	1	4	2	....	3	....	17
16-17	..	1	3	5	4	4	3	2	4	....	26
17-18	1	1	1	3	4	1	3	1	1	....	16
18-19	..	1	1	....	3	1	1	1	....	....	8
19-20	..	..	...	....	....	1	1	....	....	2	4
20-21	..	..	...	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Total	4	5	9	14	15	18	14	7	9	2	97

Forty-seven cases, or 48% of all the inmates, had the mental age of the average American child of twelve years or under; only one girl was under the chronological age of twelve years.

TABLE 9.

Showing Mentality of Inmates at the West Virginia Industrial Home for Girls.

	Number	Percent
Normal	31	32%
Sub normal	17	17.5%
Mental Defective	31	32%
Psychopathic Personality	15	15.5%
Epilepsy	1	1%
Unclassified	2	2%
Total		100%

Sixty-eight percent of these girls presented some deviation from average normal mentality. 31% were Feeble-minded.

WEST VIRGINIA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

There were 385 inmates studied. 321 of these were white, and sixty-four were black. The following tables give some idea of the chronological ages, mental ages, and frequency of abnormal mental conditions among these individuals.

TABLE 10.
Showing Actual Age and Mental Age of Inmates at the Industrial School for Boys.

Actual Age	Mental Age.													Total		
	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17		17-18	Adults
9-10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
10-11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
11-12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
12-13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	25
13-14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	45
14-15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	55
15-16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	68
16-17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	88
17-18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	31
18-19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21
19-20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18
20-21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
21-22	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
22-23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	5	5	21	39	60	53	57	51	45	17	8	9	6	8	385

301 of 385 cases are sixteen years or under chronologically. There are twenty boys, or 5% of the total who are chronologically twelve years or under, while 62% have the mental ages of children of twelve years or under.

TABLE 11.

Showing Mental Condition of Inmates at the Boys' Industrial School.

Mental Diagnosis	Black	White	Total	Percent
Normal	13	126	139	36%
Sub-normal	19	75	94	24.4%
Mental Defective	21	96	117	30.4%
Psychopathic Personality.....	6	19	25	6.7%
Epilepsy	5	3	8	2.0%
Mental Disease or Deterioration..	..	2	2	0.5%
Total	64	321	385	100.0%

64% of these persons were either sub-normal in intelligence or suffered from some serious mental handicap, as feeble-mindedness, epilepsy and the like.

30% were Feeble-minded.

The following tables show findings from similar types of studies that have been carried on in such institutions in other states.

TABLE 12.

Showing Inmates of Reformatories Found to Be Feeble-minded.

Institution	Authority	Percentage Feeble-minded
N. Y. State Reformatory for Women		31.9%
Mass Reformatory	Dr. Guy Fernald.....	20.2%
Mass. Reformatory for Women....	Dr. Edith Spaulding...	16.5%
Western Home for Women, at Al- bion, N. Y.	Dr. J. L. Herrick.....	33.5%

TABLE 13.

Inmates of Penitentiaries and Workhouses Found to be Feeble-minded.

Institution	Authority	Percentage Feeble-minded
N. Y. County Penitentiary.....	Mable Fernald, Ph.D...	26.6%
N. Y. City Work House.....	Mable Fernald, Ph.D...	42.7%
Westchester Co. Penitentiary, N. Y.	Dr. Bernard Glueck....	33.0%
Columbus, O., Workhouse.....	A. R. Gilliard.....	33.0%

TABLE 14.

Showing Inmates of Industrial Schools Found Feeble-minded.

Institution	Authority	Percentage Feeble-minded
Berkshire Industrial Farm, N. Y...	Dr. Clinton McCord...	11.5%
Industrial School for Boys, Cal...	Dr. J. Harold Williams.	32.0%
Industrial School for Girls, Ill.....	Drs. Louise and George Ordahl	22.0%
Preston Sch. of Industry, Ione, Cal..	Fred E. Allen.....	36.4%
Industrial School for Girls, N. Y...	Edna G. Bridgeford...	50.0%

From the foregoing tables it can be seen that about 31 % of the inmates of reformatories, training schools, workhouses and penitentiaries are found to be feeble-minded.

COUNTY JAILS.

Two hundred and forty inmates of sixteen county jails have been carefully examined. One hundred and sixty-two of these are white and seventy-eight are black.

40% of these individuals had a record of previous offenses.

TABLE 15.

Showing Mentality of Inmates of Sixteen County Jails.

