

CHAPTER X

BIRTH CONTROL AS A REMEDY

ONLY a few of the critics of legal sterilization have recommended the practice of contraception as a probable remedy for diminishing the number of the mentally unfit. The proposal is manifestly futile when we recognize that a vast mass of the physically and mentally degenerate in the civilized countries, who are not legally certifiable as irresponsible, are breeding at the present time at an alarming rate. If the normal slum dweller of inferior stock refuses to control the procreative function, how can we hope that the abnormal degenerates will practise birth control?

Knowledge of the methods of preventing conception is now available among the upper class, the educated middle class, and the intelligent artisans. But practical information is only reaching the lower strata of society very slowly. Only those who have taken an active part in the movement for restriction of the population are able to appreciate the extent of the prevailing ignorance of contraception among the poorer classes.

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A propaganda advocating birth control among mental defectives would not have the least effect upon the number of licit and illicit births. Even normal persons of strong passions frequently ignore any precautions whatever in sex relations. Can it be expected that the mindless degenerate could ever be taught to regard the gratification of the sex impulse as a matter of grave importance to society? Is he even capable of considering the matter from a personal point of view?

So long as legislation in England refuses to permit doctors at the Welfare Centres to instruct working-class women in safe methods of birth control, and America penalizes such teaching, it is ludicrous to suggest contraception as a check upon the procreation of the ament class. In the United States birth control advocacy and instruction is ranked legally with criminal abortion and obscenity.¹ In England there is a strong anti-birth control opposition among orthodox Roman Catholics.

Contraception has undoubtedly potentiality for eugenic as opposed to dysgenic human breeding. There are responsible married persons who realize that, while marriage may be permissible, the exercise of the generative power by persons with fatal hereditary tendencies is an offence against humanity. But such responsibility respecting society and the race is unfortunately very rare, even among the

¹ "Criminal Statutes on Birth Control," *Journal of Crim. Law*, May, 1919.

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reputedly moral and educated classes in the Western nations.

It is not only the certifiable feeble-minded, the insane, and the criminal degenerate who disregard all questions of eugenics and duty to the community when swayed by passion.

The congenital amoral individual of weak intellect is entirely incapable of understanding the first principles of eugenics. Aments have no thought for the morrow of the community, no social sense, and no comprehension of individual responsibility in parentage.

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METHODS OF STERILIZATION

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IN many parts of the world the removal of the male generative cell-producing organs, i.e., the testes, has been practised from ancient days by religious ascetics and by the keepers of harems. Eunuchs, or castrated men, are employed to guard Eastern harems. The operation is usually performed in early childhood. It has been used among mental defectives in America, 72 cases being reported from 15 States up to January, 1921.¹

Castration is the most complete and drastic method of destroying the procreative power in man, and ovariectomy in women. Both means have been used in America in specific cases. But vasectomy in men and salpingectomy in women are the usual methods of sterilization.

Endocrinology, or the science of the internal ductless glands, has shown clearly that both the testicles, the seminal vessels, and the ovaries have a very important influence upon the bodily chemistry and the health of human beings. The operations of

¹ Dr. H. H. Laughlin, *op. cit.*, p. 96. There are now twenty-one American States practising sterilization (1928).

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castration and of ovariectomy interfere seriously with the metabolism, and chiefly for that reason, they are less often performed than vasectomy and salpingectomy.

They are also more serious than the latter operations, which only involve the cutting of a duct, though in the case of women the operation is more complicated than in men.

OPERATIONS ON THE MALE

Vasectomy

Vasectomy means the excision of a vessel. The vessel concerned in the sterilization operation upon males is the vas deferens, plural vasa deferentia, a tube that conveys the sperms from the testicle to the epididymus. A section of the vasa deferentia is removed, varying from a quarter of an inch to one inch. The tubes are reached through a small incision in the scrotum, or testicular bag. The external parts are first cleansed, and an anæsthetic, local or otherwise, is given to the patient. A few minutes only are necessary for an operation by a proficient surgeon.¹ There is very little bleeding. Beyond some local discomfort for a few days, there are no after effects, and rest is not essential.

The spermatic germs cease to appear after

¹ It is the usual procedure to tie, or "ligate," both ends of the severed ducts.

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vasectomy. No spermatozoa are produced, and the man is entirely sterile, though able to copulate.

Reference has already been made to the improvement in health, sometimes amounting to revitalization, in the case of ailing persons who are operated upon voluntarily.

OPERATIONS ON THE FEMALE

Salpingectomy

Salpingectomy means the excision of a tube. In woman the oviducts, or Fallopian tubes, that carry the ova to the womb, are excised for the purpose of complete sterilization. This operation is often used in cases of diseased oviducts in perfectly sane persons, and is sometimes desired by women who wish to avoid a dangerous pregnancy. A small section of both tubes is excised.

The sterilization of women involves a more serious operation than in the case of men, because it necessitates the opening of the abdomen for the purpose of reaching the ducts. Salpingectomy can also be performed through the vagina. Only a small aperture is necessary in the case of abdominal operations for sterilization.

The operation is done under an anæsthetic, and may not require more than fifteen minutes. Rest and some after-care of the patient are needed.

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Ovariectomy

This is a major operation corresponding to castration of the male. The removal of both ovaries destroys the productive capacity, and to some extent interferes with the endocrine balance. For this reason, a portion of one ovary is sometimes preserved, in cases that come under ordinary surgical practice. Ovariectomy is also termed oöphorectomy.

If one ovary is left untouched, pregnancy can occur; therefore double ovariectomy is essential for sterilization. The operation can be performed through the vagina, or by an incision of the abdominal wall.

After treatment some weeks of complete rest are necessary. In former times ovariectomy was often fatal, but since the discovery of antiseptics the mortality rate is low, probably 5 or 6 per cent.

Removal of the ovaries and oviducts (salpingo-oöphorectomy) has been practised for eugenical purposes in the United States, in a small proportion of cases. The removal of the womb (hysterectomy) is not practised eugenically, but in cases of serious internal growths it is sometimes essential.

OTHER METHODS

Various alternative means for sterilizing women have been suggested and tried experimentally upon animals. Curetting or cauterizing the uterus has

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been successful in certain cases, but is not considered entirely effective. Electrical cauterization has also been used.

It has been found that frequent prolonged exposure to X-rays results in sterility in both sexes. Experiments on animals show that the ovaries are affected, and menstruation is not normal. In males, X-rays cause destruction of the seminiferous tubules, but does not appear to influence the interstitial glands of the testes.

It is anticipated that X-ray treatment may eventually be employed for sterilization purposes. At present the operations upon women are of a somewhat severe character, and an effective substitute would be satisfactory.

CHAPTER XII
LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

THE introduction of compulsory sterilization in the United Kingdom by statute will involve the careful framing of laws and regulations. It will be necessary first of all to educate the mass of the public in this vital national question, and to gain the support of legislators and the electorate. Sooner or later, every civilized country in the world will recognize the fact that the present system of race degeneration and national suicide must cease, and that a campaign of regenerative action is the only protection against national decline.

In America the legal requirements are thus described: "The power of the State to limit, in the interest of racial betterment, the reproduction of certain individuals characterized by defective hereditary traits is undoubted. The means used in exercising this power is a matter of legislative policy which lies with the legislative authority of the State."

"The only limitation which the courts have

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imposed upon such authority in applying this particular social remedy, is that due regard must be had for the so-called bill of rights." ¹

An important point for decision is whether sterilization by law shall be practised only on defectives in institutions, and not upon the hereditary unfit who remain at large. In America it is the opinion of expert investigators of hereditary tendencies that all cacogenic, or defective, persons in the legal sense should be sterilized in the national interest.

The New Jersey law was tested and opposed on the grounds of "class legislation," the objection being that it referred to defective persons in custodial control, and not to degenerate types at large. In theory all legally sterilizable persons, pronounced by medical authority as unfit to continue the race, are liable, with the exception of epileptics, to compulsory sterilization.

It has been proposed, in the United States, that the enforced sterilization of females only would prove the most efficient means of preventing mental deficiency. It is held that eugenical sterilization limited to one sex would be constitutional.

In Iowa defectives are sterilized, in "certain very limited classes," by consent of the subject and his or her relatives. The State must, in any case of eugenical sterilization, "prove to the satisfaction of the court or jury that the particular individual nominated for sterilization is, on account of his or

¹ Dr. H. H. Laughlin, *op. cit.*, p. 440.

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her degenerate hereditary qualities, a serious menace to the racial qualities of the next generation.¹

Regarding the constitution of authority competent to decide in cases of sterilization, the chief officer is required to be qualified in eugenical science. He should receive a good salary and devote his whole time to his duties. The surgeons also must be thoroughly competent eugenists and operators, and be well remunerated. They should be appointed by the State Eugenicist.

Based on the practical working, legislative histories, and litigation resulting from twenty-three sterilization laws in fifteen different American states, the Psychopathic Laboratory of the Municipal Court of Chicago has issued a tentative Model Eugenic Sterilization Law, which is published in the valuable volume by Dr. Laughlin.

The principal points of the model sterilization law are the selection of socially inadequate persons and classes, cacogenic subjects, the office of State Eugenicist, and his qualifications and duties, case-histories, power to arrest, legal counsel for the State, jury's decision, judgment, appeals, liability, and illegal operations.

Respecting persons upon whom the operation should be compulsory, full investigation should be undertaken by the chief official "upon his own initiative or upon complaints lodged, or information given by an official, an organization or a citizen.

¹ *Op. cit.*, p. 443.

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Proper provision must be made to defend the alleged degenerate person in court. If, in the decision of judge and jury, the defendant is found to be entirely unfit to procreate, he or she should be sterilized by a process ensuring that 'the power to procreate offspring is permanently nullified.' "

The type of operation should be left to the discretion of the State Eugenicist upon consultation with duly qualified medical experts. It should be made quite clear that the State's action is in no sense punitive, but purely eugenic.

Definition of "the socially inadequate classes," in America, is the feeble-minded, insane, criminal, epileptic, inebriate, drug addict, diseased, i.e., tuberculous, syphilitic, leprous, and others with chronic infections, the blind, deaf, deformed, and dependent, including orphans, ne'er-do-wells, homeless, tramps and paupers. Of these classes there are individuals who, in the view of scientific authorities of full experience, must be described as cacogenic, or persons declared by legislation "to be potential parents of socially inadequate offspring."

It is proposed in the model law that the chief officer, having decided that a person should be restrained from reproducing the species, must write a full report upon the subject, or "propositus," showing sound or legal reasons for compelling sterilization.

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SUBJECTS FOR STERILIZATION

The statutes of sterilization in the United States describe clearly those defectives and habitual criminals who should be deprived of reproductive power for the well-being of the nation and posterity. In New York State the law is enforced upon such persons who "would produce children with an inherited tendency to crime, insanity, feeble-mindedness, idiocy, or imbecility." In Indiana the act is framed to prevent the procreation of confirmed criminals, idiots, imbeciles, or rapists.

Washington legalizes the sterilization of the feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates, and sexual perverts.

In the amendment to the Second Sterilization Law in California, emphasis is laid on the relation of heredity to social degeneracy. Any person "who is afflicted with mental disease which may have been inherited and is likely to be transmitted to descendants, the various grades of feeble-mindedness, those suffering from perversion or marked departures from normal mentality or from disease of a syphilitic nature."

In Section Two of the Oregon law the subjects are persons "potential to producing offspring, who, because of inheritance of inferior or anti-social traits, would probably become a social menace or a ward of the State."

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In Iowa the convictions for felony constitute a confirmed criminal, and such were liable to sterilization. This statute was repealed in the case of inmates of prisons, but not of inmates of hospitals for the insane, provided permission is given by the next-of-kin. In New York the sterilization of inveterate criminals is at the discretion of the court.¹

In Kansas, it is necessary for the wardens and superintendents of penitentiaries, reformatories, State Hospital, State Home for Feeble-minded, and State Industrial School for Girls to certify in writing to the Governing Board that an inmate could be improved mentally and prevented from procreation by an operation. Before subsequent action, subject to the consent of the Board, notice shall be served on such inmate, and relatives or guardians, of a meeting at which the inmate has the right to be represented by counsel, and may introduce such evidence as may be desired.²

In the event of the propositus being found unfit to reproduce, it is decided whether the eugenical operation shall be in the case of a male vasectomy or asexualization, and in a female of salpingectomy or oöphorectomy.

In Nebraska, feeble-minded subjects are not discharged from institutions on parole, without undergoing sterilization.

¹ A full account of the Sterilization Statutes in America will be found in the book on "Eugenical Sterilization," by Dr. H. H. Laughlin.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 30.

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“ The nature, character, and consequence of such operation ” is explained to each person upon whom the operation is ordered to be performed, also to the husband, wife, parent, guardian, or nearest of kin. No operation is performed without the written consent of relatives and the assent of the inmate.

THE QUESTION OF PAROLE

Is it safe for the community at large to release on parole an inmate of an institution for the insane or mentally defective? The question is one for serious consideration. Even in certain institutions, both in Great Britain and elsewhere, cases may occur in which even detained girls might become pregnant. To let such subjects out on parole would be a serious risk.

No doubt every precaution is taken in all well-conducted institutions to guard against the release of feeble-minded persons of a hopelessly irresponsible type. Nevertheless, there must always be much risk in the temporary or permanent release of an ament from protective custody, unless he or she is effectively sterilized. The enormous cost of the maintenance of the mentally deficient is an inducement to the authorities, in the interest of the State, to give liberty to a proportion of the afflicted. There are instances in which a high-grade ament may be safely released, if sterilized; but this does not apply to a very large number of certifiable persons.

CHAPTER XIII
THE EUGENIC CONSCIENCE

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AMONG the Western nations, threatened by a process of decline, nothing is more necessary for arrest of degeneration than the development of a social spirit, which has been called the Eugenic Conscience. Unfortunately, the asocial types of men and women are not uncommon in every civilized part of the globe. There are always people in a community who shift all the responsibility of the group upon other shoulders. "Why should I trouble about posterity? What has posterity done for me?" These cynical evasions of social duty are deplorably frequent, even among citizens in advanced nations.

The present generation, as well as the next, is concerned seriously with the prevalent signs of degeneration. National decline is inevitable, unless there is a full awakening of national and social conscience in regard to civic conduct in the matter of reproduction.

The grave question of the hour is whether the population of Great Britain is being bred chiefly from its best stock. The eugenical answer must be a

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decided negative. As Bertrand Russell warns us: "The most intelligent individuals, on the average, breed least, and do not breed enough to keep their numbers constant. Unless new incentives are discovered to induce them to breed, they will soon not be sufficiently numerous to supply the intelligence needed for maintaining a highly technical and elaborate system. Further, we must expect, at any rate for the next hundred years, that each generation will be congenitally stupider than its predecessor," and "we shall gradually become incapable of wielding the science we already have."¹

It cannot be denied that birth control, as now widely practised in Europe and America, has had a dysgenic effect. The reason is that only the intelligent among the population of the Western nations practise contraceptive methods, while the grossly unintelligent breed recklessly. Intelligence is being swamped by stupidity. Such disaster can only be prevented by the interdiction of procreation among the feeble-minded, and by a wider diffusion of sound knowledge upon birth control among the populace.