Mental Diagnosis	White	Black	Total
Normal	35	13	48
Dull normal	34	13	47
Sub normal	29	18	47
Mental Defective	45	24	69
Epilepsy	4	1	5
Psychopathic Personality.....	10	6	16
Mental Disease or Deterioration.....	4	3	7
Unclassified	1	..	1
Totals	162	78	240

Sixty percent of these individuals were suffering from some abnormal nervous or mental condition.

Twenty-eight and seven-tenths per cent were Feeble-minded.

There are at present five hundred ninety-five inmates in the county jails of this state. Around twenty-eight percent are feeble-minded persons.

RELATIONSHIP OF MENTAL DEFECT TO PROSTITUTION.

Syphilis and gonorrhoea form a combination possibly as productive of evil as any scourge that has ever afflicted mankind. These two conditions are striking at the very source of life and deteriorating the human race.

The one out standing and most important factor that complicates any and every program for the prevention of venereal disease is the high frequency of feeble-mindedness and other abnormal mental conditions, among those who are considered most responsible for its spread.

The following table confirms the statements so often made as to the close relationship existing between mental defect and prostitution.

TABLE 16.

Showing Mentality of 78 Immoral Women.

Mental Diag.	Numbers	Percent
Normal	23	29% plus
Sub Normal	15	19% "
Mental Defective	24	30% "
Epilepsy	1	1% "
Psychopathic Personality.....	12	15% "
Mental Disease or Deterioration.....	1	1% "
Unclassified	2	2% "

These women were examined in jails, homes of refuge, and at the Industrial Home for Girls. About 69% were either sub normal in intelligence or were handicapped by such serious mental conditions as feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, mental disease and psychopathic personality.

The careers of these individuals as shown in the case of histories gathered, were marked by economic instability, drifting from place to place, lack of home control and proper surroundings, and vicious associations, particularly during their early years.

We are treating these girls for venereal disease and turning them out to acquire it over again. Are we not acting stupidly in returning to society immoral girls who are so deeply defective mentally as not to be able to adapt themselves to the demands of normal life?

RELATIONSHIP OF MENTAL DEFECT TO DEPENDENCY.

Our investigations have led us to believe that the part played by feeble-mindedness in dependency and pauperism is a very large one. We have come to feel that in this way a vast amount of money is being spent for the temporary relief of unimprovable cases,—feeble-minded persons.

Feeble-minded families, nurtured and cared for by philanthropic efforts, are encouraged to leave behind them a large progeny of feeble-minded; which in turn, protected from infant mortality and carefully nurtured by the good people of the community, reproduce their kind from generation to generation.

We have come across pauper feeble-minded families, which have been supported by churches and organized charities for four and five generations.

We have found in almshouses feeble-minded persons who have been allowed to propagate their kind in large numbers. In fact, it is our belief from this particular investigation that one of the largest, if not the largest problem in the county infirmaries of this state, is feeble-mindedness.

There are at present 1,120 inmates in the county infirmaries of West Virginia. Up to the present time the staff of examiners under Dr. Guthrie's supervision have investigated 16 county infirmaries and have examined two hundred and sixty-nine inmates. Of these 31 were children under ten years of age. 50% of the children examined were either markedly subnormal or feeble-minded.

Of the 269 inmates, 226 were white and 43 were black.

Very naturally we found a great many inmates who were suffering from chronic physical disease, and it may be of interest to note that 51% were in such poor or bad physical condition as to be in urgent need of medical care and treatment.

The following table will give some idea of the mental condition of the inmates of these sixteen county infirmaries.

TABLE 17.

Showing Mentality of Inmates of 16 County Infirmaries.

Mental Diagnosis	No. of Cases
Normal	28
Dull normal	17
Sub normal	34
Mental Defective	110
Epilepsy	2
Psychopathic Personality	2
Mental Disease or Deterioration.....	60
Senility	15
Unclassified	1
Total	269

41% were feeble-minded; while 22% plus were suffering from mental disease or deterioration.

The following brief case histories are presented, merely with the idea of illustrating some of the points brought out above.

Case F. A feeble-minded girl with two feeble-minded children in county infirmary.

Case G. A feeble-minded woman with four defective children in county infirmary.

Case H. A twelve year old girl, feeble-minded, with sexual tendencies; is giving the infirmary authorities much trouble. This girl is one of a family of four defective children in this infirmary. The father is in the penitentiary and the mother is feeble-minded.

Case I. A seventeen-year-old feeble-minded girl with a feeble-minded brother, sister and mother, who have been in the county home for nine years.

Case J. A deaf, dumb and blind feeble-minded man—his father is also his grandfather.

WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN'S HOME.