It is futile to hope that an unintelligent population will be likely to develop a eugenic conscience. The remedy is the steady reduction of amentia by sterilization, and education in the science of procreation. These measures should be supported by the State. There should be chairs of eugenics and sex psychol-

¹ "Whither Mankind." Volume containing article on "Science," by Hon. Bertrand Russell, 1928.

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ogy in the universities, and all teachers of general subjects, in all the schools, should be instructed in these questions before they attempt to educate the new generation.

The eugenic conscience might be aroused by the churches, if the clergy and preachers were more aware of their moral and social responsibility. The Church has done little for sexual science.¹ It has hindered, rather than aided, the eugenistic movement, birth control, and sex education. Here is a great opportunity for the churches to regain the steadily waning attention of the mass of the people. The eugenic conscience should be the chief article in the new creed of a practical religion.

A few generations of fortunate marriages give geniuses and valuable citizens to the nation; but unfortunate hereditary influences produce a vast mass of the dull-witted, feeble-minded, insane, and criminal. Sound family stock is the chief national need at the present critical stage of our civilization.

An enormous C₃ population, mentally and physically, must be the inevitable consequence of laxity in social conscience. The child should be trained in a civism that places the importance of being a good animal in the first rank in the educational system. Less teaching of negative morality and wider teaching of positive social ethics is the desideratum for the cultivation of the eugenic

¹ See "The Place of Sex in Life," by Canon Pyle

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conscience. There is a lamentable indifference to the finer morality of sex among those who are strongest in their denunciation of sexual immorality. Is it not more injurious to the community to procreate insane and diseased offspring than to infringe the ordinary code of chastity?

It may seem incredible that any members of the State should desire the production of stupid or feeble-minded persons. Nevertheless, there are certain chiefs of industry, who realize shrewdly that a highly developed intelligence is not satisfied by the perpetual tending of one machine and a constant mechanical routine of labour. In other words, in some monotonous forms of machine work, there is a demand for dull-minded workers, who will contentedly follow tasks, year in and year out, that require only automatic attention.

Mr. Arthur Pound has personified the present mechanical age in the "Iron Man"; and Professor Pear states that: "Just as deafness is an advantage in certain industrial occupations, so mental lacks may become assets for certain industrial purposes. Given enough sense to master simple routine occupations, and enough appreciation of duty, or fear of relatives, to come to the shop regularly, the below-average person can soon be adjusted industrially. And, when adjusted, the moron will be found immune to many of the pricks which irritate the normal man into seeing red, less fretted by monotony, less worn by rhythmic clatter." Professor Pear states: "I

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have heard industrial engineers and welfare workers say that industrial efficiency, as working out in our day, puts a premium on mental deficiency."¹

The state that places the production of machine-made things as of deeper importance than the production of sound and able citizens is without a eugenic conscience, and is doomed to destruction through the preponderance of the unintelligent over the intelligent. Tarde, the French sociologist, said that the time might come when the care of human life would be considered of higher import in a nation than the accumulation of wealth through excessive industrial toil. That day will not dawn until the whole of the intelligentsia and humanistic reformers combine to arouse a patriotic eugenic conscience.

It is stated by the Board of Control that there are about "twenty thousand mental defectives for whom institutional care is required, but is not obtainable." Economically, it is far less costly to segregate the feeble-minded in institutions or colonies than to permit them to increase the cost of the Poor Law and the prison service, through pauperism and crime. From the humanitarian standpoint, it is kinder to separate the mental defective from the normal, with whom he is not fit to compete in the present-day fierce struggle for subsistence. Not only does the national conscience allow a host of the feeble-minded to shift as best they can and to breed at

¹ "Fitness for Work," Professor T. H. Pear, 1928.

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will, but a number of the actually insane are not receiving proper hospital treatment. Here again the economy is false and the humanitarian spirit lacking.

Eugenics may be elevated in public esteem to the dignity of a national religion, but the time is not yet. It is difficult to forecast. All great reforms in England are notoriously slow. And not one person in ten takes an intelligent interest in social hygiene. Eugenic propaganda was, and is still to some extent, banned by the newspapers. There are publicists who, blindly or wilfully, distort the teaching of eugenics. In the schools the meaning of the word is unknown.

Probably a constant insistence on the cost of mental deficiency and insanity, to the taxpayer's pocket, will have more influence than an endeavour to inspire a great idealistic faith in the betterment of civilized mankind through eugenical measures.

The progress in sanitation cannot be said to have affected the prevalence of mental unfitness. The general health of a nation may be fairly high, with a large proportion of feeble-mindedness and habitual crime. We must seek fundamental causes of degeneration, and the chief source is in the germ plasm. The root must be destroyed, and humane sterilization is the only means so far devised by science.

“ Future generations will, probably with a kind of horror, look back at a period when the most important,

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*and in its consequences the most far-reaching, function which has fallen to the lot of man was entirely left to individual caprice and lust."*¹

Writing upon defective and anti-social human beings, Havelock Ellis remarks: "In old theological language it was often said that such were 'children of the Devil,' and Luther himself was often ready to attribute the evil of the world to the direct interposition of the Devil. Yet all these ill-conditioned people who clog the wheels of society are, after all, in reality the children of Man. The only Devil whom we can justly invoke in this matter is Man."²

Ellis holds the view that "the question of the procreation of the race should gain a new significance, and even tend to take on the character of a new religion." This will, let us trust, become the hope of all patriotic Britons. "The claim of the race is the claim of religion."

Sir Francis Galton, too, saw the possibility of raising race generation to a religion. "Eugenics is a virile creed," he wrote, "full of hopefulness, and appealing to many of the noblest feelings of our nature."

The voluntary control of procreation would undoubtedly diminish the amount of mental deficiency, insanity, and physical disorders. Who among the

¹ Professor Westermarck, "The Origin and Development of Moral Ideas," Vol. II, p. 405.

² "Sex in Relation to Society," p. 579.

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older generation can say that they were earnestly enjoined in their youth to choose only mates capable of reproducing fine physical, mental, and moral qualities? How many young men and women of to-day are interested seriously in race improvement, and able to appreciate their personal responsibility in this matter? The answer must be only a minute minority. As it is, the unfit are offered every opportunity for prolific breeding. No one tells the average adolescent that it is a crime to produce degenerate children. The parent, the teacher, and the priest are silent.

Young married couples are often exhorted to produce large families, on the assumption that large families are the healthiest and happiest. This misconception is one source of the immense proportion of dysgenic births. It has been proved incontestably that large families tend to bodily and mental degeneration.

Havelock Ellis, quoting Marro, writes that nervously unsound and abnormal persons often imagine that they "have a special aptitude to procreate fine children." "I believe that everyone has a special vocation," said a man to Marro; "I find that it is my vocation to beget superior children." He begat four—an epileptic, a lunatic, a dipsomaniac, and a valetudinarian—and himself died insane. Most people have come across somewhat similar, though perhaps less marked, cases of this delusion. In a matter of such fateful gravity

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to other human beings, no one can safely rely on his own unsupported impressions.¹

This common procreative irresponsibility results in three ways: It is an act inflicting personal life-long suffering upon a human being. It is a source of after-anxiety for the parents of a hopelessly unfit child, and it is a sin against the nation, posterity and the race. While procreation is left to "caprice and lust," there can be no advance in national hygiene.

It has been urged that it is impossible to control effectually a passion so powerful as sex-love, and that any interference with the expression of this instinct will be strongly resisted and defied. If it was a fact that eugenical sterilization destroyed the capacity for the love emotion, and the satisfaction of natural desire, the argument would carry more force. The sterilization methods of vasectomy and salpingectomy, as we have seen, do not diminish inclination or potency.

In America, a considerable number of high grade aments, who have been granted liberty after undergoing sterilization, have fallen in love and married. Recorded cases show that most of these unions are successful. Marriage has been actually encouraged by eugenic measures. Writing of these unions an English investigator states: "Where the marriage is successful, it is surely a triumph of the modern way of handling the mental defective. I saw two

¹ "Sex in Relation to Society," p. 592.

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typical homes, one in town, and one in country, of married sterilized girls, and could only wish that such a prospect was possible for girls of the same type whom I know in this country.”¹

Instead of taking precautions, which, while they protect society and the race, do not involve sexual deprivation, we leave our aments intact, and permit them to perpetuate their kind. In the name of “humanity,” we refrain from sterilization prophylaxis, totally disregarding the truth that it is obviously humane to protect the unborn and the living against one of the great scourges of modern civilization.

Years ago, Darwin announced that sexual selection in human beings should be controlled by avoiding unions of two persons who are manifestly defective or incurably diseased. We still sanction the marriage of mental defectives and syphilitics. “Man scans with scrupulous care the character and pedigree of his horses, cattle, and dogs, before he matches them, but when he comes to his own marriage, he rarely, or never, takes such care. Yet he might by selection do something, not only for the bodily construction and frame of his offspring, but for their intellectual and moral qualities.”

¹ “Sterilization in Practice,” C. B. S. Hodson, *Eugenics Review*, April, 1929.

CHAPTER XIV

TERRIBLE FAMILIES

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DEGENERACY in intelligence, in the original progenitors of a long line of descendants, produces an alarming number of congenital criminals, mendicants, paupers, idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded, prostitutes, and more or less unfit persons, who in a large majority, become charges upon the State. These dysgenic families are appallingly numerous in all the civilized communities, and the grave problem of the present time is how to protect society and posterity against their terrible hereditary defects, as manifested in mental and moral deficiency, asocial traits, disease, habitual crime and pauperism.

The new classic monograph on a degenerate family, "The Jukes," by Robert L. Dugdale, has probably achieved more than any other eugenical study in arousing the public interest in race regeneration. This examination of the sources of crime, pauperism, and disease in a single family stock is a sociological work of great importance; and it should be in the library of every intelligent citizen.

Professor Franklin H. Giddings, of Columbia

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University, writes in his foreword to the fourth edition of "The Jukes": "It is doubtful if any concrete study of moral forces is more widely known, or has provoked more discussion, or has incited a larger number of students to examine for themselves the immensely difficult problems presented by the interaction of 'heredity' with 'environment.'"

In his preface the author remarks: "I am informed that 28,000 dollars was raised in two days to purchase a rare collection of antique jewellery and bronzes recently discovered in classic ground, forty feet below the *débris*. I do not hear of as many pence being offered to fathom the *débris* of our civilization, however rich the yield."

HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT

The organic characteristics of the individual are fixed, in the opinion of the investigator of the Jukes degeneracy, by heredity, and environment affects modifications in that heredity. The whole question of "nature and nurture," and environment versus heredity, could only be discussed adequately in a lengthy volume. Since Mr. Dugdale's study was first published, we have learned, through the researches of Weismann, Mendel, and other inquirers, that environment plays a minor part in the production of good or bad stock, and that in spite of favourable surroundings, there is always a tendency to reversion, or "throwing back," to certain types.

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The modifications induced by a good environment, in the case of high-grade aments, and to some extent among hereditary criminals, is by no means to be disparaged, but should be thankfully acknowledged and encouraged. But a study of the Jukes clan should convince any reflective person that environment of the best kind, even were it possible, would not remove the risk of a fateful procreation of degenerate offspring.

As prophylaxis, the right hygienic, educative, and humane environment has its results, but in a very minor degree. We can only banish unfitness by ceasing to breed the unfit.

THE GENESIS OF THE JUKES

Between 1720 and 1740, a man named Max, of Dutch descent, lived in a wild part of the State of New York. He was an idler and hard drinker, who worked by spurts. In old age he became blind, and the infliction descended upon his children and grandchildren. Max, like most degenerates, was prolific, and left many offspring, some of whom were illegitimate.

Two of the sons of Max married two of six sisters, called "Jukes" in Mr. Dugdale's exhaustive history. One of these sisters, Ada, was the progenitor of the criminal line in this degenerate family. The number of descendants of five of the Jukes sisters registers 540 blood relations, and 169 by marriage or cohabita-

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tion, altogether 709 persons. "The aggregate of this lineage reaches probably 1,200 persons."

CRIMINAL TENDENCIES

A large proportion of the Jukes were criminals, constantly in gaol and supported by the government. Their offences were larceny, small and large, burglary, forgery, false pretences, robbery, assault, intent to kill, and murder. Mr. Dugdale found that crime is most common in the illegitimate lines, and that the eldest child has a tendency to crime. Nine of Ada Juke's line spent sixty years in prison for 54 per cent. of crimes against property, and Effie's descendants show 30 per cent. of petty offences, and 30 per cent. of crimes against the person. One member of this unfortunate family committed theft at thirty, and was sent to gaol, and at forty-nine was condemned for five years for a rape upon a niece of twelve. Another connection served fourteen years in prison for burglary. About 30 per cent. were habitual drunkards. Disease and crime tend to age degenerates, and the criminal types of low vitality become paupers in old age. There are many syphilitics among habitual criminals, who dower their unhappy offspring with disease as well as a tendency to crime.

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SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Examination of the Jukes' record shows very plainly that the mental and moral decadent has no control over the sex impulse. Bell Juke was promiscuous in her sex relations before marriage, and bore three illegitimate black children, and one white. Several of the female posterity of this woman were described as "harlots," and some became professional prostitutes. Others were brothel and rum-shop keepers. Several were syphilitic.

The female descendants of Effie Juke, who had four children, were, in several instances, sexual irresponsibles, prostitutes, and syphilitics. Ada Juke was promiscuous in sex matters, and had several harlot descendants, keepers of houses of ill-fame, and syphilitic subjects. It will be noted in all histories of degenerate families that the males tend to crime and the females to its analogue, prostitution.

From the female side we get prostitution, with its inevitable venereal disease, that is often passed on to the third generation, and in many instances these women produce three, four, or more degenerate children. On the male side are habitual criminals, alcoholics, wasters, syphilitics, physical and mental degenerates, mostly maintained at the cost of the State.

Even strict segregation does not prevent entirely

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the risk of aments procreating and bearing offspring. There are recorded cases of girls who have escaped from institutional restraint and become pregnant. Instances have been also given of the seduction of mental defectives by male warders in public institutions.

Male sexual irresponsibility is quite as marked as the female among mental defectives and semi-insane criminals, the only difference being that the women often resort to prostitution as a means of subsistence. The ranks of prostitution abound with morons who find in that profession a means of earning a livelihood that does not demand a high order of intelligence. Obviously, these mentally defective prostitutes are more likely to be infected by venereal disease, and to infect others, than women of normal intelligence. It should be remembered that, among sane and intelligent persons of both sexes, erotic irresponsibility is common. How futile, therefore, is the suggestion that control can be taught to aments lacking a conception of social conduct in the restraint of their strongest instincts.

PAUPERISM

A large number of the Jukes stock were paupers, maintained at the cost of the taxpayer, temporarily or permanently. Among the paupers we find the worst cases of feeble-mindedness, the criminals showing a somewhat higher standard of intelligence

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in both sexes. Many of the criminals, who are without a trade, become State paupers in old age.

Among English tramps and cadgers, and American hoboos, a large proportion are mentally deficient. The end of the habitual tramp's career is mostly in the Poor Law institution. Most of these nomads form illicit sexual connections, and some give birth to bastards, born in workhouses. Professional tramps are at all times, and in all civilized countries, parasites, who are a burden on the back of the taxpayer.