There were only 28 children in this institution at the time of our study. 16 of these children were normal and 12 were feeble-minded. It should be borne in mind that this was a highly selected group of cases, culled, in a way, from a large number of serious problem cases.

ODD FELLOW'S HOME OF WEST VIRGINIA.

There were one hundred and forty-one children studied at this institution. The following table shows the mental condition of these children.

TABLE 18.

Showing Mentality of Children at the Odd Fellow's Home of West Virginia.

Mental Diagnosis	No. of Cases
Normal	107
Dull normal	21
Sub normal	5
Mental Defective	8

Only five percent of these children were feeble-minded.

MENTAL DEFECT AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Two thousand two hundred eighty school children have been studied up to the present time. These children represent typical school children in certain selected counties. Children from city, town and rural districts were chosen.

This report on the public schools is a preliminary one and only is intended to give some idea of the frequency of mental deficiency among school children. It is expected to continue the work of the staff in other sections of the state, with the idea of getting a complete picture of the mentality of the public school children of West Virginia.

One of the important problems facing public school authorities is the great frequency with which grades are repeated. 951 children in the group studied were repeaters. There are many causes responsible for this condition,—such as ill health, language difficulties, physical defects, lack of regularity in school attendance, and many other conditions such as feeble-mindedness, epilepsy and the like.

Mental defect is one of the large questions facing school authorities. All agree that mentally defective children are unable to profit by the ordinary methods of public school instruction. These children are a drag and burden to the teacher and a constant hindrance, and often a real menace to the other children in the class. They are the school dunces; they are the constant butt of other children's jokes.

These defective children are finally forced out of the public schools where they have received little that has contributed to fit them for useful lives in the community. They later become a burden and a danger to the community; for the sad combination of their childish minds with adult years soon brings them into conflict with laws and customs of society, intended for persons whose minds, as well as bodies, were those of adults.

Simply because of their economic instability they drift from place to place, and later on, only too often become recruits to the vast army of criminals, vagrants, prostitutes, paupers and dependents that fill our courts, jails, prisons, alms houses and provide the unimprovable cases for organized charities.

The foregoing tables show the penalty we are paying for our neglect to provide for the care and training of these feeble-minded persons, at a time when prevention of much of their anti social conduct, dependency and degradation, would have been possible.

The following table shows the mentality, the frequency of feeble-

mindfulness and other abnormal mental conditions, among these 2280 school children.

TABLE 19

Showing Mentality of Public School Children.

Mental Diagnosis	White	Black	Total
Normal	1351	157	1508
Dull normal	324	82	406
Sub normal	146	36	182
Mental Defective	70	9	79
Borderline cases	42	5	47
Epilepsy	4	0	4
Mental Disease	1	0	1
Psychopathic Personality	40	12	52
Psychoneurosis	1	0	1
Totals	1979	301	2280

About 3% of these 2280 public school children were mental defectives. Around 1500 were city school children and only 2% of these were mentally defective. The rest studied were for the most part from markedly rural districts, where a higher percentage of mental defect was found. This is in keeping with the army figures showing that three fourths of the feebleminded in the drafted army were from rural districts.

It is not likely that these 79 mentally defective are profiting in the least by the type of instruction they are receiving. They are known already to have repeated grades 147 times.

Owing to their markedly limited learning capacity feebleminded children get little or no profit out of regular grade work.

In special classes in the public schools and in the state institution where they can receive manual, industrial and such other training as is suited to their abilities and their needs; if taken early they may often be trained for real usefulness at the institution, and later for self support under supervision out in the community.

SUMMARY

Briefly summarizing our findings:

51% of the inmates studied at the State Penitentiary were repeaters. 70% either had no schooling whatever or never got beyond the

5th grade of public schools. 44.9% of these individuals have the mental level of the average American child of 12 years or under.

28% were feeble-minded.

48% of the inmates at the West Virginia Industrial Home for Girls had the mental level of 12 years or under while only one girl was chronologically 12 years or under.

31% of the girls of this institution were feeble-minded.

62% of the boys of the West Virginia Industrial School for Boys have the mental age of children of 12 years or under while only 5% were chronologically 12 years or under.

30% of the inmates of this institution were feeble-minded.

40% of the inmates of the County Jails of the State had records of previous offenses.

28% of these individuals were feeble-minded persons.

Mental defect is an important factor in the spread of venereal disease.

30% of the immoral women studied were feeble-minded.

The inmates of 16 County Infirmaries have been studied. 51% of these individuals were in such poor or bad physical condition as to be in urgent need of medical care and treatment. 22% were suffering from mental diseases.