Handicapped by heredity, the ament finds it difficult to compete with mentally sound persons in obtaining employment, and many of the feeble-minded are practically forced into crime or mendicancy. Sterilization on eugenical principles would undoubtedly diminish pauperism in the United Kingdom, and reduce the ever-increasing rates and taxes that oppress a vast number of honest and hard-working people.

PHYSICAL DISEASE

As we have seen, feeble-minded subjects are frequently subnormal in the power of resistance to diseases. Considering the fact that a vast mass of so-called "educated" persons in the civilized nations are habitually unhygienic, we may be sure that the mental defectives are incapable of following the common rules of healthy living.

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Amentia must then be regarded, not only as a cause of hereditary feeble-mindedness, but also as a source of diseases affecting the body, such as consumption, syphilis, gonorrhœa, and skin maladies. The homes of mental defectives living at large are insanitary, and a source of danger to neighbours and the community. The sick or infirm ament is to be found in all parts of the kingdom, at liberty, or in State institutions. The ratepayer is made responsible for the maintenance of thousands of the mentally and physically unfit, who should not have been born in an already over-populated country, with an enormous number of unemployed persons receiving a State dole.

THE KALLIKAK FAMILY

A study of these unfortunate victims of a bad heredity shows, as in the case of the Jukes, that mental deficiency is one of the chief evils of civilization. The ancestors of the Kallikaks lived in a farming district of the United States, and for six generations the clan had been notorious for feeble-mindedness and crime. Wherever descendants have been traced, "an appalling amount of defectiveness" was found among them.

Another branch of the Kallikaks has been called "the good family," and its members are the children of the same father as "the bad family," but descended from a normal mother. The progenitors

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of a long line of defectives were Martin Kallikak, senior, a young military officer, who consorted for a time with a feeble-minded girl, who bore an illegitimate son. This son was Martin Kallikak, junior, the founder of a stock of 480 descendants, of whom 143 were aments, and only 46 have been found normal, the rest being unknown or doubtful. The complete unfitness of the Kallikak family as procreators of useful and healthy citizens is shown clearly by the record of sexual irresponsibility, alcoholism, epilepsy, and criminality.

Eleven hundred and forty-six individuals of the Kallikak group have been recorded in America. The cost to the government for their care in institutions and alms-houses has been colossal.¹

Dr. Goddard, the author of the valuable study of these degenerates, states that the moron type of feeble-minded persons affords the most serious problem for society. Only one-tenth of the number of defectives in America are under care. The rest are breeding in many instances. "What is to be done?" asks Dr. Goddard. There must be more training institutions and colonies for the feeble-minded, especially for the young.

Regarding sterilization, Dr. Goddard points out a strong public opposition. He states of the vasectomy operation that "many good results have been claimed," and no bad results reported. He says

¹ "The Kallikak Family: A Study in the Heredity of Feeble-Mindedness," Henry Herbert Goddard, Ph.D., 1925.

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that it is no cause for alarm that sterilization will increase sex vice and venereal disease. The conclusion reached from this examination is that social pests are the heirs of the feeble-minded, and that we need to know more concerning the laws of human inheritance, and proceed carefully in the task of race preservation.

THE NAMS

In 1911-12 Dr. Estabrook and Dr. Charles B. Davenport, under the direction of the Eugenics Record Office of Cold Spring Harbour, made an inquiry into an inbred rural community in New York State. The Nams are descended from a Dutch immigrant and an Indian princess. The clan lived as nomads for a large part, but some were grouped in and around a farm known as Nam Hollow. Among the Nams are a remarkable number of chronic inebriates and wastrels, i.e., 88 per cent. of females and 90 of males. Altogether, 1,795 individuals have been studied. An enormous proportion of the Nam females have been "harlots." Nineteen of the family are epileptics, 24 are insane, and 40 are convicted criminals. It is estimated that these degenerates have cost the United States taxpayers over 1,411,676 dollars. Taking one case of the Nam degeneracy, without specialized selection, we find that in Case 2 (V 219):

"This man belongs to a fraternity of five, of whom

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two committed incest and two others are erotomaniacs; one sister is epileptic; another, though an erotomaniac, is industrious, ambitious and quick in actions. Their mother was an illegitimate child and was a lazy harlot; their father was industrious but committed incest on a daughter. The home conditions were those of paupers. V 219 was born in Vermont, 1880, and when young was adopted and reared by good people, but in spite of that he developed 'the characteristics of the blood.' He was irascible, inefficient, indolent, unambitious, alcoholic, and, though he married a good woman, he has become a pauper."

It is significant that, in the view of the two doctors who undertook the inquiry into the Nam family history, the placing out of mental defectives in better families and institution life give a "Veneer of culture and tends to strengthen the sex impulses, but that the effect is uncertain and frequently discouragingly slight." The summing-up of the investigators is that social prophylaxis is necessary. There is first the policy of *laissez faire*. The Nam family can take care of itself; then why do anything? But the one original bad family has its offsets, numerous families that have wandered to Minnesota and other places, and become centres of degeneration. "Harlots go forth from here and become prostitutes in our great cities. The tendency to larceny, burglary, arson, assault, and murder have gone, with the wandering bodies in which they are incorporated, throughout

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the State and to great cities like New York. Nam Hollow is a social pest spot whose virus cannot be confined in its own limits."

Some improvement might result from the teaching of housekeeping, elementary hygiene, and so on; but the third generation would not be saved from amentia. Scattering the tribe might lead to healthier marriage, but there would be a risk of spreading idleness and insanity, for the like dislike union with the unlike.

As a fourth proposed measure, the unfit could be confined throughout the reproductive period in one of the State colonies. It is doubtful if the State would consent to sterilization.¹ Eight to ten children are born in a single family of the Nam group, and very many are illegitimate. Pauperism, alcoholism, crime, and mental inefficiency is the heritage of these children in the great majority of instances.² It is a lamentable reflection that the higher civilized states of the world do not realize that they are breeding in a prodigal manner from their worst stock.

OTHER CACOGENIC FAMILIES

In Great Britain, little or nothing has been schemed or undertaken in the way of scientific legal inquiry into the antecedents of the mentally defective and the

¹ Written in 1912.

² "The Nam Family: A Study in Cacogenics," 1912, Eugenics Record Office, Memoir No. 2.

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habitual criminal. The American records are of the highest sociological and hygienic value, carefully compiled, and very informing as to the genesis and perpetuation of feeble-mindedness. We lag behind other nations in this urgent reform, and if we do not awaken soon from our inertia, our sons and all future citizens will be called upon to contribute to the maintenance and care of an enormous multitude of the unfit and the hopelessly degenerate.

In Switzerland, considerable scientific inquiry has been made into the causes of amentia and its remedy. It has been shown that a tainted family, the Zeros, produced 310 aments, criminals, vagrants and paupers, who were mostly a charge on the public funds. The Jukes group gave 709 descendants of the worst type. In England, there are families of feeble-minded persons providing the fullest material upon which to form useful data concerning hereditary traits and tendencies. It is time that the work of research was subsidized duly by the State, and that inquirers of the right training were appointed to write full records of typical mentally defective and recidivist subjects.

In Indiana, the Ishmaelites have been studied, and it has been found that the feeble-minded strain produced an enormous amount of pauperism. Again, Poellmann has written upon a family notorious for prostitution and procurers.

Sir Francis Galton's work upon "Hereditary Genius" has demonstrated how good families are produced. We need an extensive research into the

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genetics of the bad family. Only by the accumulation and dissemination of the facts of our menacing national degeneration will the public be aroused to a legislative reform which has been perilously delayed.

CHAPTER XV
MARRIAGE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES

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WHERE a man and woman unite in marriage and give children to the community, they become responsible to society for the care and maintenance of the family. They are also morally responsible, if they produce a number of unfit citizens, while they apprehend that they owe a duty to their heirs and to the State. No consideration of racial morality, or social duty, will, however, deter many persons from giving life knowingly to feeble and degenerate offspring. An average married pair desire children, and they bring them into the world deliberately, regardless of the eugenic aspect of their action. When contraception is practised, it is generally for monetary reasons.

Mental defectives are not capable of eugenical training. Like normal persons, they possess sexual instincts, and they are sufficiently intelligent in some cases to choose married life instead of promiscuous relations. If we deem it safe and wise to let high-grade aments control their own conduct, social and

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personal, there is no reason why they should not marry. There are, however, the strongest reasons why aments should not add to the number of the unfit by reproducing themselves.

As I have said, in the United States, a considerable number of morons, living in liberty, have married after undergoing the sterilization operation. Various witnesses assure us that these unions are successful, in some cases more successful, it is said, than the average conjugality of normally intelligent people. The domestic life of the sterilized mentally deficient may, therefore, be regarded as a matter not directly concerning the public.

No humane person would wish to deny the higher types of defectives, who have been debarred from exercise of the reproductive function, from such comfort as matrimony may yield. There are, nevertheless, a certain number of persons whose chief objection to sterilization of the unfit is that it offers facilities for the gratification of "lust," their contention being that all sex intercourse should be restricted to the main natural purpose of the act, i.e., reproduction. That the impulse resulting in the physiological conjunction of the sexes is purely "reproductive" is one of the absurd fictions that we have invented as a protest against the simply erotic motive, which is the real one with all animals, including mankind. The only manner in which the marriage of sterile defectives concerns the community is in regard to the capacity of the married couples to maintain them-

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selves. Apart from that, such unions may be regarded as a private matter only affecting the partners.

In England, perfectly intact and sexually potent feeble-minded and semi-insane persons are permitted to marry and produce as large a progeny as they choose. In the name of "the liberty of the subject," and with full religious sanction, even approval, two half-imbeciles, inveterate criminals, or epileptics may unite in wedlock, and recruit the ranks of the Great Unfit. Such unions are even encouraged deliberately, as the following extract will show:

"We have instances where a Local Authority and Visitors have suggested the discharge of feeble-minded women in order that they may be married; and, if a girl has become pregnant, public opinion would generally approve of her marriage, and disapprove of her recall to an institution."

"Our Local Authority tells us that they have knowledge of six defectives where petitions have been dismissed by the Judicial Authority in order to allow the defectives to get married, and also two others where the petitions were dismissed in order to allow two pregnant girls to marry." These instances seem to show that public opinion attaches more importance to the licit marriage of a pair of mental defectives than to the preservation of the race.

Everything possible should be done, in education of the public and legislative action, to inhibit the

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disastrous mating of the psychopathic, mentally deficient, and sufferers from chronic venereal diseases. We cannot hope to eradicate the dysgenic types from the community while the worst degenerates are free to reproduce as many unfortunate children as they choose.

Only the sterilized aments should be permitted to marry. There is the case of a high-grade feeble-minded girl, certified when she was eighteen, who had several situations and lost them. Three times she was convicted of stealing and placed on probation. Then a guardian was appointed, but her behaviour was so bad that she was transferred to a Poor Law institution. She came next under the protection of her father, and began a life of prostitution. Medical inspectors of the Board declared that the girl was unquestionably a mental defective. It was then discovered that she had been married a year, and she was discharged. Her husband was an unemployed labourer, drawing an allowance of twenty-five shillings a week, and he could not afford to keep her. Having no fixed abode, she slept out, and was charged, and later she was found sleeping in a fowl-house. She is being dealt with again under the Mental Deficiency Act.¹

In another case a feeble-minded woman was taken from a mental hospital, by a sister, for a day's leave. As she did not return, inquiry was made; it was

¹ "Annual Report of the Board of Control," 1927, Part I, p. 47.

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found that she married a man of sixty-four. The ament was unable to understand the nature of the wedding ceremony.¹

A mere lad, released on licence from a State institution, went to live with his father. Some time after, the father reported that the son was married and was the father of a child of nine weeks.

The above are instances that should provide food for thought for those who oppose sterilization on humanitarian grounds. No act can be more inhumane than the giving of life to children doomed inevitably to incurable disability or disease. Everywhere in the United Kingdom such fatal unions are contracted by uncertified mental defectives, and in some cases by aments who have been released on parole, or discharged as fit persons to live in the community.

We often hear gloomy predictions of "race suicide" from the opponents of birth control, who would, if they had the power, make contraception a crime. Race suicide will not come through restriction of the population, but through utterly reckless breeding. In the Report of the Board of Control for 1927, it is stated: "A careful study of the information before us leads to the conclusion that the marriage of defectives has disastrous consequences to the community, and that the time has come when definite legislative steps should be taken to prevent the marriage of those under order. Children born

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 48.

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to parents whose histories are briefly indicated above are not likely to become healthy and useful citizens."

Not only do the feeble-minded inflict a scourge upon the nation by reproducing their defect in offspring; they also create a very bad environment for the rearing of children, and are in no sense fit to undertake the great responsibility of parentage.

A huge army of the children of feeble-minded parents are a permanent charge on the State purse. Many are paupers; some become criminals and are maintained at the public expense, and others are kept in institutions for the mentally deficient.

As we have seen in the histories of the Jukes and other unhappy families, marriage, illicit cohabitation, and promiscuous sexual relations are a source of constant peril to the nation, and the offspring of such sex relationships are a terrible economic dead-weight. The time has come for a great movement of responsible citizens of the State in the most pressing of social and national problems, the Salvation of the Race. Further prolongation of our inertia and delay will bring certain disaster.

In the last Government Report is this alarming statement: "We have again to record an increase in the number of defectives of whom the Local Authorities have knowledge." Further: "It is unbelievable that the incidence can ever fall so low as the figures given by a large proportion of Local Authorities."

CHAPTER XVI
MENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR COST

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MENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR COST

READERS unacquainted with the statistics of insanity, feeble-mindedness, and habitual criminality will, no doubt, be surprised if they examine the official records. Under the Mental Deficiency Act, there were, in the beginning of 1927, 79 certified institutions for cases under the Act. In these institutions on January 1st, 1928, there were 14,099 patients, an increase of 757 during the year.

At the same date there were 279 persons in certified houses and 456 in approved homes. Defectives under guardianship and in private care numbered 1,357, an increase of 280. In the Poor Law institutions the figures show 7,288 males and females. The Central Association for Mental Welfare have records of 39,016 cases of mental deficiency. "The increase in the number of cases refused by private persons is maintained, although with the growth of Local Associations, fewer Local Authorities have to seek the help of the Central Office."

The cost of the insane population in the county and borough mental hospitals in England and Wales during the financial year ended March 31st,

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1927, amounted to £7,803,804. These figures do not include any expenditure on new institutions not occupied at present. This record shows a total net increase of £218,411 as compared with the preceding financial year.

AVERAGE WEEKLY COST PER HEAD

	s.	d.
In County Mental Hospitals .	22	5 $\frac{3}{8}$
In Borough Mental Hospitals .	25	6 $\frac{1}{8}$
In both taken together .	23	2 $\frac{5}{8}$ ¹

These charges are exclusive of cost of repairs, additions and alterations.

NUMBER OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH MENTAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS

In the London district alone there are twelve asylums, or mental hospitals, and nineteen licensed houses for the care of the mentally afflicted. There are five institutions in Lancashire and seven in the North and West Riding of Yorkshire, and one in York City. Essex has two mental hospitals, and Lincoln two. The complete list fills several pages of the 1927 Annual Report.

There are over thirty licensed houses for the care of mental patients in the Provinces, and two State

¹ "Fourteenth Annual Report of the Board of Control," pp. 15, 16.