41% of the inmates were feeble-minded.

12 of the 28 children at the West Virginia Children's Home were feeble-minded. 5% of the children at the West Virginia Odd Fellows' Home were feeble-minded.

Finally between 2-3% of the public school children studied were feeble-minded.

Throughout the state are to be found mentally defective children who are not receiving that education and preparation for life that might prevent them from becoming our future criminals, prostitutes, vagrants, dependents and paupers.

CONCLUSIONS.

Millions of dollars are yearly being expended in handling the results of feeble-mindedness. The feeble-minded child in the public schools, the juvenile court, the reformatory, the orphanage; the feeble-minded adult in the county jail, the criminal court, the venereal clinic, and in the almshouse, are yearly a source of vast expense and the cause of untold human suffering.

We are arresting, convicting, and locking up the feeble-minded crim-

inal and then turning him out, and locking him up again, and turning him out, and locking him up again, and repeating this same unintelligent procedure over and over.

We have found feeble-minded criminals who have been arrested between fifty and one-hundred times and have spent a good portion of their lives as wards of the state, in and out of penal and correctional institutions.

With the zeal of reformers, we herd feeble-minded girls into venereal clinics, treat them, and then turn them out into the community to acquire it over again.

We are sending to the reformatories feeble-minded boys and girls with the minds of little children of six, seven and eight years; children who need the State's protection rather than its punishment; whose lack of capacity for reformation is not due to innate wickedness, but to the pathetic fact that however adult they may become in years, they will always remain little children mentally.

We are turning these little children out to meet the vicissitudes of life, when they have reached a certain chronological age, no more capable of meeting the conditions for normal living than they were the day they were sent to the reformatory.

There is one sensible and really efficient measure that can be carried out, and that is to dam the stream near its source. As far as criminality in the feeble-minded is concerned, there need be no criminality, if the feeble-minded person as such is reckoned with early. Any and all comprehensive state programs for the handling of feeble-mindedness must begin with the defective child in the public schools. His early recognition, proper diagnosis, suitable training, in special classes, and in state institutions for those requiring such; permanent segregation for those who never can be handled in the community, and careful supervision under parole of those well trained institutional cases, who are suitable along industrial lines for community life.

Such a program is a very large and extensive one. The first and most essential step in its accomplishment is the state training school and colony; around this, later on, most all the machinery in the state for handling mental deficiency will revolve.

The wisdom of starting aright, of profiting by the experience of other states and countries may well be suggested. But then, the objection may be raised, that West Virginia cannot afford the cost involved in having a separate state institution for its feeble-minded.

We might mention that it can be clearly shown that mental de-

fectives, for the most part, are dependents or delinquents; they neither starve, nor go without clothes or shelter, but are maintained at the expense of others and are dependent upon the public purse. They receive support from overseers of the poor, from charitable organizations, from churches, neighbors, friends, relatives, from strangers by begging and from various other sources.

Certainly few will maintain that it will be cheaper to clothe and feed defective children, and defective and dependent adults out in the community, than in a well organized state institution where the low cost of maintenance is rendered possible through economic institutional organization. What the maintenance of these individuals out in society actually cost, no one knows; but whatever it is, it is not taken into consideration, because it does not appear in large lump sums in legislative budgets. Yet the fact is that institutional provision for such cases is not an added expense to the commonwealth, but a better organized, more economical way of bearing an already existing financial burden, and a more equitable distribution of it. A burden that is already being met and will continue to be met out of the pockets of the general public.

The loss that results from spreading venereal infection, and the expense involved in organizing clinics for treatment, and public health facilities for preventing these diseases; the losses entailed upon theft, burglary, incendiarism, assault, murder, and the many other anti-social tendencies of the feeble-minded, together with apprehension, detention, conviction and maintenance in state and county institutions, should be included in reckoning up their expense.

So then, it is not a question of whether we wish to pay for feeble-mindedness—we are doing this already and in a very costly manner. It is simply a question of whether we will pay intelligently in the way of prevention; in the proper training for some measure of usefulness in the community, or of happiness in an environment suited to their needs, where they may be made useful and contribute largely to their own support, while at the same time, society is being protected from the serious social problems they would present; or, pay unintelligently in terms of police courts, jails, almshouses, prisons, reformatories, venereal clinics, charity relief, and the like.

But, then has not the feeble-minded child himself a right to a square deal in this matter? Has not the feeble-minded boy and girl the right to demand the protection that the strong right arm of the state could afford them? Should we ignore the feeble-minded girl's plea to be removed from the streets and highways, where she is the defenseless

prey of lust and greed, and be placed in an environment suited to her needs, where she may be made happy, useful, and in a great measure contribute to her own support?