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Institutions for Defectives at Rampton and Warwick. The Certified Institutions for Mental Defectives are very numerous. There are five in the Middlesex area, and seven in London. Surrey has seven, and Yorkshire three; other counties having one to four. There are also a large number of institutions approved under Section 37.

The approved homes for the feeble-minded number about twenty-five. There are five of such institutions in the London district, in which from twenty-four to thirty-seven male and female patients are under care. Although the list of hospitals, institutions, and homes is a very long one, there is, as I have stated, a serious shortage of accommodation for the ever-increasing number of mental patients.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CRIMINALS

Broadmoor is the only mental hospital in the United Kingdom for the custody and care of irresponsible offenders against the law. A large number of feeble-minded and half-insane criminals are in the ordinary prisons throughout the country, and are supported at the public cost during their terms of incarceration. When released from convict prisons, or county gaols, these recidivists often beget or bear legitimate or illegitimate children, who, in their turn, become a burden on the country and a menace to society.

On every race-course in Engand a number of

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these undesirables may be seen, engaged in various nefarious methods of picking up a few coppers, or in stealing and begging. These types are habitual tramps, often charged with larceny or burglary, and other breaches of the law. They are all maintained recurrently by the patient taxpayer, who fails to recognize that eugenics has its economic benefit for the nation, and would reduce the burden of taxation.

Besides the great number of prisons, costing vast sums annually for upkeep and the maintenance of short and long sentence prisoners, there is the enormous expenditure upon police and detectives. So long as the congenital criminals are allowed to produce as many degenerate children as they choose, there must be a constant recruiting of the police force, and a vast expense in the detection and punishment of crime and delinquency.

Many crimes are the actions of the insane, or border-line, persons, incapable of recognizing moral and social codes, or the victims of morbid impulses. Among these offenders are the hopelessly incorrigibles of the Jukes type, strongly libidinous, and entirely lacking in self-control in the gratification of instinct.

Obsessional incendiaries (pyromaniacs) wander about the country, and often go undetected. Many habitual criminals are sadistic, and delight in the infliction of pain, such as Jack-the-Ripper, and the perverts who maim cattle. Most of these degenerates breed with the singular fecundity of all lower

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types of animals. They and their ill-fated progeny are a perennial charge upon the State.

COST OF PAUPERISM

Mental deficiency is closely associated with poverty, indigence, and destitution. The Poor Law institutions harbour inevitably a proportion of incapables, some of whom are actual aments and epileptics. The cost of permanent maintenance and casual relief of the feeble-minded paupers, mendicants, and road travellers is tremendous and cumulative. Many of these unfortunates are diseased and a source of danger to the community. In many cases, they are constantly in and out of the public infirmaries. These people often have large families of sickly or degenerate children, potentially dysgenic types, likely to become chargeable to the State. The indigent feeble-minded man or woman can marry, and receive the blessing of the Church for the expenditure of a few shillings, earned by singing in the streets or begging. If they have children, and cannot support them, the State will provide.

Misguided charity encourages mendicancy and endangers the general welfare. There is perhaps no radical remedy for poverty in our over-populated country. But would it not be more humane and economical to check pauperism by the sterilization of the incurably unfit? The struggle of the fit is made ever crueller and keener by the toll laid upon them

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by the unfit. It is the unfit who can afford to marry and to produce a number of offspring, while marriage becomes almost economically impossible for an immense number of young, healthy, and efficient citizens. We can reduce pauperism enormously, if we cannot eradicate the evil entirely, by preventing hereditary poverty.

COST OF PROSTITUTES AND VENEREAL DISEASE

As a big proportion, probably the majority, of lower and higher grade professional prostitutes are morons, the scourge of amentia is one source of the social problem of advanced nations. Venereal diseases, the consequence of prostitution, cost the nation an immense annual sum. Among the common carriers of these virulent disorders are a host of feeble-minded women and girls.

Sir Frederick Mott, and other eminent authorities, have testified at congresses that a very large proportion of men are entirely unaware that syphilis can be transmitted by various other means than sexual intercourse. If such ignorance is common among the sane and intelligent, how can we expect the mentally defective prostitute to guard against personal infection and to refrain from infecting other persons?

A very considerable number of sane girls to-day—"free lances," "cocottes"—know scarcely anything of sexual hygiene, and are sources of infection. In the case of the moron who leads "the gay life," the risk of spreading venereal diseases is trebled.

CHAPTER XVII
REPORT OF THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY
COMMITTEE, 1929

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REPORT OF THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY COMMITTEE, 1929

THE third part of this important Report has aroused considerable public attention, chiefly through the extracts that have appeared in the newspapers, and the leading articles upon the question of feeble-mindedness and the practical prevention of the evil.

It is admitted that the number of persons of all ages in England and Wales "would not fall far short of 340,000." The increase in the figures is attributed to more complete ascertainment; also to the reduction of infant mortality, the greater longevity of defectives due to improved hygienic conditions, and a somewhat different interpretation of the standards. The inquiry shows that there are twice as many lower grade defectives than there were twenty years ago.

The general finding of the Report is that physical inefficiency, mental deficiency, chronic pauperism, and recidivism are all more or less closely related, and are the source of a major social evil; and that amentia is an incurable condition. The insane may

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be cured, and return from the mental hospital with a sound mind ; but the feeble-minded require constant care.

The question of accommodation is urgent in the case of aments of the lower grade, and it is suggested that the high grade types can be protected adequately under supervision and guardianship. The morally defective and anti-social should be detained in institutions, as they are a menace to the community. The village colony is recommended, and also the approved home. Local Mental Deficiency Authorities in the country are advised to " set about making the requisite institutional provision for the defectives in their area." There could be a central colony, with subsidiary homes and hostels.

The question is asked, in the Report : " Are there any practical measures available which will secure a diminution in the future of the numbers of mentally defective persons?" There follow various proposals that are described as " purely tentative." One plan would be the complete segregation of all persons suffering from primary amentia. This sub-normal group is made up of the insane, defective, epileptic, pauper, criminal, slum dwellers, prostitutes, and inebriates.

It would not be possible to treat primary amentia as a separate and independent problem. " The racial disaster of mental deficiency " can only be averted by dealing with a vast subnormal group of the population of the United Kingdom. Sterilization is

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discussed in the Report, and it is stated that "it would no doubt reduce the numbers of defectives in the next generation to some extent." But the view of the investigators is that sterilization, to be completely successful must be applied to 10 per cent. of the population, and that "this obviously is impracticable."

The committee reached the conclusion that there is considerable doubt as to the efficacy of sterilization, and that the evidence collected so far in regard to California is not conclusive. The objections on moral and humanitarian grounds are brought forward, and the fact is emphasized that it would be very difficult to obtain legal sanction for so large a reform. We have already examined the objections to sterilization, and there is not much to add to the declaration of the Board of Control.

Whether official bodies object or not, there is not the slightest doubt that an immensely increasing number of intelligent citizens in the European countries are strongly in favour of the sterilization of the incurably unfit. The committee appeared to be sceptical concerning the possibility of releasing a number of sterilized aments from custodial institutions. The recent inquiry in America, undertaken by the English Eugenics Society, proves that a number of sterilized mental defectives are able to support, or partly support, themselves, and that they marry and have comfortable home-life.

The relief of the over-taxed population, through

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the reform, is not sufficiently studied in the Report, and there is not enough evidence adduced to show the inadequacy of sterilization. It is stated that few of the defectives now in institutions "would be fit to be restored permanently to live in the community." Yet we have now at large in this country a number of subnormals who are producing big families. Many of these, as the Report shows clearly, are quite disqualified from healthy parentage. Until we correct this anomaly, it is scarcely necessary to adopt a hypercritical attitude to sterilization as a means of race regeneration.

It is stated plainly enough that the cost of segregating mental defectives is tremendous, and that the money for building an adequate number of institutions cannot be raised. "*The initial financial outlay for colonies and institutions is so heavy that it is well-nigh inconceivable that we should ever be able financially to provide colonies or institutional accommodation for all mental defectives, even if this were desirable.*"¹

What does this imply? It is clear that, owing to the heavy expenditure, segregation on an adequate scale is impossible. There must, therefore, be an immense number of more or less dangerous mental defectives, to say nothing of hereditary criminals, always increasing the ranks of the unfit. Most of the evidence brought forward by the advocates of environmental influence, education, and training, as against

¹ Part III, p. 90. Italics are mine.

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sterilization, is hardly convincing. Education is unfortunately powerless to affect the germ-plasm.

It is suggested that the segregating colonies should be "fluid"; that is to say, the colony should be "always taking in and always sending out." The risk of such a system is surely manifest. A proportion of the discharged morons would undoubtedly marry and increase the ament population, and a proportion would give birth to illegitimate children.

The inadequacy of complete control in custody is repeatedly pointed out in the 1929 Report on Adult Defectives. "There is no prospect, at any rate in the near future, of sufficient institutional accommodation being provided for all the mentally defective persons in the country who need it, and the majority of them must for many years to come remain amongst the general community."

Such an outlook is distinctly alarming. Is there no other practical course than leaving thousands of the incurably unfit to increase and multiply?

CHAPTER XVIII

AUTHORITATIVE VIEWS AND OPINIONS

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AUTHORITATIVE VIEWS AND OPINIONS

WE have already seen the report of Mr. Justice McCardie's declaration at the Birmingham Assizes, in which he said: "In my view sterilization should be introduced at once. I believe it would help greatly towards reducing the grave state of mental deficiency which exists in many parts of the country."

This view will be endorsed by a considerable number of judges, magistrates, physicians, Poor Law guardians, and students of social conditions in all the civilized nations. There would be much plainer speaking on the part of authorities if we could overcome the national trait of diffidence and timidity in discussing sex questions. It is much to be regretted that some of our deepest social problems are neglected through this resistance against honest discussion.

Most of those who have hitherto considered it a public duty to warn the public against the menace of hereditary feeble-mindedness have been mental doctors, and lay students of social and national hygiene. The Eugenics Society has done very excellent work in the education of the public in the laws of heredity. But the bulk of citizens

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remain apathetic or very ill-informed respecting the significance of eugenics.

Professor J. Sully said, some years ago, that the younger generation are suffering from a "flaccid condition of the intellectual muscles." This dislike of intellectual exercise is marked in all classes of society, and the mass of people leave serious thinking to a very small minority instead of forming their own views.

As I have said in other pages, we must arouse public interest in the great question of race regeneration, through eugenical methods, by every means within our power before we can hope for any legislative action regarding the sterilization of the bad types from which we are now breeding recklessly.

We must look to the younger members of the medical profession for assistance in spreading eugenical information among the public, for they are in a position to speak with authority. Dr. Norman Haire is an energetic and well-equipped advocate of sexual reform and eugenics, and in a volume lately published, he states: "*Compulsory sterilization is not legal in England, though it is permitted or even prescribed by law in certain other countries. In my opinion, it is a measure desirable in the interest of racial health, and I have little doubt that its adoption in this country is only a matter of time.*"¹

¹ "Some More Medical Views on Birth Control," edited by Norman Haire, Ch.M., M.B.

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In discussing birth control from the hygienic standpoint, Dr. F. A. E. Crew, lecturer on genetics, University of Edinburgh, refers to the dysgenic menace of procreating from the degenerate. "The reproduction of all stocks exhibiting characteristics admittedly undesirable and known to be inherited should be prevented."¹

Education is the only means of saving the race. We have to learn how to "control the cosmic process," as Huxley declared, otherwise we shall certainly perish as a nation. Week after week, the journals of this country contain reports of police cases similar to the following :

A mother was placed on probation by the Croydon Bench for abandoning a male infant. She was twenty-six, and had previously abandoned the baby, and was often in the police custody. She was brought up in convent schools in Ireland, and had led a criminal life since 1925, having been charged with thieving, begging, and assault. The medical report showed that she was responsible for her actions, although perhaps she was on the borderline. Such social irresponsibles are continually procreating and bearing undesirable children, certain to be a burden on the community.

I have referred to the important fact that many aments are quite willing, and even eager that the vasectomy or salpingectomy operation shall be performed upon them. If any doubt upon this exists

¹ "Some More Medical Views on Birth Control," edited by Norman Haire, Ch.M., M.B.

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in the minds of readers, I would point out that a number of reputedly sane people actually desire castration, a far more drastic operation. Dr. Wilhelm Stekel writes: "I see every year masturbators, paraphiliacs, and homosexuals who want to be castrated."¹

What is to be done in the case of an entirely incorrigible pyromaniac, who has committed arson sixteen times, and in the intervals of apparent sanity goes home to his mother from the asylum? This man is quite free to marry and produce irresponsible offspring, or to add to the number of illegitimate criminals and defectives.²

Dr. Winship has contrasted the family of Jonathan Edwards with the Jukes, and shown convincingly that a good stock will ensure the perpetuation of desirable and useful citizens, while amentia, crime, pauperism, vice and disease spring from a single pair of degenerates. Environment and education cannot transform a feeble-minded man or woman into a normal being. It is heredity, not training, that determines the character traits and predisposition in animals, as every breeder of sporting dogs is aware. A "good nose" in a hound is not developed by environment alone.

Mental deficiency is the cause of many social ills

¹ "Peculiarities of Behaviour," Vol. II, p. 311. It should be explained that paraphilia is an interest in sexual perversions.

² *Ibid.*, p. 319.

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that are not commonly associated with it in the public mind. Every advanced nation has tried to grapple with the slum problem, without realizing that "no amount of work in the slums or removing the slums from our cities will ever be successful until we take care of those who made the slums what they are."¹ No great efforts to reform the prostitute class or to rescue girls from the traffic, can have marked results while we fail to deal with one of the main roots of the evil—feeble-mindedness in women. "There are Kallikak families all about us. They are multiplying at twice the rate of the general population," says Dr. H. H. Goddard.

It is said that sterilization is "repugnant to modern ideals." A moral idealism that refrains from radical action on purely sentimental grounds is an injurious idealism, and must be judged as anti-social. The facts are plain: feeble-mindedness is inherited, and the only means of coping with its dire effects on the nation at large is by inhibiting the breeding of mental defectives.

It is a strange "humanitarianism" that shrinks from depriving a proportion of the degenerates of society from the capacity to hand on their fatal qualities to descendants. Is it humane to spare the few and permit the mass to suffer? No ament has been injured by sterilization; the results point the other way. Moreover, scores of mental defectives

¹H. H. Goddard, "The Kallikak Family," pp. 70, 71.

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request that the operation shall be performed upon them.

A number of criminal aments are severely punished for their irresponsible impulsive actions. Is this humane? Is it justice? Charles Oxnam, a youth, was executed in California, though eight physicians and four psychologists declared him to be mentally defective.¹ The punishment of the feeble-minded delinquent and criminal is neither rational nor humane. We should not allow these types to be born.

Among one hundred cases of juvenile delinquency in America, Goddard found 66 per cent. of feeble-minded subjects. In Germany, out of 134 cases, Monkenmoller found 50 per cent.

“Like begets like.” A family character is in the germ cell and is passed on inevitably. As Maudsley said: “No man can escape the tyranny of his organization.” The leopard cannot change his spots. And who, by taking thought, can add a cubit to his stature? All are not created equal.

¹ Chas. W. Waddle, Ph.D., “Introduction to Child Psychology.”

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