RECOMMENDATIONS.

We recommend that the first and most fundamental step to be made by this state in meeting the large problem of feeblemindedness, is in the provision of a state institution for the feebleminded. Such an institution would have the following activities.

(A) Custodial. Here the lower grades of idiots and imbeciles are found. Some of these children are as helpless as infants, incapable of standing alone or of dressing or feeding themselves. The chief care with these lower grade cases is to see that their wants are attended to, and to make them comfortable and happy as long as they live; but even with these cases much improvement is possible in the way of teaching them to wait on themselves, to dress and undress, to give attention to personal cleanliness and habits of order and obedience. In this way quite a large group, even of low grade cases, may be made less troublesome and the burden and the expense of their care may be considerably lessened.

(B) The Farm Colony. An essential part of this school for the feebleminded is the farm colony that should be attached to it. A large proportion of the feebleminded can be usefully and profitably employed if intelligently directed. They can clear waste land, grub bushes, remove stones, build fences, make roads, and renovate orchards, drive teams of oxen or horses, milk cows, feed pigs, take care of chickens cultivate land and gather crops. They can excavate for buildings, haul stones for foundation, make brick and cement blocks, and do the necessary painting to keep the buildings neat and attractive.

In states where the colony plan has been utilized and intelligently directed large crops have been yearly grown, and unusual success has been obtained from this method of handling defectives. Many of the children who at the training school found the necessary restraint irksome, are free at the farm colony to go and come. They may wander freely in the woods and if there is a stream nearby they may go in bathing. The results of their labor become more evident, where they make their own concrete blocks, brick, and construct their own buildings; they feel that they are doing something worth while and appreciate the fact that they are making their own home. The destruct-

ive tendencies often marked in the school room find their outlet here. Instead of breaking windows, destroying furniture, or setting fire to buildings, as these children so often do, when confined in penal institutions, they cut down bushes, pull up stumps, burn brush heaps and make waste land available for farming, thus increasing the value and decreasing the cost of maintaining themselves as wards of the state.

(C) Medical and Scientific Work.

Every child on being received at the institution should be given a careful and thoroughgoing mental and physical examination. The facts elicited from this examination will serve as a basis for medical treatment, educational training and social management. Such an institution should be equipped with the usual hospital facilities necessary for a large institution, and should be well provided for the purpose of undertaking research into the causes, extent and distribution of mental defect, and the possibilities of medical treatment; it should undertake investigations into and apply the best psychological and pedagogical methods in training mental defectives. Such varied scientific activities should all be correlated under the direction of the superintendent, who should be a medical man, with special experience in the field of mental medicine.

(D) Manual and Industrial Training.

Here manual training and other methods suitable to the defective child are used. Dr. Walter Fernald has said "These methods of physiological training of the senses and faculties, of exercising and developing the power of attention, perception and judgment, by teaching the qualities and properties of concrete objects instead of expecting the child to absorb ready made knowledge from books, of progressively training the eye, the hand, and the ear, these are the methods best suited to the needs of the defective child."

Dr. Fernald further says "The most prominent feature of our educational training today, is the attention paid to instruction in industrial occupations and manual labor. In this education by doing, we not only have a very valuable means of exercising and developing the dormant faculties and defective bodies of our pupils, but at the same time, we are training them, to become useful men and women. Carpentering, painting, printing, brickmaking, stockraising, gardening, dairying, farming, domestic work, the manufacture of clothing, boots and shoes, brooms and brushes and other industries are now successfully carried on by the pupils in these school in connection with strictly mental training."

(E) (Parole). It has been fairly well demonstrated that the average male mental defective who is not handicapped by serious difficulties of personality, who has been properly trained in habits of obedience and industry, and who is adequately protected from temptation and evil associates, can be safely paroled into the community under the careful oversight of a supervising officer. Institutional men throughout the country are now beginning to give serious attention to the possibilities parole offers in the way of furnishing additional beds, to those cases, out in the community who are urgently in need of institutional care; at the same time that it returns to the community under careful supervision well trained mental defective capable of self-support, and giving little or no promise of anti-social behavior.

Nineteen state institutions are paroling carefully selected, well trained mental defectives into the community. One institution has 504 defectives on parole.

This, the most hopeful aspect of our work in behalf of mental defectives, is rapidly coming to the foreground of discussion, and gives promise where carefully planned and properly worked out of being the most prominent feature of future institutions for the feeble-minded.





